

Maryam Safajoo
Lives/Works in Morgantown, WV
www.maryamsafajoo.art
maryamsafajoo9@gmail.com

Education

2016

MFA, Painting, School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University, Boston, MA

2011

BA, Business Administration, Industries Research and Training Center of Iran, Qazvin,
Iran

2011-2012

Graduation Certificate in Graphics, Jahad Daneshgahi Higher Educational Institute under
Tehran University, Tehran, Iran

Employment

2013-current

Self-Employed Visual Artist

2025

Adjunct Instructor 162_03 (Drawing I) in FA25, Westmoreland County Community
College, PA

Instructor (Drawing Basics) in Summer 2025, Morgantown Art Association, WV

Adjunct Instructor 162_03 (Drawing I) in SP25, Westmoreland County Community
College, PA

2016

Undergraduate Teacher assistant, School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA
Course: The Bridge DRW 1002 0, Professor Charles Goss

2015

Graduate Teaching Assistant, School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA
Course: Painting & Drawing Practicum, Professor Maria Magdalena Campos-Pons,
member of American Academy of Arts & Sciences

2021-2024

Private & Group Art Instructor

Course: Painting & Drawing

Course: Portrait & Figures course

Maryam Safajoo
Lives/Works in Morgantown, WV
www.maryamsafajoo.art
maryamsafajoo9@gmail.com

Course: Foundational of Visual Art class

2014

Assistant Art Installation, The Drawing Center, New York City, NY

2012

Graphic Designer, Bahá'í Academy, Panchgani, India

2011

Graphic Designer, The Gardener of Art Studio, Tehran, Iran

2010-11

Accountant, Rafooneh Company, Tehran, Iran

2010

Assistant Planning Manager, Rafooneh Company, Tehran, Iran

Selected Awards, Grants, Renumerations and Fellowships

2025

John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship Award / underwritten by Robert De Niro in honor of his father, the painter Robert De Niro Sr., a Guggenheim Fellow in Fine Arts in 1968. Folk Arts grant program, The West Virginia Department of Tourism and the National Endowment for the Arts, with approval of the West Virginia Commission on the Arts. Travel & Training Grant, West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History Arts Conference Expense Grant, West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History "The Bear" (Television Series) renumeration for use of my paintings in the season 4 set July 2025

2024

Vermont Studio Center Fellowship
Merit award from the Pinacothèque Art Museum in Luxembourg
SMFA at Tufts 2024 Alumni Travelling Fellowship

2023

Merit award from the Pinacothèque Art Museum in Luxembourg
Mass General Hospital (MGH) Renumeration for Use of my paintings in their newsletter, Boston, MA

2022

Maryam Safajoo
Lives/Works in Morgantown, WV
www.maryamsafajoo.art
maryamsafajoo9@gmail.com

“Stories From My Childhood” best in show award, Northern Illinois University Art Museum

Merit award from the Pinacothèque Art Museum in Luxembourg
BBC remuneration for use of my paintings

2021

Merit award from the Pinacothèque Art Museum in Luxembourg
Finalist Prisma art prize 2021

2016

The Romero Award, School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA

2014

MFA Scholarship, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA

Selected Institution Collections

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA
Nobel Prize Museum, Stockholm, Sweden
Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA
The San Diego Museum of Art, San Diego, CA
Albany Museum of Art, Albany, GA
Northern Illinois University Art Museum, DeKalb, IL
International Peace Museum, Dayton, OH
Crary Art Gallery: A Nonprofit Art Museum, PA
The Museo dos Correios de Brasilia, Brazil
Palace Museum of Mexico City, Mexico
Krannert Art Museum, Champaign, IL
Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, Chicago, IL

Permanent Display

International Peace Museum, Dayton, OH

Library Collections

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA
Nobel Prize Museum, Stockholm, Sweden

Maryam Safajoo
Lives/Works in Morgantown, WV
www.maryamsafajoo.art
maryamsafajoo9@gmail.com

National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C.

RISD Museum, Providence, RI

The San Diego Museum of Art, San Diego, CA

Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA

Tisch Library at Tufts University, Medford, MA

Bahá'í World Center Library

National Bahá'í Reference Library

National Library of Australia

Monongalia Art Center, Morgantown, WV

Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, Chicago, IL

Westmoreland County Community College, Youngwood, PA

Library of work by The John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation fellows, NYC, NY

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2026

Eleanor D Wilson Museum, VA (forthcoming)

Two Centuries of Pleas, William and Florence Schmidt Art Center, Belleville, IL

(forthcoming) March 5th – April 8th

2025-2026

The Westmoreland Museum of American Art, Greensburg, PA Nov 1st – March 1st

(forthcoming)

2025

A Tragedy of Religious Fanaticism, Evanston Art Center, Evanston, IL (forthcoming)

November 1st – December 14th

My Bitter Childhood Window, Center for the Middle East Studies and Islamic Studies,

UNC Chapel Hill, NC Aug 7th – Sep 25th

Repetitious Insecurity, ShowUp, Boston, MA June 6th-July 20th

Our Story is One, Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, Chicago, IL

2024

Center for Resilient Communities at West Virginia University, WV

Egregious Oppression, Benedum Gallery at Monongalia Arts Center, Morgantown, WV

Maryam Safajoo
Lives/Works in Morgantown, WV
www.maryamsafajoo.art
maryamsafajoo9@gmail.com

Barnes & Noble, Morgantown, WV

2023

Banned, The Umbrella Arts Center, Concord, MA

A Cry From the Heart, Crary Art Gallery, a Nonprofit Art Museum, Warren, PA

2022

Forsaking All Comfort and Prosperity, Albany Museum of Art, GA

A Cry From the Heart, The International Peace Museum, Dayton, OH

Repetitious Insecurity, ARC Gallery, Chicago, IL

2021

Bahá'í House of Worship, Wilmette, IL

2015

“To Light A Candle” film screening, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

2010

Ceramics Exhibition, Alborz Ceramic Company, Tehran, Iran

Selected Group Exhibitions

2025

Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan (Declined)

2024-2025

Recent Acquisitions of Contemporary Figurative Art, Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA

2023-2025

Tender Loving Care: Contemporary Art from the Collection, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA

2024

WORLD POSTAL ART BIENNIAL, The Museo dos Correios de Brasilia, Brazil

NO DEAD ARTISTS: International Juried Exhibition of Contemporary Art, Ferrara

Showman Gallery, New Orleans, Louisiana Sep 3rd - oct 19th

WORLD POSTAL ART BIENNIAL, Palace Museum of Mexico City, Mexico

“Oneness: Reality or Fantasy?”, Museum of Vancouver, Canada

2023

Maryam Safajoo
Lives/Works in Morgantown, WV
www.maryamsafajoo.art
maryamsafajoo9@gmail.com

- Anonymously ل Iran, Culture Lab LIC, NY
- Prisma Art Prize, Fondamenta Gallery, Rome, Italy 1st -11th April
- 2022
Stories from my Childhood, NIU Art Museum, Dekalb, IL December 1st
- 2021
‘Abdu’l-Bahá: Champion of Justice, Promoter of Unity, Exemplar of Service, Green Acre
A Bahá’í Center of Learning, Eliot, ME
- 2016
MFA Thesis Exhibition, Cyclorama, Boston, MA
- 2015
Violence Transformed, The Resnikoff Gallery, Roxbury Community College, Boston,
MA
Body of work, Massachusetts State House, Boston, MA
Students Curate Students, School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA
First Year MFA Exhibition, School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA
SMFA Medici and MFA Museum Council Mission Hill Open Studios, Boston, MA
- 2014
Art Sale, School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA
New Student Show, School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA

Artist Books

- 2026 “Repetitious Insecurity” by Maryam Safajoo (forthcoming) supported by The
Guggenheim fellowship
- 2025 “The Art of Maryam Safajoo: Selected Essays” editor Dr. Thaddeus Herman
(forthcoming)
- 2024 “Our Story is One”, Bahá’í Publishing Trust, Australia
In this beautiful collection of 30 pieces of art by Maryam Safajoo, harrowing stories of
persecution—written in English and Persian—are depicted with dignity and forbearance.
Limited Edition

Maryam Safajoo
Lives/Works in Morgantown, WV
www.maryamsafajoo.art
maryamsafajoo9@gmail.com

- 12" x 12" (30 x 30 cm)
- 144 pages
- 200 gsm matte-art interior
- Hardcover, thread-sewn bound with head & tail bands, and bookmark
- graphic design by Zohreh Faizi

Sold by

- Westmoreland Museum of American Art gift shop
- Amazon
- Barnes & Noble Morgantown WV
- Bahá'í Books Australia
- Bahá'í Books UK
- Bahá'í Book Store USA
- Montreal Bahá'í Bookstore
- LA LIBRAIRIE BAHÁ'ÍE
- Green Acre | A Bahá'í Center of Learning
- Louhelen Bahá'í Center Learning

Book Display

- The Holocaust and Human Rights Center of Maine
- Kittery Library, ME
- Kennebunk Library, ME
- Scarborough Library, ME
- Westbrook Public Library, ME
- Falmouth Memorial Library, ME

Selected Bibliography and Press

2025

Westmoreland Museum of American Art: "Maryam Safajoo: Our Story is One"

New York Times, "Guggenheim: Since 1925, the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation has offered Fellowships to exceptional individuals in pursuit of scholarship in any field of knowledge and creation in any art form, under the freest possible conditions. Join us in celebrating the 198 scientists, scholars, and artists of our centennial class" Apr

20, 2025

Boston Globe: “Things to do around Boston this weekend and beyond” by Globe staff
Updated June 4, 2025, 12:25 p.m.

Art Scope-Going Solo “Repetitious Insecurity at ShowUp Gallery”

SMFA at Tufts Spring Newsletter: “2025 Guggenheim Fellow Maryam Safajoo, AG16 (MFA), Featured in Solo Exhibition at ShowUp”

Art New England: “Opening June 6: Repetitious Insecurity, a solo exhibition by Persian-American painter, activist, and 2025 Guggenheim Fellow Maryam Safajoo”

The Estate of Robert De Niro, Sr. “Maryam Safajoo Awarded the 2025 Fellowship in Fine Arts by The John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation” April 15, 2025

The Art Newspaper: “Artists including Theaster Gates, Miranda July and Martine Gutierrez receive Guggenheim Fellowships” April 15, 2025

Artsy: “2025 Guggenheim Fellowships awarded to Theaster Gates and Farah Al Qasimi, among others.” By Maxwell Rabb, Apr 15, 2025 1:02PM

CISION PRWeb: “The John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Announces The 2025 Guggenheim Fellows” April 15, 2025

Broadwayworld: "100th Class of Guggenheim Fellows Unveiled for 2025

Fellows were chosen through a rigorous application and peer review process from a pool of nearly 3,500 applicants", by Chloe Rabinowitz, Apr. 15, 2025

StreetInsider: “The John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Announces The 2025 Guggenheim Fellows” April 15, 2025

“Our Story is One” Exhibition Catalogue by the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art

UIMA: “Maryam Safajoo Reception Interview”

WTTW NEWS: “From a Movie Poster Exhibition to a Local Book Launch, Here Are 5 Arts and Culture Picks for the Weekend: “Our Story is One” – Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art Feb 20, 2025, 4:08 pm

Chicago Galley News: “Maryam Safajoo: Our Story is One” Feb 15, 2025-Apr 11,2025

Do312: Opening Reception for Maryam Safajoo: “Our Story Is One” Sat Feb 15 at 12pm

Maryam Safajoo
Lives/Works in Morgantown, WV
www.maryamsafajoo.art
maryamsafajoo9@gmail.com

Whitewall: “The Best Exhibitions of 2024, from Olga de Amaral to Tyler Mitchell” by Erica Silverman, December 19, 2024

Tufts Alumni Magazine Fall 2024 Class Notes

American Bahá’í Magazine: “Our Story is One” book description

ShowUp Exhibitions: “Maryam Safajoo: Repetitious Insecurity”

SMFA at Tufts Newsletter: “SMFA at Tufts Announces 2024 Traveling Fellows”

Tufts Now: “SMFA at Tufts Announces 2024 Traveling Fellows” by News Staff, October 22, 2024

“Primeira Bienal Internacional de Arte Postal: Uma Conexão Cultural em Duas Nações” by Jornal do Brás, September 19th, 2024

Author Q&A with Maryam Safajoo by International and Area Studies Library, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, February 29, 2024

“New book ‘interrogates reality’ of persecution against Bahá’ís in Iran” by Australian Bahá’í Horizons, July, 2024

Ferrara Showman Gallery, about artists of “No Dead Artists 2024”

“Maryam Safajoo Gentle Chronicler of Bahá’í Persecution” by Brandon Reintjes, Senior Curator at Missoula Art Museum, June 13, 2024

Iran Press Watch: “Maryam Safajoo; Influenced by several decades of oppression of the Bahá’ís of Iran” by Kian Sabeti, March 14, 2024

“Repetitious Insecurity’s introduction” written by Katie Dillard, Director of Curatorial Affairs at the Albany Museum of Art, Georgia, June 10, 2024

Voice of America: Video Featuring the painting “Two Centuries of Pleas”, June 25, 2024

Iran Wire: “Maryam Safajoo; Influenced by several decades of oppression of the Bahá’ís of Iran” by Kian Sabeti, March 8, 2024

“Repetitious Insecurity’s Blurb” written by Sandra Stark, Professor of the Practice, Emerita at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts/Tufts, April 2, 2024

Bahá’í Blog: “The Art of Maryam Safajoo” by Naysan Naraqi, March 16, 2024

Iran Wire: “The hard year of the Bahá’ís in Iran in 2023, 230 abused by the government” by Kian Sabeti, March 27, 2024

Payam Bahá’í Magazine: “The Most Bitter Farewell” by the editor, Feb 2024

Maryam Safajoo
Lives/Works in Morgantown, WV
www.maryamsafajoo.art
maryamsafajoo9@gmail.com

1stDIBS: 11 paintings by Maryam Safajoo

2023

Tender Loving Care Booklet: Contemporary Art from the Collection, by The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, July 22, 2023

“Our Story is One’s introduction” written by Michelle Millar Fisher, the Ronald C. and Anita L. Wornick Curator of Contemporary Decorative Arts within the Contemporary Art Department at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, May 22, 2023

BBC: Video featuring the painting of 2023 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Narges

Mohammadi: "A Multitude of Separations" November 7, 2023

“Our Story is One’s Blurb” written by Gerry Bergstein, Faculty Emeritus SMFA at Tufts, Feb 24, 2023

Voice of America: feature of the painting of 2023 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Narges Mohammadi: "A Multitude of Separations" November 8, 2023

Iran International TV frequent feature of the video of the painting “The Most Bitter Farewell”

Voice of America: Video featuring the painting “The Most Bitter Farewell” July 4, 2023

Tavaana: Video featuring the painting “The Most Bitter Farewell” July 4, 2023

PersianBMS: “A Conversation with Maryam Safajoo about the Campaign

#ourstoryisone” by Heranoosh Talebzadeh and Iman Malakooti, June 2, 2023

BBC: Video featuring the painting “Mothering” by Siamak Mohitzadeh, April 12, 2023

Times Observer: “New exhibitions to open at Crary Art Gallery” March 27, 2023

Best in Show and Jurors’ Choice award recipients announced for NIU Art Museum’s “Stories From My Childhood” Dec 15, 2022

MGH Global OB-GYN Newsletter: “Who Are the Bahá’is and Why Are They Targeted?” Boston, MA, January 2023

2022

Yahoo! News: “Persian-American artist to talk about works in her Albany Museum of Art exhibit”, September 24, 2022

Albany Herald: “Persian-American artist to talk about works in her Albany Museum of Art exhibit”, from staff reports, Sep 24, 2022

Maryam Safajoo
Lives/Works in Morgantown, WV
www.maryamsafajoo.art
maryamsafajoo9@gmail.com

Albany Museum of Art: FORSAKING ALL COMFORT AND PROSPERITY”

WDTN 2NEWS: “Guest: Maryam Safajoo, Iranian Watercolorist & Activist, August 18, 2022

Traditional Fine Arts Organization (TFAO), "Persian-American painter Maryam Safajoo's paintings tell stories of persistent persecution that the Iranian Bahá'í community has experienced since the 1979 Iranian revolution. Many of her artworks tell stories the artist, now based in the United States, has witnessed first-hand." Accessed December 2022

Downtown Dayton Partnership: “Meet the Artist”, August 18, 2022

Fox 31 WFXL: “Courageous Conversations returns to the Albany Museum of Art for college students” by FOX 31 Staff, Wed, September 21st, 2022, at 5:38 PM

The Oakwood Register: “Round Town” Know Better, by Gary Mitchner, August 24, 2022

BBC: Video “Piece of the persecution of the Bahá'í in Iran”, featuring my paintings, September 4, 2022

Voice of America: feature of the painting “Well”, June 8, 2022

Radio Farda: feature of the painting “Well”, June 9, 2022

Radio Farda: Artist New Year Greeting, March 23, 2022

ARC Gallery: “Repetitious Insecurity” Opening Reception

2021

BBC: Video Feature on my work, December 10, 2021

BBC: Video Featuring the painting “Lover’s Migration”, December 6, 2021

Radio Farda: Interview about my work, February 6, 2021

Nashraasoo: “Paintings of Oppression” March 27, 2021

Balatarin: “Paintings of Oppression” 2021

Sharks Eat Meat: “Review: Maryam Safajoo” Wednesday, June 2, 2021

Art Seen Magazine: “Maryam Safajoo” by Gita Joshi The Curator’s Salon, August 13, 2021

Tavaana: “The Continuation of the Systematic Oppression against the Bahá'í”, October 22, 2021

Maryam Safajoo
Lives/Works in Morgantown, WV
www.maryamsafajoo.art
maryamsafajoo9@gmail.com

Persian BMS: “Khabarnegar – Maryam Safajoo’s paintings”, May 5, 2021

Radio Farda: “Picture of the day”, January 21, 2021

2020

Persian BMS: “A Simple Conversation About the Discrimination and Persecution of the Bahá’ís of Iran”, December 25, 2020

Persian BMS: “Visual Teaser, Podcast 7- Episode 34, Discussion of discrimination, harassment and systematic persecution of the Bahá’ís of Iran” by Heranoosh Talebzadeh, December 24, 2020

Iran Press Watch: “A Bahá’í Iranian Artist Addresses Persecution in Paintings”, Source: Iranwire.com, November 29, 2020

Iran Wire: “A Bahá’í Iranian Artist Addresses Persecution in Paintings” by Iranwire Blogger, November 27, 2020

2016

Boston Herald: “As You Were Saying...Iran persecutes religious minority”, by Maryam Safajoo, April 9, 2016

Artist at War: “An Interview with Maryam Safajoo” February 2016

Artist at War: “Video Interview with Maryam Safajoo” March 2016

Voice of America: Interview with Masih Alinejad about my sister, Rouhieh Safajoo

El Mundo: My sister in Prison, report by Maryam Safajoo

Iranwire: “Four Bahá’ís Arrested” by Kian Sabeti, March 15, 2016

Center for Human Rights in Iran: “Young Woman’s Quest for higher Education Exposes Iran’s Discrimination Against Bahá’ís, April 1, 2016

2015

Nineteen Months: “Drawing Beauty from Persecution”, February 12, 2015

Conferences

2025 Arts in Our Communities Conference, the Culture Center, Charleston, WV

Residencies

2026

Residency at MASS MoCA July 2nd – July 14th (Declined)

Maryam Safajoo
Lives/Works in Morgantown, WV
www.maryamsafajoo.art
maryamsafajoo9@gmail.com

2025

Vermont Studio Center Fellowship, fully funded March 24th – April 4th
International Program at International Studio and Curatorial Program residency,
Brookline, NYC (Declined) June

Selected Artist Talk/Presentation

2025

Artist talk and Book-signing reception at UNC Chapel Hill, NC
Artist talk at ShowUp, Boston, MA
Artist talk at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, IL
Invited guest lecture for GEOG 312 Migration and Human Rights at Eberly College,
West Virginia University, WV
Artist talk with Solh TV
Artist talk with The Impact Agenda podcast

2024

Invited book release talk at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, IL
Artist talk and book-signing event at the Center for Resilient Communities at West
Virginia University, WV
Artist talk and book-signing event at Barnes & Noble Morgantown, WV
Artist talk and book-signing event at the Monongalia Art Center, Morgantown, WV
Video Presentation at “Our Story is One” event at the Museum of Vancouver, Canada
June 8th
Main Stage Presenter at The Association of the Friends of Persian Culture, Schaumburg,
IL
Spotlight talk by Michelle Millar Fisher, Ronald C. and Anita L. Wornick Curator of
Contemporary Decorative Arts, Museum of Fine Arts Boston on Maryam Safajoo and
Painting as Resistance
Presentation in “Narrative of suffering – systematic repression and violation of the rights
of fellow Bahá’ís” at Clubhouse

2023

Artist Talk at The Umbrella Art Center, Concord, MA

Maryam Safajoo

Lives/Works in Morgantown, WV
www.maryamsafajoo.art
maryamsafajoo9@gmail.com

Invited Artist Talk by The Committee of Wisdom and Action via Zoom

Invited Artist Talk, Bahá'í Center of Scottsdale, AZ

Invited Artist Talk by Friends of Seysan, Iran via Zoom

Artist Talk at Crary Art Gallery, a Nonprofit Art Museum, Warren, PA

Invited Artist Talk by Dr. Laleh Mehrad, Instagram Live

2022

Artist Talk at Albany Museum of Art, GA

Artist Talk at The International Peace Museum, Dayton, OH

Artist Talk at Green Acre A Bahá'í Center of Learning, Eliot, ME

Invited Artist Talk by “Elevated Conversation” on Zoom

Discussion of my work at Art Class, Eton School, Mexico City, Federal District, Mexico
City, Federal District, Mexico

2021

Artist Talk at The Bahá'í House of Worship, Wilmette, IL

2016

Presentation of my art and panel discussion following the screening of the film “To Light the Candle” at The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA

Remarks at AJC Boston Diplomats Sedar, Boston, MA

Graduation Speech at the Masters SMFA graduation ceremony, MFA Boston, MA

Selected Associations and Memberships

2024-present

International Association of Art USA, a partner of UNESCO

Lifetime Artist Membership, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA

Oil Painters of America