



## SOLO EXHIBITION

2011 *Soraya Sarah Nazarian, Strength Revealed: A 25 Year Retrospective*, Gallery 817, West Hollywood, CA

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2015-16 *7,567mi* (part of *Jerusalem Biennale 2015*), HUC-JIR & Platt/Borstein Galleries, Los Angeles, CA  
2015 *Jerusalem: City of Stone*, Lowy-Winkler Family Rare Book Center, Los Angeles, CA  
2013-15 *Incognito*, Santa Monica Museum of Art, Santa Monica, CA  
2013 *Show & Tell: The Art of Giving*, Zimmer Children's Museum exhibition, Jewish Federation of Greater LA, CA  
2012 *40 / 40: Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the USC Hillel Art Gallery*, Los Angeles, CA  
2012 *My Heart Is in the East, and I Am at the Ends of the West*, Shulamit Gallery, Venice, CA  
2010 *Celebrating the Persian-Jewish Legacy*, USC Hillel Foundation, Los Angeles, CA  
2010 *The Color 8*, La Cienega Art, Los Angeles, CA

## SELECTED PUBLIC ART INSTALLATIONS

2014 *Wings*, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel  
2010 *Identity*, David Saperstein Middle School, Los Angeles, CA  
2009 *Legacy*, Haifa University, Israel  
2007 *Reflections*, Sapir College, Israel  
2002 *Sound*, Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance, Israel

## PUBLICATIONS & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS

2015 *Identity*, Public Art Archive  
2014 Invited Speaker/Panelist, *Through Your Eyes: Transforming Hearts and Minds through the Arts*, Women's Leadership Conference, Iranian American Women Foundation, Beverly Hills, CA  
2011 Panel Discussion, *The Art of Direct Carving in Stone*, moderated by Barbara Gilbert, with Gloria Gerace, Jane Bassett, and Jack Rutberg, Gallery 817, West Hollywood, CA  
2010 *Strength Revealed: The Sculpture of Soraya Sarah Nazarian*, with essays by Ruth Weisberg and Cynthia Burlingham, interview with Gloria Gerace, and preface by Shulamit Nazarian

## ABOUT SORAYA

Soraya Sarah Nazarian is an Iranian-born, Los Angeles-based artist who has become a master in the medium of direct carving in stone. Her work carries themes of motherhood, family, spirituality, and Iranian culture.

In 1979 Soraya immigrated to the United States with her husband and four children. In the late 1980s, she began to study sculpting in the studios of the American Jewish University (formerly the University of Judaism). She established her own studios soon after in the United States and in Italy during her early stoneworking trips. Her work is distinguished by two major periods: a time of discovery and experimentation in the 1980s and 1990s and a period of artistic self-confidence marked by the creation of large-scale works beginning in 2000.

Early in her career, she revealed parallel interests: first in mastering the female form and showcasing its strength, power, and beauty; second in experimenting with abstraction; and third in exploring themes that spoke to her life experience. Most of her works are based on strong familial connections and a commitment to education and humanistic values.

In 2000, she traveled to an artist's workshop in Pietrasanta, Italy, a city made famous for its marble quarries by the Renaissance sculptor Michelangelo. The experience profoundly shaped her life, focused her technique, and enhanced her relationship with stone. Since her initial arrival, when she began visiting Italian quarries and establishing studio space, she has been one of the few women who have personally selected stone from Pietrasanta quarries.

Soraya's work is held in numerous private collections. Cultural institutions in the United States and Israel have commissioned large-scale sculptures. Recent commissions include *Sound* (2002) at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance; *Reflections* (2007) at Sapir College, near Sderot, Israel; *Legacy* (2009) at the University of Haifa, Israel; *Identity* (2010) at Saperstein Middle School in Los Angeles; and *Wings* (2014) at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She lives and maintains a studio in Los Angeles, California.