

Some information on this page is only available in Dutch

MORTEZA SOORANI

I work across video, text, photography, and installation to examine water's presence in myth, culture, and collective memory, and its urgent role today. Since 2017, my practice has centered on the Karun—tracing its pollution and desiccation as a lived environmental crisis. Mobilizing archival research and documentary strategies, I trace the historical forms humans have given water and the contemporary urgencies that unsettle them: contamination, the scarcity of drinking water, and the broader crisis of habitability. My inquiry asks what we name as “pollution,” and whether landscapes now in flux might be read as observatories—sites where human behavior becomes legible against ecological change. Because my focus on environmental justice and indigenous rights led to persecution under the regime, I sought asylum in the Netherlands. Due to instability and legal constraints, output of new works has been limited; I used this period to deepen the research base of the practice—conducting research into movements in Iran demanding drinkable water—public demands arising from corruption and mismanagement that have devastated ecosystems and left communities without reliable water. These inquiries study the social-political dynamics embedded in water infrastructures, informing forthcoming installations, images, and texts.

WEBSITES

www.mortezasoorani.com

SOCIAL MEDIA

www.instagram.com/mortezsoorani/

EDUCATION

- 2021 - Critically addressing environmental issues
- 2022 Prince Clause Fund & Goethe Institut
- 2012 - Enrico Bossan Masterclass Fabrica
- 2013 Communications Research Centre
- 2005 - Kamal-ol-Molk Art School Tehran diploma
- 2007

EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 VASTE GROND Amsterdam, Netherlands Met de serie 'Postcards from Karun' maken Negin Kazemi en Morteza Soorani de vervuiling en uitdroging van de Karun zichtbaar. De Karun is de langste zoetwaterrivier in Iran, het land waar ze beiden vandaan komen. Door droogte en dambouw raakt de rivier steeds verder uit balans:

PUBLICATIONS

- 2013 Iranian Living Room Book Fabrica (Communication Research Centre for the Benetton Group), Italy Italy www.amazon.co.uk/Iranian-Living-Room/dp/889083465X In this living room both literal and metaphorical, we are privileged to discover multiple interpretations of Iranian reality: cultural differences and similarities, solitude and

het water wordt zouter, het land degradeert. Het werk is niet alleen een vorm van documentatie, maar ook een verzet tegen de schade aan het milieu. Als kijker wordt je uitgenodigd stil te staan bij de gevolgen van vervuiling voor het landschap en voor de mensen die ervan leven. Kazemi en Soorani onderzoeken zo de relatie tussen mens en water en tonen hoe milieuvervuiling en uitdroging ecosystemen en gemeenschappen beïnvloeden. De analoge foto's, ontwikkeld met water uit de Karun, brengen de sporen van verval letterlijk in beeld. De vervormingen en effecten in de foto's zijn een direct gevolg van de veranderende rivier.
www.kunsttrajectamsterdam.nl/archief/projecten/vaste-grond
Group

conviviality, relaxation and excitement, dressing up for an interior life versus dressing up for the street, the rhythms of religious ceremony and the patterns of everyday life.

2023 Festival les Instants Video Marseille, France Karun is the longest river with fresh water in Iran. As the river passes by the Ahvaz city center, it has made an imaginative connection between locals there and the river; this connection has a big role in forming people's emotions, feelings, and love. Each person in the city has built their dignity along this riverside, followed by the songs sung after the name of "Karun." Ahvaz is the most polluted city in this country. Karun River is also polluted. 13 locations discharge the sewage of Ahvaz City into Karun River. The shallow water of this river does not have enough capacity to contain a large volume of these polluted wastes. The smell of wastewater felt in the city, and walking along the river is not allowed Discharge of urban and industrial sewage and agricultural and hospital sewage waters in Karun River has a direct impact on the water quality of this river, so in most days of the year, the water of this river is useless. The shallow water of this river does not have enough capacity to contain a large volume of these polluted wastes.☒The Karun River provides the drinking water of Ahvaz City.
www.instantsvideo.com/blog/video/gps/
Group

2023 Words on Water Words on Water is a series of Room For Doubt programs,

which brings together different artistic positions on Water, and its essential role in our life now tinted with political, environmental, and economic readings. In the context of Vienna, the initial project of "Words on Water" has evolved into a rich and multi-layered tapestry of media. This constellation draws from diverse geographies and mindscapes, orbiting around concepts of borders, the politics of inclusion and exclusion, collective memory, and actionable change.

www.hinterland.ag/2023/wordsonwater
Group

2019 Limited Access Festival Iran Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran Open call for video, experimental film, animation, sound art, and interactive works
limitedaccessfestival.com/9/en/
Group

2013 Iranian Living Room Treviso, Italy
Group

REVIEWS

2022 CAREC Cycle 1 Website Netherlands
princeclausfund.nl/awards-and-programmes/fellows-award/carec/cycle-1 The 12 CAREC Cycle 1 Awardees come from 11 different countries all over the world and work across a variety of disciplines, each addressing a particular pressing environmental issue, often locally and personally rooted, but speaking to the global challenges humanity is facing in the climate crisis.

-- CAREC Cycle 1 Website Netherlands
carec.space/artist/morteza-soorani/
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AWARDS AND GRANTS

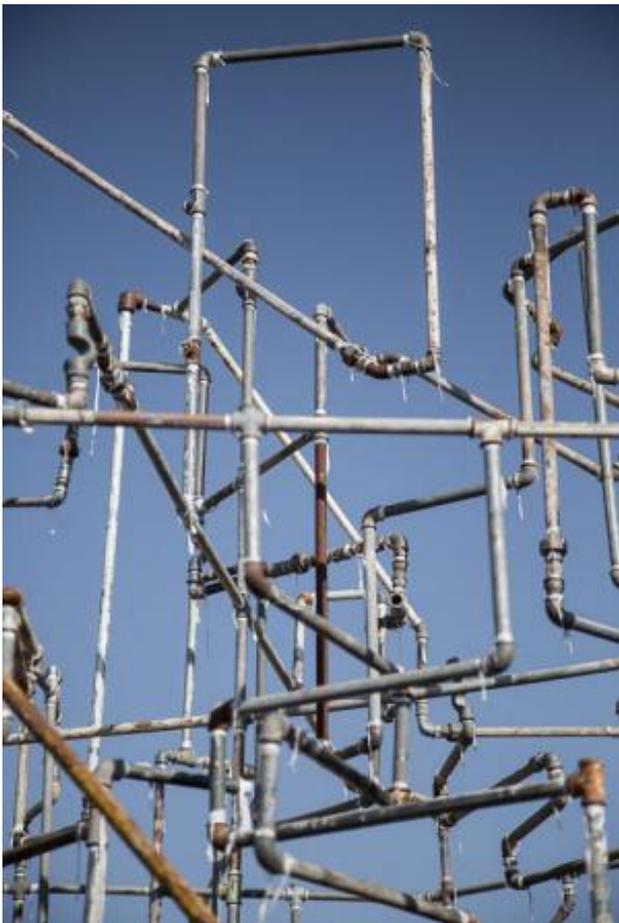
2022 CULTURAL & ARTISTIC RESPONSES TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS Prince Claus Fund Amsterdam, Netherlands
CULTURAL & ARTISTIC RESPONSES TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS by the Prince Claus Fund & Goethe-Institut



WHENCE, TO WHERE , 2022
site specific installation, 300*300*400 cm



WHENCE, TO WHERE , 2022
site specific installation, 300*300*400 cm



WHENCE, TO WHERE , 2022
site specific installation, 300*300*400 cm



POSTCARDS FROM KARUN, 2021
Analog photography



POSTCARDS FROM KARUN, 2021
Analog photography



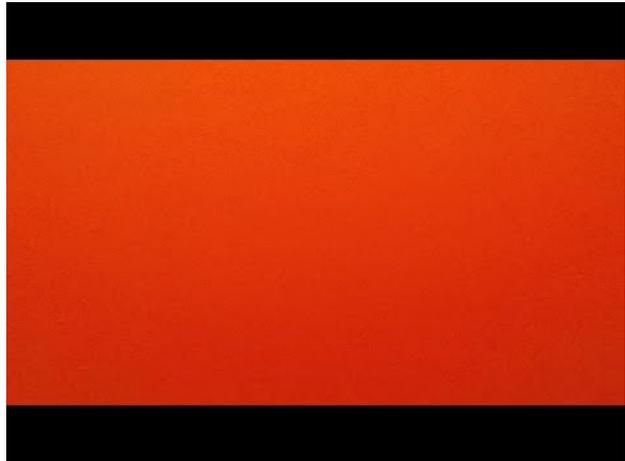
POSTCARDS FROM KARUN, 2021
Analog photography



POSTCARDS FROM KARUN, 2021
Analog photography



POSTCARDS FROM KARUN, 2021
Analog photography



GPS, 2017
00:02:34



POSTCARDS FROM KARUN, 2017
Analog photography