

DIO HORIA GALLERY  
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## **The Armory Show 2023: Desire Moheb-Zandi | Through the peephole**

Dio Horia gallery is pleased to present 'Through the peephole' by Desire Moheb-Zandi — a live working artist studio to be created especially for the Armory Show, 2023.

The artist will be present working on a loom to create new works, invoking the actual artist's studio. Collectors can take a peek through a peephole into the studio from behind a wall, or they can walk around this obstruction and enter into the studio practice and meet the artist herself, who will be working at times during the fair opening hours. The installation functions as a type of performance, presenting the hidden labor behind all art objects, as well as a chance to break down barriers.

With a view to really connecting the artwork with its creator and collectors, the presentation aims to slow down and reconnect what can be the short-lived aesthetic trends, online sales & virtual distance, typical of art market frenzy. 'Through the peephole' encourages viewers to experience the booth as a perhaps one-time-only chance to peer into the artist's spirit, a magical moment that historically elevates art.

Free from fear, rooted in feminism, and visualizing a more diverse art world, 'Through the peephole', showcases the soft power of the work of a fresh female artist, originally coming from Turkey. Questioning the lack of privacy in human interaction, the installation traverses the paradox between the prohibition of touch in relation to digital technology and art. In this way, traditional art practice exists in a post-digital world, for the artist decodes the digital environment into rhythmically placed analogue examples that can be witnessed both in large-scale completion and in process.

Bringing back memories of her childhood in Turkey, where she passed hours watching her grandmother weave on a loom, Desire Moheb-Zandi promotes this softness as a form of resistance, making use of advanced & upcycled material that come together bound in an organic & synthetic mingling unique to the artist. This tactile, fluid meditation is meant to represent contemporary feminine emotional landscapes, in an age of technological & environmental anxiety.

In essence, 'Through the peephole' traces multiple transformations of identity through ritualistic encounters between the artwork, its creator and collectors. Thus, drawing inspiration from contemporary experiences of modern day webcams and 1970's peep shows, to Duchamp's *Étant donnés* and the camera obscura of the Dutch Masters, the voyeuristic titillation is matched by the myriad of fantasy worlds entered into & unfolded by the artist.

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Over the ages, the artist's studio has been regarded as a mythical place, where the alchemist is able to turn lead into gold. A playful nod to the origins of the Armory Show, 'Through the peephole' invites us all to engage with the life and artistry in the studio, securing an honest and demystified scene that is much closer to the original 1913 experience, rather than any social media feed.

— END —

## Short Bio

— **Desire Moheb-Zandi** (b. 1990, Germany) lives and works in Paris. She received her BA from Koc University, in Istanbul in 2012 and graduated with an AA from Parsons New School for Design in 2013 and a CE in Painting from the Arts Students League of New York in 2016. Selected solo exhibitions include: 'A way to stay' at Fold Gallery, London; 'Fields of Reflections' at superzoom, Paris; 'Landscapes' at The Newsstand Project, Los Angeles. Selected group exhibitions include: 'Coexistence' at Istanbul Atatürk Cultural Centre, Istanbul; 'The Way We Fall', Eigen+Art Lab, Berlin; 'The Sowers' at Fondation Thalie, Brussels; 'The First Meal' at Poush Manifesto, Paris. The artist has been featured in numerous publications, including Architectural Digest, Artnet, Artspeak, Juxtapoz and the New York Times.

## — Presentation info

### **Desire Moheb-Zandi: Through the Peephole**

The Armory Show  
Solo Booth #P15  
September 07 – 10, 2023

### **Dio Horia Acropolis**

5 – 7 Lempesi & 16 Porinou St  
Acropolis, Athens, 11742  
Tel: +30 2109241382 | +30 2106714827  
Email: gallery@diohoria.com

## — Upcoming Presentation & Show

### **Chris Akordalitis, Sunna Hansdóttir, Elias Kafouros, Caroline Larsen, Iliodora Margellos, Joakim Ojanen, Selma Parlour, Diamantis Sotiropoulos, The Callas (Lakis & Aris Ionas): Group Presentation**

Art Athina  
Booth #TBC  
September 14 – 17, 2023

### **Desire Moheb-Zandi: Solo Exhibition**

Solo Show  
Dio Horia Acropolis  
October 07 – November 07, 2023