

# new. now.25

On view February 8–March 15, 2025

**Opening reception: Saturday, February 8, 2025, 5–7pm**  
1353 U St NW, Washington, DC 20009



*One Big Eye* (detail), 2024, Sobia Ahmad.  
made in collaboration with Benny Shaffer

**Washington, DC:** Hamiltonian Artists is thrilled to present *new.now.*, our annual group exhibition debuting the work of distinguished 2024–2026 fellows: artists **Sobia Ahmad, June Canedo De Souza, Jermaine “jET” Carter, Nilou Kazemzadeh, and Fargo Nissim Tbakhi.** Each year, *new.now.* serves as a snapshot of the newest Hamiltonian Artists fellows’ creative practices, exhibiting the work they plan to expand upon during their two-year fellowship.

Looking to the stars and traversing into a forest of eyes, Ahmad’s analog photo and moving image-based works meditate on transcendental power within nature’s movements, cycles, and synchronicities. Canedo De Souza’s tactile paintings are inspired by the gestural and haptic conditions of her upbringing; she deploys childlike motifs and material-based poetics that are at once nostalgic and haunting. Carter works across two and three dimensional practices to illustrate alternate realities of everyday Black American struggles such as police brutality, food insecurity, and economic disadvantage. Honoring the necessity of care and community, Kazemzadeh’s installation-based sculptural and video works serve as sites to reflect on personal lineage and imagine collective futures in the wake of social and political upheaval. Drawing metaphors from ancient Greek tragedy, Tbakhi’s textual works on paper interrogate the policing of Palestinian grief while affirming the steadfast spirit that drives Palestine’s pursuit of liberation amid life under siege.

This presentation of *new.now.* conjures the feeling of moving through, and reaching toward. Each artist’s work begins to take on an almost fugitive character—at once urgent and hopeful. Fragments of childhood memories surface through oil pastels, wild clay, and colored pencils; glimmers of futurity flicker in moving images and plaster casts; portals of stained glass and collaged tunnels signal a way to go on, while the murkiness of mud-covered canvas and night skies leave destination and distance undetermined. While there is no telling where we will land—certainly nothing will remain the same.

**A group artist talk will be held at Hamiltonian Artists on Saturday, February 22, 3–4pm;** **Link to register [here](#).** Visit Hamiltonian Artists’ [website](#) and follow [@hamiltonian\\_artists](#) on Instagram for more information about corresponding public programs.

The 2024–2026 Fellows were selected by an independent jury of arts professionals—**Amara Antilla**, independent curator, Washington DC; **Alyssa Mattocks**, former director at Deli Gallery, New York; **Julia Bloom**, artist, director, and curator of Freight Gallery, Washington, DC; **Luis Vasquez La Roche**, artist and educator at George Mason University, Fairfax, VA; and **Joey Enríquez**, artist, designer, educator, and Hamiltonian Artists fellowship alum.



L to R: Sobia Ahmad, June Canedo de Souza, Jermaine Carter, Nilou Kazemzadeh, and Fargo Nissim Tbakhi

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Sobia Ahmad** (b. 1992; Punjab, Pakistan) was raised in Pakistan and moved to the United States at the age of fourteen. Ahmad earned her MFA from Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA (2024), and a BA in Studio Art and BS in Community Health from the University of Maryland, College Park (2016, 2015). Her work has been exhibited internationally, including at the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Ithaca, NY; Craft Contemporary, Los Angeles, CA; Queen Mary University, London, England; Museum of Craft and Design, San Francisco, CA; and the Women Filmmakers Festival at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC. She has attended the SOMA Summer residency, Mexico City, Mexico (2024), and Halcyon Arts Lab’s socially engaged art fellowship, Washington, DC (2019–2020).

**June Canedo de Souza** (b. 1989; United States) is a Brazilian American artist currently based in New York. She works in painting, sculpture, performance, photography, and video. She earned her MFA from the Milton Avery School of the Arts at Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY, and is an alumni of the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Madison, ME. Recent projects and exhibitions include the Geffen Contemporary at MOCA, Los Angeles, CA; the Kitchen OnScreen, New York, NY; and MIMO Gallery, New York, NY. Her books have been acquired by the Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; New York University, New York, NY; Harvard University, Cambridge, MA; the Getty Research Institute, and more. She was a finalist for the Foundwork Artist Prize (2022) and is a 2024–25 session artist at Recess, Brooklyn, NY.

**Jermaine “jET” Carter** (b. 1998, Washington, DC) is an interdisciplinary artist from Southeast Washington, DC. He earned his BFA from the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art, New York, NY (2020). Carter’s art has been exhibited nationally and internationally, including Washington, DC; New York, NY; and Chicago, IL, as well as in his first solo exhibition SUPER-CHARGED, London, England (2023). Additionally, his animations have been featured in various public spaces, including Washington, DC—train stations as part of Cultural DC’s TORRENTS Art in Transit Exhibition (Cohort II) (2024). Jermaine “jET” Carter lives and works in Alexandria, VA.

**Nilou Kazemzadeh** (b. 1993, Maryland) is an Iranian American artist based in Maryland. She earned her BA in Studio Art and MA in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Maryland, College Park, and an MFA from Tyler School of Art and Architecture, Philadelphia, PA. Her work has been shown in various galleries in the DC and Philadelphia areas, including the American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center, Washington, DC; Maryland Art Place, Baltimore, MD; Target Gallery, Alexandria, VA; and IA&A Hillyer, Washington, DC. Her work has been reviewed and included in various publications, including the Washington Post and Baltimore City Paper.

**Fargo Nissim Tbakhi** (b. 1997, Riverside, California) is a Palestinian American interdisciplinary artist currently living and working in Washington, DC, on Piscataway and Nacotchtank land. His writing has appeared in Best American Science Fiction and Fantasy, Gulf Coast, Mizna, Strange Horizons, Protean, and elsewhere. His performance and exhibition work has been programmed at OUTsider Fest, Rhizome DC, VisArts, the Arab-American National Museum, and has been supported by the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, the National Performance Network, the MAP Fund, and the Arizona Commission on the Arts.

## **ABOUT HAMILTONIAN ARTISTS**

Hamiltonian Artists’ mission is to nurture community and increase access to space, opportunity, and resources for emerging artists, through impactful programs and exhibitions.

The organization reaffirms and expands upon its originating vision as an incubator for the professional development of emerging visual artists, serving as a hub for Washington, DC’s, creative economy and a vibrant center for contemporary art in the DC area. With its unique investment in emerging artists, Hamiltonian Artists provides resources to aid their development in important business skills, professional experiences, and visibility to support and sustain their art career.

Through the fellowship program, exhibitions, studios, artist talks, public events, membership program for art collectors at all levels, and so much more, the organization contributes to the vitality of the area’s arts scene by deepening the appreciation for contemporary art and culture throughout Washington, DC, and beyond.



## **HOW TO VISIT**

Location: Hamiltonian Artists, 1353 U Street NW, Washington, DC 20009

Hours: Thursday–Saturday, 11am–6pm

For more information visit [hamiltonianartists.org](http://hamiltonianartists.org).

## **CONTACT**

For press inquiries and additional information contact Anisa Olufemi, director of programs and curator, [anisa@hamiltonianartists.org](mailto:anisa@hamiltonianartists.org)

Images available [here](#).