

## I Witnessed The Garden Bear Fruit

Solo exhibition by Nilou Kazemzadeh

**Opening reception Saturday, March 28, 2026, 5–7pm**

On view March 28 through May 2, 2026

1353 U St NW, Washington, DC 20009



Nilou Kazemzadeh, *Take Care*, 2026.

**Washington, DC:** Hamiltonian Artists is pleased to present Nilou Kazemzadeh's solo exhibition, *I Witnessed the Garden Bear Fruit*. Inspired by her upbringing in Potomac, Maryland, her Iranian ancestry, and practices of intergenerational land stewardship that connect the two, Kazemzadeh's latest work considers the careful labor of cultivation—the hopeful gesture of planting a seed.

Featuring sculpture, video, and works on paper, *I Witnessed the Garden Bear Fruit* offers meditations on how connecting to one's roots can create a space of joy and healing. Each work is grounded in site-specificity through Kazemzadeh's use of intimately sourced materials. Photolithographic prints reimagine moments from her familial archive; silhouettes of her mother, father, and grandparents emerge from the contours of lush fig and pistachio trees. Her ceramic planters, pitchers, and watering jugs are formed from wild clay foraged from streambanks near her Maryland home—their surfaces adorned with tulips, hands, grass, and other Iranian symbols of life and resistance. The Earth tones that appear throughout the exhibition are all produced through careful, hand-based processes.

In this quiet, garden-like space, Kazemzadeh's work embodies memory, heritage, and the mysteries of the land. How does staying rooted in personal connection to place and lineage function as a means of revolt amid isolating sociopolitical systems? How is knowledge cultivated and passed down through generations? What do we choose to carry, and continue to water? Reflecting upon her latest body of work, Kazemzadeh shares the following,

“Each material goes through an act of becoming, through them I am able to locate connections between myself and the world around me. I often think about who I would have been if I were born and raised in Iran—about how radical the action of care is within systems that uphold violent power structures. I imagine a future that is not based on personal gain, but one that honors our bonds with the world around us. When we plant a seed, we know it may never grow, but perhaps the action is more important—that willingness to plant anything, and take care of it regardless.”

**An artist-led exhibition tour will be held on Saturday, April 11th, 1–2pm; link to register [here](#).** Additional programming to be announced. Visit Hamiltonian Artists' [website](#) and follow [@hamiltonian\\_artists](#) on Instagram for more information about corresponding public programs.

### ABOUT THE ARTIST

**Nilou Kazemzadeh** (b. 1993, Maryland, US) is an Iranian-American artist based in Maryland. She holds a B.A. in Studio Art and a Master's in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Maryland, College Park, and a Master's in Fine Arts from Tyler School of Art and Architecture. Her work has been exhibited in various galleries in the DMV and Philadelphia area, including the Katzen Art Center, Maryland Art Place, Target Gallery, and IA&A Hillyer. She is currently a 2024 Hamiltonian Artists Fellow and an adjunct instructor at Montgomery College and Prince George's Community College.



### ABOUT HAMILTONIAN ARTISTS

Hamiltonian Artists' mission is to nurture community and increase access to space, opportunity, and resources for emerging artists, through impactful programs and exhibitions. The organization reaffirms and expands upon its originating vision as an incubator for the professional development of emerging visual artists, serving as a hub for Washington, DC's, creative economy and a vibrant center for contemporary art in the DC area. With its unique investment in emerging artists, Hamiltonian Artists provides resources to aid their development in important business skills, professional experiences, and visibility to support and sustain their art career.

Through the fellowship program, exhibitions, studios, artist talks, public events, membership program for art collectors at all levels, and so much more, the organization contributes to the vitality of the area's arts scene by deepening the appreciation for contemporary art and culture throughout Washington, DC, and beyond.

**HOW TO VISIT**

Location: Hamiltonian Artists, 1353 U Street NW, Washington, DC 20009

Hours: Thursday–Saturday, 11am–6pm

For more information visit [hamiltonianartists.org](https://hamiltonianartists.org).

**CONTACT**

For press inquiries and additional info, contact Anisa Olufemi, director of programs and curator [anisa@hamiltonianartists.org](mailto:anisa@hamiltonianartists.org).

Images available [here](#).