

# t r a n s f o r m e r

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## *Nevermind, Azizam*

*September 9 - October 14*

Opening Reception: Saturday, September 9, 6-8pm

Artist Talk: Saturday, September 30, 2pm

Transformer is proud to present *Nevermind, Azizam*, a mixed-media exhibition that delves visually and sensually into the uniqueness and range of Iranian-American experiences through the work of **Ani Bradberry**, **Alexandra 'Rex' Delafkaran**, and **Sheida Soleimani**.



*Entering the room, indistinguishable combinations of saffron, Chanel No. 5 and black tea steep into the senses. Dole out the kisses to every cheek in the room. Catch the occasional salaam and khoshgel. Never quite understood or understanding, never quite the same, the ethnic friend, the American grandchild.*

*We are our own Others. We are troubled by the simultaneously intimate and unfamiliar facets of our family histories. This identity is defined by its fluctuation and intensely unique individual experience.*

*We are inexplicably in love with traditions that lie under lenses of our families and our countries. Both of our motherlands float at odds with one another, separated by an ocean of fear and mistrust. Within this tension, we are both horrified and strengthened by the myths. Exotification and fetishization have shaped our lives, and the myths become as vivid and slippery as the goldfish on nowruz. Our adolescence is embedded in the joy and anxiety of language. Rich with symbols, smells, textures and tastes, our shared experiences are pure poetry. We all know the sensations of gracious apologies and tart affection.*

- Ani Bradberry and Alexandra 'Rex' Delafkaran

### Artist Bios

**Anahita (Ani) Bradberry** is an artist and art historian based in DC and Brooklyn. She earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in modern and contemporary non-Western art with a focus on Japan from American University's feminist art history program. Interested in challenging predetermined power structures in the global contemporary art world, Anahita walks the line between artist and critical art writer to gain a deeper understanding of the cultural power of radical creativity.

**Rex (Alexandra) Delafkaran** is an interdisciplinary artist and dancer currently based in Washington, DC. She uses movement and objects to explore the rich tensions between intimacy, language and identities. Upon receiving her degree in Ceramics and Performance Art from the San Francisco Art Institute, she has now worked and exhibited in Southern Exposure Gallery, Diego Rivera Gallery, Smithsonian Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Panoply Performance Lab, and others. Rex continues to perform, write and exhibit, making sculpture out of Red Dirt Studios.

# t r a n s f o r m e r

**Sheida Soleimani** is an Iranian-American artist who lives in Providence, RI. The daughter of political refugees who were persecuted by the Iranian government in the early 1980s, Soleimani makes work that melds sculpture, collage and photography and highlights her own critical perspective on historical and contemporary socio-political occurrences in Iran. She focuses on media trends and the dissemination of societal occurrences in the news, adapting images from popular press and social media leaks to exist within alternate scenarios. Her work has been recognized internationally in both exhibitions and publications such as *Artforum*, *The New York Times*, *The Huffington Post*, *Interview*, and *VICE Magazine*. Soleimani's research and work critically references the Eurocentrism that pervades the study of art and art history. She is specifically interested in the intersections of art and activism, as well as how social media has shaped the landscape in current socio-political affairs and uprisings.

**EXHIBITION HOURS: Wednesday – Saturday, 12 -6 and by appointment.**

Image credit: Ani Bradberry, *Nevermind, Azizam*, 2017

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t r a n s f o r m e r is a Washington, DC based 501 (c) 3 artist-centered non-profit visual arts organization, providing a consistent, supportive, and professional platform for emerging artists to explore and present experimental artistic concepts, build audiences for their work, and advance their careers. A catalyst and advocate for contemporary artists and emergent expression in the visual arts, Transformer connects and promotes emerging visual artists within regional, national and international contexts through exhibition and programs partnerships with artists, curators, commercial galleries, museums and other cultural institutions.

t r a n s f o r m e r's 2017/18 Exhibition Series and programs are supported by: The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities/ NEA, The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, The CrossCurrents Foundation, Metabolic Studios, The National Endowment for the Arts' Access to Artistic Excellence Award, and The Visionary Friends of Transformer – individual donors, members of our Annual Auction Host Committee, and Corporate Sponsors.