

TIRDAD HASHEMI

I Bloom Where You Hold Me

April 14 – May 25, 2026

Preview: April 14, 6-9PM

Blurb:

'I Bloom Where You Hold Me' moves through love, intimacy, and resistance as quiet forces that sustain communities through joy and struggle. Flowers recur as symbols of fragile yet enduring bonds, growing where they can and insisting on care and connection. Collaged layers stitched with needles form delicate networks where closeness can wound and heal at once, embodying the tension between vulnerability and resilience.

It is in the refusal to let connections fade, in the insistence on caring when it feels impossible, and in sustaining relationships even when it is difficult. Each drawing fights to hold onto what matters, demanding that love, attention, and community survive and push back, even in moments of doubt, fragility, or isolation.

The drawings, made in collaboration with Tirdad's partner for the show, hold moments of intimacy, solidarity, and quiet power, revealing how life and love continue even when the world feels unwelcoming, and how relationships themselves can become acts of hope.

Artist biography:

Tirdad Hashemi (b. 1991, Tehran) has been drawing for as long as they can remember. Growing up in an environment where personal and emotional difficulties were rarely spoken about, drawing became a way to articulate what could not be said aloud. This early reliance on image-making as a form of communication continues to shape their practice, which began with coded gestures and evolved into more direct forms of address.

Hashemi's largely figurative works are rendered with crudeness and immediacy. Their unpolished style resists aesthetic sophistication in favour of honesty. The artist reminds us that drawing is a language we all once spoke as children, before it was constrained by social expectation. In their work, Hashemi seeks to return to this uninhibited and intuitive mode of expression.

Grounded in lived experience, Hashemi's works foreground queer embodiment and being in communion. Experiencing the world as a queer body, the everyday becomes inherently political. These daily negotiations and acts of care carry narratives that demand visibility, which the artist portrays in their drawings. Hashemi makes these stories more explicit through the titles of their works. Often originating from a long-standing letter-writing practice, they invite us into the intimate space of private correspondence. Acting as an extension of the drawings, the titles make the message of the artworks clearer rather than leaving room for interpretation.

Collaboration is a distinctive dimension of Hashemi's practice. The ongoing Flower series, developed with their partner Soufia Erfanian, emerged from a period immersed in growing and tending to plants. The oil pastel drawings feature flowers, as symbols of resilience, in layered compositions populated by characters from the artist's circle of loved ones. Positioning community as both subject and method, the works reflect on how care and mutual support are formed and sustained within conditions shaped by precarity.

For inquiries, kindly reach out to Jad@ivde.net