

ITHAQUE



تهران : شهادت ها ۱۳۹۴-۱۴۰۴

TEHRAN: TESTIMONIES 2016-2026 HANNAH DARABI

Exhibition open from Thursday, February 5 to Saturday, March 21, 2026.
Opening: Thursday, February 5, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

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HANNAH DARABI

FROM THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5 TO SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2026.

« During my photography studies at the University of Tehran in the early 2000s, photographing Tehran, my hometown, seemed inconceivable to me, even as I was experiencing an unprecedented sense of belonging to the city. We would walk along Enghelab Street – where the University of Tehran is located – to discover the latest literary and philosophical publications in the neighborhood's many bookstores, take a coffee break at the wonderful Faranseh pastry shop (France in Farsi), or join one of the student gatherings organized by the surrounding faculties.

This period also marked the emergence of a form of public life, for both women and men, through spaces and activities that were less strictly gendered. Yet the idea of the city as a photographic subject still strongly resisted my artistic practice.

Seven years after leaving Tehran to settle in Paris, the need to attempt to give visual form to this once-familiar space, now distant, became compelling. Between 2013 and 2016, I produced several photographic series, seeking to create images rooted in lived experience of the ordinary city.

In 2013, following the violent repression of the Green Movement (2009) by the Iranian government, the act of photographing in public space was strictly prohibited. This restriction, in place since the 1979 revolution, fluctuated in intensity depending on the political context. These representations of an ordinary Tehran, brought together in my project Haut Bas Fragile, seek to translate this prohibition visually through a discreet gesture of disobedience, one that refers to the artist's body.

Today, under the shadow of an unprecedented assault by the Iranian government against unarmed demonstrators, the streets of Tehran have become the scene of a crime without parallel. On the occasion of this exhibition at Galerie Ithaque, a selection of photographs from this project has been placed in dialogue with testimonies from residents of Tehran, collected during the imposition of an internet blackout by the government in early January 2026, aimed at controlling narratives – especially visual ones – related to recent demonstrations. If Walter Benjamin described the empty streets and silent scenes of Atget's photographs of Paris as crime scenes, in the Tehran without narrative of Haut Bas Fragile, the crime now unfolds before our very eyes. »

- Hannah Darabi

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HANNAH DARABI

FROM THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5 TO SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2026.

Hannah Darabi (born in 1981 in Tehran, Iran) is an Iranian photographic artist based in Paris. She graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Tehran and holds a master's degree from Université Paris VIII – Vincennes–Saint-Denis, where she also conducts research in aesthetics and the arts.

Her work explores the connections between image, history, and collective memory, particularly within the context of contemporary Iran and its diaspora. Through photography, archival practices, and publishing, Hannah Darabi examines the visual representations produced by political, cultural, and social upheavals, notably since the 1979 Iranian Revolution. The artist's book plays a central role in her practice, conceived as a space for research and storytelling in its own right. For her, this format is both a form of representation and a privileged medium.

Her work has been presented in numerous international institutions and exhibitions, and her publications are held in several public collections, including the Centre Pompidou, the Bibliothèque nationale de France, and the Museum of Modern Art (New York). The recipient of several awards, she notably received the Prix Elysée in 2025.

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Perimeter # 1, C-print, 60 x 75 cm, 2016, Ed. 2/5 + 2 AP

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On Thursday, 8 January 2026, during protests in Tehran's Narmak district, Mohammadreza Entezami was reportedly shot and killed by armed IR suppressive forces using live ammunition. Days earlier, he had written on Instagram:

“Hoping for the day we fly with our skates.”

(From @Soran.mansournia Instagram page)



Perimeter # 2, C-print, 60 x 75 cm, 2016, Ed. 1/5 + 2 AP

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Tehran, Tehranpars, January 9, 2026. In this six-minute video, you can hear 262 shots fired, the sound of the terror the Islamic Republic is inflicting on Iranians amid a near-total internet blackout.

Alongside the gunfire, you hear people chanting “Death to Khamenei” and “Don’t be afraid, don’t be afraid; we’re all in this together.”

(From @irans.feminist.liberation Instagram page)



Perimeter # 5, C-print, 60 x 75 cm, 2016, Ed. 2/5 + 2 AP

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Farzad Seifikaran, a reliable Kurdish journalist reported: I have received information indicating that the Kurds who are dancing Kurdish dances in this video, in Ponak Square, Tehran, January 9, 2026, were shot at shortly afterward, and that many of them were killed.

(From @roja.paris Instagram page)



Perimeter # 8, C-print, 60 x 75 cm, 2016, Ed. 1/5 + 2 AP

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Despite the bloody repression, the total internet blackout, and the lack of information, the few videos coming out of Tehran show that, once again tonight, people are out in the streets: resistance and protests continue.

(From @roja.paris Instagram page, January 10, 2026)



Moment # 68, C-print, 40 x 40 cm, 2016, Ed. 2/5 + 2 AP

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Raha Beloulipour, a 23-year-old student who was killed during the protests wrote in her last tweet:

“I connected for a moment, and just wanted to write Woman, Life, Freedom, forever.”

(From @roja.paris Instagram page, January 23, 2026)



Moment # 90, C-print, 40 x 40 cm, 2016-2017, Ed. 2/5 + 2 AP

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The last slide shows footage from protests at the University of Tehran on 26 January 2026 where students gathered to mourn the fellow students and people killed during the blackout. Despite the literal bloodbath orchestrated by the regime, the people continue to resist.

(From @rosa_england_wales Instagram page)



Moment # 91, C-print, 40 x 40 cm, 2016, Ed. 2/5 + 2 AP

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In Iran, in Karaj, a person opened their home to several people who were fleeing the repressive forces. The security forces forced their way into the house and riddled both the homeowner and the people who were fleeing with bullets.
(From @roja.paris Instagram page, January 27, 2026)



Moment # 92, C-print, 40 x 40 cm, 2016, Ed. 2/5 + 2 AP

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Moment # 86, C-print, 40 x 40 cm, 2016, Ed. 1/5 + 2 AP

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Ithaque is an exhibition and creative space founded by Alexandre Arminjon in 2020, with the mission of preserving the expertise of analog photography. This hybrid venue, located in the heart of Paris, consists of two main spaces. The first hosts photography exhibitions, sensitive to diverse practices and cultures, the second is composed by two darkroom.

Since 2022, Ithaque has offered analog photography workshops for young audiences in Île-de-France. On the occasion of the bicentennial of photography, Ithaque was officially recognized by the French Ministry of Culture for its school photography workshop activities. In parallel, the association Les Amis d'Ithaque, which funds the photography workshops and artist residencies, has been recognized as serving the public interest by the French tax administration.

Above all, Ithaque is a place for meetings, creation, and conviviality. To share the magic of the photographic development process, it offers exclusive events, private evenings, and workshops, all imbued with the unique atmosphere of the darkroom.

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