

Artnet News  
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## 5 Breakout Artists We Discovered at the Los Angeles Art Fairs Whose Work Stopped Us in Our Tracks

We combed through thousands of artists on view during the fairs to highlight our top picks.



Mamali Shafahi, *Monkey Fever 02* (2022). Courtesy of the artist and Dastan Gallery.

The frantic art-fair energy was back in a big way in Los Angeles last week, ranging from the Felix Art Fair in Hollywood to Frieze Los Angeles's new digs at the Santa Monica Airport to the often-zany upstart projects on view at Spring Break in Culver City.

Of course there is too much to take in—that's at least part of the point, right? However, the Artnet News team was on hand to scour the aisles from the Westside to Hollywood Boulevard. Allow us to present some of our unforgettable favorites of the week. Read on to learn more about the artists we think could be poised for takeoff.

### **Mamali Shafahi**

**Who:** Mamali Shafahi creates works in multiple media that investigate technology's impact on human evolution and culture. For Frieze Los Angeles, Dastan Gallery presented several of his recent relief sculptures and one freestanding, motorized piece, all of which transform some of humankind's most primal sources of fear into objects of playful wonder. Shafahi's use of materials is especially arresting; here, the artist applied flocked velvet to his epoxy compositions, then airbrushed waves of pearlescent color onto the lush surface. The results could be equally mistaken for magical totems or sci-fi inventions.

**Based in:** Tehran and Paris

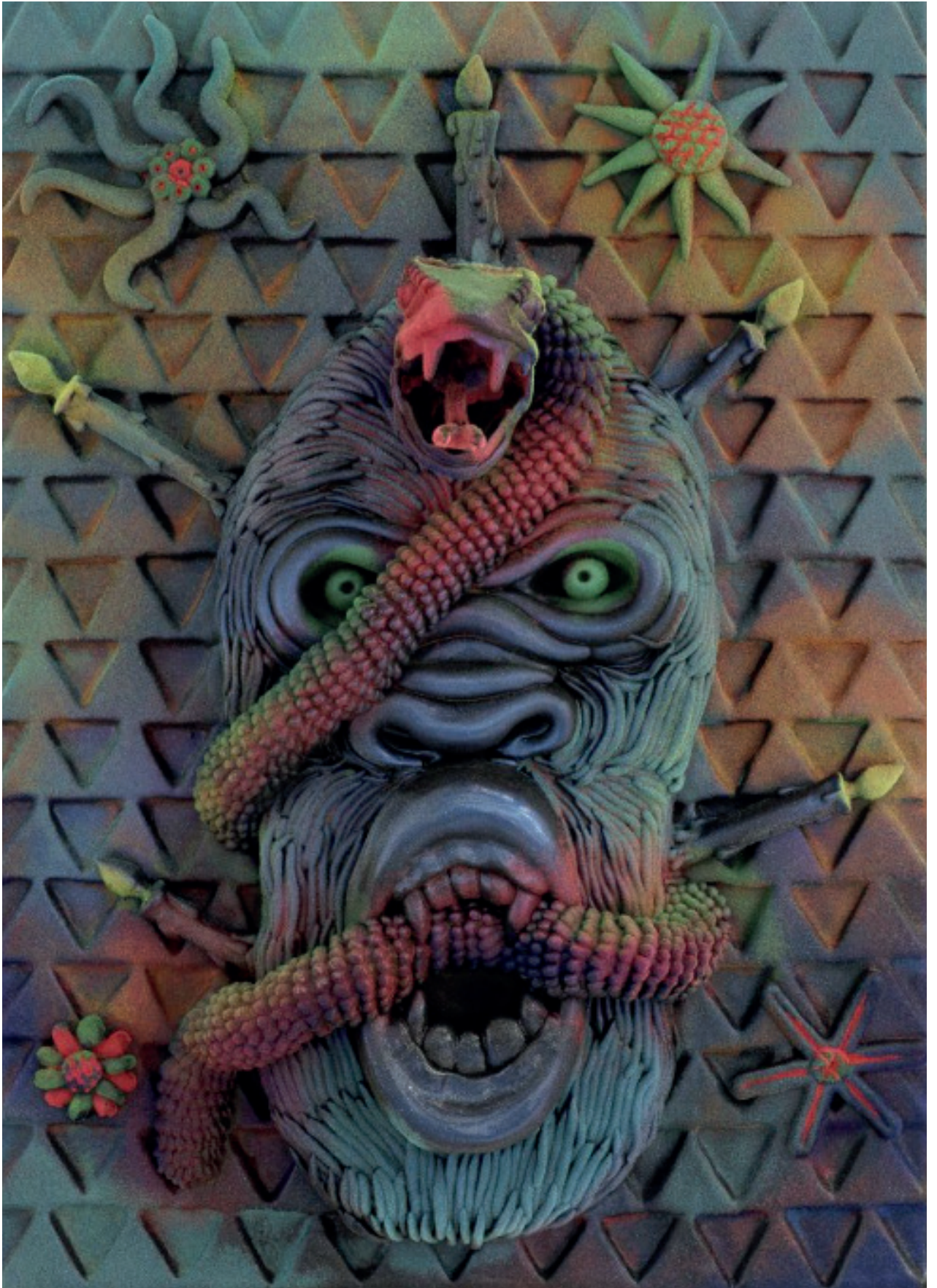
**Showing at:** Frieze Los Angeles with Dastan Gallery, Tehran

**Prices:** €5,800 to €25,000 (\$6,200 to \$26,700)

**Why You Should Pay Attention:** Since graduating from the École Nationale Supérieure d'Arts de Paris Cergy in 2008, Shafahi has been steadily building up his institutional and commercial profile across continents. If his inclusion in both the 2022 Carnegie International and the latest Frieze Los Angeles are any indication, he could be on the verge of breaking out stateside.

**Notable Résumé Line:** Shafahi was one of the few artists to have multiple works featured in "[100 Years](#)," the joint exhibition staged by Jeffrey Deitch and Gagosian in the Buick Building during Art Basel Miami Beach in 2022.

**Up Next:** Shafahi will open a solo exhibition at the Breeder gallery in Athens in September.



Mamali Shafahi, *Monkey Fever 03* (2022). Courtesy of the artist and Dastan Gallery.