

MEHRNOOSH ESKANDARI ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Mehrnoosh Eskandari is a multidisciplinary artist and educator based in Los Angeles whose vibrant, poetic practice maps the intimate geographies of immigration, womanhood, and identity. Working primarily in painting but often integrating drawing and collage, Eskandari constructs complex emotional landscapes that express the layered interiority of a life shaped by displacement and defiance. Her work is deeply autobiographical, drawn from memories of home, the ruptures of migration, and the yearning for a place where one's body, voice, and spirit can fully belong.

Born and raised in Tehran, Iran, Eskandari came of age during a period of political unrest and social restrictions that marked every aspect of daily life, a limiting of freedoms that was particularly harsh for women. Amid surveillance and censorship, she found hope in the underground network of artists and poets, attending drawing clubs and poetry readings outside the restrictive government-run art programs. While this time provided her a foundational understanding of her mediums, this early exposure to art as both resistance and refuge became a driving force as she looked to discover her creative identity. Leaving Iran in 2014, she relocated to the United States, earning an MFA from California State University, Northridge. While navigating the legal, emotional, and financial realities of immigration, she found herself, like her painted figures, hovering between past and present, self and shadow.

Her visual language has evolved from meticulous figuration into something looser, gestural, and more immediate with layered forms, empty houses, and ambiguous bodies that evoke both the tenderness and estrangement of diasporic life. Influenced by artists like Jean-Michel Basquiat and Faith Ringgold to Dana Schutz and Katherine Bradford, Eskandari's work resists neat resolution in favor of emotional complexities. She has exhibited in Tehran, Berlin, Los Angeles, and beyond, and remains committed to creating spaces for expression in and outside of the studio.

Eskandari's aim is not only to express her own story but to offer a mirror for others, especially those whose identities have been censored, exiled, or erased. Her work insists on the visibility of every fragmented, tender part of the self.