

# Aspen Art Museum

Shahryar Nashat

*Raw Is the Red*

November 21, 2025–April 26, 2026

*Raw Is the Red* by Shahryar Nashat transforms the roof terrace of Aspen Art Museum into a sculptural confrontation framed by the commanding presence of Aspen Mountain. At its center stands a vitrine encasing a “meat object,” an image of raw flesh on powder-coated steel, covered in a translucent layer of acrylic gel. Behind it rises a pink marble obelisk whose scale is that of the artist’s own height. Together, they evoke the body as both physical presence and mental projection, as a carrier of both empathy and distance.

This is the second presentation of *Raw Is the Red*, which was first shown on the Bluhm Family Terrace at the Art Institute of Chicago in 2022. In Chicago, the work appeared against a skyline of glass and steel; in Aspen, it meets snowy inclines and winter skies. This contrast between urban architecture and mountain landscape turns the sculptures into stand-ins for human bodies poised against powerful natural forces.

Tones of reds and pinks punctuate the muted winter palette, while mirrored panels fold the environment back into the installation. *Raw Is the Red* becomes both display and dissection—an image of vulnerability and endurance rendered in sculptural form.

