

Leila Honari

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<http://www.sufiartgroup.com/>



PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Career Objective

Advocate, preserve and develop art and culture of the Middle East in order to facilitate an open exchange between Eastern and Western arts.

Skills Summary

- **Organization skills-** In my role as Director of the Sufi Art Group, I am capable of strategic planning and implementation of events and performances, exhibitions, projects and festivals with high attention to detail.
- **Communication skills-** extensive experience in cross-cultural communication, translation, public speaking and interpersonal skills.
- **Teaching Skills-** Demonstrated ability to develop goals, objectives and implement strategies through lecture and tutorial planning, course convenorship, research mentorship and supervision.
- **Drawing Skills-** Extensive experience in drawing for animation as well as five years teaching life drawing to animation students in Griffith University. Previously, I taught traditional drawing for carpet design students at three different Art Universities in Iran.
- **Computer literacy-** extensive experience with Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, After Effects, Flash, and Premiere) and animation software like Toonboom, also carpet designing software such as Bouria and Naghshsaz.

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

2013-2017- **Doctor of Philosophy**
Griffith University, Major in Animation

2010-2012- **Master of Fine arts** (Class 1 Hons)
Griffith Film School, Major in Animation

1995-1999- **Bachelor of Handicrafts**
Al-Zahra University of Tehran, Iran

1990-1994- **Diploma in Graphic Design**

17 Shahrivar High School, Karaj, Iran

RESEARCH INTERESTS

My principal research interests lie in the field of animation. For my PhD, I am investigating the roots of animation in selected historical Persian artefacts. Based on my background in carpet designing I am passionate about the migrations of patterns and symbols in history. Also, I am exploring the mandala structure of Persian traditional arts and stories too.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

2014- **Australian Postgraduate Award for PhD Research**, Griffith University

2004- Holder of Artesian Code No.126-6953 awarded by the Persian Cultural, Heritage, Handicraft and Tourism Organization (Persian Illustration Branch)

2016- Second place in the Children's and Young Adult Writers and Illustrators Conference (Aspiring Picture Book Category)

WORK HISTORY

2016- ongoing: Convening, lecturing and tutoring at Griffith Film School

- 2102GFS Concept Design: Character
- 2133GFS Concept Design: Environment
- 1104GFS Drawing for moving image

2012- 2015: Sessional Life Drawing Lecturer at Griffith Film School

2000-2009: Carpet Designer in **Sajadi Carpet Designing Corporation**, Tehran, IRAN

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Carpet designing for machine-made carpet by using 'Bouria' software.
- Carpet designing for hand-made carpet traditionally.

2003- 2005- Sessional Lecturer in **Karaj University**, Karaj, IRAN

- Teaching carpet designing

2000-2003- Sessional Lecturer in **Sistan and Baluchistan University**, Zahedan, IRAN

- Teaching history of development and evolution of Persian carpet patterns
- Teaching Carpet Aesthetics
- Teaching Analysis of Persian carpet pattern

1999-2000- Sessional Lecturer in **Al-Zahra University of Tehran** (Tehran, IRAN)

- Teaching carpet designing

FILMOGRAPHY

Interviewed by IranWire

IranWire is a joint venture of a group of Iranian journalists in the Diaspora. Main talk is about my DVA project in Griffith University.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o_9FtxenMtQ

<https://vimeo.com/84033811>

Interviewed for a Documentary

Ustad (2012) - A short documentary

(Interviewed for Ustad Zolfonoon's Documentary as one of his students)

Produced by Rhiannon Steffensen, Griffith Film School, Griffith University

Producer/ Director/ Animator

Song of the Reed (2012)

(A prototype for an Animated short film based on Rumi's stories/ Sufi Stories)

Griffith Film School, Griffith University

Co-writer & co-director

Seven Realms of Love (2007)

(A short film introduces and explores the secrets of Eastern theosophy in a contemporary style)

➤ Selected for the **Fifth Farhang Foundation Festival** in United States.

EXHIBITIONS

2015-**TEXTure**, (a group exhibition by GFS and QCA HDR candidates)

The Edge, State Library of Queensland

http://edgeqld.org.au/whats-on/texture/?doing_wp_cron=1445730945.1026759147644042968750

<https://medium.com/screentypes-journal/texture-how-new-technologies-are-changing-how-we-tell-stories-671c009ddcec#.zp31hxymx>

2014- **Reel Deal**, (A showcase of Contemporary Australian Film and Screen Media)

I exhibited "Flight" which is a concept art from practical part of my doctorate project.

2013- **Shadow of Mouse**, (a group exhibition with animation academic staff and HDR students of GFS), Royal Queensland Art Society (RQAS)

➤ **Artist Talk**

Presentation, Conversation and Screening

Floating Land biennial festival (2013), Sunshine Coast Council

(Presenting *Green the Colour of Heaven* project, which is part of Seven Realms of Love project)

2013- **Iranian Perspective, Cultural Partisans**

QCA, Project Gallery / Gold Coast, White Box Gallery

<http://www.qcagriffith.com/2013/02/exhibition-iranian-perspective/>

2012- **Horizon**, (a group exhibition from artists in paradise)

Magic Multicultural Art Group, Robina Art Gallery, Gold Coast

2011- **Transcending Identity**, (a group exhibition with Magic Multicultural Art Group)

Chambers of Gold Coast City Council

2009, **Persian Painting Exhibition**, (a solo painting exhibition), Atashzad Gallery, Tehran, Iran

2007- **Year of Rumi International Forum & Conference**, (a group painting Exhibition)
Stanford University, United States

2006- **Sixth Biennial of Persian painting**, Museum of Modern Art, Iran

2006- **Birth of Love**, (a solo painting exhibition in “800th Anniversary of Rumi)
Milad Gallery, Karaj, Iran

2006- **Ascending Song** (a solo exhibition), Mahak Charity Organisation, Tehran, Iran

2004- **First Art Expo of Persian Painters**, Vahdat Hall, Tehran, Iran

2003- **Sama**, (a solo painting exhibition), Shabnam gallery, Tehran, Iran

1999- **Fourth Persian Painting Biennial**, Museum of Modern Art, Tehran, Iran

1997 - 1998- **Sixth and Seventh Grand Exhibition of Persian Hand Woven Carpets**,
International Exhibition, Tehran, Iran

➤ **Artist Talk**

2013- Presentation about *Seven Realms of Love* 's painting collection
Royal Queensland Art Society (RQAS)

PUBLICATION / WORK SUBMITTED / WORK IN PROGRESS

➤ **Publication**

2015- **TEXTure**, An exhibition of the new media stories with a catalogue, The Edge
ISBN: 9781922216915

2014- Illustrating for a book: **A Guide to Daf Technique & Middle Eastern Rhythms**
ISBN: 9780994241702

http://www.amazon.com/Guide-Technique-Middle-Eastern-Rhythms/dp/0994241704/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1445735514&sr=1-1&refinements=p_27%3AArash+Zanganeh

2013- **Behind, beside, and beyond the animated image: Shadow of Mouse**,
ISBN: 978-0-646-91127-4

2012- Translated the introduction of a book titled: **Bahramnameh**, University of Bonn, Institut
Für Orient Und Asienwissenschaft, ISBN: 978-964-988-262-8

2004- Painting the Portraits of the Seven Wise Men of Persian Poetry as **commemorative stamp**,
Commissioned by the *Museum of the Protectors of Iranian Culture and Art*
Printed by *Iranian Ministry of Post*

➤ **Work submitted**

2016- Illustrating **The Stolen Button** which is an Asian fairy tale book written by Marianna
Shek. The book is in the process of publishing and will distribute by September 2017.
ISBN: 978-0-9942666-2-0

➤ **Work in progress**

2017- **Farsh-e-Parandeh**, which is an animated carpet projecting from ceiling mount to the floor, is practical part of my doctorate. The project will take place in the Sound stage at Griffith Film School by the World Peace Day 21st of September.

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

2017- **Australia Screen Production Education & Research Association (ASPERA) Conference**, Bond University, Gold Coast

2016- **28th Annual International Society for Animation Studies Conference**, “The Cosmos of Animation”, SAS 2016, Singapore

http://sas2016.adm.ntu.edu.sg/downloads/SAS2016_catalogue.pdf

2015- **Animation seminar in Art University of Tehran**, IRAN

2015- **GFS Research Seminar**, A presentation about Iranian students’ short animations and screening of their graduation works in GFS cinema.

2015- **AAANZ Conference, IMAGE BODY SPACE**, QAGOMA, Brisbane, in conjunction with the 8th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art. Presenting part of my doctorate research “Exploring nature’s elements in Persian traditional Sufi arts and decoding their spiritual meanings through the mandala structure” in a panel “Plasmatic Transformation” convening by Dr Chris Denaro, & Dr Merri Randell.

<http://aaanz.info/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/AAANZ-2015-Abstract-Booklet.pdf>

<http://aaanz.info/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Final-Program-AAANZ-2015.pdf>

2015- **Create World Conference 2015**, Presentation with Andi Spark a research paper about “seeking the animation artist in a multi-projection environment” which described technical parts of my doctorate project in terms of interactive projection installation.

https://espace.library.uq.edu.au/view/UQ:371345/UQ371345_OA.pdf

<http://auc.edu.au/createworld/timetable/>

[THIS TECHNICAL STUFF FORMS PART OF YOUR METHODOLOGY](#)

2014- **Fourth World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies WOCMES**, Ankara, Turkey
Title of the paper: ‘Persian mystical stories and traditional arts’ circular mandala structure’
I couldn’t attend due to my Australian citizenship that has not been ready on that time.

https://f.hypotheses.org/wp-content/blogs.dir/1460/files/2014/05/scientific_program.pdf

2013- **GFS Research Seminar**, A Presentation of work-in-progress in GFS Cinema

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

2016-current

Member of the **Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators (scbwi)**

2015-current

Member of the **Society of Animation Studies (SAS)**

2014- 2016

Member of the **International Society for Iranian Studies**

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

2016- HDR Representative role for Griffith Film School

LANGUAGES

Farsi (Mother tongue) and English

COMMUNITY CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Co-founded Sufi Art Group with Arash Zangeneh in 2000 with the goal of preserving the art and culture of the East. Below, is some parts of the Sufi Art Group's activities in Australia. For more details of publications please see:

www.sufiartgroup.com

[The Sufi Art Group | Facebook](#)

➤ **Music and Dance Performances**

2013 & 2014- **Woodford Folk Festival**, Performing and Workshop: The Dance of Oneness,

2013- Performing Iranian Dramatic Storytelling (The Conference of the Birds, the practical part of my DVA project) in 'A **Multicultural Night**' in South Bank Institute of Technology, Supported by Queensland Government through TAFE Queensland, Venue: Auditorium of Southbank Institute of Technology

2013- **APSA** (Asia Pacific Screen Awards ceremony) Performing Sufi Dance with The Sufi Art Group for the pre-show of APSA

2012 & 2013- **Woodford Folk Festival**, Persian Sufi Dance workshop

2012- Holding the ceremonies commemoration of the Late Ustad Jalāl Zolfonoon
Queensland College of Arts

25 October 2012- Official Opening of **Queensland Multicultural Centre (BEMAC)**
<http://www.arqusdesign.com.au/community/queensland-multi-cultural-centre-grand-opening/>

2012- Persian Mystical Music Concert with Poetry by Rumi,
Independent Theatre of Sydney
<http://events.kodoom.com/en/sydney-australia/the-sufi-art-group-a-persian-mystical-music-concert-with-poetry-by-rumi/62732/e/>

2012- **ABC Classic FM** - Classic Breakfast - *Sufism and whirling dervishes*
<http://www.abc.net.au/classic/content/2012/05/15/3502143.htm>

2012- Persian mystical concert for closing of **Love and Devotion from Persia and Beyond**,
State Library of Victoria, Melbourne

2012- Persian Sufi dance and music, **Circles of Light in Brisbane Powerhouse**
<http://www.brisbanepowerhouse.org/events/view/sufi-art-group-circles-of-light/>

2012- Persian mystical concert, **Nexus- Lion Arts Centre, Adelaide**

http://www.liveguide.com.au/Events/757095/Sufi_Art_Group/Sufi_Art_Group_Sufi_Art_Group

2012- Sufi Art Group Persian mystical concert, **touring Australia**

<http://www.popmusicology.com/the-sufi-art-group/>

2011- 2012 - Persian Sufi Dance workshop and concert, **Woodford Folk Festival**, Queensland

http://www.flickr.com/photos/maleny_steve/6645181659/in/photostream/

2011- Performance for opening night of **1st Iranian Film Festival, Brisbane Powerhouse**

<http://archive2011.iffa.net.au/photos/brisbanephotos/opening-night-gala>

2010- Persian Classic Music Concert, Queensland **Conservatorium**, Brisbane