

CONTINUUM:
**ARTIST
RELIEF
FOR IRAN**

A GLOBAL NONPROFIT INITIATIVE

PRESS RELEASE

August 2026

PRESENTED BY DURAN ART PROJECTS



FEREYDOUN AVE
UNTITLED, 2025
COURTESY OF DASTAN GALLERY

More Than 200 Artists Working Inside Iran Come Together in an Unprecedented International Cultural Collaboration

***Continuum: Artist Relief for Iran* launches with more than 500 original artworks, bringing together participating galleries across Iran and an international network of cultural partners in the largest coordinated international presentation of its kind dedicated to contemporary artists living and working inside Iran.**

August 11, 2026 — Conceived in direct response to the recent conflict affecting Iran, *Continuum: Artist Relief for Iran* is a new nonprofit international cultural initiative created to ensure that, at a moment when global attention is fixed on the country, its contemporary artists remain visible through their work.

Launching at iranartistrelief.org, the initiative presents more than 500 original artworks by over 200 emerging and established contemporary artists living and working across Iran. Every participating artist is based inside the country, offering an unprecedented opportunity to encounter the breadth and diversity of contemporary artistic practice from within Iran itself.

Developed over five months by curators working inside Iran, *Continuum* was built through collaboration between participating galleries across the country and an international network of galleries, curators, institutions, and cultural partners across Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, the United Arab Emirates, France, Germany, and India. Together, they have created what is, to our knowledge, the largest coordinated international presentation bringing together contemporary artists living and working inside Iran, participating galleries across the country, and an international network of cultural partners.

The initiative was born from a simple question: what could the arts community do, collectively, to support artists whose opportunities had been profoundly disrupted by conflict? The answer was not another fundraising campaign or symbolic gesture, but a collaborative cultural initiative built with artists and galleries themselves—one designed to create lasting international opportunities through the presentation and acquisition of contemporary art.

Participating galleries across Iran have voluntarily waived their commissions, ensuring that 100% of every artwork sale is transferred directly to the participating artist. Rather than bypassing existing artistic relationships, *Continuum* strengthens them, creating a model of support that works with

the country's cultural ecosystem while expanding international access to the work of artists living and creating inside Iran.

While conceived in response to conflict, Continuum is not an exhibition about conflict. It is a presentation of contemporary artistic practice as it exists today inside Iran. Spanning painting, drawing, photography, sculpture, installation, mixed media, and interdisciplinary practices, many of the works included have never previously been presented to international audiences.

“When the conflict began, the first question we asked ourselves was simple: what could we do for the artists?” said Dario Duran, Founder of Duran Art Projects and Chief Curator of Continuum. “That question became Continuum. What began as an immediate response grew into a remarkable collaboration between artists, galleries, and cultural partners committed to ensuring that artists working inside Iran remain visible, connected, and supported through their work.”

Senior Curator Mariam Rasti said: “Continuum is a testament to what becomes possible when an artistic community chooses collaboration over isolation. Every participating artist, gallery, and international partner contributed to building something that extends well beyond this moment.”

By introducing artists to new audiences, collections, institutions, and future opportunities, Continuum seeks to strengthen the long-term international visibility of contemporary Iranian art while demonstrating how cultural collaboration can endure through periods of profound uncertainty.

About Continuum: Artist Relief for Iran

Continuum: Artist Relief for Iran is a nonprofit international cultural initiative presented by Duran Art Projects. Bringing together more than 500 original artworks by over 200 contemporary artists living and working across Iran, the initiative was conceived in response to the recent conflict affecting Iran and developed through collaboration between participating galleries across the country and an international network of cultural partners. Participating galleries have voluntarily waived their commissions, ensuring that 100% of every artwork sale benefits the participating artist.

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