

The Walker Art Center presents the first international museum exhibition of Nairy Baghramian (b. 1971, Iran; lives and works in Berlin). *Nairy Baghramian: Déformation Professionnelle* will be on view in Galleries 4, 5, and 6 from September 7, 2017-February 4, 2018.

Over the past two decades, Baghramian has created site-responsive installations that use, dismantle, and unveil the human body and its gestures. Using such materials as curved steel, soft rubber, plastic, wax, and fabric, as well as cast or combined elements and photography, Baghramian challenges the definition of sculpture and references fashion, design, theater, and dance.

Co-organized with Stedelijk Museum voor Actuele Kunst (S.M.A.K.), Ghent, Belgium, where it was presented from November 26, 2016-February 19, 2017, the exhibition is comprised of a series of new pieces that mirror or play off of the artist's previous bodies of work, while deftly responding to each site. Taking its title from a French phrase often translated as 'professional distortion' or 'job conditioning,' the exhibition indicates the alteration of one's worldview from being overly specialized or made expert. It also speaks to the process of taking apart one's profession — in this case, laying bare the sculptor's method. Through her playful take on the artist's retrospective, Baghramian unpacks and interrogates the conceptual, physical, and social aspects of sculpture.

*Nairy Baghramian: Déformation Professionnelle* is accompanied by a major publication, the first comprehensive monograph on the artist's work to date.

Nairy Baghramian was born in 1971 in Isfahan, Iran and has lived and worked in Berlin since 1985. She has exhibited at the Art Institute of Chicago; MIT List Visual Arts Center, Cambridge; SculptureCenter, New York; Kunsthalle Manheim; the 2011 Venice Biennale; Serpentine Gallery, London; the 5th Berlin Biennale; and Tate Modern, London; among others. For her work, Nairy Baghramian has received the 2007 Schering Stiftung Art Award, the 2012 Hector Prize, and the 2014 Arnold Bode Prize. This year, Baghramian is participating in the Sculpture Projects Münster 17 and documenta 14 in Kassel.

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