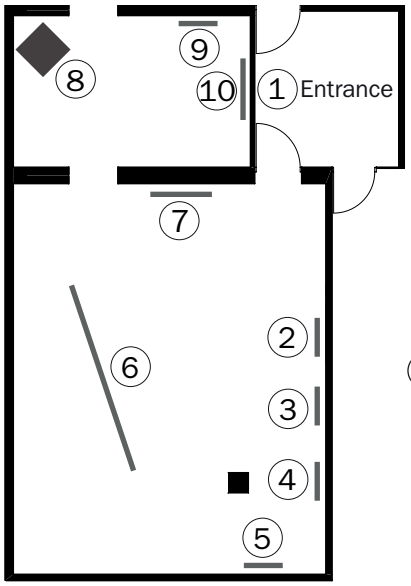

1 These oil magazines have been published by different oil institutes in Iran after the nationalization of the oil industry in 1951. Since 2017, the artist has been collecting, cataloguing, and organizing a growing collection of oil publications that form an inventory of the visual cultures of resource extraction in Iran.

From left to right:
A special promotional magazine titled *Oil Industry in Iran* aiming to present the Iranian oil industry during the 6th World Petroleum Congress. Published by the Iranian Petroleum Institute in English, 1963.

An annual review publication titled *Iranian Oil Industry*. Published in English and Farsi by the National Iranian Oil Company, 1964.

A special edition titled *Petroleum Industry in Iran*. Published by the Iranian Petroleum Institute In English, 1975.

2 Taken in a cinema projection room that belonged to the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, this photograph was part of a larger photo album that contained hundreds of photographs depicting various social amenities offered in the Iranian oil towns. Cinemas became one of the prominent features of the media infrastructure of British Petroleum during its oil operations in West Asia and continued to remain as one of the most prominent modes of public engagement and media productions after the nationalization of the oil industry in Iran. Location unknown, estimate date: 1948-49.

British Petroleum Archives, ARC180498_941

3 This photograph is part of an album titled *Photographs on Geophysical Exploration and Seismic Survey Operations in Southwest Persia*. The album depicted different geophysical instruments and survey camp sites across Southwestern Iran. This photographic recorder is one of the earliest examples of the devices used in reflection seismography. The photo album was a private gift to the BP Archives and the photographers are not known. Estimate date: 1920–30.

British Petroleum Archives, ARC33604_009

4 The full set-up for reflection seismography, as depicted inside a survey tent. This photograph also belongs to the photo album “Photographs on Geophysical Exploration and Seismic Survey Operations in Southwest Persia.” Estimate date: 1920–30.

British Petroleum Archives, ARC33604_007

(5) A photographic sheet that annotates the recording instrument used in reflection seismography. This sheet was inside an envelope and part of a folder titled “The Applications of Seismic Methods For Oil Prospecting in South Iran.” Published in 1937.

British Petroleum Archives, ARC45232

(6) *Scenes of Extraction* | صحنه های استخراج, 2023, essay film, 43 min, 5-channel surround sound, Canada/Iran

(7) Image reproduced from the special issue oil magazine titled *Story of Oil*, published by the National Iranian Oil Company in 1963. The image depicts a geological survey party collecting surface information near Shiraz province.

(8) This looped video downloaded from YouTube shows the digital footage of a contemporary “bore camera” descending inside an oil well to capture earth surface structures and rock fissures for instructional purposes. Date unknown.

(9) This archival sheet contains four photographs of a camera prototype made for the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company. Initially named a “borehole camera,” this oil well camera was commissioned by the company to a Dutch geologist named Dr. Reinhold. Reinhold had previously invented a preliminary camera to go inside wells in the mid 1920s. This camera device was designed to carry a 35 mm film inside an oil well, had an electric system for flash, and a water system to clean the lens so an image could be captured from the inside of the earth.

Due to technical difficulties the camera was not used in commercial levels but it serves as one of the early examples of oil well cameras ever invented, serving as a prelude to current models used in extractive industries. Date: September, 1935.

British Petroleum Archives, ARC42351

(10) This 35 mm negative sheet shows the sample photographs taken from the earth’s surface by the oil well camera prototype. This sheet was sent to the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company in 1935 by Dr. Reinhold. The negative sheet was shown to the oil company officials as it is on view here; this image is only a replication of the original archive.

The artist found this negative sheet along with other test photographs inside an envelope by chance at the BP Archives. The folder that contained the envelope was titled “Borehole Camera.” Date: September, 1935.

British Petroleum Archives, ARC42351