

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



*The Coerced Contact*, 2016, paper, thread, cloth, and lace, 62 x 64 x 35.  
Installation view, Art OMI, Ghent, NY © Roya Amigh 2016.  
Courtesy of the artist and Art OMI.

**Roya Amigh: *Absolutism and Sexuality***  
July 14 – August 15, 2021

**Artists' Reception:**  
Saturday, July 17, 2 - 5pm

**First Friday Reception**  
August 6, 5 – 8:30pm

**Zoom Artists' Talks**  
Thursday, July 29, 6pm

**Gallery Hours**  
Wednesday – Sunday, 11am – 5pm

Roya Amigh's solo exhibition *Absolutism and Sexuality* features the artist's interpretation of contemporary Persian miniatures and marks her debut at Boston Sculptors Gallery. Combining thread and paper to create hundreds of tiny drawings, Amigh stitches these together into evocative sculptural forms. Draped from the walls and suspended from the ceiling, their narratives focus on Iranian women's social history and identity at the intersection of gender and sexuality.

While the Persian miniature traditionally illustrates classical Iranian literature and is painted on paper in vivid gouache, Amigh's miniatures eschew color and largely reform the figures, giving genders a strong quality of line and texture. She begins by using a pin to draw the image with glue and then adds the thread before embarking on the patient practice of stitching so many miniature drawings together.

Traditional miniatures depict mythical beings, tremendous characters, and rich symbolism, to which Amigh infuses her own feminist interpretations. She interweaves folktales and classic Iranian literature with a new narrative of women's real-life events and the effects on their everyday lives and collective memories. Penned by men, the classical literature often involves female subjugation. In stark contrast, the folktales, mostly written by women, often offer liberation of sexuality. Amigh harnesses this gender differentiation, interlocked with erotic desires and frustrations, to challenge social values.

Amigh holds an MFA in Painting from Boston University. Her solo exhibitions include Greenfield Community College, MA; Babson College, MA; FiveMyles Gallery, Brooklyn, NY; and Iron Tail Gallery, Lincoln, NE. Group shows include Shiva Gallery at John Jay College, CUNY, NYC; Yangpyeong Art Museum, Gyeonggi-do, Korea; the Museum of Contemporary Art of Crete, Rethymno, Greece; Brown University, Providence, RI; The Art Complex Museum, Duxbury, MA; Edward Hopper House Museum, Nyack, NY; Katonah Museum of Art, NY; and Macy Gallery, Columbia University, NYC. She was artist-in-residence at Assets for Artists | MASS MoCA, North Adams, MA; Art Omi, Ghent, NY; The Millay Colony for the Arts,

and others. In 2020 Amigh received the Massachusetts Cultural Council Fellowship in Drawing and Printmaking, and first prize in the 2021 National Prize Show at Cambridge Art Association. Her projects have been reviewed in Hyperallergic, Artscope, The New York Times, and The Boston Globe, among others. She lives and works in Cambridge, MA.

Roya Amigh: *Absolutism and Sexuality* runs concurrently with Keri Straka: *Internal Blooming*.

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