

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 22, 2023

This Bitter Earth - Nazanin Noroozi

Marabeth Cohen-Tyler Print/Paper Fellowship 2022

Opening Reception: March 30, 2023 - 5:30 - 7:30 PM

DIEU /
DONNE /

Dieu Donn  is pleased to announce a solo exhibition by Nazanin Noroozi titled *This Bitter Earth*. An opening reception will be held on Thursday, March 30, 2023 from 5:30 - 7:30 PM. The exhibition features an expansive collection of work created by Noroozi during her Marabeth Cohen-Tyler Print/Paper Fellowship.

Nazanin Noroozi's work mines public, personal, and historical archives, manipulating and layering found images and videos to elicit feelings of displacement, tragedy, and instability. Her practice is rooted in a search for universal evocations of loss and longing, often described as melancholia, the Portuguese *saudade*, or the Turkish *huzun*. While she often works in multiple, Noroozi's work is not edited: her repetition of imagery serves as distinct and alternative versions of history, memory, people, and place, or as non-temporal sequences of events.

Noroozi works with imperfect materials: poorly framed or overexposed family photos, shaky or blurred amateur clips, or pixelated, low quality video recordings. By reconfiguring; painting and printing on top of; digitally altering; and layering details; Noroozi abstracts her found images to create ambiguous representations of historical events and family memories, transforming her source clips into collective histories. At Dieu Donn , Noroozi combined traditional printmaking and hand papermaking techniques, alternating between the wet and dry studios to achieve richer and more controlled colors and tones in her work.

This Bitter Earth juxtaposes works by Noroozi in paper, print, and video, allowing imagery from the artist's hand-painted film to "leak" onto the walls of the exhibition space and create fragments or ghostly repetitions of historical and personal moments. The viewer is invited to reconstruct time and create new narratives through a nonlinear experience of the work, merging and interspersing stories, and reframing specific events as shared sentiments.

The exhibition presents a new series of handmade paper artworks centered around found footage and archival images from viral news stories juxtaposed with hand painted Super 8 family movie frames. The body of work encompasses four main image series that Noroozi reconsidered and revisited in multiple: the 2020 downing of Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752 by the Iranian government; the devastating explosion at the Port of Beirut, Lebanon in 2020; the last U.S. airplane leaving Afghanistan in 2021 after the military's withdrawal; and home footage of a childhood birthday party in Iran.

Imagery from Noroozi's Super 8 home videos serves as a foil to the political permutations of instability and insecurity described above. Punctuating the historical horrors around them, the birthday party Noroozi depicts in paper pulp becomes tinged with tension, as though the celebrants are anticipating a disruption to their joy. By blurring and distorting the home videos and news footage alike, Noroozi removes the individuality of her subjects to allow viewers to insert themselves and their own stories into the found images. She universalizes otherwise personal feelings of uncertainty, anxiety, and despondence: a sense of sadness at the loss of life, despair at betrayal of principle, and the helplessness of losing control of one's destiny ripple out globally.

This Bitter Earth Nazanin Noroozi is curated by Eliana Blechman.

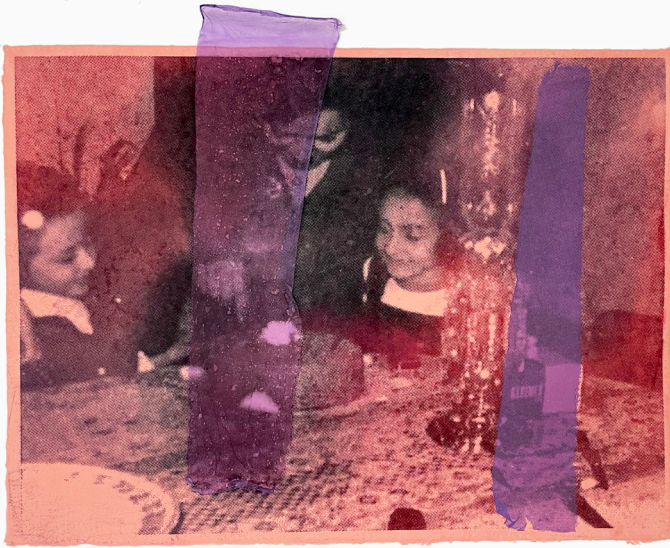


Nazanin Noroozi, *Beirut 200804 #1*, from the series *This Bitter Earth*, 2022, Pigmented linen pulp on cotton base sheet, 40" x 30".



About the Artist

Nazanin Noroozi is a multi-disciplinary artist incorporating moving images, printmaking and alternative photography processes to reflect on notions of collective memory and displacement. Noroozi's work has been widely exhibited at galleries and museums across the world including SPACES, Cleveland (OH), Athopos, Athens (Greece), Golestani Gallery, Dusseldorf (Germany), Immigrant Artist Biennial, Noyes Museum of Art, NY Live Arts, School of Visual Arts, and Postcrypt Art Gallery at Columbia University. She is the recipient of awards and fellowships from New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship (film & video), Marabeth Cohen-Tyler Print/Paper Fellowship at Dieu Donne, Artistic Freedom Initiative, Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts, and Mass MoCA residency. She is an editor at large of *Kaarnamaa; A Journal of Art History and Criticism*. Noroozi completed her MFA in painting and drawing from Pratt Institute. Her works have been featured in various publications and media including, *Die Zeit Magazine*, *BBC News Persian*, *Elephant Magazine*, *Financial Times*, and *Brooklyn Rail*.



About Dieu Donn 

Dieu Donn  is a leading cultural institution dedicated to serving established and emerging artists through the collaborative cation of contemporary art using the process of hand papermaking.

About the Marabeth Cohen-Tyler Print/Paper Fellowship

This annual award is for printmaking postgraduates or professional printers to better understand the role of paper in fine printmaking. Through research and experimentation, the Fellow develops custom papers for different printing methods and explores creative techniques in the papermaking process to enhance imagery. Kenneth Tyler and Dieu Donn  are honored to establish this Fellowship in memory of Marabeth Cohen-Tyler.

Top Image: Nazanin Noroozi in the Dieu Donn  studio, 2022.

Bottom Image: Nazanin Noroozi, #15, from the series *This Bitter Earth*, 2022, Pigmented linen pulp and abaca on cotton base sheet, Approx. 22" x 30".

Support

The artistic and educational programs at Dieu Donn  are made possible with public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Governor and the New York State Legislature, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council; and Foundation support including: Lily Auchincloss Foundation, Inc., The New York Community Trust, The John Ben Snow Memorial Trust, Jockey Hollow Foundation, IFPDA Foundation, West Bay View Foundation, Windgate Charitable Foundation, and the Wolf Kahn Foundation along with in-kind support from Material for the Arts and major individual support.



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