

PRESS RELEASE

## **Anita Esfandiari**

### **Buoyant Dribble**

28. FEBRUARY–10. MAY 2026 | OPENING: 27.02.2026, 7 PM

PRESS PREVIEW: 27. FEBRUARY 2026, 11 AM

With **Buoyant Dribble**, Künstler:innenhaus Bremen presents the first institutional solo exhibition in Germany by **Anita Esfandiari**. Bringing together a newly conceived body of work and site-specific installation, the exhibition expands Esfandiari's ongoing investigation of sculptural painting as a spatial and social practice. Positioned at the intersection of painting and architecture, **Buoyant Dribble** explores how bodily movement, repetition, and shared presence arise when conditions shift suddenly and call for improvisation. The project looks at how people move through changing terrain by navigating its limits, adapting to instability, and creating new ways of being seen within environments that are never still.

In her artistic practice, Esfandiari focuses primarily on what she terms "sculptural painting": painted surfaces that extend into space and take on forms of installations, increasingly blurring the boundaries between image and object. Pictorial and architectural elements are inseparably intertwined in her work, her paintings are not static image carriers but spatial interventions that invite viewers to experience them from multiple perspectives. As viewers repeatedly shift their position within the sculptural arrangement, not only does their perception change, but so does the work itself. The act of viewing thus becomes part of the artistic process.

At the centre of the exhibition is a new series of five sculptural paintings, created for Bremen and inspired by a photograph of teenagers playing basketball. Esfandiari's works – moving between painting, sculpture, and spatial installation – simultaneously engage questions of the body, movement, and collective presence within changing conditions. Drawing from the photographic source, Esfandiari develops a sequence of snapshots that capture bodies in transition, which are hovering and falling, suspended between action and pause. Linked by an expansive framework of wooden beams, the works echo the form of basketball hoops and shape the exhibition space into a dynamic pictorial field. Repetition and variation across forms function as key compositional strategies, foregrounding temporality, care, and collective presence.

"I am interested in how small, everyday acts and movements can carry meaning when they are repeated and shared," says **Anita Esfandiari**. "In this exhibition, painting becomes a way of thinking about bodies in relation to one another and to the spaces they occupy."

With regard to philosophies of collective action that emphasize the role of informal, non-institutionally organized collectives without a fixed ideology or identifiable leadership – yet which nonetheless initiate social change through everyday practices – the artist used the

image of playing basketball as a metaphor for resistance. Inspired by the image of bodies or people at play, the works attend to moments of negotiation and movement, tracing how people navigate shifting social and spatial conditions. **Buoyant Dribble** articulates a narrative that is both poetic and political, exploring the dynamics of bodies in shared environments, the power of small gestures, and painting as a site of social connection and subtle forms of resistance. Through its expansive spatial configuration, the exhibition interrelates these themes, making them physically and spatially experiential. It positions itself as a contribution to contemporary artistic practice at the intersection of everyday life, social interaction, and visibility, attentive to the layered experiences of gender, movement, and cultural context.

The exhibition is part of Künstler:innenhaus Bremen's ongoing program dedicated to contemporary artistic practices that engage spatial, social, and political questions through interdisciplinary approaches.

**Anita Esfandiari** was born in Tehran, Iran, and graduated from the Städelschule in Frankfurt am Main in 2022, where she studied under Prof. Judith Hopf. Prior to that, she studied painting, at Art and Architecture - Islamic Azad University in Tehran. Working across sculpture, painting, and video, Esfandiari has exhibited at SculptureCenter New York (2025), Frankfurter Kunstverein (2023), Opelvillen Rüsselsheim (2020), Abi Gallery and Delgosha Art Gallery, Tehran (2020), and the Columbus Museum of Art, Ohio. Anita Esfandiari currently lives and works in Berlin.

**Press images:**

High-resolution press images are available upon request. All images © the artist. Courtesy of the artist and Künstler:innenhaus Bremen.

**ART MEDATION PROGRAMME**

**OPENING**

Opening of the exhibition *Buoyant Dribble*. The artist will be present.

**27.2.2026 | 7 pm**

**GUIDED TOUR IN PERSIAN WITH BAHAREH HEJRANKESHRAD**

Overview tour in Persian with information on the works and the concept of the exhibition.

Admission is free, registration at [galerie@kh-bremen.de](mailto:galerie@kh-bremen.de)

**12.3.2026 | 6 pm**

**CAN ART CONVEY ART? WORKSHOP WITH CLARA KRAMER AND MARISA MÜLLER**

As part of this workshop, Clara Kramer and Marisa Müller invite participants to become artistically active in the current exhibition *Buoyant Dribble*. Through small drawing exercises, we approach the works, observe, question and exchange ideas. Admission is free, registration at [galerie@kh-bremen.de](mailto:galerie@kh-bremen.de)

**22.3.2026 | 3–6 pm**

**READING AND WRITING WORKSHOP WITH LOUBNA KHADDAJ**

As part of the exhibition *Buoyant Dribble*, a reading and writing workshop for young people and adults is offered, translating the central themes of the artist Anita Esfandiari's practice — corporeality, movement, repetition and collective presence — into a linguistic practice. Participants engage with these ideas creatively by developing short texts, miniatures or poetic fragments that reflect everyday gestures, care and forms of visibility.

Participation is free, minimum age 18, Community-Session for BIPOC, registration at [galerie@kh-bremen.de](mailto:galerie@kh-bremen.de)

**28.3.2026 | 3–6 pm**

**CURATOR'S TOUR WITH MARIE OUCHERIF**

The curator of the exhibition, Marie Oucherif, provides insight into the development of the exhibition and shares her background knowledge with visitors. Admission is free, registration at [galerie@kh-bremen.de](mailto:galerie@kh-bremen.de)

**9.4.2026 | 6 pm**

**GUIDED TOUR IN TURKISH WITH ELFIN AÇAR**

Overview tour in Turkish with information on the works and the concept of the exhibition.  
Admission is free, registration at [galerie@kh-bremen.de](mailto:galerie@kh-bremen.de)

**23.4.2026 | 6 pm**

**TOUR WITH CURATORIAL ASSISTANT JOHANNE JORDAN**

Curatorial assistant Johanne Jordan provides insight into the development of the exhibition and shares her background knowledge with visitors. Admission is free, registration at [galerie@kh-bremen.de](mailto:galerie@kh-bremen.de)

**30.4.2026 | 6 pm**

**ADDRESS** KH KÜNSTLER:INNENHAUS BREMEN, AM DEICH 68/69, 28199 BREMEN  
**DURATION** 28. FEBRUARY – 10. MAY 2026 **INFORMATION** KH-BREMEN.DE **E-MAIL**  
[GALERIE@KH-BREMEN.DE](mailto:GALERIE@KH-BREMEN.DE) **TELEPHONE** +49.421 508 598 **ADMISSION** FREE  
**OPENING HOURS** THUR TO SUN 2-6 PM **CURATOR** MARIE OUCHERIF **CURATORIAL**  
**ASSISTANT** JOHANNE JORDAN **KINDLY SUPPORTED BY** WALDEMAR KOCH STIFTUNG,  
BEATE + HARTMUT SCHAEFERS STIFTUNG, RITTERSPORT KUNSTSTIFTUNG **THE ART**  
**MEDIATION PROGRAMME IS SUPPORTED BY** VGH STIFTUNG **ADDITIONAL SUPPORT**  
**FROM** SENATOR FÜR KULTUR BREMEN

**HASHTAGS** #ANITAESFANDIARI #KH\_BREMEN **INSTAGRAM** @KH\_BREMEN **BLUESKY**  
[@KH-BREMEN.BSKY.SOCIAL](https://bsky.app/profile/kh-bremen.social)

**PRESS** JOHANNE JORDAN, **KÜNSTLER:INNENHAUS BREMEN**, AM DEICH  
68/69, 28199 BREMEN, **NEWSROOM** KH-BREMEN.DE/EN/PRESS **TELEPHONE**  
+49 (0)421 508 598 **E-MAIL** [PRESSE@KH-BREMEN.DE](mailto:PRESSE@KH-BREMEN.DE)