

• Biography:

Mahdiyeh Afshar Bakeshloo

Fine Art & Conceptual Photographer | Born
1995, Tehran, Iran

Mahdiyeh Afshar Bakeshloo is an Iranian fine art and conceptual photographer based in Tehran. Her artistic journey began in 2014 with two years of academic training in photography, and she has since developed a distinct personal style that centers on expressing complex human emotions through visual narratives.

Afshar's work focuses on the inner emotional world feelings such as sadness, confusion, and solitude which she visualizes through minimalistic compositions, often using the human body in contrast with inanimate, everyday objects. Her black-and-white single-frame images are characterized by their symbolic depth, emotional clarity, and poetic ambiguity. Each piece is a visual translation of feelings that are hard to articulate emotions we sense but cannot speak.

"Each of my projects describes human emotions such as sadness, loneliness, confusion. I try to make viewers find their hidden feelings in my photos," she says.

"Every time I take a photo, my personal emotions shape the direction of my work. I want to create a shared space with the viewer a visual dialogue."

Afshar's photographs have been featured in numerous international publications including British Journal of Photography, F-Stop Magazine, Fraction Magazine, The Eye of Photography, and Suboart Magazine, which also published an in-depth interview with her in 2023. Her shortlisted image for Portrait of Humanity Vol. 5 was published by the British Journal of Photography and covered by The Times (UK).

She has exhibited her work in solo and group exhibitions in Iran, the United Kingdom, Germany, the United States, Greece, Italy, and Romania. Her photography has received multiple honors and nominations from prestigious international awards such as:



Mahdiyeh Afshar Bakeshloo

- International Photography Awards (IPA)
- Monochrome Photography Awards
- Fine Art Photography Awards (FAPA)
- Neutral Density (ND) Awards
- Black & White Spider Awards

Her visual language reflects a sensitive and personal engagement with the world around her what she describes as “photographs taken from the inside out.” By integrating her surroundings with introspective emotions, she invites the viewer into a silent, yet powerful exchange.

• Artistic Vision & Photographic Language

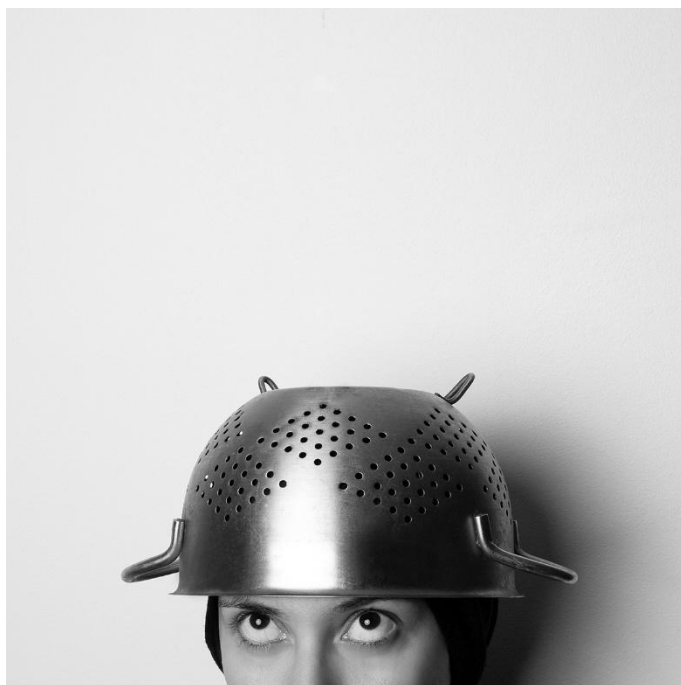
Mahdiyeh Afshar Bakeshloo’s work is rooted in fine art and conceptual photography, known for her signature use of black and white imagery. Her visual language draws from surrealism and emotional minimalism, exploring deep psychological themes such as isolation, identity, and internal conflict.

Through symbolic objects like apples, cloth, or thread, she constructs metaphoric narratives that blur the boundary between reality and dream. Her use of the human body often faceless, abstracted, or merged with everyday objects reflects a sense of self-fragmentation and emotional ambiguity.

Each photograph is a stand-alone visual poem, built on empty space, stark contrasts, and restrained composition. Faces are often hidden or



In the photography process of Mahdiyeh Afshar Bakeshloo



Mahdiyeh Afshar Bakeshloo

veiled, creating universal emotional access for the viewer. She uses photography not to document but to transform private feelings into shared symbolic spaces.

Afshar's style is deeply introspective and performative, inspired by artists such as Magritte and Dalí, yet grounded in her own cultural and personal experience. Her imagery is both haunting and quiet an invitation to engage with hidden human emotions that often remain unspoken.

- **Published:**

2025- (April/May) F_stopmagazine (Issue #130 (Inhabit))

2024- (June) Selected in Portrait of Humanity Vol. 6 Shortlist in British Journal of Photography Magazine

2024- (June/July) F_stopmagazine(Issue #125 (Open Theme))

2024- (April - May) F_stopmagazine(Issue #124 (Cities)

2023- (July) Suboart Magazine(print issues Nr. 6 & 7)

2023-(June) Fraction Magazine(Issue 167 – 15th Anniversary Issue)

2023- Winners Book 17th Annual Black & White Spider Awards

2023- (June - July) F_stopmagazine (ISSUE #119: Open Theme)

2023- (April)Truth in Photography

2023- (February) Selected in Portrait of Humanity Vol. 5 Shortlist in British Journal of Photography Magazine

2022- (June - July) F_stopmagazine (Issue #113)

2022- Winners Book 16th Annual Black & White Spider Awards

2021- (September) Art connect (Best of the Week)
2021- (April – May) F_stopmagazine (Issue #106)
2021- (January 4) Dont take pictures
2020- Monochromerific 1st edition exhibition Album (More Art please)
2020- (June - July) F_stopmagazine (Issue #101)
2020- Humble Arts Foundation
2020- Float Photo Magazine

- **Article :**

2024- (August) BE OPEN Art
2023- (May) Suboart Magazine (Finding our hidden feelings with Mahdiyeh Afshar Bakeshloo)
2023- (March 7) The Times (newspaper based in London)
2022- (december) ZO mag
2022- (september) ZO mag
2022- The Eye of Photography magazine
2021- (November) chromart magazine
2021- floatmagazine.us -portfolios
2021- photoweenie.com -Jim Fitts

- **Photo Book :**

2020- Como Um Humano (just like human)

- **Exhibition:**

2025 -Group Photography Exhibition "This is me" at Sheydaei Art Gallery (Tehran_ Iran)
2024 -Group Photography Exhibition "My share" at Hafta collection at Milad Tower (Tehran_ Iran)
2023 (3 Aug)_ Portrait of Humanity Exhibition at Belfast Exposed (United Kingdom)
2022- "Virtual Art Exhibition "at at Digital Chroma agency (Berlin _ Germany)

2022-"Photo, But Not Photo " group exhibition at Float Photo Magazine

2021-"I am , what i see " GROUP EXHIBITION at Doran Moaser Art Gallery (Esfahan_ Iran)

2021-"I am , what i see " GROUP EXHIBITION at Mojdeh Art Gallery (Tehran_ Iran)

2020-"New Visions" at Artdoc photography magazine

2020-" THE 2020 FAVORITE PHOTO EXHIBITION, PART 11" at lenscratch

2020-Group Photography Exhibition "From Someone Else 2" at aknoon gallery (Esfahan_ Iran)

2020-Group Photography Exhibition "From Someone Else 2" at shamidehart gallery (Tehran_ Iran)

2020-Monochromerific black and white exhibition at More Art Please fine art gallery (Romania_Brasov)

2019-Group exhibition" vakavi"at Ehsan art gallery (Tehran_ Iran)

2019-ANNUAL PHOTO GROUP EXHIBITION at Mojdeh Art Gallery (Tehran_ Iran)

2019-Group exhibition" The last event of 97 "at mojdeh art gallery (Tehran_ Iran)

2018-Conceptual Photos Exhibition at Blank wall gallery (Athens - Greece)

2018-Group exhibition" summer Photography sale "at artibition gallery (Tehran_ Iran)

2018-Group exhibition" summer Photography sale "at mojdeh art gallery (Tehran_ Iran)

2015-Group exhibition "ide ta era" at Arman college (Tehran_ Iran) in

- **Collections:**

Arman College, Tehran/Iran

- **Course&Workshops:**

2023-(september)- "Fine art photography" workshop by Morteza Hassani (Tehran_ Iran)

2023-(February 18)- "Fine art photography" workshop by infography (Tehran_ Iran)

- **Interviews:**

2024-(August) "A visit to the studio of Mahdiyeh Afshar Bakeshloo, an Iranian fine art photographer" by BE OPEN Art

2020-(November 27)- Online interview "Fine Art photography" by infography (Tehran_Iran)

2020-(April 29)- online interview "Fine art and conceptual photography" by sarv academy (Tehran_Iran)

- **Awards:**

Honorable Mention in Professional Fine Art Category in Monochrome Photography Awards 2015(Awarded entry book man)

Nominee in 2nd edition of Fine Art Photography Awards in Professional Fine Art Category 2016(Awarded entry book man)

Nominee in 2nd edition of Fine Art Photography Awards in Professional Fine Art Category 2016(Awarded entry outer breath)

Nominee in 2nd edition of Fine Art Photography Awards in Professional Portrait Category 2016(Awarded entry Girl with a Pearl Earring)

Honorable Mention in Professional Fine Art: Other Category in IPA 2016 (unknown planet)

Honorable Mention in Professional conceptual Category in Monochrome Photography Awards 2016(Awarded entry hungry forks)

Honorable Mention in Professional conceptual Category in Monochrome Photography Awards 2016(Awarded entry outer breath)

Honorable Mention in Professional photo manipulation Category in Monochrome Photography Awards 2016(Awarded entry Suspension)

Nominee in 3rd edition of Fine Art Photography Awards in Professional Fine Art Category 2017(Awarded entry unknown planet)

Nominee in 3rd edition of Fine Art Photography Awards in Professional Conceptual Category 2017(Awarded entry unknown planet)

Nominee in 3rd edition of Fine Art Photography Awards in Professional Photo manipulation Category 2017(Awarded entry Suspension)

Nominee in 3rd edition of Fine Art Photography Awards in Professional Fine Art Category 2017(Awarded entry Suspension)

Nominee in 3rd edition of Fine Art Photography Awards in Professional Fine Art Category 2017(Awarded entryjust like human, just like fruit)

Nominee in 3rd edition of Fine Art Photography Awards in Professional Fine Art Category 2017(Awarded entryhungry forks)

Nominee in 3rd edition of Fine Art Photography Awards in ProfessionalConceptual Category 2017(Awarded entryBody feeling)

2 Nominees in second stage in the second annual international 35awards contest 2016. (Awarded entries: Girl with a Pearl Earring, untitled)

Honorable Mention in Professional Fine Art: Abstract Category in IPA 2017 (Awarded entry The lights in the city)

Honorable Mention in Professional Fine Art: Abstract Category in IPA 2017 (Awarded entry In to the new world)

Honorable Mention in Professional Special: Digitally Enhanced Category in IPA 2017 (Awarded entry In to the new world)

Honorable Mention in Professional Fine Art: Other_FA Category in IPA 2017 (Awarded entry In to the new world)

Honorable Mention in Professional Fine Art: Portrait Category in IPA 2017 Awarded entry (Two sisters)

Honorable Mention in Professionalfine art: other category in Neutral Density Photography Awards 2017 (Awarded entry The light in the city)

Honorable Mention in Professional Portrait Category in Monochrome Photography Awards 2017(Awarded entry Miss Zizi)

Honorable Mention in Professional Photomanipulation Category in Monochrome Photography Awards 2017(Awarded entry Mr. Fork and Mrs. Spoon)

Honorable Mention in Professional Conceptual Category in Monochrome Photography Awards 2017(Awarded entry overcome)

Honorable Mention in Professional Conceptual Category in Monochrome Photography Awards 2017(Awarded entry Touch of life)

Honorable Mention in Professional Fine Art Category in Monochrome Photography Awards 2017(Awarded entry Unknown)

Nominee in 4rd. edition of Fine Art Photography Awards in Professional Conceptual Category 2018(Awarded entryloneliness)

Honorable Mention in Professionalfine art:Conceptual Category in Neutral Density Photography Awards 2018 (Awarded entry No face)

Honorable Mention in Professional Conceptual Category in Monochrome Photography Awards 2018(Awarded entry Egg eyes)

Nominee in 5rd edition of Fine Art Photography Awards in Professional Fine art Category 2019(Awarded entry TERRESTRIAL SKY)

Nominee in Spider Photography Awards in Professional Fine art Category 2019(Awarded entry Choking)

Nominee in International photography grant in Tlent of the year Category 2020 (Awarded entry The light in the city))

(Nominee in Spider Photography Awards in Professional Fine art Category 2020(Awarded entry Forced dream)

long-listed for the BBA Photography Prize 2021

(Nominee in Spider Photography Awards in Professional Fine art Category 2021(Awarded entry Stop me)

(Honorable Mention in Spider Photography Awards in Professional Fine art Category 2021(Awarded entry Between)

lensculture Editors` pick Black & White Photography Awards 2022

Nominated in Spider Photography Awards in Professional Fine art Category 2022(Awarded entry Unwanted)

Nominated in Spider Photography Awards in Professional Portrait Category 2022(Awarded entry Forbidden me)

Honorable Mention in Spider Photography Awards in Professional Fine Art Category 2022(Awarded entry Used to be)

Nominated in Spider Photography Awards in Professional Still Life Category 2022(Awarded entry Patch)

Nominee in Professional Portrait category in Black & White Photo Contest in Refocus awards 2022 (Awarded entry spectator)

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