

The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum

For Immediate Release

HANGAMA AMIRI: A HOMAGE TO HOME February 5 to June 11, 2023

This exhibition is the artist's solo museum debut and will unveil a new body of work specially made for The Aldrich

The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum is pleased to announce *Hangama Amiri: A Homage to Home* the solo museum debut of the Afghan Canadian artist whose work combines painting and printmaking techniques with textiles, weaving together stories based on memories of her homeland and her diasporic experience. *Hangama Amiri: A Homage to Home* will be on view at The Aldrich from February 5 to June 11, 2023.



Hangama Amiri, *Bazaar, A Recollection of Home* (installation view), T293 Gallery, Rome, Italy, 2020. Courtesy of the artist

Amiri fled Kabul with her family in 1996 when she was seven years old. Moving through numerous countries over several years, they immigrated to Canada in 2005 when Amiri was a teenager. Amiri's choice of materials stems from autobiographical origins—her mother taught her to sew, and her uncle was a tailor. Her textiles also reference the colors and fabrics she remembers in the bazaars and on the streets of Kabul.

She sources her materials from an Afghan-owned shop in New York City's fashion district, collaging with fabric and painting on the surfaces. Large-scaled with frayed edges, Amiri's textile works are made from layering fabrics, piecing and sewing them together, so the fragments collectively characterize her home from a distance.

For *A Homage to Home*, Amiri will be debuting more than a dozen new textile works and a neon. Taking form as both intimate interiors and monumental installations, Amiri synthesizes postwar and present-day Afghanistan with refugee life, merging memory and lived experience. Her meta-worlds are centered on the lives of women and share storylines that monumentalize their personal resilience and public resistance. She captures her female protagonists within domestic and entrepreneurial spaces to amplify a collective struggle for women's rights in Afghanistan and around the world.

The exhibition will be accompanied by the artist's first museum publication, with an essay by the exhibition's curator Amy Smith-Stewart.

Hangama Amiri was born in 1989 in Kabul, Afghanistan, and lives and works in New Haven, Connecticut. Amiri received her MFA from Yale University in Painting and Printmaking and her BFA from NSCAD University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. She was a Canadian Fulbright and Postgraduate Fellow at Yale University School of Arts and Sciences. She has mounted solo exhibitions of her work nationally and internationally at the David B. Smith Gallery, Denver; Cooper Cole, Toronto; Albertz Benda Gallery, New York; and T293 Gallery, Rome.

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www.thealdrich.org



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Hangama Amiri: A Homage to Home is curated by the Museum's Chief Curator Amy Smith-Stewart.

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