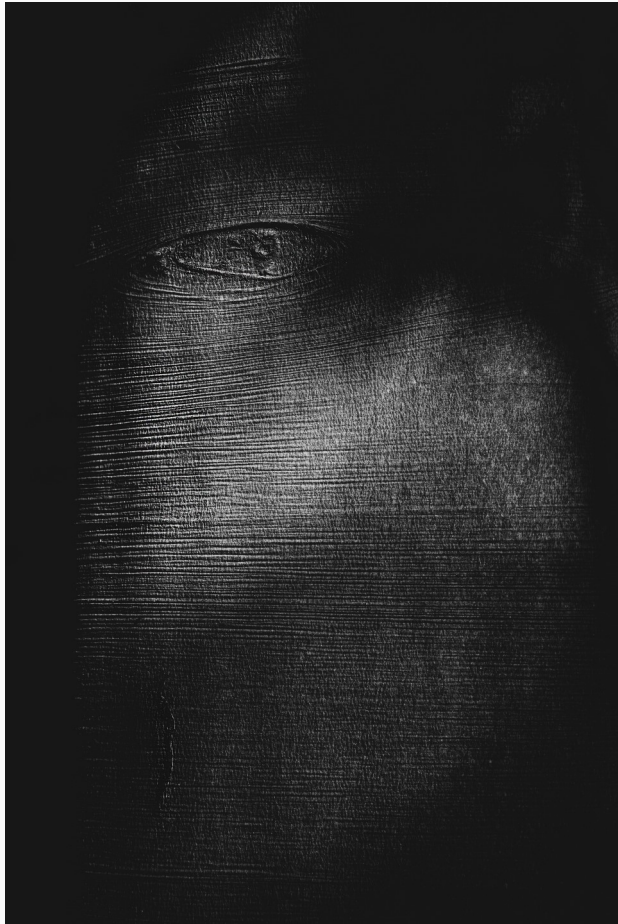




“I’m a Work of Art” invites you to see trees in a new light, to see them as entities with souls. It gives you a first-hand experience of walking among them and discovering the art of nature in the context of forest, their habitat.



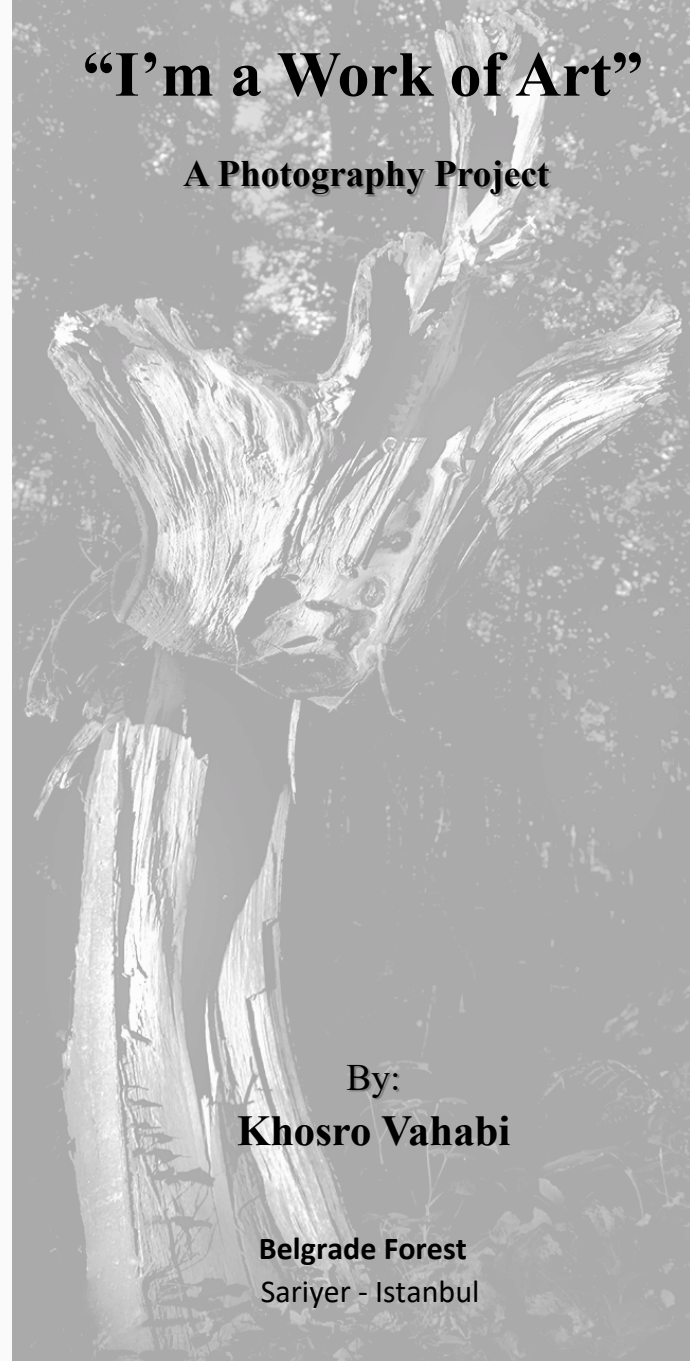
Khosro Vahabi (1982) is an Iranian photographer based in Istanbul. He started photography in 2008. His photography mainly demonstrates the beauty in the ordinary, typically the forgotten and unimportant. The focus of his work since 2017 has been forests, trees in particular, and “I’m a Work of Art” is one of the projects he has been working on since then.

 [www.khosrovahabi.com](http://www.khosrovahabi.com)

 [@khosrovahabi](https://www.instagram.com/khosrovahabi)

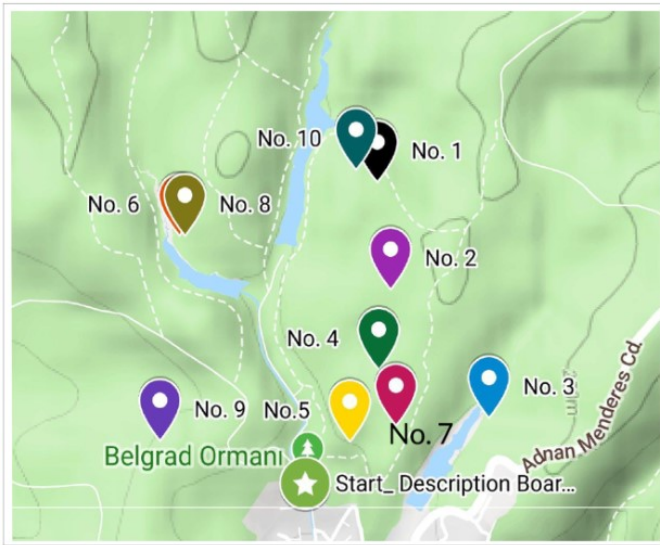
# “I’m a Work of Art”

A Photography Project



By:  
**Khosro Vahabi**

**Belgrade Forest**  
Sariyer - Istanbul



Map Link:

[https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1Qi7u-icG\\_VfDU0sJOGIMQ5hvgOuiPHm&ll=41.18773307208457%2C28.987334485214774&z=15](https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1Qi7u-icG_VfDU0sJOGIMQ5hvgOuiPHm&ll=41.18773307208457%2C28.987334485214774&z=15)

### Guidelines:

1. You need to download a QR code reader app on your mobile phone.
2. There are 10 pieces/locations and you can visit them in any order.
3. You do not have to visit them all at once.

### “I’m a Work of Art”

Trees have souls. They seed, they grow, they live, they are cut, and they die. And with each phase they tell their story. This is the essential idea underlying *I’m a Work of Art*—ten environmental portraits of decaying and cut trees photographed in Belgrade Forest in Istanbul, Turkey. The work introduces trees as characters with emotions, with histories etched into their bark. And of all these characters, towering or shrub-like, it was in stumps that I found the most expressive form of these emotions – as if the decayed or cut tree spoke immediately of the vulnerability of living. Indeed, it was the stumps which granted me access into the emotional life-world of the trees.

In *I’m a Work of Art*, that emotional life-world has been traced back through the rings in the trunks and the wrinkles and forms on the bark, which carved my course back through the millennia of the trees’ existence, and through which I could clearly chart the course of humankind’s selfishness. In these stumps, I saw testaments to the generation which because of human ignorance and greed no longer breathes, yet they stand still as guardians of the forest signaling for help – an awakening call which needs to be heard by every single human on earth.

My inspiration for this project started with my adoration for the forms and textures in nature, and those in trees in particular. Edward Weston’s Peppers and Karl Blossfeldt’s Flowers, made me more attuned to the expressiveness of natural forms and the possibility of framing them in a thoroughly new light.

I chose Belgrade Forest among others as it is by far the most significant forest in Istanbul both from an environmental and historical perspective. It is considered as the lung of Istanbul and a live tribute to the thousands of Serbs who lost their homes to war.

This project invites people of all backgrounds to see nature in general and forests and trees in particular beyond their obvious function. Instead of visiting them in a gallery space under spot lights and inevitably acknowledging them as art works, “*I’m a Work of Art*” gives the audience the chance to see them as works of art and recognize them so in the natural context of the forest. It initiates a dialogue with the audience.

Feel free to find YOUR No. 11 and share it on Instagram by the hashtag #i'm\_a\_work\_of\_art