

Shirana Shabazi

Location: Tal Museum, 2nd Floor, old part

There are moments in life when nothing is decided and everything is possible. These are moments of limbo: we feel the space suddenly widening in all directions and it remains unclear whether, when and where we will regain our footing.

In her series *Falling*, Shirana Shahbazi finds beguiling images for this state. The most recent of the multi-part lithographs was created especially for *Backstage Engelberg*. It shows a female figure after a jump into water. Her body floats weightlessly and powerfully between the surface and the bottom, surrounded by rising bubbles, superimposed by bright reflections of light and intensely luminous areas of color, which push themselves in front of the scene like reflections of hidden architecture and create two contradictory feelings: that of disorientation and that of being with oneself. This has both an emotional and a political dimension. According to Shahbazi, the first sketches for this series were created in the fall of 2022, after the violent death of Jina Mahsa Amini in the custody of Iran's morality police sparked massive feminist protests in the country and around the world. *Falling* tells of a moment of uncertainty between hope and disillusionment, new beginnings and setbacks. The work is flanked by two hand-colored silver gelatin prints from the *Displacement* series, which Shahbazi presents in ceramic frames on a colorful wall, thus blurring the supposedly clear boundaries between image, object and architecture. (roe)

Shirana Shahbazi was born in 1974 in Tehran, Iran and lives and works in Zurich, Switzerland. Her work has been shown in important solo and group exhibitions, most recently at the Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn/New York, USA (2024), the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, Spain (2021), the Kunsthaus Zürich (2020) and the Kunsthaus Hamburg, Germany (2018). She was awarded the Prix Meret Oppenheim in 2019 and the Mutina for Art Prize in 2021. Shirana Shahbazi is a guest lecturer in the Master of Fine Arts program at the ZHDK and at the EPFL, Lausanne.