

# CONVERSATION WITH MAHDIYEH AFSHAR BAKESHLOO



"Life is short, art is long"

Born in 1995 in Tehran, Iran, Mahdiyeh Afshar Bakeshloo was introduced to art from a very young age. Without planning to pursue photography professionally, her path changed after a difficult event in her life which made her turn to the lens as a safe space. At her young age, Mahdiyeh has achieved international acclaim in the field of Fine Art and Conceptual photography, with articles in publications such as The Times and The British Journal of Photography, exhibitions throughout Iran and Europe, and a published Photo Book (Just like humans, 2020).

## On their journey to arts

*I never imagined I would become a photographer and artist at first. Being an artist seems very challenging to me. For me, art starts with people's lives, and that's where I began. My father had a passion for cameras, and I started playing with them as a child. The photos always carried deep emotions for me. Capturing those emotions on paper felt incredibly special to me.*



## On personal education, and creative education viewed locally and globally

*I started learning photography professionally at 18 in college, and continued learning through experience. I believe the more we photograph, the more we grow. Just going to university isn't enough to become an artist.*

*In my country, photography and art aren't widely seen as major careers. But many people are interested in learning*



*art because it represents freedom to them. In today's world, art shouldn't be limited to formal education; it should come naturally from each person. Everyone expresses their artistic perspective, and teaching art or photography shouldn't restrict that freedom. I think in art, freedom to learn and create is essential.*



## Messaging with art

*Feelings have always been my starting point. I use a combination of objects and the human body to express emotions such as fear, happiness, sadness and more. My goal is to reflect the inner world of today's humans through these elements, especially felling of contemporary women.*



## On Art as a representation of reality or escape from it

*I think Art is deeply connected to the artist's life. Contemporary events can influence artworks, but what makes art timeless is in human emotions. Throughout history, art has connected artists to their audiences by expressing these shared emotions.*



## Online galleries and marketing artwork online

*Online galleries don't provide the same experience as visiting physical art, but they allow us to view, purchase, and critique artworks from anywhere in the world. Today Art has changed. You no longer need to spend years to become a well-known artist. A piece of art in online space can make an artist famous overnight. So, my suggestion is to try to introduce ourselves more in online world like Instagram, online galleries and more. For example, sharing the process of creating our artwork or details about our artistic lives can help.*