

San José State University
College of Humanities and the Arts
Islamic Studies Initiative *presents*

Material Speculation, Between ISIS and Islamophobia

By Morehshin Allahyari
Moderated by Professor Johanna Movassat
Funded by the SJSU Islamic Studies Initiative

April 26, 2016
6:00–7:00 p.m.
Student Union Theatre
Free and open to the public.



Morehshin Allahyari has gained recent worldwide attention for *Material Speculation: ISIS*, a digital fabrication and 3D printing project focused on the reconstruction of selected artifacts that were destroyed by ISIS in 2015. She will speak about the intersections of art, activism, jihad, and technocapitalism.

Situated in the political, social and cultural web of relations that *Material Speculation* proposes—from petro-politics, war, conflict materials, and terrorism—this talk explicitly challenges potentially polarizing and Islamophobic responses to the work, while probing its aesthetic and radical insights.

Artist Biography

Morehshin Allahyari is a new media artist, activist, educator, and occasional curator. She was born and raised in Iran and moved to the United States in 2007. Her work deals with the political, social, and cultural contradictions we face every day. She thinks about technology as a philosophical toolset to reflect on objects and a poetic means to document the personal and collective lives we live and our struggles as humans in the 21st century.

Her work has been featured in *NYTimes*, *Huffington Post*, *Wired*, *NPR*, *VICE*, *Parkett Art Magazine*, *Rhizome*, *Hyperallergic*, *Global Voices Online*, and *Al Jazeera* among others. Morehshin is the Co-Founder of the Experimental Research Lab at *Pier9/Autodesk*.

Morehshin Allahyari, Material Speculation: ISIS,
Image courtesy of artist, 2016

