

Somaye Farhan

<https://somayefarhan.com> | somayefarhan@email.com |

Summary

My artistic and academic trajectory reflects my interest in exploring themes of identity, intersectionality, feminism, and migration. In 2012, I embarked on a bicycle journey across Asia. This cross-cultural experience introduced me to the complexities of identity and the politics surrounding it. This eye-opening experience was a precursor to my awakening to the ways Iranian women are represented abroad and the many challenges we face, both at home and internationally. After moving to Canada, I pursued visual arts at Concordia University, where I began exploring themes of intersectionality, transnational feminism, migration, memory, and identity through performance, installations and other time-based media. I'm interested in the social connections that dissolve the sense of otherness, challenging distorted perceptions of race, gender, and societal labels. Collaboration and research are key parts of my multidisciplinary approach. My work aims to give voice to those whose stories are often overlooked or silenced in mainstream narratives.

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
-

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

***Parastoo*, Multi-media Installation**

Black Box, Concordia University, Montreal, QC

April 2024

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

Maison de la Culture du Plateau-Mont-Royal, Montreal, QC (paid artist fee)

March 2024

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

FOFA Gallery, Montreal, QC (paid artist fee)

January 2024

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

La Centrale Galerie Powerhouse, Montreal, QC (paid artist fee)

July 2023

Ancestral Memories, Performance

Festival des Arts Enrelacés, Montreal, QC

August 2023

Encounters, Sculptural Installation

Art Matters Festival, Montreal, QC (paid artist fee)

January 2020

Big Mind, Sculptural Installation

VAV Gallery, Montreal, QC (paid artist fee)

December 2019

Awards and Community Recognition

- **démART-Mtl Grant**, 2024 (funded by Conseil des arts de Montréal)
- **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 Award – 24th Intercollegial Snow Sculpture Competition**, 2019 (funded by Cégep de Rivière-du-Loup, Québec).
- **Honorarium for Conference Presentation**, 2019 (funded by Cégep Marie-Victorin, Montreal).

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 a 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.

Arts and Cultural Work Experience

Professional Workshop Assistant

Studio 303, Montreal, QC

September 2024 – Present

Intern

Mouvement Perpétuel, Montreal, QC

January 2024 – April 2024

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 within socio-political contexts.

Collection

From Real to Surreal—A Meditative Journey

Siddhartha Art Gallery, Kathmandu, Nepal. January 2014

Artwork acquired by a private collection.

Video Distribution

Groupe Intervention Video (<http://www.givideo.org>), Montreal, since August 2023

Interviews, Features, conferences and Press

- 2024: “Parastoo”, *For This to End exhibition catalog*, Montreal, April 2024, p. 14-15
 - 2023: Demers-Lemay, "La Centrale et Remue-ménage : Deux Institutions pionnières", *Gazette des femmes*, Montreal, July 20, 2023,
<https://gazettedesfemmes.ca/23311/la-centrale-et-remue-menage-deux-institutions-pionnieres/>
 - 2023: "This is not a scarf", *La Centrale Galerie Powerhouse*, Montreal, July 14, 2023,
<https://www.lacentrale.org/programmation/this-is-not-a-scarf/>
 - 2023: Trudel, N., "Interview with Somaye Farhan", *Yiara Magazine*, Montreal, May 23, 2023,
<https://yiamagazine.com/Interview-with-Somaye-Farhan-by-Nadia-Trudel>
 - 2014: Chettri, R., "Breaking the fourth wall", *The Kathmandu Post*, Kathmandu, January 16, 2014,
<https://kathmandupost.com/art-entertainment/2014/01/16/breaking-the-fourth-wall>
 - 2014: "Through Nepali eyes", *ECS NEPAL Magazine*, Kathmandu, February 2014, p. 37
 - 2014: “Impressions of a Journey”, *Kathmandu Post*, Kathmandu, January 7, 2014
<https://kathmandupost.com/art-entertainment/2014/01/07/impressions-of-a-journey>
-

Community-based project

During my 2.5-year bicycle journey across Asia, I engaged with local communities, shared artistic practices, developed workshops for underprivileged children, facilitated art exhibitions, and raised funds to support their creative pursuits.

April 2012 – September 2014