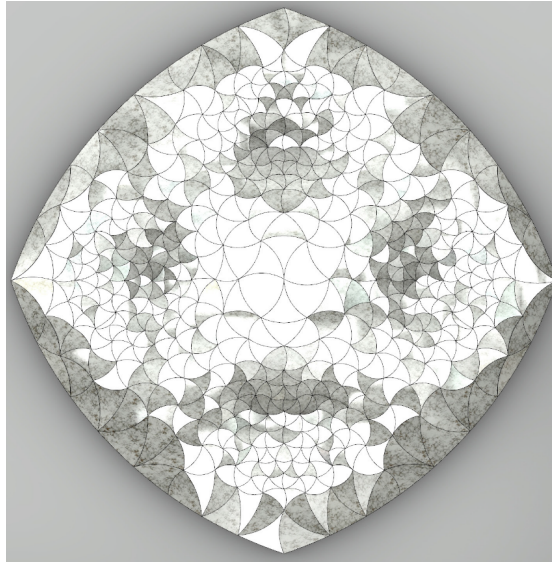


# LEILA HELLER GALLERY.

'Immortal Mirror'

By

Aref Montazeri



*Immortal Mirror 4, 200 x 200 cm*

Dubai, UAE – Leila Heller Gallery is delighted to announce the upcoming solo exhibition by Aref Montazeri, titled 'Immortal Mirror', opening 23rd January 2024.

Aref Montazeri's artistic journey unveils the mirror's role as a time capsule, capturing time layer by layer. With a single gaze, time halts, letting the audience see themselves in the present, amid past moments and a myriad of images within the mirror's layers. The inherent haziness of the present image sparks contemplation on time's nature, fostering a unique interaction between the audience and the reflective medium.

'Immortal Mirror' marks a profound exploration into the layers of mirrors and their intricate relationship with the audience, unveiling a fresh essence that challenges perceptions and transcends the boundaries of time.

Transitioning from abstraction to tangibility, Montazeri introduces an innovative mirror crafted through a chemical oxidation process, mimicking the effects of time. He delves into the abstract realm, proposing a poetic notion that declares, "The image in the mirror is immortal".

This handcrafted abstract masterpiece offers a distinct expression of the materiality of mirrors, turning a simple reflective surface into a complex plane that invites prolonged contemplation. Inspired by the

humble triangle, Montazeri's creative process adds texture, oxidation, and complexity to the mirror's original structure. This transforms the two-dimensional triangle into a captivating interplay of curved sides, creating a coalition of contemporary and original geometry. Adorned with mirrors emitting an aged and enigmatic aura, the artwork projects a fresh and thought-provoking image of the audience.

The exhibition prompts viewers to explore three temporal dimensions: uncovering the past in the mirror's aged layers, scrutinizing present forms, and envisioning a future with immortalized images amid oxidized layers. This abstract interplay of past, present, and future leaves a lasting impression, inspiring introspection and encouraging deeper self-exploration.

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Aref Montazeri was born in Tehran, Iran in 1986. He is a sculptor removed from conventional practices, he pursues a novel approach to mirror art that involves large numbers of mirror cuts and meticulous attention to detail. Conceptually, he follows an approach he has termed "The MIRROR follows narrative", which favors materialism over ornamentalism and resilience of design over buildability. His design apparatus consists of three criteria: Narrative, Material and Technique. Which is also the way he looks at art and creates it.

He started his training during the time he collaborated with Monir Shahroudy Farmanfarmaian on the design and fabrication of around 60 sculptures (2009-15). Additionally, he was involved in fabrication of Parviz Tanavoli's sculptures and jewelries (2012-14). He has also been an artist-in-residence at TUIC, contributing to research projects in innovative materials and smart techniques. Notably, his residency with the Maleki Collection in France resulted in the creation of three significant sculptures, including the intricate "PARADOX" composed of 70,000 mirror pieces.

## ABOUT THE GALLERY

Since its establishment over four decades ago in New York, Leila Heller Gallery has gained worldwide recognition as a pioneer in promoting a creative dialogue and exchange between Western artists and Middle Eastern, Central and Southeast Asian artists. It has garnered a reputation for identifying and cultivating the careers of artists leaving a lasting impact on contemporary art and culture. Currently representing a diverse roster of Western, Central Asian, Southeast Asian and Middle Eastern artists, the gallery is also active in the American, European, and Middle Eastern secondary art markets. In November 2015, Leila Heller Gallery opened its first international location in Dubai's Alserkal Avenue. At 16,000 square feet, the state of the art gallery features three exhibition spaces, making it the largest gallery in the UAE. Showcasing leading regional and international artists, many of whom will be presenting their work in the Middle East. In addition to presenting a dynamic exhibition schedule, Leila Heller Gallery actively organizes shows with world renowned curators, hosts educational panels and film screenings, and produces catalogs and books with scholarly essays. Each year the gallery participates in major international art fairs and stages off-site projects as a platform for exploring new conversations within a wider context of galleries, artists and institutions. Gallery artists have consistently participated in international museum exhibitions and biennials, and are included in leading institutional collections worldwide.