

ALIA YOUSSEF

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OVERVIEW

Alia Youssef is a freelance portrait and documentary photographer based in Vancouver, BC.

EDUCATION

Ryerson University, Master of Fine Arts in Documentary Media with Distinction, 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 Lukaszewicz 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

Artist Talk for Professional Photographers of Canada

Appearance on Vid Slingers (Episode #4)

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

Guest Speaker on WE Schools Live on Facebook Live

Guest Lecture for Creativity, Identity and Making Things Happen Class, Ryerson University, Toronto

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

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

Guest Lecture for The Idea of Photography Class, Ryerson University, Toronto

2019

Speaker at WE Day Toronto (A 5 minute live segment about my journey creating *The Sisters Project*)
Artist Talk called *The Sisters Project: Photography as a Tool for Social Change* for The Aga Khan Museum, Toronto
Panelist for *How Women Shape Society* event at Ismaili Centre, Toronto
Closing Plenary at the Canadian Federation of University Women Provincial Conference, Victoria, BC
Panelist for *Looking Together: A Conversation on Art, Narrative, and Collective Reimagination* event, Tessellate Institute, Toronto
Panelist for *Beyond the Single Story: Strategies for Canadian Muslim Storytellers* Retreat, National Council of Canadian Muslims, Toronto

2018

Panelist for *Being Young, Female and Muslim in 2018* event hosted by Canadian Council of Muslim Women, Parliament of the World's Religions, Toronto
Artist Talk for Girl Up Summit (a UN initiative), University of Toronto, Toronto
Guest Lecture for Media Business Studies Class, Ryerson University, Toronto
Artist Talk/Tour of my own exhibition *The Sisters Project*, Ryerson Image Centre Student Gallery, Toronto
Artist Talk for GTA Photography Camp, Toronto
Panelist for Instagram Women's Panel with COO Marne Levine, Facebook Toronto, Toronto
Artist Talk for Ryerson Image Centre in Collaboration with Gallery 44, Toronto
Guest Lecture for 4th Year Photography Class at School of Image Arts, Ryerson University, Toronto

2017

Artist Talk for Langley Fine Arts High school, Langley, BC
Panelist for The Ringleaders Panel by Voices of Muslim Women Foundation, Vancouver
Artist Talk for Muslim Identity and Representation Conference, Surrey
Guest Lecture for 4th Year Journalism Class, 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

Collaboration with Museum of Contemporary Art Toronto on Community Sunday Learning Activity

Photography Masterclass (1 day event live streamed) for Silk Road Institute

Storytelling Workshop (1 day workshop) 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) 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 & MENTORSHIPS

2020

Room Up Front BIPOC Photojournalism Mentorship, Vancouver

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