

## ***Never Done Object Tour***

Co-curator Minita Sanghvi reflects on artist Sara Rahbar's *Flag #5 Kurdistan*, 2007.

### **Transcript**

**Minita Sanghvi:** *Flag #5 Kurdistan* was created in 2007. The artist, Sara Rahbar, was born in Teheran, Iran, and left following the political upheaval in the late 70s. As an immigrant in the United States, her work is often about geographic locations, survival, and belonging.

What draws me to this piece is that it looks like a flag of the United States with the stars, but instead of the red and white stripes, we see strips of different textiles and vintage objects that have a Middle Eastern look and feel.

This piece is titled "Kurdistan," which is both a place and not a place—it is part of modern day Turkey, Syria, Iran, and Iraq. A place that is and isn't. As an immigrant, I understand the feeling of being at home and yet not being home. I wonder if the artist thought about that, belonging and yet not seen as belonging. As a woman of color, an immigrant from a Muslim nation, how does one show belonging that is considered acceptable to society?

I also find it interesting the usage of the flag, a symbol of the United States, juxtaposed with Middle Eastern adornments and embroidery. I wonder if Ms. Rahbar is trying to showcase how US foreign policy impacts and intersects with the lives of people around the world, and more specifically in the Middle East. Of how the ravages of war impact the lives of women and children. I think it's also a reminder that the fight for women's equality is not only a US project but a global one. One that we are far from being done.