

Ringel Reih  
COLLECTIVE



## Introduction to the RingelReih Collective

The **RingelReih Collective** was established in 2022 by visual artist, archivist, and curator **Farshido Larimian**, who also serves as its Artistic and Creative Director. The collective's name is inspired by the German children's game "Ringel Ringel Reihe" (Ring-a-Ring-o' Roses), symbolizing unity and shared joy. Similar to Persian children's games like "Charkh Abbasi" and "Amoo Zanjir Baf", where children hold hands and spin in circles, the collective embraces collaboration and creativity at every turn.

The collective began with **Arya Akhoundzadeh**, a conceptual and industrial designer, as the key developer of ideas and concepts. With his extensive experience in design and construction, Arya ensures the highest quality of execution and provides thorough oversight of project implementation, ensuring the optimal presentation of each work. Over time, the collective has been expanding into a group of individuals with unique skills and expertise in various fields, including visual artists and professionals from disciplines such as architecture, art research, fashion design, music, filmmaking, information technology, social media specialists, branding strategists. This diversity embodies the essence of collective art.

Members like the exceptionally gifted **Claudia Lechner**, recognized for her brilliance by Farshido, bring unique expertise to the collective, further enriching its multidisciplinary nature.

As the collective evolves, it continues to expand and complete itself, with each new member contributing to and adding to this ever-growing puzzle. Their presence brings fresh perspectives and expertise, ensuring that the collective remains dynamic, innovative, and reflective of a diverse range of artistic expressions. Participation is fluid, with members joining or leaving as needed for each project, keeping the collective innovative, flexible, and committed to inclusive, collaborative art and teamwork.

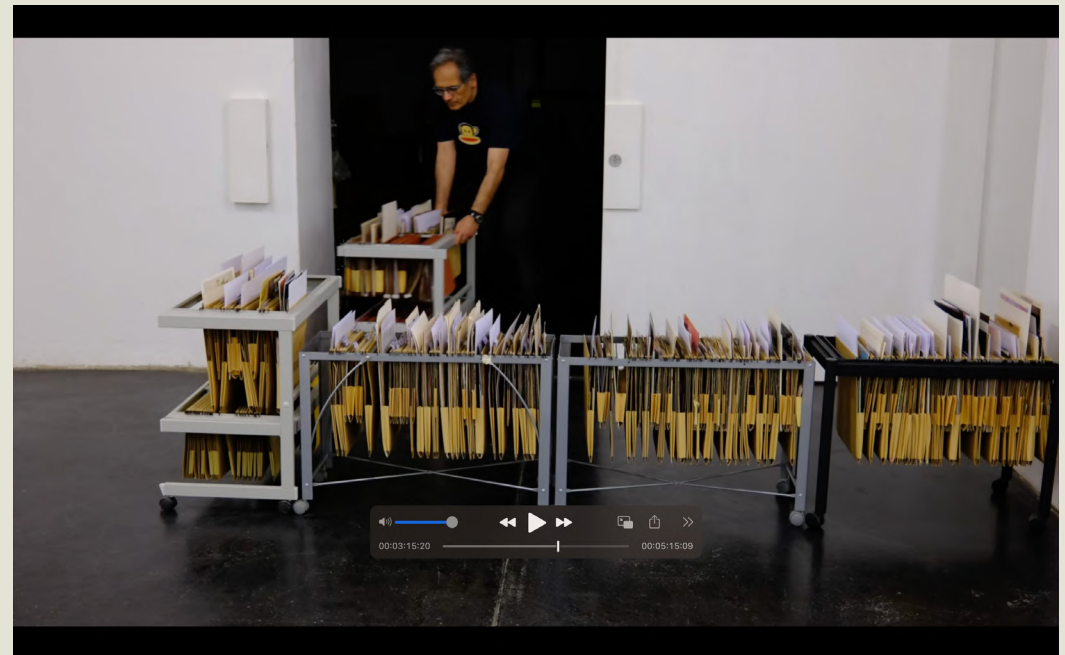


International School- Life at Pauntley Court,  
a School and Home For French and Belgian Refugees,  
Pauntley, Gloucestershire, 1943

As Artistic Director, Farshido—drawing on the extensive archive he has amassed since 2008—defines and guides the collective’s vision and perspective. He ensures that RingelReih’s focus on research projects and archiving remains deeply committed to creative exploration. The collective’s mission is to blur the boundaries between art and archive, **promoting the innovative use of archives** in contemporary art, as well as fostering connections between the visual arts and other fields through interdisciplinary approaches. Their projects are enriched with innovation and imagination, and through rigorous research, they aim to inspire fresh perspectives in contemporary art, ultimately fostering creative development in the works they produce.

The collective comprises members of diverse genders and backgrounds, ensuring their work resonates globally rather than being confined to a specific region. This inclusivity fosters a shared artistic language that transcends borders and enables their works to be universally understood. However, the collective also welcomes individual creative projects that are not necessarily directly related to the archive. Members bring their ideas to the “think tank,” share them, and, through critique and feasibility assessment, the initial idea can evolve into a group project and develop into a unique work. It is crucial that, ultimately, through collective effort, the primary goal of the collective – to create comprehensive, intellectually leading, exciting, impactful, and forward-thinking art – is achieved.

In 2024, the collective won the Ö1 Talent Scholarship Special Prize in Austria and exhibited their installation at the Künstlerhaus (House of Artists) in Vienna, curated by Günther Oberhollenzer.



**Short documentary about collective and the process behind their work**

<https://www.farshido.com/ringelreih-collective>



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## About the founder & artistic director of the collective

Farshido Larimian is a distinguished artist, curator, and educator, holding a Diploma in Fine Arts with Distinction from the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. With a rich background in chemical and petroleum engineering and a profound passion for the fine arts, Larimian has developed a unique artistic voice that merges technical precision with conceptual depth.

Born in 1983 in Babol, Iran, Larimian's transition from chemical and petroleum engineering to fine arts has defined his distinctive career. He completed his Diploma in Fine Arts at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, studying under Prof. Gunter Damisch and Veronika Dirnhofer. His master thesis earned him the Academy's prestigious Appreciation Prize, underscoring his exceptional talent.

Larimian's artistic practice is diverse, encompassing techniques such as collage, painting, assemblage, and installation, with a notable use of found objects. His work has been showcased globally, demonstrating his innovative approach. Notable exhibitions include *Le garde-Meuble* at the Safavi Museum and Aknoon Gallery in Isfahan, Iran (2022), and *Flora Iranica*, a project he curated for the Austrian Cultural Forum Tehran in collaboration with the Museum of Natural History Vienna, which was displayed at the Yassi Foundation in Tehran.

Other significant exhibitions include *Crossing* at V.O Curations in London, *My Very Favourite Things* at The Lodge Gallery in Los Angeles, and *Invictus* at Jossa by Alserkal in Dubai. His work *Alles Hängt in der Luft* was shown at Theater am Spittelberg in Vienna in 2021. Earlier in his career, Larimian participated in key exhibitions such as *Zivilcourage* at Fronfeste Museum in Austria (2017), *Von hier und dort* in Salzburg (2016), and the Charity Auction at Palais Dorotheum in Vienna. He also exhibited internationally at the 3rd International Biennial of Young Art at the Museum of Modern Art in Moscow (2012) and prominent shows in Dubai, including *Devision by Zero* at Carbon12 and *SHOW OFF!* at Salsali Private Museum (2011).

Larimian's works are part of esteemed collections, including the Museum of Contemporary Art in Krakow, the Salsali Private Museum in Dubai, the Fronfeste Museum in Austria, the Liesenfeld/Jordan (Kunstalm) Collection, the Kupferstichkabinett (The Graphic Collection of the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna), and the Offner Gebäude Technik Collection, further cementing his reputation as a leading contemporary artist.





## About the concept developer of the collective

Arya Akhounzadeh, born in Tehran, Iran, is a distinguished industrial designer with a career spanning over three decades. He pursued his education at the Faculty of Fine Arts, Tehran University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in industrial design in 1993 and was admitted to the master's program in 1996. Arya has specialized in various aspects of industrial design, including furniture, vehicle design, and architectural elements, demonstrating an innovative approach to product development and conceptual design.

Throughout his career, Arya has made significant contributions to both Iranian and Austrian projects. He has held key roles, such as the head designer and manager of the furniture design team at Dorsa Home since 2020, where he established a wooden product prototyping workshop and led notable projects like the Soraya desk design. His experience includes designing and engineering classical furniture at Manelli Classical Furniture, managing vehicle interior design at Saipa Automotive Industries Research and Innovation Center, and working on architectural design for local accommodations with Tourism and Nature Travel.

Arya has also engaged in various international exhibitions and concept developments. He participated in Vienna Design Week with the New Pyramid project and served as art director and product manager for Event Monologue at Niavaran Palace, Tehran. Noteworthy projects include his conceptual design for a prototype set of carpet furniture and his involvement in sculpture projects like The Demon Remastered 10-figure sculpture project, exhibited at Gallery Public Artist Wien, Intercity Publish Wien, and the Peace Museum Vienna in 2022. He also participated with his installation in the conference You Can Be a Peace Hero Too at the Peace Museum in Uppsala, Sweden, in August 2023.

He is currently the developer of ideas and concepts and the Executive Project Coordinator in the RingelReih Collective, based in Vienna, reflecting his commitment to innovative and sustainable design.







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