

GALLERY AFERRO

On Belonging and the Void Between

Mahtab Pedrami



From Guinea to New Guinea (detail), unfired clay, fabric, paper, wire, 49x49, 2017

July 8th - Aug 31st, 2017
Gallery Aferro Main Gallery
73 Market Street, Newark

OPENING RECEPTION

July 8th, 2017
7pm - 10pm

GALLERY HOURS

Wednesday - Saturday
12pm - 6pm
and by appointment

On Belonging and the Void Between
Curated by Asha Ganpat

This exhibition is a selection of works about the nature of belonging and a look to the vacuous and vulnerable experience of being out of place. Without a sense of belonging, we are adrift in a sea of otherness. Of the ways we may untether from familiarity, the shift in becoming an outsider can shake the foundation of our very sense of self.

Visit

73 Market Street, Newark, NJ
Wednesday - Saturday 12-6
and by appointment.
aferro.org
aferrostudios.org
activatemarketstreet.org

Contact

973 353 9533
info@aferro.org

Gallery Aferro
Ironbound Station
PO Box 5668
Newark, NJ 07105
USA

Mission

The mission of Gallery Aferro is to bring cultural education and aesthetic engagement with contemporary issues to all people equally, and to create an environment where artists can gather and share physical and intellectual resources. We are working towards an arts community that is available to everyone, without sacrificing standards or quality of experience.

Accessing The Gallery

Gallery hours are listed above, come by for a visit! Gallery Aferro is a street level store front gallery and is wheelchair accessible. If you need special assistance, requests, or desire additional information about accessibility, please email our ADA Coordinator, Evonne Davis, at edavis@aferro.org. We believe art is absolutely for everyone and are very happy to accommodate anyone's needs but please give us 1 weeks notice for any arrangements that will need to be made at the gallery. If you require large print press materials please let us know 48 hours ahead of time.

Sponsors

We gratefully acknowledge the support of our funders, sponsors and the individual donors who make our programs possible. The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, The New Jersey State Council on the Arts/ Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, and RBH Group.



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Mahtab's interest in art and design began in the suburbs of Tehran, Iran. She was 8 years old, serving as a very enthusiastic assistant to her geologist father, who was working with microscopic fossil specimens. He would extract iron-rich clay deposits, soak them in water for days, then pour the resulting mud onto a sieve and gently rub it until only the microscopic sediments remained. Regardless of the weather, she would sit with her father in the yard to "wash dirt." It was an arduous and time-consuming task – she had to be careful not to damage the delicate fossils – and her family and friends often wondered why she was so interested in helping. While part of the allure was simply spending time with her father, there was also a very real attraction to the feel of the clay in her hands, between her fingers.

Mahtab relocated to the United States in 2003 and settled in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She enrolled at Louisiana State University and was majoring in jewelry design when she took a ceramics class for the first time. The first day of class, she opened a bag of terra-cotta clay and cut off a section with a wire cutter. She carefully removed that piece, stared at it, then started forming the clay. She immediately felt the same softness she had felt in her dad's fossil-rich clays. From that point on, she was more and more drawn to ceramics. It was during this time that she noticed the importance of her relationship with materials and their inherent properties, and how to trust her intuition and allow herself to be guided.

As a ceramicist, she has made various ceramic dish-ware, much of which ended up in people's china cabinets as precious objects rather than kitchen cabinets as everyday tools. This was interesting to her: the distinctions that arise between objects of beauty and objects of function. She did not think of them as mutually exclusive, and began to consider ways in which she could design pieces that were both functional and pleasing to the hands and eyes. These reflections led Mahtab to pursue a graduate degree in industrial design at Pratt Institute. After matriculating in 2010, she became increasingly interested in patterns and designing furniture and home goods. Since graduating, she has worked with various brands such as Giorgio Armani, Yves Saint Laurent, and Anthropologie as well as working on personal projects. In 2016, she founded Albesque, a multi disciplinary company that focuses on creating unique and one of a kind objects and spaces.

www.albesque.com

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