

## Somaye Farhan

<https://somayefarhan.com/> | Montreal, QC

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### Summary

My artistic and academic trajectory reflects my interest in exploring themes of identity, intersectionality, feminism, and migration, with a focus on the experiences of Iranian women. After completing my bachelor's degree in French Language in Tehran, I traveled across Asia by bicycle, which exposed me to the complex dynamics of identity and politics. This journey sparked my interest in how Iranian women are represented abroad and the challenges they face both at home and internationally. Upon immigrating to Canada, I pursued visual arts and graduated with great distinction in Studio Arts from Concordia University. My work encompasses performance art, time-based media, and multimedia installations, investigating intersectionality, transnational feminism, migration, memory, and identity. I am interested in the social connections that dissolve the sense of otherness and challenge distorted perceptions of race, gender, and societal labels. Collaboration and research are key components of my multidisciplinary approach. I often incorporate personal narratives and archival research into my work, and I involve marginalized communities directly in my creative projects to create spaces where underrepresented stories can be seen and heard. Currently, I am developing *Silk Road Chronicles*, an auto-fiction graphic novel that reflects on my journey across Asia. This project intertwines personal narratives with broader themes of identity, gender, and borders, all through an intersectional feminist lens.

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### Arts and Cultural Training and Learning

- **BFA with Great Distinction, Studio Arts** – Concordia University, Montreal | 2019-2024
  - **Collegial Studies, Visual Arts** – Cégep Marie-Victorin, Montreal | 2017-2019
  - **Collegial Studies, Graphic Design** – Cégep Marie-Victorin, Montreal | 2016-2017
  - **BA, French Language** – Alzahra University, Tehran, Iran | 2004-2008
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### Selected Artistic and Cultural Work Presented to the Public

#### ***This is not a Scarf*, Documentary Film**

Diaspora Film Festival, New York, USA (award winner)

June 2024

#### ***Dancing the Resistance*, Video Art Installation**

Maison de la Culture du Plateau-Mont-Royal, Montreal, QC

March 2024

#### ***This is Not a Scarf*, Multi-media Installation**

FOFA Gallery, Montreal, QC

January 2024

***This is Not a Scarf, Multi-media Installation***

La Centrale Galerie Powerhouse, Montreal, QC

July 2023

***Ancestral Memories, Performance***

Festival des Arts Enrelacés, Montreal, QC

August 2023

***Encounters, Sculptural Installation***

Art Matters Festival, Montreal, QC

January 2020

***Big Mind, Sculptural Installation***

VAV Gallery, Montreal, QC

December 2019

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**Awards and Community Recognition**

- **Elsbeth McConnell Fine Arts Internship Award, 2024** (funded by The Doggone Foundation).
- **Jury Award for Documentary Film, 2024** (funded by Diaspora Film Festival, New York).
- **FASA Special Project Grant, 2023** (funded by Concordia University).
- **First Place at the 24th Intercollegial Snow Sculpture Competition, 2019** (funded by Cégep de Rivière-du-Loup, Québec).
- **Honorarium for Conference Presentation, 2019** (funded by Cégep Marie-Victorin).

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**Artists and Community Collaboration Activities**

**Co-organizer and Co-creator, Public Art Intervention**

*This is not a Scarf, Community Arts Project*

Montreal, QC

October 2022

This collaborative initiative engaged the community in meaningful dialogue about personal and collective memories alongside narratives surrounding the politicization of women's bodies.

**Co-organizer and Co-creator, Collaborative Exhibition**

*From Real to Surreal—A Meditative Journey*

Siddhartha Art Gallery, Kathmandu, Nepal

January 2014

This project invited art students from Kathmandu University to merge their artistic perspectives with my imagery from Nepal, enriching the local artistic milieu while encouraging cross-cultural dialogue.

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**Arts and Cultural Work Experience**

**Professional Workshop Assistant**

Studio 303, Montreal, QC  
September 2024 – June 2025

### **Intern**

Mouvement Perpétuel, Montreal, QC  
January 2024 – April 2024

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### **Artist Talks, Presentations, and Articles**

#### **Artist Talk**

“Erosion of Iranian Women's Expression,” Jarislowsky Institute, Concordia University  
April 9, 2024

#### **Presentation**

“Au-delà des frontières” Conference, Cégep Marie-Victorin  
November 2019

Inspired by my 2.5-year bicycle journey along the Silk Road, the lecture included insights into overcoming barriers personally and within broader socio-political contexts.

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### **Volunteer Experience**

#### **Silk Road Journey Project**

Developed workshops for underprivileged children, facilitated art exhibitions, and raised funds to support their creative pursuits.  
April 2012 – September 2014

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### **Media Coverage**

- **2023**
    - Demers-Lemay, "La Centrale et Remue-ménage : Deux Institutions pionnières", Gazette des femmes, July 20. [Link](#)
    - "This is not a scarf", La Centrale, July 14. [Link](#)
    - Trudel, N., "Interview with Somaye Farhan", Ylara Magazine, May 23. [Link](#)
  - **2019**
    - "Cégep Marie-Victorin Wins 24th Intercollegiate Snow Sculpture Competition", Cégep de Rivière-du-Loup News, February 23. [Link](#)
  - **2014**
    - Chettri, R., "Breaking the Fourth Wall", The Kathmandu Post, January 16. [Link](#)
    - "Through Nepali Eyes", ECS NEPAL Magazine, February.
    - "Impressions of a Journey", The Kathmandu Post, January 7. [Link](#)
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### **Memberships and Affiliations**

#### **Groupe Intervention Vidéo (GIV)**

2023 – Present

#### **La Centrale Galerie Powerhouse**

2023 – 2024