



**MEP**

MAISON  
EUROPÉENNE  
DE LA  
PHOTOGRAPHIE

**Press Release**



**Pooya Abbasian**

Maltournée

12.04–26.05.2024

# The exhibition

**The Studio is proud to present the work of Pooya Abbasian. In a practice that encompasses photography, video, drawing and installation, he explores the complex and often paradoxical relationship between images and our notions of reality and truth. Although it is not explicitly his main theme, his work is informed by his childhood in Iran and his migration to Europe at the age of 26.**

The centrepiece of the exhibition is the short film *Maltournée*. The film depicts a missed opportunity to engage with a community of refugees and asylum-seekers living along the Saint-Denis canal, near the Stade de France, who were abruptly evacuated by the police and disappeared. Abbasian poetically documents their traces, evoking the emotions, situations, and objects that once filled this no-man's-land; through the use of tracking shots, dialogue, and voice-over, he captures the intense presence of their absence. The film was produced with the support of the Wim Wenders Foundation as part of a project in which six Iranian filmmakers, mentored by Wenders, explored the theme "A Sense of Place" in Iran or in exile.

The exhibition also includes parts of broken toilets or sinks that the artist found in the suburbs. He transforms these porcelain objects using a process inspired by photographic emulsions, making their surface photosensitive and then projecting images onto them via video using photographs taken near the site where the objects were found. This unpredictable process results in delicate, precarious images that transform the fragments into fossils, fragile remnants of an abandoned place haunted by its past, existing somewhere between memory and fantasy. .

**Pooya Abbasian**, born in 1985, is an Iranian artist based in Paris since 2011. A long-time collaborator of Iranian director Jahar Panafi, he has screened his films in numerous art spaces and film festivals, including the Pejman Foundation, the CPH-DOX Documentary Filmfestival Copenhagen, the Pictoplasma Festival Berlin, and the BelDocs Festival in Belgrade.

Abbasian's work is in the collection of the CNAP (French National Contemporary Art Collection) and has been shown in the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, le Plateau Frac-Île de France, the Grande halle de la Villette, Poush, and the Association La Source-La Guéroulde. An illustrator and author since 2016, he has also written and illustrated several children's books published by Gallimard and Actes Sud. He is currently part of the artist residency programme 2023-2024 at the Fondation Fiminco.

#Pooya Abbasian  
#StudioMEP



# Press images

The press photos are copyright free for the promotion of the exhibition at the MEP and for its duration only. They cannot be cropped or modified, or have any text added onto them.



Image from the film *Maltournée* © Pooya Abbasian



Image from the film *Maltournée* © Pooya Abbasian



Image from the film *Maltournée* © Pooya Abbasian



Image from the film *Maltournée* © Pooya Abbasian

## Cover image

Image from the film *Maltournée* © Pooya Abbasian

Curator: Laurie Hurwitz

The exhibition is organized with the support of Christian Dior Parfums.



Image from the film *Maltournée* © Pooya Abbasian



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# Useful information

## **MEP – Maison Européenne de la Photographie**

5/7 rue de Fourcy 75004 Paris  
+33 (0)1 44 78 75 00 – mep-fr.org  
Metro: Saint-Paul (line 1)  
or Pont Marie (line 7)

## **Opening hours**

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 11 am to 8 pm  
Thursday from 11 am to 10 pm  
Saturday and Sunday from 10 am to 8 pm  
Ticket office open till 7:30 pm  
Closed on Monday and Tuesday

## **Admission fee**

Full price: €12  
Reduced price: €7  
MEP Pass\*: €40  
MEP Pass 18-30\*: €25  
MEP Pass Donor\*: €120  
\*Pass for two people for an entire year.

## **MEP contacts**

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