

14 August 2024

Recommendation Letter for Dr Mahsa Nejat

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to support Dr Mahsa Nejat's application for the Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Postdoctoral Fellowship in Iranian Studies. I have known Mahsa since 2014 when she attended my courses on art history and criticism at the Mah-e Mehr Institute in Tehran. She left a lasting impression as an intellectually strong yet modest individual. Over the years, I have become increasingly familiar with Mahsa's diverse talents as a researcher and, later, as an educator.

Mahsa received her PhD in Art Studies from the Art University of Isfahan in 2023, following her MA in the same field from the Tehran University of Art. She also holds a BA in Physical Geography-Geomorphology from Azad University, completed in 2009. Since 2016, she has been actively teaching and conducting research at various institutions in Iran, including the University of Mohaghegh Ardabili and the Isfahan University of Art. Additionally, she has published a number of articles based on her research and has presented her papers at conferences.

Most recently, Mahsa collaborated with me on a book project focused on Contemporary Art of Iran, published by Skira in 2023, where she contributed several texts on artists' works. Her research proposal, derived from her PhD thesis, explores the transformation of concepts related to gender and masculinity in the works of Iranian artists over the past few decades. Her primary objective is to examine these artistic practices within the historical and social contexts of the period – an area that requires much further study.

Mahsa is a highly motivated and dedicated professional who approaches her work with enthusiasm. She possesses strong multitasking skills, effectively managing multiple tasks and projects concurrently. Her passion for research and unwavering commitment to her work define her character. I therefore endorse Mahsa's application without reservation.

If I can be of any further assistance or provide additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Hamid Keshmirshekan, PhD



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