



the Grand Tourist

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# Ali Banisadr Has Faith in the Canvas, and in a New Medium

More of our favorite openings from New York to Rome: A former podcast guest takes a bow in the US, an Italian master revisited, Picasso's Muse, and eccentric French design.

March 19, 2025  
By VASILISA IOUKHNOVETS



Ali Banisadr sculpting at Modern Art Foundry, NY. Photo: Kristel Banisadr

*Welcome to The Curator, a newsletter companion to The Grand Tourist with Dan Rubinstein podcast. Sign up to get added to the list. Have news to share? Reach us at [hello@thegrandtourist.net](mailto:hello@thegrandtourist.net).*

**Katonah, “Ali Banisadr: The Alchemist” (Until June 29)**

“Painting still has the power,” Ali Banisadr said on one of the first episodes of The Grand Tourist, “to put you in a state of mind where you’re slowing down, watching for a while.” OG listeners of the podcast will remember the Iranian painter’s reinvigorating faith in painting. There is much to behold in Banisadr’s striking abstractions: Memories of his war-scarred childhood in Tehran, the flair of the graffiti art he painted as a teen, and even an unexpected semblance of Renaissance tableaux. Now, the painter receives a well-deserved major museum survey, his first in the States, presenting painting, drawing, and printmaking from the past 20 years. It also includes a new foray into sculpture. [katonahmuseum.org](http://katonahmuseum.org)