

**Ramin  
Samandari**

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Iranian-born photographer Ramin Samandari arrived in Odessa, Texas in 1978 at age 17, sent there by his parents in the midst of the Iranian revolution. Samandari thought he might return to his homeland in a few years with a medical degree, but then the Iran-Iraq War broke out, so he renewed his U.S. visa, eventually got a green card, and in 1990 he became a U.S. citizen.

A resident of San Antonio since 1988, Samandari decided in the early '90s to pursue photojournalism, so he took some courses at San Antonio College and started freelancing for local news publications. Although he was enjoying the assignments, a problem kept emerging when he presented his photos to his editors—they were just too artful for the daily press. So, he shifted focus and has practiced fine art photography for over twenty years. Throughout the '90s, Samandari exhibited mostly in theater lobbies and at restaurants in San Antonio and Austin.

Between 2000 and 2001, he had solo exhibitions at the University of Incarnate Word's Center for Spirituality, the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center, Carver Cultural Art Center and the San Antonio Museum of Art. He has been a stalwart of the San Antonio art scene ever since.

His work has been exhibited at The Blue Star Contemporary Art Museum, UTSA gallery, Southwest School of Art, Artpace, City of San Antonio Department of Cultural and Creative Development and many private galleries.

Samandari's work is in the permanent collection at San Antonio Museum of Art and University of Texas at San Antonio.

His studio, Magical Realism is located in the Blue Star Art Complex.

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**Selected One and Two Person Exhibits**

*San Antonio Faces of Art* – Department of Culture and Creativity, Plaza de Armas. San Antonio, Texas. July 2016

*Faces of Artpace* – Artpace San Antonio (Taylor Bates, curator). June 2016

*Earthly Bodies* – Gallery Nord (Carina Gorz, curator) San Antonio, Texas. September 2011

*Veils of Nephelē* - Southwest School of Art (Kathy Armstrong, curator) San Antonio, Texas. September 2010.

*Revelations in the Landscape* – Two-person show. UTSA downtown gallery. (Arturo Almeida, curator) San Antonio, TX. Sept. 2007.

*In Search of the Beloved* - Bihl Haus Arts (Deborah Keller-Rihn, curator) San Antonio, Texas. July 2007

*Fragments of Memories: A personal Glimpse into Modern day Iran* – Blue Star Contemporary Art Center (Bernice Williams, curator) – San Antonio, TX. September 2005

*Sacred Landscapes* – Center for Spirituality and the Arts (Diana Roberts, curator) – San Antonio, TX, 2004

*Reflections of Islam* – San Antonio Museum of Art (Rose Demir, curator) – San Antonio, TX, 2001.

*The Immaculate Conception* – Carver Cultural Center (Marcia Wesser and Diann Green, curators) – San Antonio, TX, 2000.

*Suspended Effect of a Presence* – Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center (Kathy Vargas, curator) – San Antonio, TX, 2000.

### **Selected Group Exhibits**

“50 at 50”- group invitational exhibit, Southwest School of Art, San Antonio, TX .  
(Kathy Armstrong, curator). 2015

“*Vigils and Protests*”– Three-person exhibit. Joan Grona Gallery, San Antonio, TX. Sept. 2009

“*Lady of Guadalupe Exhibition*” – Group invitational show. Centro Cultural Aztlan. San Antonio, TX. Dec. 2008.

“*Presente!*” (*Photography and art of the present moment*) – Group invitational show. Centro Cultural Aztlan. San Antonio, Texas. October 2008.

*Urban Jealousy; 1<sup>ST</sup>. International Roaming Biennial of Tehran.* Juried group exhibition (Serhat Koksai and Amirali Ghasemi, curators). Istanbul, Berlin and Tehran. 2008

*Local Loteria – Invitational group exhibition* – Southwest School of Art (Kathy Armstrong, curator) San Antonio, Texas, 2006.

*Group exhibition at the Silo* – (Teri Wright, curator) – San Antonio, Texas, 2005.

*Poniendo Ojo* – AnArte Gallery (Arturo Almeida, curator) – San Antonio, TX, 2002.

*Spirituality and Creativity* – Southwest School of Art (Kathy Armstrong, curator) – San Antonio, TX, 2001.

*Itinerances* – Institution (Trish Simonite and D. Clarke Evans, jurors) – Villeneuve-La Riviere, France, 2001.

*La Femme II* – Centro Cultural Aztlan (Diane Parker, curator) – San Antonio, TX, 2001.

*ART 2K PASA: A Millennial Survey by San Antonio Artists* – Airport Art Space, San Antonio International Airport (Michael Mehl, curator) – San Antonio, TX, 2000.

## **Publications**

“Wildflower. Stone.” Poems by Marian Haddad. Published by Pecan Grove Press. 2010.  
“Art at our Doorstep”; San Antonio Writers + Artists. Published by Trinity University press. Edited by Nan Cuba and Riley Robinson. 2008  
“The Garden of Milk and Wine”. A collection of short stories by Mo H. Saidi. Published by Word Design Studio. 2011.

## **Selected Media**

*KLRN Arts TV program.* Aired on 12/11/2015. “The Making of San Antonio Faces of Art”  
*San Antonio Express News.* 12/02/2015. “S.A.’s Art Scene in a Flash”. Elda Silva.  
*San Antonio Express News,* 09/11/2011. “...Nudes in Nature”. Review by Steve Bennett.  
*San Antonio Express News,* 10/31/2010. “It’s cloud’s illusions”. Review by Elda Silva.  
*210 SA,* July 18, 2007. “Look and Listen, Local Artist”. Review by Jessica Belasco.  
*San Antonio Express News,* Sept. 28, 2005. “Visual Art Review”, Dan Goddard.  
*San Antonio Express News,* Sept. 29, 2002. “Gallery Stroll”, Dan Goddard.  
*Voices of Art,* November 2002, Daniel Guerrero.  
*San Antonio Express News,* Nov. 21, 2001. “Reflections explores art, aspects of Islam”, Dan Goddard.  
*San Antonio Express News,* August 29, 2001. “Spirit Catchers”, Dan Goddard.  
*San Antonio Express News,* July 15, 2001. Art Review, Elda Silva.  
*San Antonio Express News,* April 13, 2001. Art News, Elda Silva.  
*Voices of Art,* March 2000, Le Green.  
*San Antonio Current,* September 9, 1999. “Arts Vibe”, Retha Oliver.  
*San Antonio Express News,* September 20, 1998. “Fotoseptiembre 98”, Dan Goddard.

## **Public Lectures**

San Antonio College Multicultural Conference, 2010 and 2012

## **Professional Activities**

1998-present	Owner of Magical Realism Studio, a fine art photography studio located in the Blue Star Contemporary Art Center, San Antonio, TX.
2008 – Present	Faculty in Photography, Southwest School of Art, San Antonio, TX
1995-1999	Faculty in Photography, Southwest School of Art, San Antonio, TX
1989-1995	Freelance photographer, San Antonio, TX.