

CUE Art x NADA 2025

with **Levon Kafafian, Fatemeh Kazemi, and Levani**

For available work inquiries, please contact info@cueartfoundation.org.



The artists at the opening of *The Bride Has Gone to Pick Flowers*. Photo by Leo Ng.

New York, NY—For the 11th edition of NADA New York, CUE Art presents a new collaborative installation by Levon Kafafian, Fatemeh Kazemi, and Levani, aligned with the closing of their group exhibition at CUE: *The Bride Has Gone to Pick Flowers*, curated by Lila Nazemian. NADA New York will be held at the Starrett-Lehigh Building at 601 West 26th Street, from May 7–11, 2025. The exhibition at CUE closes on Saturday, May 10th; gallery hours are from 12 – 6 pm.

About the Project

Through multidisciplinary practices, the artists delve into a rich tapestry of rituals from the Caucasus region, reimagining these traditions through a speculative and queer lens. The works on view take the form of a new collaborative installation: an altar with elements from all three artists. It positions cultural traditions from the artists' homelands of Armenia, Iran, and Georgia not as static inherited forms of being, but as practices that are negotiable and constantly in flux.

The artists create a shared space for rituals from these cultures to be shaped by the dynamic exchange of ideas and the porous nature of boundaries. In various ways, they contemplate cultural evolution through self and communal reflection, considering how shared customs from the Caucasus—many informed by pre-Abrahamic beliefs such as Zoroastrianism—became intertwined with later religious and cultural practices to shape the rituals prevalent in the ceremonies of both their home countries and diasporic communities. Through this work, they invite us to consider the present and future by reorienting, speculating upon, dreaming about, and—crucially—queering inherited traditions in ways that embrace or reintroduce notions of fluidity and exchange.

Learn more about CUE's NADA presentation and the exhibition at www.cueartfoundation.org

Tickets for NADA are available at www.newartdealers.org.

About the Artists

Levon Kafafian is a weaver who works the narrative threads of costume, artifact, ritual, and installation into stories about possible worlds and potential futures. Treating woven cloth as portals into these other worlds, Kafafian generates texts infused with future ancestral practice, hybridity, and magic. Their current work channels the world of Azadistan out of the Armenian diasporic imaginary toward the forthcoming graphic novel *Portal Fire*.

Based in Detroit, Kafafian holds a BFA in Fiber from the College for Creative Studies and a BA in Anthropology from Wayne State University (2014). They co-led a seven-week public educational weaving program in partnership with Trapholt Museum for Moderne Kunst, Denmark (2022), and they regularly lecture and teach workshops across the U.S. Kafafian has exhibited their work at notable institutions such as the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, the Stamps Gallery at the University of Michigan, and the Arab American National Museum. They are the recipient of numerous grants, including the Alex and Marie Manoogian Museum Grant (2021), Creative Armenia Spark Grant (2021), the Red Bull Arts Microgrant (2020), the Rauschenberg Foundation SEED Grant (2016) and the Knight Art Challenge Award (2016). They have participated in residencies at the International Studio and Curatorial Program (2023) and the Arab American National Museum (2019).



Levon Kafafian, (L): *The Eastern Salt Marsh Depression*, 2024; (R): *The Orbital Temples of Asdghamar*, 2024; (R): Detail of *Black Forest*, 2014.

Fatemeh Kazemi فاطمه کاظمی (she/they, b. 1992, Tehran)—also known as Afimoh—is an interdisciplinary artist and researcher whose practice spans material fabrication, fiction writing, archiving, filming, curating, organizing, and hosting. Her work engages with themes of communal grief or غم (/gham/), underground economies, kitsch Iranian visual culture, ritual, and subculture. Developed through conversation and community-oriented collaborations, her approach is deeply rooted in collective experiences.

Kazemi earned a BFA in Painting from the University of Tehran (2014) and an MFA in Studio Art from Syracuse University (2024). Her work moves fluidly across worlds, blending installation, lens-based media, and the poetic flow of creative writing. She has exhibited at Parallel Circuit Space (Tehran), SUB Community (Çanakkale), Ruschman Gallery (Chicago), Navel LA (Los Angeles), Smack Mellon (New York), and Bayt Al Mamzar (Dubai). Her experimental films have been screened at the London Short Film Festival, CulturalHub (New York), LUX Book Fair (London), Dresden Film Festival, Everson Museum of Art (Syracuse), and Foundry By Emaar (Dubai), among other venues.



Fatemeh Kazemi, (L, C): *Poor Knee*; *[Loose Tongue]*; *Trigger Finger*, 2024; (R): *An Always Broken Heart*, 2025.

Levani (Levan Mindiashvili, b. Tbilisi, Georgia) is a transdisciplinary artist who works at the interstices of art, contemporary science, ecology, and spirituality. Ze hold an MFA from IUNA Buenos Aires National University and BFA from Tbilisi State Academy of Arts. Levani has had solo exhibitions at Cuchifritos Gallery + Project Space; Artists Alliance Inc.; Marisa Newman Projects; the National Museum of Georgia; NARS Foundation, and the Silk Museum, Tbilisi, among others. Zir work has been included in group exhibitions at The Bronx Museum of the Arts; Socrates Sculpture Park; Kunsthalle Tbilisi; the National Museum of China; Elizabeth Foundation for Arts; BRIC Biennial; the Tartu Art Museum, and more.

Levani is a recipient of residencies, awards, and grants that include: the LES Studio Program at Artists Alliance Inc.; the Annual Fellowship at Socrates Sculpture Park; the Peter S Reed Foundation Grant; the NYFA Immigrant Artist Mentoring Program; the Creative Time X Summit Grant; the AIM Fellowship at the Bronx Museum of the Arts; the NARS Foundation Studio Residency; and an award from the National Endowments for the Arts. Levani's work has been featured in *Frieze*, *Art in America*, *The Brooklyn Rail*, *BOMB*, *ArtAsia Pacific*, *Art Papers*, *Hyperallergic*, *The Art Newspaper*, and more.



(L): Levani, *the tree of life (iii)*, 2025; (C): Levani x Papuna, *alphabet (ii)*, 2025. (R): Installation view, *the tree of life (iii)* and *alphabet (ii)*.

Members of the Press

NADA VIP and press hours are on Wednesday, May 7th from 10 am – 4 pm, and the fair will be open to the public through Sunday, May 11th.

Inquiries

To inquire about available works by Levon Kafafian, Fatemeh Kazemi, or Levani, contact info@cueartfoundation.org.

About the Exhibition

The Bride Has Gone to Pick Flowers, curated by Lila Nazemian, is on view at CUE Art at 137 W. 25th Street through Saturday, May 10, 2025. Gallery hours are Wednesday–Saturday, 12–6 pm. Learn more at www.cueartfoundation.org.

About CUE Art

CUE Art is a nonprofit organization that works with and for emerging and underrepresented artists to create new opportunities and present varied perspectives in the arts. Through our gallery space and public programs, we foster the development of thought-provoking exhibitions and events, create avenues for mentorship, cultivate relationships amongst peers and the public, and facilitate the exchange of ideas.