

Asal Bassir

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Artist Bio:

I am an Iranian Canadian artist, born and raised in Tehran, Iran, and migrated to Canada in 2009. I earned a BFA with Honors in Visual Arts from York University in 2024, and diploma in Digital Arts from George Brown Collage in 2011. With years of experience in both digital and fine arts, my practice spans ceramics, sculpture, painting, and music. My work is deeply influenced by years of artistic practice and a personal journey shaped by cultural displacement. As a woman who has experienced migration, I aim to explore and express my diasporic identity through the socio-political dimensions of my journey. With a focus on thought-provoking installations and sculptures, I combine various mediums to create powerful visual narratives that speak to the collective memory of displacement.

Education:

2024 - Bachelor of Fine Arts, York University, Toronto, Canada

2021 - Certificate of Ceramic Art, Fine Art University of Tehran, Iran

2011 - Certificate of Digital Design, George Brown Collage, Toronto, Canada

2008 - Associate Degree of Graphic Design, Azad Art University, Tehran, Iran

Solo Exhibitions:

2025 – Visible Silence (sculpture), Susa Art Gallery, Toronto, Canada

2024 - The Poetic Hands (sculpture), The Gales Gallery, Toronto, Canada

2019 - Transition (painting), Idea Gallery, Tehran, Iran

2018 - Transition (painting), The Gales Gallery, Toronto, Canada

2009 - The Shadow of Woman (photography), Ava Gallery, Tehran, Iran

Group Exhibitions:

2025 - Territories: Reflections on Home, Cloverdale Common, Toronto, Canada

2025 - You Do You, Leslie Grove Gallery, Toronto, Canada

2024 - For Art Sake, The jackalope Gallery, Toronto, Canada

2024 - Second Act, Storefront Gallery, Toronto, Canada

2024 - Stong Student Showcase, The Samuel J. Zacks Gallery, Toronto, Canada

2024 - Knockout, 1313 Gallery, Toronto, Canada
2024 - Open House, York University, Toronto, Canada
2023 - See Me Through My Eyes, Special Art Project Gallery, Toronto, Canada
2023 - Collective Cluster, The Gales Gallery, Toronto, Canada
2023 - Colors in Mind, 1313 Gallery, Toronto, Canada
2022 - The Gales Gallery, Toronto
2021 - Art Cafe, Tehran, Iran
2020 - Digital Painting, Virtual Exhibition, Iran
2020 - Virtual Exhibition, Portugal
2019 - Special Art Project Gallery, Toronto, Canada
2018 - The Gales Gallery, Toronto, Canada
2017 - The Gales Gallery, Toronto, Canada

Professional Experience:

2025 – Editor, CooterMag, Toronto, Canada
2020 to 2024- Art Director, Radio Seda (Art and Music Platform), Toronto, Canada
2020 - Founder of Zima Doost (Environmental Art Project), Tehran, Iran
2015 to 2019 - Art Editor, Tirgan Festival, Toronto, Canada,

Awards:

2024 - BIPOC Artist Awards, York University
2024 - Trailblazer Award, HUG

Volunteer:

2025 - Gallery Assistant, Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, Canada
2021 - Art teacher, Child Labour NGO, Tehran, Iran
2018 - Project Designer at “A Celebration”, Short Film, Toronto, Canada
2015 to 2016 - Graphic Designer, Amnesty International, Toronto, Canada
2015 - Graphic Designer, Cupe, Toronto, Canada

Collective Projects:

2022 to 2024 – Radio Seda - Art Director at (Today with an Artist), an artist talk project with visual artists and musicians, female artists led, Tehran and Toronto

2021 – Radio Seda - Art Director at (A Birth in Music), Virtual Exhibition. 100 artworks created by 100 visual artists, musicians, and writers for 100 birthdays of Iranian influential musicians in a one-year call for artist

Referees:

Brandon J Vickerd, Chair, Department of Visual Art and Art History, York University,
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Marissa Largo, Assistant Professor of Creative Technologies, Department of Visual Arts and Art History, York University, largo@yorku.ca , +1(647) 294 9824

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