

10. Aynaz Raoufian: This is the same line under somebody else's eyes

This is the same line under somebody else's eyes is a video work created by Aynaz Raoufian in 2026. The video is projected on the gallery wall, nearly filling it. It is one minute and fifty seconds long.

The video begins with a closely cropped view of Aynaz's face. Her eyes and hair are a deep brown colour, and she stares straight ahead. Then, her hand enters the frame with her fingers holding the applicator brush of a tube of white eyeliner. When the tapered tip of the eyeliner brush touches just below the inside of her eye, the sound of her sister's voice begins to repeat and echo, "Aynaz jan" loudly in Persian, and "hey sis" softly in English. The audio continues as Aynaz draws a long, white line under her eye, from the inside to the outer edge. When she lifts the eyeliner from her face, the audio ends.

Aynaz moves her head away and then tilts it again to bring her left eye closer to the frame. Again, her hand appears, and this time, as she sweeps the eyeliner under her eye to apply a long white line, the audio echoes and repeats the reverse, "hey sis" in English louder, and "Aynaz jan" in Persian, more softly. The video ends as Aynaz brings her face back from the camera, lifting and lowering her chin as if looking in a mirror. Her eyes gaze straight ahead until the very end, when she blinks rapidly and moves away.

About the artwork and artist:

This is the same line under somebody else's eyes captures the artist's daily practice of drawing a white line under each of her eyes. The lines are an embodied record and act of preservation which she has performed every day since losing her sister to cancer. They also function as an act of solidarity with everyone who has lost someone they loved.

While often understood as contained within a time, a place, a body, or a narrow set of experiences, relationships of care extend beyond one single person or instance of illness, pain, or grief. By marking her experiences on her body, intentionally and repetitively, the artist not only makes visible her sorrow and love, she also makes visible the connection we all carry as members of relational care communities past, present, and future.

Aynaz Raoufian is an interdisciplinary artist whose work examines caregiving, memory, and the emotional weight that loss places on both the body and memory. Aynaz's interdisciplinary PhD research focuses on connecting art, science, and communities in the Smartwear Revolution project.

The next artwork in the exhibition is located to the right of this work. It floats just in front of a tall window.