

**Aitak Sorahitalab**  
**Visual Artist | Art Educator**  
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**EDUCATION**

- 2020 PhD candidate, Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University, Toronto
- 2007 Master's Degree in Design and Production, University of Art, Tehran, Iran
- 2000 Bachelor Degree in Applied Arts, Shiraz University, Iran

**SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

- |      |                   |                 |                                   |
|------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2019 | (IM)POSSIBILITIES | Nuit Blanche    | Aga Khan Museum, Toronto          |
| 2015 | CONTRAST          | Solo Exhibition | Burr House Gallery, Richmond Hill |

**GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

- |      |                              |  |   |
|------|------------------------------|--|---|
| 2020 | Save me!<br>(Postponed)      | Group Exhibition<br>By Art Starts                                      | Todmorden Mills Heritage Site           |
| 2019 | WAYPOINTS                    | Group Exhibition<br>by FUSION Clay and Glass                           | Craft Ontario Gallery, Toronto          |
| 2019 | HOME AWAY                    | Group Exhibition<br>by Turtle House Art Play<br>on Refugee Rights' Day | Gardiner Museum, Toronto                |
| 2018 | MEADOWVALE                   | Group Exhibition<br>Iraqi-Canadian Festival                            | Meadowvale Theatre, Mississauga         |
| 2018 | I LIVE HERE                  | Annual Juried Show   | Arts Etobicoke, Etobicoke               |
| 2018 | YYZLAB OPEN HOUSE            | Group exhibition   | YYZ Artists Outlet, Toronto             |
| 2018 | ERAN JURIED SHOW             | Iranian group artists  | Arta Gallery, Toronto                   |
| 2018 | QUEEN GALLERY JURIED<br>SHOW | Group Exhibition   | Queen Gallery, Toronto                  |
| 2017 | NOWRUZGAN                    | Group Exhibition   | Toronto Centre for the Arts, Toronto    |
| 2016 | TORONTO OUTDOOR              | Art fair   | Nathan Philips Square, Toronto          |
| 2012 | IRAN FOR JAPAN               | Group Exhibition for Japan<br>Tsunami                                  | Iranian Artists Forum, Tehran, Iran     |
| 2011 | HIDDEN "I"                   | Group Exhibition   | Arasbaran Cultural Centre, Tehran, Iran |
| 2010 | ART INSTRUCTORS<br>BIENNALE  | Group Exhibition   | Kanoon Institute, Tehran, Iran          |

## Aitak Sorahitalab Curriculum Vitae

2009	ANNUAL EXHIBITION	Group Exhibition	University of Art, Tehran, Iran
2007	SIMURGH THE MYTHICAL BIRD	Group Exhibition	Behzad Gallery, Tehran, Iran
2006	ART INSTRUCTORS BIENNALE	Group Exhibition	Kanoon Institute, Tehran, Iran

### **PUBLIC ART PROJECTS:**

2020	Artscape Atelier Mural, Lakeview Village Mississauga
2019	Women Paint, Keele/Finch Toronto Bell Box Mural, University Ave, Toronto
2018	Bell Box Mural, Doris Ave, North York
2017	StArt Toronto, Out of the Box Mural, Willowdale Women Paint, Parkdale St, Toronto
2012	Commissioned ceramic bas-relief, Islamshahr, Iran
2011	Commissioned ceramic bas-relief, Varamin, Iran
2010	Commissioned ceramic bas-relief, Bandar Abbas, Iran
2005-8	Commissioned ceramic bas-relief, Tehran, Iran
2003-11	Design and implementing educational and interactive exhibitions for Tehran Disaster Mitigation Management Organization, Tehran, Iran
1997-2000	Organizing annual Provincial Craft fair for The International Craft Day, Shiraz University, Iran

### **SELECTED AWARDS and GRANTS**

2019	Artvest Mentorship Training Program, Business/Art Organization (for Airsa non-profit) OAC Skills and Career Development Grant for artists of color TAC Leaders Lab Banff Centre Cultural Human Resources, Talent 2 Lead Mentorship Program
2018	RBC Access Award for artists Service Art Project, OAC (for Airsa non-profit) Multicultural Grant, Ministry of Immigration (for Airsa non-profit) Compass Grant, OAC (for Airsa non-profit)
2017	Newcomers/Refugees Mentorship Grant, TAC Exhibition Assistance Grant, OAC

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- Service Art Project, OAC (for Airsa non-profit)  
Cultural Hot Spot East End Arts (for Airsa non-profit)  
Platform A grant, Nowruzgan Multicultural Art Exhibition (for Airsa non-profit)
- 2016 Cultural Hot Spot North York (for Airsa non-profit)  
Platform A Grant, researching indigenous and Iranian pottery patterns, Jumblies Theatre
- 2015 Exhibition Assistance Grant, OAC  
RBC Art Access Fund Micro Award
- 2012 Certificate of Merit, UNODC Leisure Activities for High Risk Students, Tehran, Iran
- 2008 Certificate of Merit, UNICEF for conceptual art exhibition for youth, Tehran, Iran
- 2009 KIT Royal Tropical Museum of Amsterdam, Travel Grant to Amsterdam to oversee International Cultural Exchange Project, Iran
- 2008 Second prize "To Acknowledge the Scientific Contribution" for Business Plan writing, Shell Development, Tehran, Iran
- 2007 Art Instructor of the Year Award, Kanoon Institute for Intellectual Development for Children and Young Adults, Tehran, Iran
- 2006 Certificate of Merit, UNODC The Hidden Journey Project, Tehran, Iran

### ART MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE

2015-present Airsa, Professional Development for New Canadians in the Arts, Toronto

*Cofounder and Executive Director*

- Co-founded Airsa to assist and empower newcomer artists through training and art initiatives;
- Working with several Art organizations such as Neighbourhood Arts, LASOs, Toronto LIP, etc.
- developing programs, growing institutional members and partners to inform the initiative and ensure strong engagement;
- Managing the social media platforms and the organization's website;
- Reporting performance objectives and deliverables to the Board of Directors.

2009-2013

- Airsa Art and Thought Association, Tehran, Iran
- Art Director
- Developed programme content, and determined length of programme, appropriate facilities, schedule and volunteer requirements;
- Researched and identified key contacts and organizations;
- Designed presentation of activities and festivals for department meetings.

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- 2005-2013 KANOON (Institute for Intellectual Development for Children and Young Adults), Tehran, Iran  
*Art Education Manager; International Affairs Assistant*
- Designed and planned annual art education agenda to obtain institute's aim;
  - Monitored, assessed and discussed the implementation of all 300 branches;
  - Traveled to 20 provinces to attend meetings and workshops;
  - Provided written annual reports and public presentation that detailed Institute's mission, programs, financial condition, and progress made towards charter promises.

### SELECTED INSTRUCTING EXPERIENCE

- 2017-Present Turtle House Art Play Ceramic Project, Gardiner Museum  
*Ceramic and sculpture instructor for refugees and newcomers*
- 2018-Present Creative Work Studio, Good Sheppard People Inc., Toronto  
*Ceramic instructor*
- 2016-Present Catch a Balloon OT Clinic, Toronto  
*Mixed Media Art instructor for special needs children and youth*
- 2017-2018 Schwartz/Riesman Centre, Vaughan  
*Ceramic instructor*
- 2015-2019 Luc Sculpture School, Toronto  
*Ceramic instructor*
- 2014-2016 City of Richmond Hill, Richmond Hill  
*Art facilitator for after school programs*
- 2014-2015 Harbourfront Centre, Toronto,  
*Art instructor, Miss Lou's room*
- 2009-2013 University of Applied Science Technology, Tehran, Iran  
*Lecturer*

### COMMITTEE AND JURY EXPERIENCE

- 2020 Programming Committee Member, North York Arts, Toronto
- 2020 Jury Member, Ontario Art Council, Art Service Project, Toronto
- 2019 Jury Member, Toronto Art Council, Artist in the Library Program, Toronto
- 2019 Jury Member, Arts Etobicoke, Art exhibition, Toronto
- 2018 Art Starts, Path of Possibilities Symposium for Newcomer Artists (Consultant), Toronto
- 2017 Workman Art, Arts & Minds: Community Arts Series Jury, Toronto
- 2017 Neighbourhood Arts Network, RBC Access Fund for Newcomer Artists, Jury Member, Toronto
- 2009-13 Creative Art Education Plans, Kanoon Institute, Tehran, Iran, Committee Member, Tehran, Iran

# Aitak Sorahitalab Curriculum Vitae

## **SELECTED ORGANIZATIONAL PROJECTS:**

- 2018-19 Programming and implementing Bridge-to-work Program for newcomer artists, in collaboration with Artscape Launchpad, funded by OAC
- 2018 Coaching newcomer artists funded by ministry of Immigration ON  
Curating “Beyond Us” Exhibition at Nathan Philip Square, in collaboration with Newcomer Office of the City
- 2016-18 My Art My New Land Program, Three series of workshops for newcomer artists
- 2017 Curating Nowruzgan Multicultural Art Exhibition, with participation of 17 artists, in partnership with North York Arts and ArtStarts, Toronto Centre for the Arts
- 2010-13 Art directing “Bohran Workshops”, More than 50 artistic educational workshops in communities, to inform about earthquake hazards and protection, co-operation with Tehran Disaster Mitigation and Management Organization, affiliated to Tehran Municipality, Tehran
- 2010 Programming and delivering “Leisure Activities for High Risk Students as Alternatives to Drug Use”, co-operation with UNODC, Iranian Civil Society Management & Development Institute, and Social Psychological Health Contributors Association, Tehran
- 2007 Programming “Hidden Journey”, Conceptual art exhibition, a human body model, in the subject of awareness of Addiction effects and risk of HIV/AIDS, Tehran
- 2006 Art directing “Positive City”, Conceptual art exhibition collaborating with UNICEF and UNAIDS to HIV/AIDS awareness rising approach, Tehran
- 2005 Programming Hans Christian Anderson’s Memorial Ceremony, Eshragh Cultural Center, Tehran
- 2002-05 Programming and facilitating 3 years “Iran.NL” Cultural Exchange Program between Kanoon Iran and Royal Museum of the Netherland, Iran

## **MENTORING:**

- 2019-20 Mentoring a newcomer artist, Toronto Art Council Newcomers/Refugees Mentorship Grant, Toronto
- 2016 Mentoring a ceramic Artist, Art Starts, Toronto

## **WRITING:**

- 2019 Publication Contribution, Ai Weiwei exhibition brochure, Gardiner Museum, Toronto
- 2013 Ceramic Activity Guide Book for Ceramic Instructors, Kanoon Institute, Tehran, Iran
- 2007 Visitors Guide Book, National Museum of Iran, Tehran, Iran
- 2005 Deconstructionism in Rasam Arabzadeh Carpets, Culture & Art magazine, Vol. 1, No.3

## **VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES**

- 2018-19 Museum of Contemporary Art, Toronto
- 2017 Myseum Toronto, Connect events, Toronto
- 2017 North York Community House, Community Leadership Project, Toronto
- 2016 Earl Bale Park Friends, Mural painting consultant, Toronto
- 2014 Royal Ontario Museum, Workshop Facilitator, Iranian Heritage Festival, Toronto

# Aitak Sorahitalab Curriculum Vitae

## COURSES

- 2014-19 Vary ceramic techniques workshops, Toronto and region
- 2017 First Aid Emergency Course, Richmond Hill
- 2016 Community Engagement and Leadership Training, North York Community House, Toronto
- 2016 Working at Height, Mural Routes, Toronto
- 2014 Art Fundamentals, Drafting and Detailing, Humber College, Toronto
- 2011 Math and Art, summer course, Isfahan University collaboration with Leiden University Holland, Iran