

Educational Resources for *Faig Ahmed: Collision*

About the Exhibition

Many of us struggle with the ongoing digitization of our lives – particularly present during the pandemic. All of us know the exhaustion that stems from a long day of video calls, or hours without looking away from the screen. We have all wrestled with the online algorithms that seem to direct what we look at, what we buy, even who we love. Artist Faig Ahmed's monumental works invite us to consider ways traditional and digital culture can be reconciled and revolutionized into something with more flexible boundaries. Though many of Ahmed's carpets adopt elements of digital culture – references to pixels and coding, for example – their textile, household form keeps us grounded in our roots, and beckons us to consider the many forms of our diverse histories.

From his studio in Baku, Ahmed creates textile works that transcend and transform the history of carpet making in the Caucasus region that he calls home. Carpets hold both spiritual and decorative significance, and are symbols of wealth, comfort, and history. In his work, Ahmed is inherently interested in how the contemporary and the traditional collide to make something new that defies genres, borders, and even history. Ahmed and his weaving collaborators infuse new breath into the carpet making practice, turning his carpets into a rich meeting ground between the new and the old, the common and the holy, the rich and the ordinary.



About the Artist

Born in Sumgait, Faig Ahmed graduated from the Sculpture Faculty at the Azerbaijan State Academy of Fine Art in Baku in 2004. Since 2003, he has been working with various media, including painting, video, and installation. He represented Azerbaijan at the nation's inaugural pavilion at the Venice Biennale in 2007 and participated in the show "Love Me, Love Me Not" in 2013. He is well known for his conceptual works that transform traditional decorative craft and the visual language of carpets into contemporary sculptural works of art. Ahmed's works can be seen in public collections globally, including the Art Institute of Chicago, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Palm Springs Art Museum, Seattle Art Museum, RISD Museum of Art, Chrysler Museum of Art, MOCAC Museum of Contemporary Art, Krakow, Poland; The National Gallery of Victoria, Australia; Arsenal art Contemporain Montréal, Canada; The National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design, Norway; and the Istanbul Modern.

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Exhibition Dates

February 12–May 15, 2022

Visit the Artist's Website

Additional images of Faig Ahmed's artworks, installations, videos, interviews, and publications at <https://faigahmed.com>

Visit the Exhibition Webpage

Additional images of the exhibition at SLOMA
<https://sloma.org/exhibition/faig-ahmed>

Read an Interview with the Artist

<https://www.shangrilahawaii.org/visit/exhibitions/faig-ahmed-exhibition>

Useful Videos on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nT9PwBqDDMw>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KawameVWXvM>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MdL2VIdIKPk>

