

ALIA YOUSSEF

aliayoussefphotography@gmail.com | www.aliayoussef.com | www.thesistersproject.ca | www.generationsproject.ca

OVERVIEW

Alia Youssef is a freelance portrait photographer, artist, and photography instructor based in Toronto and Vancouver.

EDUCATION

Ryerson University, Master of Fine Arts in Documentary Media, 2020

Ryerson University, Bachelor of Fine Arts in Photography with Distinction, 2017

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

2020

Named one of 12 top art/photography graduates globally by [PHmuseum](#)

2019

Recipient of Silk Road Institute's Creative Arts Grant

Recipient of the Mort Greenberg Award granted by the MFA Documentary Media Program

Finalist of the MAX (Muslim Awards of Excellence) Artist of the Year Award

Named "Artist of the Month (May)" by the Aga Khan Museum

Recipient of the SSHRC Canada Graduate Scholarship-Master's (CGS-M) Award

Recipient of the CCMW Lila Fahlman Scholarship

2018

Recipient of Inspirit Foundation's ChangeUp Grant

Named amongst the Top 100 emerging photographers in the Magenta Foundation's international *Flash Forward* Competition

Received the Ryerson University Graduate Scholarship

2017

Invited to present *The Sisters Project* at the Charter of Rights and Freedom's 35th anniversary event at the Parliament of Canada

Recipient of Michaëlle Jean Foundation's *Combatting Hate, Advancing Inclusion* Award

Invited by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to attend Malala Yousafzai's Citizenship Ceremony

2016

Awarded Best in Show by Gallery 44 at the *Bread and Butter* Group Exhibition, Ryerson Artspace

Awarded the Dr. Julius Lukasiwics Photography Award granted by the School of Image Arts

Awarded the First Edition Photobook Award by Ryerson University's Archives and Special Collections

2015

Awarded Best in Show by the School of Image Arts at *Full Frame* Group Exhibition, Ryerson Artspace

2013

Awarded 1st Prize at the Chesterfields Photography Competition by Presentation House Gallery

2012

Awarded 2nd Prize at the Chesterfields Photography Competition by Presentation House Gallery

2010

Awarded 2nd Prize at the Chesterfields Photography Competition by Presentation House Gallery

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

2020

Appearance on CJRU FemRadio Podcast, *Alia Youssef / The Sisters Project* (Episode #122)

Guest Speaker, WE Schools Live on Facebook Live

Guest Lecture, Creativity, Identity and Making Things Happen, Communication & Culture, Ryerson University, Toronto

Guest Lecture, Langley Fine Arts High school, Langley, BC

Appearance on Creativity Everything Podcast, *Photography and How to Keep Going with Creativity* (Episode #3)

Guest Lecture, The Idea of Photography, School of Image Arts, Ryerson University, Toronto

2019

Speaker, WE Day Toronto (A 5 minute live segment about my journey creating *The Sisters Project*)

Artist Talk, *The Sisters Project: Photography as a Tool for Social Change*, The Aga Khan Museum, Toronto

Panelist, *How Women Shape Society*, Ismaili Centre, Toronto

Closing Plenary at the Canadian Federation of University Women Provincial Conference, Victoria, BC

Panelist, *Looking Together: A Conversation on Art, Narrative, and Collective Reimagination*, Tessellate Institute, Toronto

Panelist, *Beyond the Single Story: Strategies for Canadian Muslim Storytellers* Retreat, National Council of Canadian Muslims, Toronto

2018

Panelist, *Being Young, Female and Muslim in 2018* hosted by Canadian Council of Muslim Women, Parliament of the World's Religions, Toronto

Artist Talk/ Presentation, Girl Up Summit (a UN initiative), University of Toronto, Toronto

Guest Lecture, Media Business Studies, School of Image Arts, Ryerson University, Toronto

Artist Talk/Tour of Exhibition, *The Sisters Project*, Ryerson Image Centre Student Gallery, Toronto

Artist Talk, GTA Photography Camp, Toronto

Panelist, Instagram Women's Panel with COO Marne Levine, Facebook Toronto, Toronto

Artist Talk/ Presentation, Ryerson Image Centre in Collaboration with Gallery 44, Toronto

Artist Talk (Guest Lecture), 4th Year Photography Class at School of Image Arts, Ryerson University, Toronto

2017

Artist Talk (Guest Lecture), Langley Fine Arts High school, Langley, BC

Panelist, The Ringleaders Panel by Voices of Muslim Women Foundation, Vancouver

Artist Talk/Presentation, Muslim Identity and Representation Conference, Surrey

Artist Talk (Guest Lecture), 4th Year Journalism Class, School of Journalism, Ryerson University, Toronto

SOLO/ TWO PERSON EXHIBITIONS

2020

Generations, Prefix ICA, Doc Now Festival, Toronto (Delayed due to COVID-19)

2018

The Sisters Project, Ryerson Image Centre Student Gallery, Toronto

Semblance, Gallery 44 Members Gallery, Toronto

Like a Sister, Ryerson Artspace at the Gladstone Hotel, Toronto

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2018

Muslim Heritage Month, Vancouver Public Library, Vancouver

Places Between by Muse Projects, Mackenzie House for Nuit Blanche, Toronto

Salon 44, Gallery 44, Toronto

2017

Halo Halo, 187 Augusta, Toronto

Bread and Butter, Ryerson Artspace at the Gladstone Hotel, Toronto

Art Attack, Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, Toronto

(Mus) Interpreted, Daniel Spectrum, Toronto

That Would Be Fine Too, Ryerson Artspace at the Gladstone Hotel, Toronto

365, Gallery 44, Toronto

Maximum Exposure 22, School of Image Arts, Toronto

Gender and the Lens, Ada Slaughter Student Gallery, Toronto

Girls by Girls, Gallery 310 at the School of Image Arts, Toronto

2016

Bread and Butter, Ryerson Artspace at the Gladstone Hotel, Toronto

Maximum Exposure 21, School of Image Arts, Toronto

Humanitas, The Gladstone Hotel, Toronto

First Edition Photobook Show, Ryerson Artspace at the Gladstone Hotel, Toronto

2015

Full Frame, Ryerson Artspace at the Gladstone Hotel, Toronto
Photo Salon, Ryerson Artspace at the Gladstone Hotel, Toronto
Look At What We Do, Gallery 310 at the School of Image Arts, Toronto
Maximum Exposure 20, School of Image Arts, Toronto
Fragments: City of Neighbourhoods, Gallery 310 at the School of Image Arts, Toronto
Maximum Exposure Pop Up Shop, Gallery 310 at the School of Image Arts, Toronto
2014

Full Frame, Ryerson Artspace at the Gladstone Hotel, Toronto
2013

Full Frame, IMA Gallery, Toronto
To Here From Home, Presentation House Gallery, Vancouver
2012

Double Take, Prescott Presentation Centre, Vancouver
2011

Foreign Object, Presentation House Gallery, Vancouver
2010

People Take Pictures of Each Other, Café for Contemporary Art, Vancouver

PUBLIC PHOTOGRAPHY DISPLAYS

2019 (Project #ShowUs: Dove + Getty Global Campaign Image)

Piccadilly Circus, May 2019

Greenwich Village Fence Art, May 2019

Spice Girls Reunion Tour, May 2019

Holland Park Roundabout, Westfield, UK, May 2019

London Transit Commission (Oxford Circus, Waterloo Station), March - May 2019

Toronto Transit Commission (Subway and Bus Ads), March - May 2019

Metro Vancouver's Transportation Network (Subway and Bus Ads), March - May 2019

New York City Transit Authority (Subway and Bus Ads), March - May 2019

New York Time's Square, April 2019

VIDEO SCREENINGS

2018

"Noor," Short Film, screened at the Museum of Vancouver for the Vancouver Biennale, Vancouver

"Noor," Short Film, screened at the Voices of Muslim Women Gala, Surrey

2017

"Aima," Short Film, screened at the Combatting Hate Advancing Inclusion Forum, Ottawa

"Aima," Short Film, screened at the Aga Khan Museum for Muslim Heritage Month, Toronto

"Aima," Short Film, screened at the Beyond Labels Human Rights Symposium, Ottawa

"Aima," Short Film, screened at the Toronto Reference Library for Nuit Blanche, Toronto

PROJECT FEATURES & FOLIOS

2020

Elle Magazine Project Feature ([Link](#))

The Chronicle Herald ([Link](#))

Ryerson University Magazine ([Link](#))

2019

Refinery29 Video Feature ([Link](#))

Elle Magazine Project Feature ([Link](#))

Broadview Magazine

2018

Flash Forward 2018 Publication

PhotoLife Magazine

Canadian Immigrant Magazine

The Book by Style Circle

Ryerson Folio Magazine

2017

The Globe and Mail (Weekend Print Edition & [Online](#))

Creative In Focus by Getty Images

Function Magazine 18

McClungs Magazine

Kaleidoscope Magazine

RAD Magazine

The Ethnic Aisle ([Link](#))

2016

herHabitat Blog

Function Magazine 15

INTERVIEWS (WEB, PRINT, TV & RADIO)

2020

RANI Creative ([Web](#))

CBC *Here and Now* Radio Interview

Function Magazine (Print & [Web](#))

2018

The National Abu Dhabi ([Web](#))

Sony Alpha Universe Blog ([Web](#))

The National Post (Print)

CBC The National (TV & [Web](#))

CBC Arts ([Web](#))

VICE ([Web](#))

CBC Halifax ([Web](#))

Applied Arts Magazine ([Web](#))

Muslim Girl ([Web](#))

Blog TO ([Web](#))

The Ryersonian ([Web](#))

2017

FCAD News ([Web](#))

Brit + Co ([Web](#))

Toronto Life ([Web](#))

Photo Ed Magazine (Print)

Zone Stories ([Web](#))

Fem Radio (Radio)

Ryersonian TV (TV)

This is Worldtown ([Web](#))

Refinery 29 ([Web](#))

Radio Humber (Radio)

CP24 ([Web](#))

Al Arabiya News Channel (TV)

The Eyeopener (Print & [Web](#))

The Ryersonian (Print & [Web](#))

Buzzfeed ([Web](#))

The Express Tribune ([Web](#))

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2020

Storytelling Workshop (1 day workshop/ 35 participants) for Plan Canada's Power of Yourself Virtual Workshop Series
Guest Critic, 3rd Year Photography Production Class, School of Image Arts, Ryerson University, Toronto

2019

Teaching Assistant (1 semester), Ryerson University, Toronto

2018

Teaching Assistant (1 semester), Ryerson University, Toronto

Photography Instructor (3 day workshop), STEPS Initiative, Toronto

Photography Workshop (Guest Lecture), Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Surrey

Photography Workshop (1 day workshop/ 50 participants) for Instagram's Women Event, Facebook Toronto, Toronto

Photography + Video Instructor (Winter Semester) Visual Media Workshop, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Surrey

2017

Photography Instructor (2 day workshop), FREED Education, Vancouver

RESIDENCIES

2017

Transmedia Zone, Ryerson University, Toronto

Artcamp 2017, OCAD University & Ryerson University, Toronto

CURATED EXHIBITIONS

2017

Persistence: A Pop-Up Show, School of Image Arts, Toronto

Girls by Girls, Gallery 310 at the School of Image Arts, Toronto

COLLECTIONS

Private Collections, Toronto

Ryerson Archives and Special Collections, Toronto

Ryerson School of Image Arts, Toronto