

# RYAN LEE

RYAN LEE GALLERY LLC  
515 WEST 26TH STREET  
NEW YORK NY 10001  
212 397 0742  
RYANLEEGALLERY.COM

**Mariam Ghani**

*Follow the Leader*

March 17 – April 30, 2022

RYAN LEE is pleased to present *Follow the Leader* (2019), a presentation of Mariam Ghani's video work which will be viewable from the High Line. This is the fifth presentation of the artist's work at the gallery, and the second RLWindow dedicated to Ghani's videos.

A film that plays with physical and conceptual abstraction, Ghani's *Follow the Leader* is composed of flickering views of hand-painted and handwritten registration marks made on film leader—which is the matter preceding and following the part of a film usually viewed by audiences. The markings isolated by Ghani indicated on the film where sound and picture should be synced in editing, and when projectionists should switch reels when projecting. Documenting these film leaders was part of her research and process while creating her 2019 film, *What We Left Unfinished*, centered around five unfinished Afghan feature films shot, but never edited, between 1978 and 1992. In *Follow the Leader*, Ghani separated the leader from the film reels it originally preceded, such that the stitched-together leaders remain as both ready-made abstractions and as material records of the individual workers who contributed to the making and preservation of these films. The music included as the soundtrack for this film was written and performed by Qasim Naqvi, published by Erased Tapes Ltd.

The film places itself within Ghani's long-standing investigation in the national Afghan film archives, which has yielded a diverse body of critical, curatorial, conservation and creative work since 2012.

# RYAN LEE

RYAN LEE GALLERY LLC  
515 WEST 26TH STREET  
NEW YORK NY 10001  
212 397 0742  
RYANLEEGALLERY.COM

**Mariam Ghani (b. 1978 New York, NY)** is interested in weaving archival materials with historical narrative to make films such as her feature-length documentary *What We left Unfinished* (2019). This film studies the imagined Afghani communist utopia through the prism and bias of unfinished cinematic footage that has been cut, archived and occasionally lost. Through an in-depth work with the Afghan Film Archive, Ghani continues her longstanding interest in memory, fragmented narratives, and sensitive historical reconstructions.

Ghani received her BA from New York University in 2000 and her MFA from the School of Visual Arts in 2002. She is currently a faculty appointment at Bennington College in Vermont. Ghani has received a number of fellowships, awards, grants, and residencies, including from Creative Capital, Art Matters, the 18th Street Arts Center in Los Angeles, the Schell Center for International Human Rights at Yale Law, and the Center for Constitutional Rights. Ghani has been a visiting scholar at the Center for the Humanities at the Graduate Center, CUNY and a fellow at the New York Public Library. In 2022, she commissioned a new work for the Delta Terminal at La Guardia Airport in New York City.

Ghani's work has been exhibited and screened widely, including at the Schneider Museum of Art (2022); Blaffer Museum of Art (2020); Berlinale festival (2019); Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum (2016); Metropolitan Museum of Art (2016); Anchorage Museum (2015); St. Louis Art Museum (2015); CCCB, Barcelona (2014); Secession, Vienna (2014); dOCUMENTA 13 (2013); the Rotterdam Film Festival (2013); CPH:DOX film festival (2012); Sharjah Biennials 9 (2009) and 10 (2011); Museum of Modern Art (2011); Brooklyn Museum of Art, (2010); National Gallery of Art (2008); Tate Modern (2007) and the Liverpool Biennial (2004).

Her work is in the public collections of the Akademie Schloss Solitude, Stuttgart, Germany; Arab American National Museum, Detroit, MI; CB Richard Ellis, New York, NY; Devi Art Foundation, New Delhi, India; Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies, New York, NY; Indianapolis Museum of Art, IN; Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, UAE; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY; and the St. Louis Art Museum, St. Louis, MO.