

PORTFOLIO.

Visual Artist

Exploring identity, emotion,
and Persian ornamentation through portraiture

2025



Sara Rahman

about me.

Sara Rahman is a visual artist based between Iran and the UK. Her practice combines traditional Persian decorative arts with contemporary emotional portraiture, often portraying female figures whose expressions reflect inner states of being.

She holds an MA in Illustration from the University of Gloucestershire - United Kingdom- and a BA in Painting from Tehran University of Art. Her work has been exhibited internationally in galleries and art fairs, including Tehran Art Fair, Parabola Arts Centre, Sixteen Gallery, and Hardwick Gallery.

Sara Rahman





Artist Statement

My paintings are intimate portraits of women—often with vibrant red hair—whose gazes quietly reflect the emotional landscapes I inhabit in the moment of creation. With a deep, contemplative presence, they do not merely invite the viewer to look at them, but to look through them—into an interior world of vulnerability, passion, softness, and silent strength.

Their red hair is not simply a visual choice; it emerges from a fire and energy that lives within me. It is a visual embodiment of my inner heat—sometimes steady, sometimes eruptive—that surfaces through them. This redness becomes a symbol of inner intensity, emotional warmth, and the silent dialogue between my essence and theirs.

Through layered applications of acrylic paint and colored pencil, I create poetic visual spaces—ones that live between reality and imagination, personal memory and collective emotion. Some of my works incorporate elements of Āineh-kāri, the traditional Iranian mirrorwork found in palaces, shrines, and mausoleums.

To me, mirrorwork is more than decoration—it holds a dual symbolism: radiant, reflective, and ornate on one hand; sharp, fractured, and fragile on the other. Its presence builds a bridge between opposites: inside and outside, beauty and breakability, history and identity.

Ultimately, my work is a poetic search for meaning—a visual attempt to trace life, selfhood, and the quiet stories embedded in the feminine gaze.

Exhibitions



Tehran Art Fair – Tehran, Iran
April 2025 – Group Exhibition

Parabola Arts Centre – Cheltenham, UK
October 2024 – Group Exhibition

Sixteen Gallery – Cheltenham, UK
July 2024 – Group Exhibition

Artiogallery.com – Online Exhibition
May 2024 – Group Exhibition

Quad Walk Gallery – Cheltenham, UK
March 2024 – Group Exhibition

Frog and Fiddle – Cheltenham, UK
March 2024 – Group Exhibition

Hardwick Gallery – Cheltenham, UK
February 2024 – Group Exhibition

Hafta Gallery – Iran
February 2025 – Group Exhibition

Saba Art Gallery – Tehran, Iran
2020 – Group Exhibition

Other Group Exhibitions
Various group shows including painting and printmaking (2012–2020), Tehran

Education

MA Illustration
University of Gloucestershire, UK
2022 – 2024

BA Painting
Tehran University of Art, Iran
2012 – 2016

Associate Degree in Graphic Design
Kerman Girls' Art College, Iran
1999 – 2003



Where It Begins

Year: 2025

Medium: Acrylic and colored pencil on wood board

Dimensions: 60 × 60 cm

Not with a cry,
but with a touch—
in the soft awakening of morning.
With quiet hands,
she guides her hair through the tenderness of a comb.
Time does not pass here;
it flows.

In the hush of her thoughts,
tides of reflection begin to rise, gently, slowly.
Everything begins from here—
from the stillest moment,
from a motion without haste,
from a woman who has not yet spoken,
but is already shaping her world.



That Moment

Year: 2025

Medium: Acrylic and colored pencil on wood board

Dimensions: 60 × 60 cm

She sat still. Light brushed against her hair—
red, like a memory you can't quite name, but never
forget.
She looked—not at anyone, not at the lens—just
looked.
And in that quiet, fleeting second, everything made
sense.





Wave

Year: 2024

Medium: Acrylic and colored pencil on wood board

Dimensions: 60 × 60 cm

There is a ripple in her gaze—
not quite sorrow, not quite joy.
A distant feeling, adrift, never quite arriving.
Her hair, still and restless,
like the hush of a breeze that passes without ever
being seen.



Woman in Red Flames

Year: 2024

Medium: Acrylic and colored pencil on wood board

Dimensions: 30 × 30 cm

I do not know what fire burns within me
that it has turned my hair into flame.



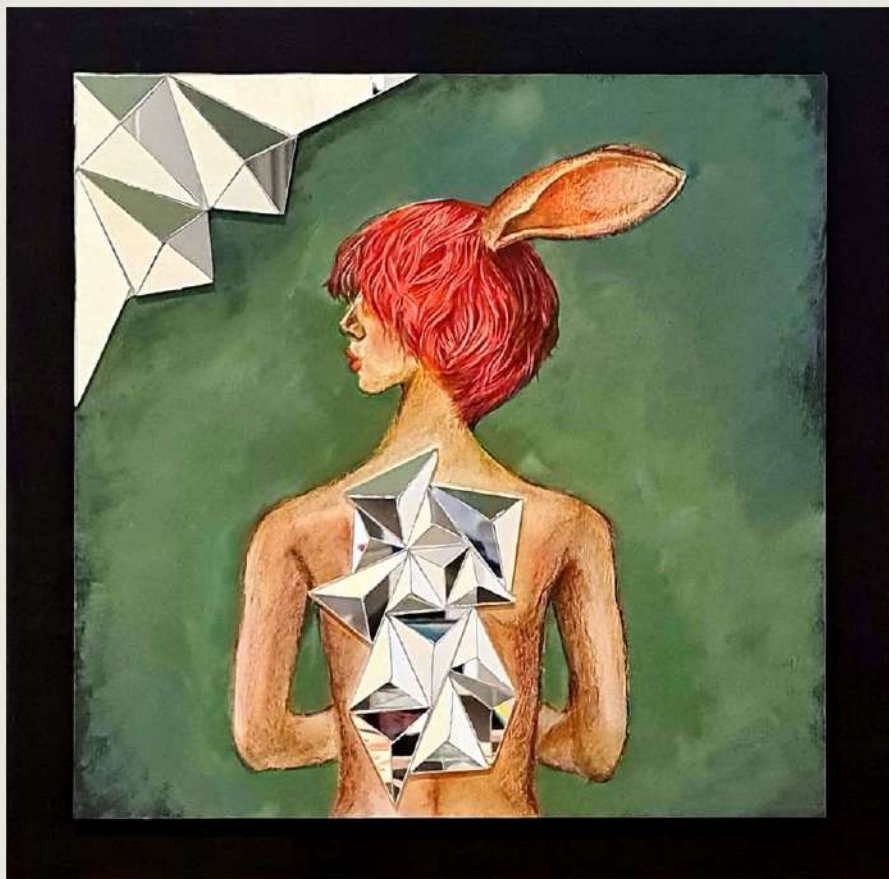
Bright Moment

Year: 2024

Medium: Acrylic and colored pencil on wood board

Dimensions: 30 × 30 cm

Quiet hands, a resting thought—
a fleeting moment
in which the whole world
gathers gently
inside a single prayer.



Light Sprouts from My Wounds

Year: 2024

Medium: Mixed media

Dimensions: 30 × 30 cm

Light sprouts from my wounds,
Like grass quietly growing through the earth.
Wounds are little windows,
To behold myself, to the silence within.
The pains were paths,
That led me back to myself.
And in this quiet journey,
A lamp was lit,
Growing brighter with each passing day.



The Tale of a Land

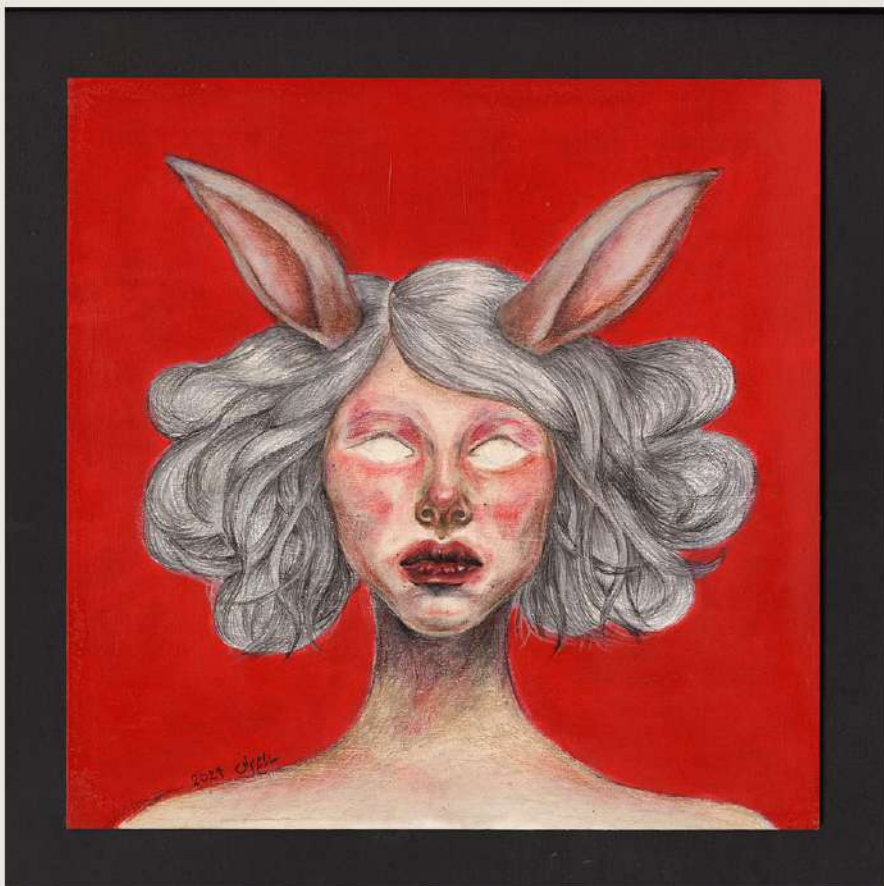
Year: 2024

Medium: Mixed Media

Dimensions: 30 × 30 cm

She was the silent tale of a land,
A land that reads within itself,
Quietly growing and breathing through words.
Even beneath the sharp gaze of mirrors,
She breathes with every whispered page.

A land of womanhood,
Reclaiming its borders
With each leaf turned in the book.



I Am Full of Light

Year: 2024

Medium: Acrylic and Colored Pencil on Board

Dimensions: 30 × 30 cm

Her eyes, flooded with pure white light, see beyond the surface.

Hair like strands of light itself—soft, white, weightless. She is not merely illuminated; she is light embodied.

A presence that transcends shadow, holding within her a radiance that blinds, heals, and remembers.



Ascension

Year: 2025

Medium: Mirror Mosaic

Dimensions: 70 × 85 × 25 cm

(Triangular form: base 45 cm, height 70 cm, depth 25 cm)

A physical embodiment of the inner triad:

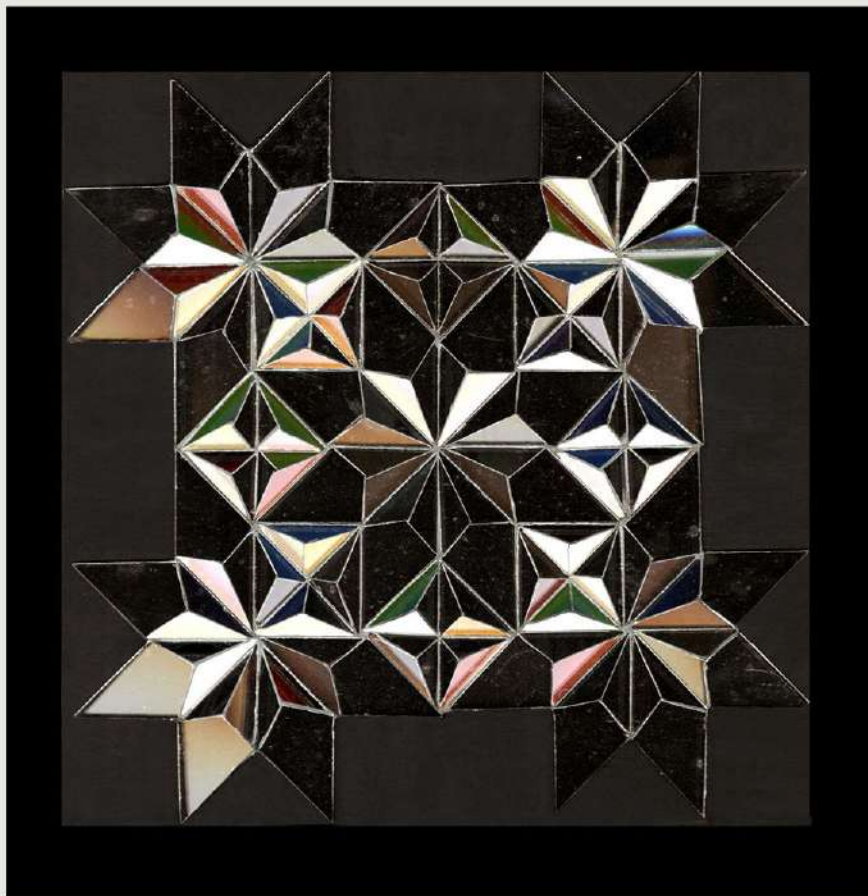
The body — a grounded foundation, where roots anchor deeply.

The soul — a bridge between earthbound life and luminous horizons.

The spirit — a radiant peak, ever reaching toward the skies.

Within this geometry of silence, the ascent begins.

Each mirrored surface reflects a step,
each step a quiet melody of endless seeking.

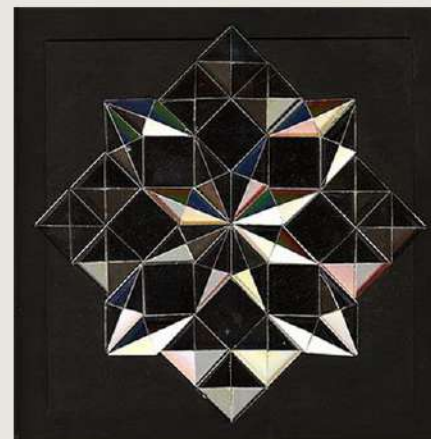


Mirror Flower

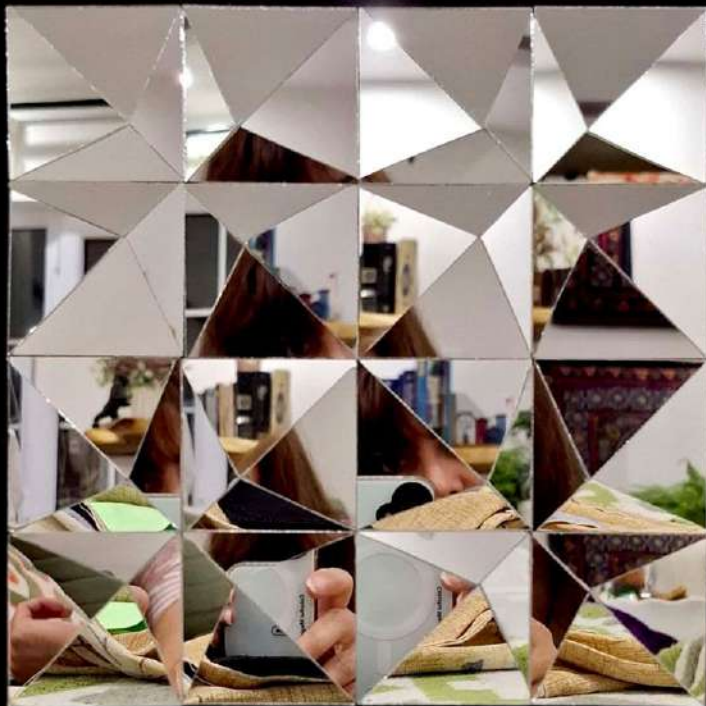
Year: 2024

Medium: Mirror Mosaic on Board

Dimensions: 30 × 30 cm



A bloom not of petals, but of reflections—
Each shard catching fragments of self, memory, and
light.
It blossoms in stillness,
Inviting the viewer to see not just the flower,
But the one who gazes.



Untitled

Year: 2025

Medium: Mirror Work on Board

Dimensions: 30 × 30 cm

Fragmented surfaces reflect more than image—
they echo perception, distortion, and quiet introspection.
In the absence of a name,

the viewer is invited to complete the piece
with their own gaze.

**Thank
You.**

2025



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