



The Sovereign Art Foundation

8/F, 299 QRC, 287-299 Queen's Road Central, Hong Kong

T: +852 2542 1177 SovereignArtFoundation.com

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The 2022 Sovereign Asian Art Prize Winners Announced, Azin Zolfaghari Named Grand Prize Winner

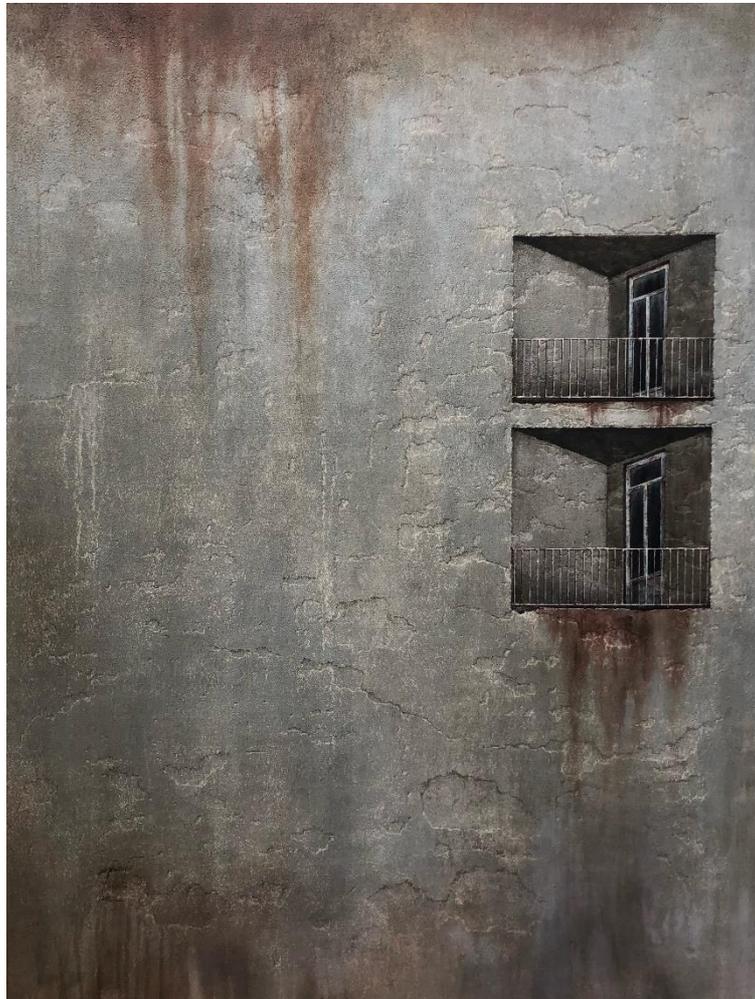


Image: *Density*, Azin Zolfaghari (Grand Prize Winner, The 2022 Sovereign Asian Art Prize)
Courtesy of the artist and The Sovereign Art Foundation

Hong Kong – The Sovereign Art Foundation (SAF) announces Iranian artist **Azin Zolfaghari** as the Grand Prize winner of The 2022 Sovereign Asian Art Prize with a cash prize of US\$30,000 for her work, *Density* (2021), a mixed media work of a desolate building façade.

Faezeh Baharloo, also of Iran, is awarded the Vogue Hong Kong Women's Art Prize of US\$5,000 for her work, *Untitled 1* (2021), an acrylic painting exploring humankind's relationship with the natural world. The awards were announced live last night at Art Central by Tiffany Pinkstone, Director of SAF; Desiree Au, Publisher of Vogue Hong Kong; and Ying Kwok, a member of the Prize judging panel. The Prize is the 18th edition of Asia's longest established and most prestigious award for contemporary art.

Winner Azin Zolfaghari's practice is characterised by unusual cityscapes depicting muted slabs of bleak façades with minimal signs of life. Her ambiguous works leave audiences wondering what the inside of the structure may hold. *Density* is an embodiment of the complicated definition of "home" which according to the artist, despite its objective clarity, is a fluid concept that does not fit neatly into any physical form.

Executive Directors
Non-executive Directors

Howard Bilton [Chairman], Tiffany Pinkstone, Amy Cadman
Angela Mackay, David Legg, Esther Heer, Levina Li, Peter Siembab, Sara Mao, Tony Tyler



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Zolfaghari was nominated into The Prize by Maryam Kuhestani, a member of the Prize nominating board.

Zolfaghari said of her win:

"I am very excited to receive this award. It is an important and noteworthy moment for me as I have not exhibited outside of Iran before. I am thrilled that the message of my work has resonated with the judging panel. This award has also prepared me for challenges ahead – it's a good stimulus for me to trust and persevere in my practice.

My work can be briefly summarised in two themes: insecurity and passivity. The country that I live in does not allow me to have complete security. Social, political and economic security is something that, in its absence or in the possibility of it not being actualized, leads me to paint a city empty of human beings – a city in which human beings have been forced to choose isolation, suffocation and repression.

I would like to thank the dear judges who considered my work worthy of receiving the award. Finally, thank you to my kind nominator, Maryam Kouhestani, for introducing me to this great initiative!"

The Finalists Exhibition is currently being presented at Art Central in the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, through 29 May 2022. All artworks, except Zolfaghari's, are available for sale via auction (closing at **6pm HKT on 29 May 2022**) or can be purchased immediately at a fixed price, either in person at Art Central or by contacting sales@sovereignartfoundation.com. Auction details and artwork prices are available on SAF's [website](#). Proceeds are split evenly between the artists and SAF's charitable programmes for disadvantaged children.

Visitors are invited to cast a vote for their favourite artwork, the most popular of which will be awarded the Public Vote Prize of US\$1,000. Online votes can also be cast on SAF's [website](#) until 6pm HKT on 29 May 2022. The winning artist will be announced on 2 June 2022 on SAF's social media channels.

A board of 76 independent art professionals nominated artists from 27 countries into The Prize. The finalists from 16 countries and territories were shortlisted by a judging panel including writer, curator, and museum director, **David Elliott**; artist, curator, and actress, **Karena Lam**; artist and winner of The 2021 Sovereign Asian Art Prize, **Li Binyuan**; and Senior Curator, Digital and Heritage at Tai Kwun, **Ying Kwok**. The panel was joined by **Maria Mok**, Museum Director of the Hong Kong Museum of Art, for the second round of judging as a Hong Kong-based representative.

END

The 2022 Sovereign Asian Art Prize Finalists Exhibition

Presented by:	The Sovereign Art Foundation Click here for full list of participating artists.
Exhibition Partner:	Art Central
Women's Art Prize Partner:	Vogue Hong Kong
Cultural Partner:	Sutton
Media Partner:	CoBo Social
Media Partner:	Ocula
Media Partner:	The Artling
Media Partner:	Art and Market
Digital Partner:	Art World Database

Visiting Information

Venue:	Art Central, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, 1 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong
Exhibition period:	26 – 29 May 2022

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Opening hours: Thursday, 2 – 8pm
Friday and Saturday, 11am – 7pm
Sunday, 11am – 6pm
Exhibition admission: Tickets required, [click here](#) for more information

Press Enquiries

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Press Kit

[Click here](#) to view and download a full press kit with high-resolution artwork images, bios, portraits and factsheet. *All images please credit the artist and The Sovereign Art Foundation.*

Facebook: SovereignAsianArtPrize

Instagram: @sovereignasianartprize

#SovereignArtFoundation #SAAP2022



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Editors Notes

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The Sovereign Art Foundation (SAF) is a charitable organisation that was founded in 2003 with a well-defined twin focus: to recognise the growing wealth of contemporary art talent in Asia and bring the proven benefits of expressive arts to disadvantaged children.

In the same year, SAF launched The Sovereign Asian Art Prize, now recognised as the most established and prestigious annual art award in Asia-Pacific. The Prize increases the international exposure of artists in the region, whilst raising funds by auctioning shortlisted artworks and sharing proceeds equally between the participating artists and SAF. SAF uses these proceeds to fund programmes that support disadvantaged children using expressive arts. This model has so far raised US\$10 million for artists and charities worldwide.

In 2013, SAF launched Make It Better (MIB), an initiative that supports children from low-income backgrounds and with special educational needs in Hong Kong. MIB works in local schools and community centres to offer children a programme of expressive arts workshops designed to build self-esteem, confidence, self-awareness and interpersonal skills. SAF also supports teachers, social workers and caregivers of these children by introducing them to the therapeutic benefits of art.

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