

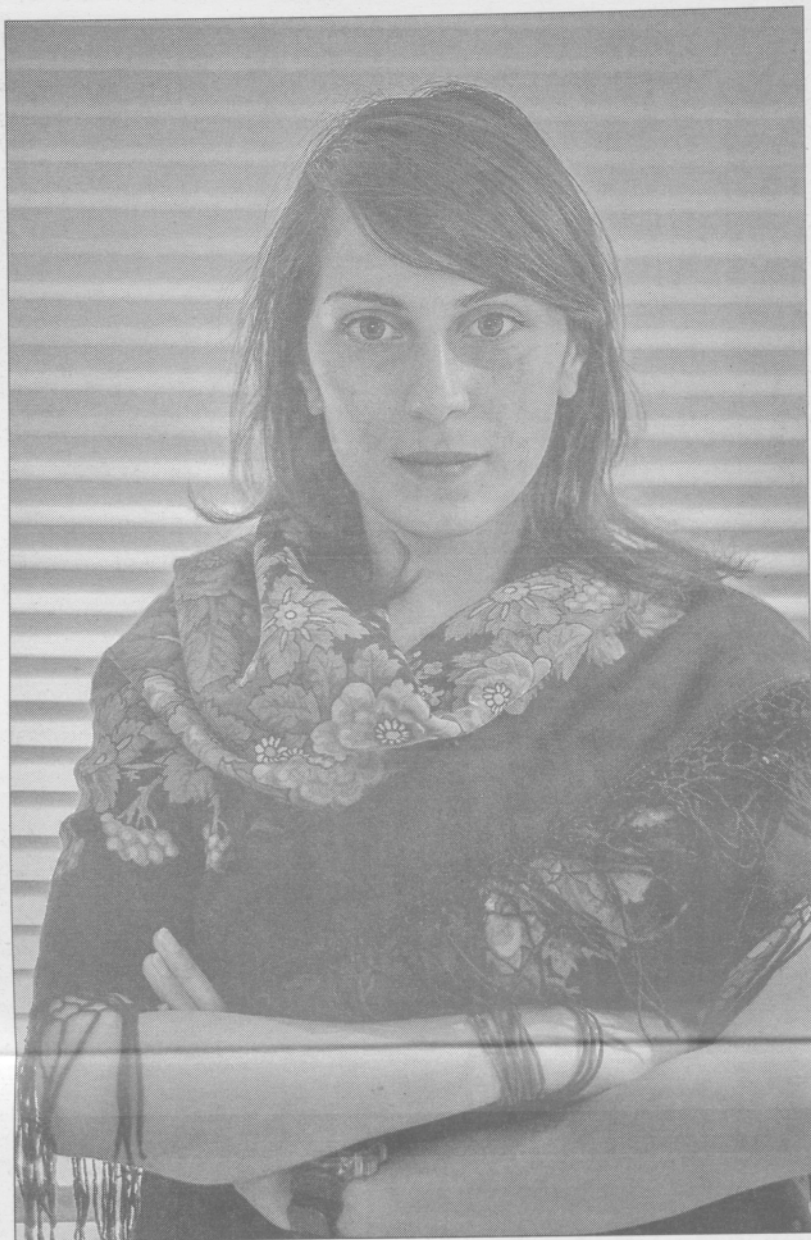


PHOTO BY JOE GLODE

Delaram Moradpour, who moved to Portland in 2012, grew up in Iran. As youths, she and her friends spent time in a graffiti-covered park, one of the only places in Tehran with skateboarding terrain. They were often arrested for minor or imagined infractions.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DELARAM MORADPOUR

At age 20, Moradpour gets a tattoo of a half-ring on her finger from an amateur tattoo artist in an attic in Tehran, Iran.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DELARAM MORADPOUR

At age 21, Moradpour poses for a picture in her neighborhood, Sharake Gharb. She's wearing a black Analog hat, which would often take the place of her hijab and sometimes lead to her arrest. In Iran, women are required to wear a hijab in public.

Rebel heart

Don't tell Dela Moradpour she was 'oppressed'

BY EMILY GREEN
STAFF WRITER

With her labret, tongue and eyebrow piercings and jet-black, turquoise-streaked hair, Delaram Moradpour, known as "Dela," might have blended seamlessly into Portland's 1980s punk scene or Seattle's ensuing grunge era.

But she wasn't an American teenager. Moradpour was stomping around the capital of religiously conservative Iran in her U.S. Army boots and modesty-law-breaking ensembles. Sometimes a black Analog trucker hat would take the place of her hijab, the headscarf Iranian law dictates women wear when in public.

Moradpour's brazenly bold and quirky personality is hardly contained in her petite physique. With enormous artichoke-green

Planet
Portland



A periodic series on the personal journeys within Portland's immigrant communities.

eyes and animated, sarcastic manner, she makes a notable impression.

As she came of age during the mid-2000s in Tehran, Moradpour and her posse of street friends were paving the way for a new, nonconforming breed of Iranian

teenager.

Her clique is credited in various publications as being the first wave of a cultural shift among Iranian youths, setting trends that became more prevalent as high-speed Internet infiltrated urban areas in the years that followed.

Some came from affluent families, some were poor, and others, such as Moradpour, came from comfortable middle-class homes. What they had in common was boredom with the status quo and a shared affinity for art, music from the West and a style that affronted traditional Iranian culture.

They often hung out in a green space in northwest Tehran known as Frog Park because of its thriving amphibian

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