

# Mahla Biglari

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## Personal Statement

A visual artist focused on social themes, particularly the status of women and the new generation in her Middle Eastern country. Mahla utilizes various materials within the framework of photography, combining photography with interactive urban sculptures and video to convey messages to her audience. With a background in teaching at universities and art schools, she is eager to expand her knowledge and expertise in a professional, specialized environment. She is committed to learning from and contributing to an international and boundless space, transferring her knowledge responsibly to the next generation.

## Research Interests

- Social and cultural themes, with a focus on **women's identity** and the new generation
- Investigating resilience as a shared feature between humans and plants
- Interactive artworks
- Multiple exposure photography
- Alternative printing techniques like Cyanotype and Van Dyke
- Pinhole photography
- Eco-printing

## Education

- 2000- 2007 • **B.F.A. in Photography**, Art University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran  
Graduated with a GPA of (3.5/4 or 17.19/20), among the top 5 students
- Thesis: *A Woman's Self-Portraiture and Conveying Motion in Photography through Collage and Sequence Techniques* (Score: 4.0/4.0 or 19.5/20)
  - Specialized Photography Courses GPA:
    - Semester 3: (3.7/4.0 or 18.4/20)
    - Semester 4: (3.7/4.0 or 18.47/20)
    - Semester 5: (3.85/4.0 or 19/20)
    - Semester 6: (3.8/4.0 or 18.86/20)
- 1997- 1999 • **A.A. in Graphic Design**, Al-Zahra Technical & Vocational College, Mashhad, Iran  
Graduated with a GPA of (3.1/4.0 or 15.59/20)
- Thesis: *film poster design* (Score: 3.3/4.0 or 16.5/20)
- 1997- 1998 • **One-Year Filmmaking Course**, Iranian Youth Cinema Society, Mashhad, Iran  
Graduated with honors
- 1995- 1997 • **Diploma in Graphic Design**, Rafti Technical High School, Mashhad, Iran  
Graduated with a GPA of (3.4/4.0 or 16.76/20)
- 2009 • **Certified Digital Photography**, Technical and Vocational Training Organization, Iran  
Graduated with honors

## Selected Exhibitions

- **Solo**
  - 2024
    - **From the Rocky Crevice, a Flower Has Bloomed**, accepted by Golestaneh Gallery, in preparation for the show, Mashhad, Iran
  - 2015
    - **Trees**, Golestan Gallery, Mashhad, Iran
  - 2010
    - **Self-Portrait**, Gonbad-e-Kabood Gallery, Mashhad, Iran
- **Group**
  - 2024
    - **Hirkanian**, Womb of the Earth, Eco-print, Blue Tall Gallery, Sari, Iran
  - 2013
    - **Enduring Power – Exhibition of Middle Eastern Women Photographers**, UC Davis Alumni Center, USA
  - 2012
    - **Photography Educators' Exhibition**, Mashhad, Iran
  - 2003
    - **Desert**, Emam Reza Gallery, Mashhad, Iran
  - 2001
    - **Women Photographers Artists' Exhibition**, Emam Reza Gallery, Mashhad, Iran
- **Interactive & Urban Sculptures**
  - 2018-2019
    - **Remember**, Concept: Honoring the national heroes of Iran. Materials: Mercury glass mirror, wood, glass flatbed printing. Installed on Daneshjoo St, Mashhad, Iran
  - 2014-2015
    - **NOROOZ**, with Amir Hossein Fanaee. Concept: Celebrating New Year traditions. Materials: Fiberglass. Installed on Kish Island, Iran
  - 2013-2014
    - **The Sea**, Concept: The sea and the fleeting moment of brilliance. Materials: Iron. Installed in Qaem Square, Mashhad, Iran
  - 2014
    - **I Long for Your Presence with Gazing on the Path**, Concept: Love and an expectant gaze. Materials: Iron, wood, mirror, flatbed printing. Installed on Ahmad Abad St, Mashhad, Iran
  - 2012-2013
    - **Fissure**, Concept: Creating a crack in time and space. Materials: Iron, acrylic mirror, flatbed printing. Installed on Ahmad Abad St, Mashhad, Iran

## Honors & Awards

- 2013, 2014
  - **4 artworks selected** for Mashhad Municipality Annual Festival for city installation
- 2015, 2019
  - **2nd place** at the International Imam Reza Media Festival
- 2003
  - **Selected for industrial photography** at the Tehran University of Art Student Festival
- 2000
  - **Received Scholarship** from Art University of Tehran (Ranked 2nd among Iranian art universities), for study B.A. in photography, Tehran, Iran
- 2000
  - **Ranked 150th overall and 9th** in the interview process from about more than 30,000 participants in the nation-wide Iranian university entrance exam
- 1997
  - **1st place in book illustration**, Visual and Graphic Arts Competition for Technical College Students in Khorasan Province
- 1997
  - **Received Scholarship** from Al-Zahra Technical College, for studying A.A. in Graphic design, Mashhad, Iran
- 1995
  - **2nd rank** in the entrance exam for Rafti Graphic High School, Mashhad, Iran

## Fellowships

- 2015 • Keep Your City Green Project (Focus on Public Engagement and Art Activities for Environmental Projection), **Tbilisi Photo Festival Project, Tbilisi/Georgia**
- 2014 • Keep Your City Green Project (Focus on Public Engagement and Art Activities for Environmental Projection), **Tbilisi Photo Festival Project, Istanbul/Turkey**
- 1998 • **Master class for Top Students** of Technical and Vocational Colleges of the Country, Student festival, Yazd, Iran

## Teaching Experience

- 2016 • History of Photography, **University of Aftab**, Mashhad, Iran
- 2014 • Portrait Lighting, **Abrang Art Institute**, Mashhad, Iran
- 2013 • Photography, **Academic Center for Education, Culture and Research**, Mashhad, Iran
- 2011- 2012 • Photography, **Applied Science and Technology University**, Mashhad, Iran
- 2007- 2008 • Digital Photography, Lighting, Photo Criticism, **Ministry of Culture & Islamic Guidance**, Mashhad, Iran
- 2008 • Digital Photography, **Technical & Vocational Institutes**, Mashhad, Iran
- 2006 • Photography, **Soroush Institute of IRIB (Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting)** , Mashhad, Iran
- 2005- present • Photography, **Technical High Schools**, Mashhad, Iran

\* The universities where I have taught offer associate degrees, and I was qualified to teach there.

## Conference Presentation

- 2007 • *Self-Portrait, Family Photography, Creating Temporal Motion in the Static Medium of Photography Using Collage and Sequence* / Photo Club, Iranian Youth Cinema Society, Mashhad, Iran

## Article

- 2006 • Photo Critique /**Photo Club Journal**, Iranian Youth Cinema Society, Mashhad, Iran

## Publications

- 2009 • **Printing Press of Astan-E- Qods Industry, Photo Book**, Mashhad, Iran
- 2008 • **Carpet Museum, Photo book**, Mashhad, Iran

## Workshops

- 2023 • **Cyanotype & Van Dyke Printing**, Khanesh Art School, Tehran, Iran
- 2023 • **Eco-printing**, Sis Art Gallery, Bojnord, Iran
- 2013 • **Lighting in Photography**, Iranian Youth Cinema Society, Mashhad, Iran
- 2011 • **Photographic Professional Software Training** (Lightroom, Photoshop), Tehran, Iran

## Memberships

- 2024 • FIAP (International Federation of Photographic Art)
- 2024 • National Association of Young Iranian Photographers
- 2020 • Abgineh Photographic Research & Studies Institute
- Since 1998 • Iranian Youth Cinema Society, Mashhad, Iran

## Language Proficiency

- Farsi: Native
- English: Proficient (IELTS Academic: 6.5)
- Arabic: Familiar

## Skills

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- **Photography**
  - **View Camera**
  - **Analog Negative Development and Printing**
  - **Cyanotype and Van Dyke Printing**
- **Software**
  - Expert in **Adobe Photoshop**
  - Expert in **Adobe Lightroom**
  - Familiar with **Adobe Premiere**
  - Expert in **Edius**
  - Familiar with **Microsoft Office**
- **Soft Skills**
  - Management, Leadership, Teamwork

## Certifications

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| 2020 | • Yoga Instructor, Iran sport for all Federation, Mashhad, Khorasan Province, Iran          |
| 2015 | • Reality Therapy – Introductory Intensive Course, William Glasser Institute, Mashhad, Iran |
| 2008 | • Basic First Aid, Iranian Red Crescent Society, Mashhad, Iran                              |
| 2008 | • Mountaineering Training, Iranian Federation of Mountaineering, Mashhad, Iran              |

## Voluntary services

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| 2020-present | • yoga training services for women, Private institute, Mashhad, Iran     |
| 2010         | • Environmental Activist and working with volunteer environmental groups |