

ALA EBTEKAR

BORN

1978 Berkeley, CA, USA

Lives and works between San Francisco and Tehran

EDUCATION

2006 Master of Fine Arts, Stanford University, CA, USA

2002 Bachelor of Fine Arts, San Francisco Art Institute, CA, USA

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2024 *The Sky of the Seven Valleys*, The Third Line, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

2018 *Safina*, The Third Line, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

2017 *au(ro)ra*, Anglim Gilbert Gallery, San Francisco, CA, USA

Equation of Time, Gallery 16, San Francisco, CA, USA

Mashrabiya: The Art of Looking Back, Fine Arts Gallery, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA, USA

2015 *Nowheresville, 'nā-kōja, -abād*, The Third Line, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

2014 *Parallax*, Gallery Paule Anglim, San Francisco, CA, USA

New Art on the Silk Road, Xinjiang Biennale (curated by Peng Feng), Xinjiang, China
Palo Alto University Avenue Tunnel, Palo Alto, CA, USA

2013 *cylinder.us*, Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, CA, USA

2012 *Elsewhen*, The Third Line, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

2010 *Ala Ebtakar*, Anglim Trimble Gallery, CA, USA

Indelible Whispers of the Sun, Charlie James Gallery, CA, USA

2009 *Hampah*, Charlie James Gallery, CA, USA

1388, The Third Line, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

2008 *ON YOUR MARK: A Fundraiser Featuring Ala Ebtakar*, SFAC Galleries, CA, USA

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2025 *The Only Way Out Is Through: The Twentieth Line*, curated by Shumon Basar, The Third Line, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

- 2024 *Light: Visionary Perspectives*, Aga Khan Museum, Toronto, Canada
- 2023 *Between Page and Picture: History And Myth In The Persian Book Of Kings*, Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin College, OH, USA
A Point Stretched: Views on Time, San Jose Museum of Art, CA, USA
Fight and Flight: Crafting a Bay Area Life, Museum of Craft and Design, CA, USA
The Moon is a Lantern, Lisa Sette Gallery, Phoenix, AZ, USA
- 2022 *Perpetual Inventory, Volume 1: An Exercise in Looking*, The Third Line, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Luminous Ground, Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, CA, USA
Future Shock: (Re)Visions of Tomorrow, Roswell Museum, Roswell, NM, USA
The Light Fantastic, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, AR, USA
Wear Your Love Like Heaven, Lisa Sette Gallery, Phoenix, AZ, USA
Blaze Across the Firmament, Haines Gallery, San Francisco, CA, USA
- 2021 *Arts of Iran*, San Diego Museum of Art, San Diego, CA, USA
Luminous Ground, Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, CA, USA
A Boundless Drop to a Boundless Ocean, Orlando Museum of Art, FL and the American University in Cairo, Egypt
Negus, The Third Line, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
An Infinite and Omnivorous Sky, University Galleries at Illinois State University, IL, USA
The Violets in the Mountains Have Broken the Rocks, Gallery 16, San Francisco, CA, USA
- 2019 *Negus*, Brooklyn Museum, NY, USA
The Moon: A Voyage Through Time, The Aga Khan Museum, Toronto, Canada
The Sheltering Sky, Palo Alto Art Center, CA, USA
- 2018 *Thekla*, Southern Exposure, San Francisco, CA, USA
Long, Winding Journeys: Contemporary Art and the Islamic Tradition, Katonah Museum of Art, NY, USA
- 2017 *L'horreur du Vide*, Selma Feriani Gallery, Sidi Bou Said, Tunisia
Be Not Still: Living in Uncertain Times, di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art, Napa, CA, USA
Sanctuary, FOR-SITE, Fort Mason, San Francisco, CA, USA
Book 96: Artists' Book Exhibition curated by Foad Farahani, Aaran Projects, Tehran, Iran

- Detritus*, San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA), San Jose, CA, USA
- Esho Funi*, Gallery 16, San Francisco, CA, USA
- State of the Art: Discovering American Art Now*, Frist Center for the Visual Arts, Nashville, TN, USA
- 2016 *RTL:LTR/LTR:RTL*, Galerie Forum, Wels, Austria
- State of the Art: Discovering American Art Now*, Jepson Center for the Arts, Telfair Museums, Savannah, GA, USA
- Remainder*, G16 at Minnesota Street Project, San Francisco, CA, USA
- Art Brief II: Iranian Contemporary North America* curated by Talinn Grigor, Arena One Gallery, Santa Monica, CA, USA
- Shahnameh: The Perpetual Narrative*, Aaran Projects, Tehran, Iran
- Welcome to the Left Coast*, The Luggage Store, San Francisco, CA, USA
- State of the Art: Discovering American Art Now*, Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, MN, USA
- Metagalactic*, David B. Smith Gallery, Denver, CO, USA
- 2015 *Angels, Saints, and Co.*, Aaran Projects, Tehran, Iran
- Time Travel*, Gallery Paule Anglim, San Francisco, CA
- Space Between Our Fingers*, organized by apexart at Ashkal Alwan, the Arab Image Foundation, Mansion, The Hangar and Dawawine, Beirut, Lebanon
- Formal Relations*, Taymour Grahne Gallery, New York, NY, USA
- Misappropriations*, Orange County Museum of Art, CA, USA
- 2014 *State of the Art: Discovering American Art Now*, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, AR, USA
- Now Read This*, Boise State University Arts Gallery, Boise, ID, USA
- cylindr.us: under the indigo dome*, Maraya Art Centre, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
- Equations of Sight-Similarity*, On Stellar Rays, New York, NY, USA
- The Vastness is Bearable*, Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA, USA
- 2013 *Bibliophilia*, The Palo Alto Art Center, CA, USA
- The Beginning of Thinking is Geometric*, Maraya Art Centre, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

- Migrating Identities*, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA, USA
Proximities // What Time Is It There?, Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, CA, USA
Faux Real, Laguna Art Museum, Laguna Beach, CA, USA
Perpetuation of Myth, Los Gatos Art Museum, Los Gatos, CA, USA
- 2012 *We Could Be Heroes: The Mythology of Monsters and Heroes in Contemporary Art*, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT, USA
Absent Arrival, Gallery Paule Anglim, San Francisco, CA, USA
Post-Pop, Mahe Mehr Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- 2011 *The Global Contemporary. Art Worlds After 1989*, ZKM - Museum of Contemporary Art, Karlsruhe, Germany
My Super Hero: New Contemporary Art from Iran, Aaran Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran
My Super Hero: New Contemporary Art from Iran, Morono Kiang Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, USA
Nothing to Say, Guerrero Gallery, San Francisco, CA, USA
Postcards from Tehran, 18th Street Art Center, Santa Monica, CA, USA
- 2010 *re-emergence*, Gallery Paule Anglim, San Francisco, CA, USA
Iran Inside Out, Farjam DIFC, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Indelible Whispers of the Sun, Charlie James Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, USA
Everyone is Welcome: The Art of K.O.S., NYCAMS Gallery, New York, NY, USA
- 2009 *Out of Bounds*, Whatcom Museum, Bellingham, WA, USA
Iran Inside Out, DePaul University Art Museum, Chicago, IL, USA
Iran Inside Out, Chelsea Art Museum, New York, NY, USA
Balla-Drama, Paradise Row, London, England, UK
Hampah, Charlie James Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, USA
A Breath of Air, Townsend Center for the Humanities, University of California Berkeley, CA, USA
Selseleh / Zelzeleh: Movers & Shakers in Contemporary Iranian Art, Leila Taghinia-Milani Heller Gallery, New York, NY, USA
A Thin Slice, Baer Ridgway, San Francisco, CA, USA
Beautiful / Decay: A-Z, Kopeikin Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, USA

- Faces and Letters: Through the Eyes of Collectors in Qatar*, Gallery VCUQatar, Doha, Qatar
- 2008 *Conference of the Birds*, Flawless Gallery, London, UK
- Banned and Recovered: Artists Respond to Censorship*, The San Francisco Center for the Book, CA, USA
- Bay Area Now 5*, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA, USA
- One way or Another: Asian American Art Now*, Honolulu Academy of Arts, Honolulu, HI, USA
- Pacific Light: California Watercolor Refracted 1907-2007*, Nordiska Akvarellmuseet, Skarhamn, Sweden
- Descriptive Verse*, FIFTY24SF Gallery, San Francisco, CA, USA
- The Alternative Philosophy*, Leonard Street Gallery, London, UK
- One Way or Another: Asian American Art Now*, Japanese American National Museum, Los Angeles, CA, USA
- Make The Art You Need: The UC Berkeley Department of Art Faculty Show*, Worth Ryder Gallery, University of California Berkeley, CA, USA
- 2007 *The Diane and Sandy Besser Collection*, De Young Museum, San Francisco, CA, USA
- One Way or Another: Asian American Art Now*, Berkeley Art Museum, Berkeley, CA, USA
- Feel the Difference: Cultural Branding Remix*, Works/San Jose, San Jose, CA, USA
- One Way or Another: Asian American Art Now*, Blaffer Gallery, University of Houston, Houston, TX, USA
- GRAPHIC: New Bay Area Drawing*, di Rosa Preserve, Napa, CA, USA
- 2006 *2006 California Biennial*, Orange County Museum of Art, CA, USA
- California Calligraphy Summit: Cali/Graffi*, Fine Arts Gallery, San Francisco State University, CA, USA
- Emergence: Elements*, Gallery Paule Anglim, San Francisco, CA, USA
- 10 Curatorial Perspectives*, Haven Arts, Bronx, NY, USA
- One Way or Another: Asian American Art Now*, Asia Society Museum, New York, NY, USA
- 2006 MFA Thesis Exhibition*, Thomas Welton Stanford Art Gallery, USA
- Emergence*, Richmond Art Center, Richmond, CA, USA

- Under The Indigo Dome*, The Third Line, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- 2005 *Do'Ka*, La Condition Publique, Roubaix, France
- Paper Cuts (again)*, Fetterly Gallery, Vallejo, CA, USA
- The Murphy and Cadogan Fellowship in the Fine Arts Exhibition, San Francisco Art Commission Gallery, CA, USA
- represent*, Oliver Art Center, CCA, Oakland, CA, USA
- Ala Ebtekar & Jeong-Im Yi*, Lisa Dent Gallery, San Francisco, CA, USA
- CrossConnections: of Past and Present*, Intersection for the Arts, San Francisco, CA, USA
- 2004 *A Look Forward and Back: Gallery 16's Ten Year Anniversary*, Gallery 16, San Francisco CA, USA
- The Wild Bunch 2*, THE ANNEX, New York, NY, USA
- REBUS*, Gallery Paule Anglim, San Francisco, CA, USA
- Elemental*, Intersection for the Arts, San Francisco, CA, USA

PUBLIC ART COMMISSIONS

- 2025 *Luminous Ground*, Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, CA, USA
- 2022 *Zenith*, Alserkal Avenue, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

SELECTED PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

- Whitney Museum of Art, USA
- San Francisco International Airport (SFO) Public Art Collection, USA
- Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, USA
- Devi Art Foundation, India
- Facebook HQ, Menlo Park, USA
- UCSF Medical Center, USA
- Orange County Museum of Art, USA
- Deutsche Bank Collection, Germany
- Crocker Art Museum, USA
- The Farjam Collection, United Arab Emirates
- de Young Museum, Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco, USA
- Legion of Honor, Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco, USA
- Microsoft Collection, USA

Yarat Contemporary Art Space, Azerbaijan
Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, USA
The Afkhami Collection, United Arab Emirates
di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art, USA
Stanford University, USA

PUBLICATIONS

Ala Ebtakar: Thirty-six Views of the Moon, Radius Books, Santa Fe, 2024

RESIDENCIES

2025 King Artist in Residence, Arion Press, San Francisco, CA, USA
2015 SAZMANAB, Tehran, Iran
2013 Maraya Art Centre, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
2011 ZKM – Museum of Contemporary Art, Karlsruhe, Germany. Artist Residency in conjunction with “The Global Contemporary. Art Worlds After 1989”
2009 Visions from the New California Award / 18th Street Arts Center Residency
2008 San Francisco Center for the Book Imprint Award & Artist Residency
2006 Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris, France
2005 La Condition Publique, France in conjunction with “Do’Ka” exhibition + public programs