

PRESS RELEASE

2024



Public Arts Commission Presents *"Topophobia"* by artist Micah Haji-Sheikh [MJ].

At Alerus Center on April 11, 2024, reception from 5:00 to 7:00 pm.

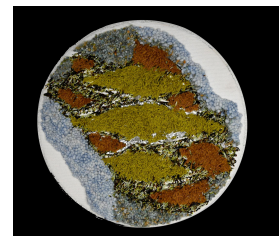
Curated by Vickie Arndt.



The Public Arts Commission is thrilled to announce an upcoming art exhibition that promises to challenge perceptions and ignite introspection: "Topophobia" by the talented artist Micah Haji-Sheikh [MJ].

But what is "Topophobia"? It's a term that delves into the realm of fear and anxiety associated with specific places or spaces. Whether it's the fear of heights, confined spaces, or open areas, topophobia manifests in various forms, all stemming from a sense of vulnerability or discomfort in particular environments.

Micah Haji-Sheikh's [MJ] work delves deep into this concept, drawing viewers into a visual exploration of claustrophobia through circular boundaries, dynamic color schemes, and intricate play between positive and negative space. Her sculptures, characterized by their aggressive yet captivating aesthetics, prioritize aesthetic value over utility, offering viewers a modern sensory experience that challenges conventional norms.



But Micah's art goes beyond mere visual spectacle; it delves into the complexities of gender, culture, and the human experience. Through technical experimentation and conceptual depth,

she breathes life into her sculptures, inviting viewers to engage with the intricacies of identity, societal constructs, and personal narratives.

Each of Micah's sculptures serves as a vessel for dialogue and introspection, challenging viewers to reconsider their perceptions and understandings of the world around them. By pushing the boundaries of aesthetic expression, she invites us on a journey of discovery, prompting us to confront the complexities of the human condition head-on.



We cordially invite you to join us at the exhibition opening, where you'll have the opportunity to immerse yourself in Micah Haji-Sheikh's thought-provoking artwork and engage in meaningful conversations about fear, identity, and the human experience.

Alerus Center on April 11, 2024, reception from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. The exhibition will run from April 2024 to December 2024, and we encourage everyone to explore and experience the remarkable artwork created by this talented artist.

For more information about the exhibition, please visit the Public Arts Commission website [info@publicartnd.org](mailto:info@publicartnd.org).