

# SOBIA AHMAD

www.sobiaahmad.com

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## EDUCATION

University of Maryland College Park, MD

2016 B.A. Studio Art Honors (Magna Cum Laude)

2015 B.S. Behavioral and Community Health (Magna Cum Laude)

## RESIDENCIES & FELLOWSHIPS

2021 Mudge Visiting Artist and Teaching Fellowship, Groton School, MA

2020 Halcyon Arts Lab Fellowship, Washington DC

2019 Next Generation/Sanctuary Fellowship, VisArts, MD

2018 Vermont Studio Center, VT

Arquetopia Residency, Puebla Mexico

Sanctuaries DC Art for Social Impact Fellowship, Washington DC

## AWARDS & GRANTS

2021 Trawick Prize Finalist, Bethesda, MD

2020 Wherewithal Research Grant, Andy Warhol Foundation & Washington Project for the Arts, Washington DC

F.E.A.S.T. Grant, VisArts, Rockville, MD

Catharsis Community Engagement Project Grant, Washington DC

Janet and Walter Sondheim Artscape Prize Semifinalist, Baltimore MD

2019 Allies for Justice through Art Award, Asian Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project, Washington DC

2018 Visual Arts Fellowship Award, Vermont Studio Center, VT

2017 Juror's Award, *Shout*, ARC Gallery, Chicago, IL (Juror: Patricia Nguyen)

2016 Creative and Performing Arts Scholarship, Univ. of Maryland Department of Art

Sadat Art for Peace Purchase Award (2D, second place)

Third Place, Colonel Wharton Award, Graduating Senior Show, Univ. of Maryland Department of Art

2015 Sadat Art for Peace Purchase Award (3D, first place)

## SOLO & TWO-PERSON EXHIBITIONS

2021 *Marking Here(s)*, Brodigan Gallery, Groton School, Groton, MA (Solo exhibition, upcoming)

*Portals*, Herman Maril Gallery, University of Maryland College Park, MD (Solo exhibition, upcoming)

2020 *Conversations: Over Circles*, Cultivate Projects, Kensington, MD (Two-person exhibition)

2019 *wherever you are is called Here*, VisArts, Rockville, MD (Solo exhibition)

*Imbrications*, Gallery 102, Corcoran School of the Arts and Design, Washington DC (Solo exhibition)

*I know where I've been*, Catalyst Contemporary Gallery, Baltimore, MD (Two-person exhibition)

*Conversations* Lunga School Arts Festival, Seydisfjordur, Iceland (Two-person exhibition)

2018 *Small Identities*, Common Ground Gallery, Rockville, MD (Solo exhibition)

*Mirrored Re-Collection*, Stamp Gallery at the University of Maryland College Park (Two-person exhibition)

## MUSEUM GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2021 *Call and Response: Craft as a Tool for Activism*, Museum of Craft and Design, San Francisco, CA

2020 *Women Filmmakers Festival*, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington DC

*BMA Salon*, Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD

*American Muslim Futures*, Shangri La Museum of Islamic Art, Culture and Design, Honolulu, HI

2019 *how the light gets in*, Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Ithaca, NY

2018 *A (good) American*, Heurich House Museum, Washington DC

2017 *Focus Iran 2: Contemporary Photography and Video*, Craft and Folk Art Museum, Los Angeles, CA

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 *Empathy Zone*, Contemporary Art Mover, Beijing, China (Sister Cities Cultural Exchange between Beijing & DC)  
*Am I Altering Your Aura?* Washington Project for the Arts, Collectors' Night, Washington, D.C.
- 2020 *NextNOW Festival* Alumni Commission, Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, College Park, MD  
*Authentic Realities*, Catalyst Contemporary, Baltimore, MD  
*Epilogue*, Halcyon Arts Lab, Washington DC  
*Monochrome Collective Art Fair*, By The People Festival, Washington DC  
*High Frequency*, Washington Project for the Arts, Washington DC  
*The Garden of Forking Paths*, Current Space, Baltimore, MD  
*Something Edgeless Something Spectral*, Waller Gallery, Baltimore, MD
- 2019 *Foreword*, Halcyon Arts Lab, Washington DC  
*Transformer 16th Annual Auction*, Corcoran School of Art and Design, Washington DC  
*on tender ground*, Current Space, Baltimore, MD  
*Times of Perception*, Stevenson University, Pikesville, MD  
*School 33 40th Anniversary Invitation Exhibition*, School 33 Arts Center, Baltimore, MD  
*Alchemical Vessels 2019*, Joan Hisaoka Healing Arts Gallery, Washington DC  
*VidArt Auction*, The Art Museum of the Americas, Washington DC
- 2018 *Loud Silence: Expressions of Activism*, Sordoni Art Gallery, Wilkes University, Wilkes Barre, PA  
*Border (Untitled)*, Cody Gallery, Marymount University, Arlington, VA  
*Human Nature*, Gallery 110, Seattle, WA (Juror: Sara Krajewski)  
*Elixir: Artists Respond to Making and Healing*, Joan Hisaoka Healing Arts Gallery, Washington DC  
*Vox Lacunae*, Stamp Gallery, University of Maryland College Park, MD  
*Transformer 15th Annual Auction*, Corcoran School of Art and Design, Washington DC
- 2017 *Shout*, ARC Gallery, Chicago, IL (Juror: Patricia Nguyen)  
*Create/Change*, Hillyer Art Space, Washington DC (Juror: Mary Early)  
*Out/Side & In/Between*, School 33, Baltimore, MD (Juror: Jarvis DuBois)  
*Islamic Art Revival Series: 6th Annual Juried Contemporary Islamic Art Exhibition*, Irving Art Center, TX  
*Photography as Response*, Center for Fine Art Photography, Fort Collins, CO (Juror: Christy Havranek)  
*Wet Paint*, Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton, VA (Juror: Harry Cooper)  
*Royal Trash*, Queen Mary University, London, UK  
*Home*, Lubzenik Center for the Arts, Michigan City, IN (Jurors: Emanuel Aguilar & Julia Fischbach)
- 2016 *Typecast*, Hillyer Art Space, DC (Juror: Jarvis DuBois)  
*Gen-Y 3.0*, VisArts, Rockville, MD  
*I Never See You*, Brentwood Arts Center, Brentwood, MD

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Yuzhuo Mark Zhang, "Empathy Zone: Duan Shaofeng & Sobia Ahmad," *Contemporary Art Mover*, Beijing China, December 12, 2020
- Caroline Kipp, "Social Distancing Studio Visit with Sobia Ahmad," Curator of Contemporary Art, The Textile Museum, Washington, DC, August 25, 2020
- Mark Jenkins, "In the Galleries: 'Focus Group takes a playful approach to life and death,'" *The Washington Post*, December 27, 2019
- Lister Lim, Interview, "Muslim immigrants' ID cards used to build a 'wall of defiance,'" *Al Jazeera English*, March 13, 2018
- Amanda Duberman, "The Powerful Political Statement Behind This Artist's Wall of Passport Photos" *Huffington Post*, March 28, 2018
- Aysha Khan, "This artist is collecting Muslim immigrants' ID cards to build a different kind of wall," *NBC Asian America*, February 13, 2018
- Rebekah Kirkman, "No Borders: Artists in 'Out/Side & In/Between' at School 33 navigate sense of place, culture, self-image, and immigration," *The Baltimore Sun*, October 3, 2017
- Mark Jenkins, "In the galleries: The art of politics has exploded in Washington," *The Washington Post*, August 18, 2017
- Nicole Mueller, "At Rockville's VisArts, Two Exhibitions of Young Artists Showcase Talent and Potential," *Washington City Paper*, July 28, 2016

## LECTURES, TALKS & CONFERENCES

- 2021 More-than-Human Media Architecture Biennale, Queensland University, Brisbane, Australia
- 2020 Women Filmmakers Festival Artist Panel, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington DC  
Visual Arts Alumni Commission Lecture, NextNOW Fest, University of Maryland College Park, MD  
Guest Artist Lecture, Virginia Commonwealth University, VCU Fibers Department, Richmond, VA  
Guest Artist Lecture, Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD  
Guest Artist Lecture, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT  
Guest Artist Lecture, Loyola University Baltimore, MD  
Guest Artist Lecture, Parson's School of Design, New York City
- 2019 The Art of Exposure: Double Exposure Film Festival, Washington DC  
Workshop facilitation & Artist Talk, Arts Scholars Program at the University of Maryland College Park, MD  
Guest Artist Lecture, Integrative Design Studio class, Lecture at Parson's School of Design, New York City  
Artist Panel: The Only Divisions that Matter Now, Loyola University Baltimore, MD  
Healing through Art Panel: Alchemical Vessels 2019, Joan Hisaoka Healing Arts Gallery, Washington DC  
Art Theory course guest lecture, University of Maryland College Park, MD
- 2018 Artist Talk, Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, VT  
Artist Lecture in conjunction with exhibition *Mirrored Re-Collection*, University of Maryland College Park, MD  
Guest Artist Talk, George Washington University, Washington DC  
Responding to the Muslim Ban: Art and Activism Panel, Open Government Hub, Washington DC

## TEACHING & WORK EXPERIENCE

- Alumni Art Commission Award and Teaching Invitation* Sep 2020 – Dec 2020  
Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at the University of Maryland, College Park  
Developed and executed a community-engaged art project and workshop series for Honors Art Seminar students  
Collaborated with the Writers Department to hold poetry and weaving workshops for poetry students  
University-wide artist talk and solo exhibition
- Lead Artist* May 2018 – June 2019  
Shout Mouse Press, Youth Book Project, Washington DC  
Mentored a group of middle- and high-school youth in development of art to accompany a book written by youth  
Directed the artistic development of the book art while introducing the youth to various forms of art  
Designed the curriculum and coordinating with lead writers, program director, and facilitators to organize meetings
- Teaching Artist* Jan 2018 – Dec 2019  
The Sanctuaries, Washington DC  
Led art and social justice workshops for multi-faith and multicultural audiences  
Collaborated with various community partners and organizations to develop an Art and Wellness workshop series for immigrant and refugee communities in the Washington DC metro area
- Behavioral Health Program Coordinator* Jan 2017 – April 2018  
Montgomery County Dept. of Health and Human Services, Asian American Health Initiative  
Developed community outreach initiatives around behavioral and mental health  
Created culturally and linguistically competent mental health materials to educate the Asian American community  
Educated community members and Health Promoters on behavioral and mental health resources
- Photography Assistant in Oaxaca, Mexico* Dec 2016 – Jan 2017  
University of Maryland, College Park Study Abroad Photography Program  
Assisted in administrative tasks, organized meetings, and provided other technical support related to operating an arts program  
Led photography field trips and coordinated artist talks by local Mexican photographers  
Assisted the professor during class in mentoring students about composition, subject matter, lighting, etc.
- Teaching Assistant* Jan 2015 – May 2015  
University of Maryland, College Park Photography and Painting Programs  
Facilitated discussions to promote dialogue among students about contemporary photography and painting  
Led photography and painting classes in the absence of the professors  
Assisted the professors during classes in mentoring students about composition, subject matter, lighting, etc.