

Molood Akkaf

Visual Artist | Painting, Sculpture & Textile-based Practices

Research-based practice exploring
feminine identity, material memory, and
embodied experience.

2025-12



BIOGRAPHY

Molood Akkaf (b. 1988, Tehran, Iran) is a visual artist working across painting, sculpture, and textile-based mixed media. She holds an M.A. in Painting from Sooreh Art University and a B.A. in Painting from Alzahra University, Tehran. Akkaf has presented three solo exhibitions and participated in numerous group exhibitions in Iran and internationally. Her practice investigates feminine identity, bodily memory, and the relationship between inner experience and external reality through embroidery, fabric, and painterly gestures. She currently lives and works in Tehran.



ARTIST STATEMENT



My practice is rooted in research-based exploration of feminine identity as an embodied and layered experience. Working across painting, sculpture, and textile, I use sewing, embroidery, and fabric as both material and metaphor—tools historically tied to domestic labor and female presence. These processes allow me to translate lived experiences, emotional wounds, and collective memory into tactile visual forms.

I am interested in states of in-betweenness: visibility and concealment, resilience and vulnerability, stillness and transformation. Through repetitive handwork and material accumulation, my works emerge slowly, mirroring the way identity is shaped over time through personal and social forces. Community, observation, and everyday rituals play a central role in my research, informing how individual narratives connect to shared cultural experiences.

The residency offers an essential context to deepen this inquiry through engagement with new environments, materials, and communities.

RESEARCH & COMMUNITY APPROACH

My artistic process begins with observation and listening. I approach research as a slow engagement with lived realities—spaces of domestic life, bodily gestures, repetitive labor, and shared rituals. Textile and embroidery function as archives of experience, carrying traces of time, care, and endurance.

Community informs my work not through direct representation, but through accumulation: gestures repeated, materials gathered, and narratives absorbed through proximity. I am interested in how personal wounds resonate collectively, and how shared experiences of femininity, labor, and resilience can be translated into visual and spatial forms.

Within a residency context, I seek to expand this approach by engaging with local materials, environments, and conversations, allowing the work to respond organically to its social and cultural surroundings.

SELECTED BODY OF WORK

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A Wound in Formation

Medium: Painting, fabric, embroidery, three-dimensional textile structures

Conceptual Focus: Loss, bodily memory, emergence

In this series, painting extends into space through three-dimensional structures made of sheer, perforated fabric—materials that filter vision and disrupt clarity. As transparency increases, fixed meanings dissolve, allowing presence and absence, fragility and resilience to coexist. Rooted in bodily experience, *A Wound in Formation* approaches loss not as an end, but as a generative space from which new forms emerge.





Size: 100 × 150 × 20 cm

Materials: Resin, net fabric (tulle), beads, sequins

Technique: Sculptural resin casting of textile, followed by
hand-applied bead and sequin embroidery

Year: 2026



Size: 100 × 190 × 100 cm

Materials: Resin, net fabric (tulle), beads, sequins

Technique: Sculptural resin casting of textile, followed by
hand-applied bead and sequin embroidery

Year: 2025



Size: 220 × 100 × 70 cm

Materials: Resin, net fabric (tulle), beads, sequins

Technique: Sculptural resin casting of textile, followed by
hand-applied bead and sequin embroidery

Year: 2025



Size: 70 × 100 × 50 cm

Materials: Resin, net fabric (tulle), beads, sequins

Technique: Sculptural resin casting of textile, followed by
hand-applied bead and sequin embroidery

Year: 2025



Size: 120 × 40 × 20 cm

Materials: Resin, net fabric (tulle), beads, sequins

Technique: Sculptural resin casting of textile, followed by
hand-applied bead and sequin embroidery

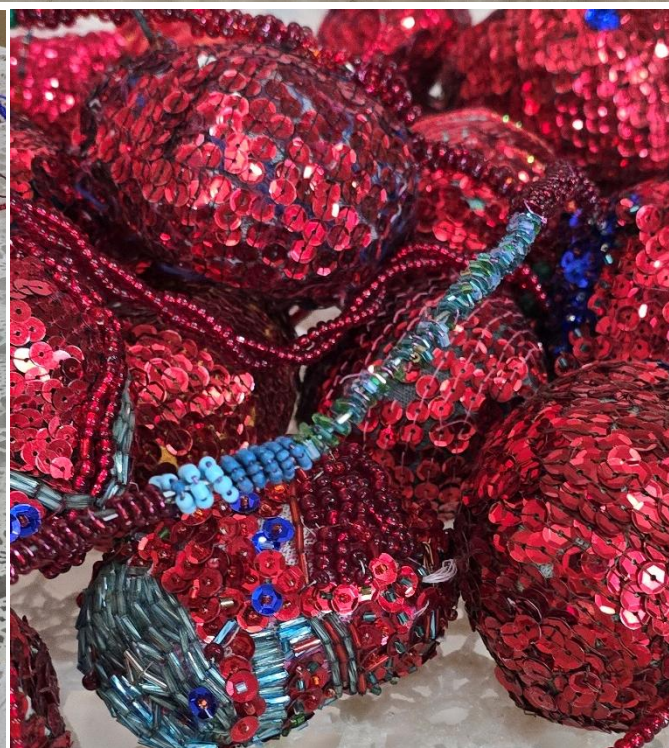
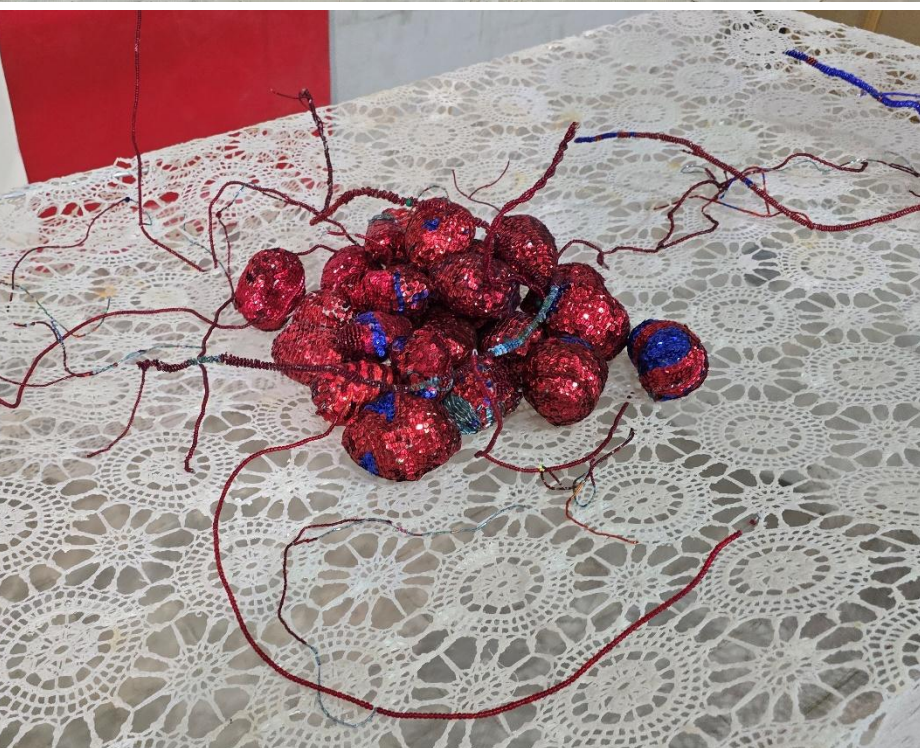
Year: 2025

A Wound in Formation - Statement

In confronting reality, I wander among nets—searching, through touch and repetition, for roots within loss.

There is no hierarchy of beauty or judgment here; forms exist in a state of suspension. They appear at dining tables, inhabit bodies, or cling to maternal origins. Through material fragility, the work resists closure and embraces transformation.

Process & Reflection





SELECTED BODY OF WORK

In the Tangle of Imagination

Medium: Painting, mixed media, textile

Conceptual Focus: Collective agency, imagination, continuity

In *In the Tangle of Imagination*, imagination unfolds through layered textures and placeless spaces. Women emerge not as isolated figures, but through collective force—activating creativity as a means of resistance and transformation. While remaining within continuity, they disengage from passivity and assert their presence through shared endurance.



Size: 100 × 120 cm

Materials: net fabric (tulle), beads, sequins, acrylic

Technique: Mix-Media on Canvas and Embroidery

Year: 2024



Size: 100 × 120 cm

Materials: net fabric (tulle), beads, sequins, acrylic

Technique: Mix-Media on Canvas and Embroidery

Year: 2024



Size: 100 × 150 cm

Materials: net fabric (tulle), beads, sequins, acrylic

Technique: Mix-Media on Canvas and Embroidery

Year: 2024



Size: 100 × 70 cm

Materials: net fabric (tulle), beads, sequins, acrylic

Technique: Mix-Media on Canvas and Embroidery, Print

Year: 2024



Size: 150 × 100 cm

Materials: net fabric (tulle), beads, sequins, acrylic

Technique: Mix-Media on Canvas and Embroidery, Print

Year: 2024



Size: 150 × 120 cm

Materials: net fabric (tulle), beads, sequins, acrylic

Technique: Mix-Media on Canvas and Embroidery, Print

Year: 2024

In the Tangle of Imagination – Statement

From within ourselves, we brought forth a seed and wove it with imagination. Through shared labor and proximity, endurance became a collective skill. This series reflects my interest in how imagination operates as a communal resource—shaped through interaction, repetition, and mutual support rather than individual expression.

Research Perspective



SELECTED BODY OF WORK

Bazak

Medium: Unprimed fabric, embroidery, painting

Conceptual Focus: Domestic practice, repetition, everyday symbolism

This series employs unprimed fabrics to allow fluidity and contingency in texture formation. Repetitive embroidery gestures and references to domestic tools foreground how meaning is produced through everyday practices. Decorative motifs—borrowed from carpet flowers and ornamental traditions—oscillate between hope and disruption.



Size: 40 × 30 cm

Materials: Fabric, embroidery thread, Rapidograph, printed design

Technique: Mix-Media on Fabric

Year: 2023



Size: 30 × 40 cm

Materials: Fabric, embroidery thread, Rapidograph, printed design

Technique: Mix-Media on Fabric

Year: 2023



Size: 30 × 40 cm

Materials: Fabric, embroidery thread, Rapidograph, printed design

Technique: Mix-Media on Fabric

Year: 2023



Size: 50 × 70 cm

Materials: Fabric, embroidery thread, Acrylic, printed design

Technique: Mix-Media on Fabric

Year: 2023

Bazak - Statement

Through successive stitches, I search for release within stillness.

I stitch artificial beauty as a response to lived reality—sometimes emerging with hope, sometimes cutting across daily life. The act of covering becomes both protection and concealment, reflecting the complexities embedded in domestic labor and feminine roles.

PROPOSED DIRECTION FOR RESIDENCY

During the residency, I aim to develop a new body of work that responds to the local social and cultural context through material research and observation. My focus will be on gathering textile materials, domestic references, and shared narratives through everyday encounters.

By engaging with community spaces and informal conversations, I intend to translate collective experiences into sculptural and painterly forms. The residency's environment offers an opportunity to deepen my investigation into how feminine identity, labor, and memory shift across cultural contexts, allowing the work to evolve through dialogue rather than predetermined outcomes.



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