

# MR MAJIDI AND MY TRAUMA

UK/ IRAN



**ARTISTSISTS:**

**MANIA AKBARI & DOUGLAS WHITE**

Standing in the middle of the exhibition space, the sculpture series 'Mr Majidi' com- piles elements gathered from a previous life in Tehran, and a current habitat of London. The artists' recognised in these found objects, discarded water butts discovered in London's streets, a figure that was familiar to them. Mr Majidi relates to Akbari's direct experience of the Iranian operative of the Revolutionary Guard, who is responsible for the surveil lance and control of the nation's filmmakers and, ultimately, responsible for her own exile. Operating under this mysterious name, this authoritative figure was invasively present in Akbari's life and career, and took on perverse roles of a charming confidant, as well as an abusive commander. The staggered and serial presentation of the sculptures suggests the character's multiplicity of facets. Free of his control, yet still affected by his memory, Akbari and White explore the ongoing psychological shadow cast over their lives by presenting the sculptures as animated marionettes, dismantled, inside out, standstill and upside down. The scene communicates violence with the playfulness of a cartoon, which the exhibition title further alludes to through reference to the 'Mr. Man' series of children books.









a) Mr. Majidi, Concrete, found objects, steel, Valchromat 2019













Mr. Majidi  
Concrete, found objects, steel, Valchromat  
50 x 40 x 125 cm.

2019













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