

Abbas Akhavan: One Hundred Years

September 5 - December 7, 2025

Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery

Opening Reception: Thursday, September 4 from 6 to 8 pm

Taking up notions of suspended time, Abbas Akhavan's exhibition *One Hundred Years* contends with temporal halting and how time is represented in narrativized spaces. Weighing the narrative drive of storytelling against the emptying out of content or the freezing of narrative, Akhavan's works simultaneously activates a stage and presses pause.

Presenting largely new works, the Belkin exhibition includes ephemeral installations, video and sculpture that blur the meanings and distinctions between stage, set, gameboard, studio, and gallery. These works continue Akhavan's interest in institutional and domestic spaces that contend with the coexistence of hospitality and hostility. Between the institutional and domestic are spaces of captivity, fantasy spaces, gaming spaces, and spaces that condition behaviour and operate as civilizing architectures.

One Hundred Years offers shifting relations and narratives between objects, situations and audiences to occupy a fertile uncertainty. Within this constellation, actions and forms blur the distinctions between sleeping, halting, freezing and glitching, and function outside of linearity.

Abbas Akhavan: One Hundred Years is curated by Melanie O'Brian and made possible with the generous support of the Canada Council for the Arts, the Province of British Columbia through the BC Arts Council and our Belkin Curator's Forum members. Abbas Akhavan's 2025 residency at UBC is jointly supported by the Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery, the Department of Art History, Visual Art and Theory and Green College.

Abbas Akhavan (b. 1977, Tehran) lives and works in Montreal/Berlin. He holds a BFA from Concordia University and an MFA from the University of British Columbia. Recent solo exhibitions include Copenhagen Contemporary and Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek, Copenhagen (2023); Mount Stuart House, Isle of Bute (2022); Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver (2022); Chisenhale Gallery, London (2021); CCA Wattis Institute, San Francisco (2019); Fogo Island Arts (2019); The Power Plant, Toronto (2018); Museum Villa Stuck, Munich (2017); Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin (2017); Mercer Union, Toronto (2015); and the Delfina Foundation, London (2012). Recent group exhibitions include the Deichtorhallen, Hamburg (2024); 14th Gwangju Biennale (2023); Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2022); Protocinema, Istanbul (2021), Walk and Talk, São Miguel (2020); Toronto Biennale (2019); Liverpool Biennial (2018); SALT, Istanbul (2017); Prospect New Orleans (2017); Sharjah Biennial 13 (2017); and Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York (2016). Recent residencies include Fogo Island Arts, Fogo Island, Canada (2019, 2016, 2013); Atelier Calder, Saché, France (2017); and Flora ars+natura, Bogotá, Colombia (2015). He is the recipient of the Hnatyshyn

Foundation Mid-Career Award (2025); Fellbach Triennial Award (2017); Sobey Art Award (2015); Abraaj Group Art Prize (2014); and the Berliner Kunstpreis (2012).

For more information, contact:

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