

**firstdraft**

Gallery 2

8 December - 28 January

# Remnants of a Dismantled State

Shahroud Ghahani

@shahroud\_ghahani | www.shahroudghahani.com

*Remnants of a Dismantled State* is a personal, emotional and politically charged exhibition exploring Shahroud Ghahani's experiences of exile, war and otherness through a feminist lens. Ghahani creates a portal into the memories of her past, a fragmentary connection to an imaginary homeland. Indeed, the country she was born in has changed irrevocably and violently since her forced departure; as such, these ruminations on its past state and beauty are marred by the present.

Beginning with a distorted photograph of her grandparent's house in Tehran, the artist has created a series of allegorical and surrealist images centring the idea of the feminine and the feminine base within a home, family, or culture; to combat the separation from the motherland/s.

With multiple doors and gateways that both close off and open up to pathways and journeys, Ghahani observes that dismantlement can give way to hope and optimism despite exile and otherness.

**Shahroud Ghahani** is an Iranian-Australian inter-disciplinary artist based on Gadigal land. Ghahani's artworks bridge together rich images from disparate cultures and her experiences of them. Her practice explores representations of female archetypes and themes of beauty, the grotesque and identity within Eastern and Western traditions. Ghahani is inspired by explorations of metaphysical subjects which she interweaves in her work through dreamscapes, liminal and imaginary spaces, displaced objects and allegorical imagery.

The artist holds a Master of Art from the University of New South Wales, Art, Design and Architecture. She recently exhibited at Campbelltown Art Center, AIR Space Projects, Wollongong Art Gallery and Gosford Regional Gallery and was a finalist for the 2024 Grace Cossington Smith Biennale Art Award, 2022 and 2023 Fisher's Ghost Art Prize, 2023 Gosford Art prize, 2022 Arts in the Valley and 2021 Hawkesbury Art Prize. She is currently a resident artist at the Primrose Park Art Studio, a program managed by North Sydney Council.

Gallery 1  
**Samantha Snedden**  
The Enlightenment

Gallery 2  
**Shannon Toth**  
Protector

Gallery 4  
**Olga Svyatova**  
So this is goodbye?

**firstdraft**  
**gadigal land**  
**13-17 riley street**  
**woolloomooloo**  
**nsw 2011**  
**+61 2 8970 2999**  
**firstdraft.org.au**

**we acknowledge and pay respect to the gadigal people of the eora nation, the traditional owners of the land on which firstdraft is built and operates.**

**firstdraft is supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW; and assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body.**



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**Artworks** (clockwise from left, and top to bottom)

For sales enquiries, please email  
**sghahani@gmail.com**

Shahroud Ghahani

*The Houses of Memory, 2023*

digital collage printed on recycled polyester satin

250 cm x 145 cm

*Daar, 2023*

2 cast resin doors in blue and brown, ready-made painted blue wooden door  
dimensions variable

*Golbaran, 2023*

high grade cement fist, white paper flowers, faux seed pearls  
dimensions variable

*My mother's mother and the kelp forests between us, 2023*

digital print  
dimensions variable

*Remnants of a Dismantled State, 2023*

single channel video

5 minutes and 35 seconds

*Tooseh, 2023*

high grade cement cast, embroidered fine cotton  
dimensions variable

*Black Madonna, 2023*

fiberglass bust, stockings, wood thread, brass headpiece, high-grade cement cast, black lace handkerchief

This headpiece is a handmade imitation of a gold crown discovered in a tomb in Tillya Tepe (The Hill of Gold), Afghanistan, 1st Century A.D.

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