

**Hangama Amiri**  
*Circle of Friends*  
March 22 - May 4, 2024

**COOPER COLE** is pleased to present, *Circle of Friends*, a solo exhibition of new works by Hangama Amiri. This exhibition marks the artist's second solo exhibit at the gallery and will run from March 22 - May 4, 2024 in the gallery's east exhibition space.

Over the past three years, Hangama Amiri's artistic practice has delved deeply into figuration, employing textile, fabric, photography, and printmaking as mediums of expression. Through these varied forms, she has embarked on a journey of storytelling, weaving narratives that bridge the past memories of Afghanistan with the contemporary experiences of diaspora life.

Central to Amiri's exploration has been the interplay between personal recollections and the broader currents of cultural and societal shifts. Through capturing moments through photography and the intricate stitching of fabric, she has sought to articulate the complexities of identity and belonging, both within her own journey and that of the wider diaspora.

Crucially, Amiri's creative journey has been deeply influenced by the supportive network of friends, colleagues, and patrons in both Connecticut and New York. Their presence has not only provided ongoing inspiration but has also served as a reflective mirror, grounding her work in the lived experiences of those around her.

In essence, Amiri's artistic practice serves as a testament to the power of personal storytelling and the resilience of community bonds. By continually engaging with both her own narratives and those of others, she strives to create art that resonates with authenticity and fosters connection in an ever-evolving world.

Taking inspiration from figurative painters such as Johannes Vermeer, John Singer Sargent, and Kerry James Marshall, Amiri examines their distinct authorship and studio practices. Each artist not only grappled with issues of class, race, culture, and politics in their representations but also consistently challenged historical norms regarding visibility and representation within the realm of painting. Their contributions extend beyond mere depiction, delving into the critique of who holds the right to be seen and represented, and who is granted space within the annals of painting history. Through their art, they engage in a continuous dialogue, pushing boundaries and reshaping perceptions of identity, visibility, and representation across different epochs and cultures.

The textiles and drawings in the exhibit portray portraits of Hangama Amiri's friends, colleagues, and professors within the New Haven and New York communities. Adopting this deeply personal approach, she found fascination in her sitters reclaiming their own *mise en scène*. Throughout the series, she sought to explore how each sitter wished to be perceived within the comfort of their homes, studios, workplaces, or public spaces. Amiri's role as the artist was heavily influenced by the desires of her sitters, fostering an equal dynamic where their authority and power held precedence over hers. It was inspiring for her to witness the unique ways in which each sitter wished to be immortalized within her oeuvre. This exhibition resonates with authenticity, expanding on Amiri's conceptual storytelling while fostering connections in an ever-evolving world where personal narratives intertwine with broader societal currents.

**Hangama Amiri** (b. 1989, Peshawar, Afghanistan) works predominantly in textile to create images that reflect on ideas of home. Using a painterly approach to colour and materials, Amiri reflects on how everyday objects are imbued with cultural memory. Amiri holds an MFA from Yale University and a BFA from NSCAD University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. She was a Canadian Fulbright and Post-Graduate Fellow at Yale University School of Art and Sciences, and has completed residencies at the Banff Centre for Arts & Creativity, Joya AiR Residency Program in Almería, Spain, World of CO Residency program in Sofia, Bulgaria, and at Long Road Projects in Jacksonville, Florida. Amiri won the 2011 Lieutenant Governor's Community Volunteerism Award and the 2013 Portia White Protege Award.

She has exhibited internationally at The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield; Hayy Jameel, Jeddah; Aga Khan Museum, Cooper Cole, Toronto; Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City; The Moody Centre for the Arts, Houston; Robert McLaughlin Gallery, Oshawa; Carl Kostyál, Hospitalet, Stockholm; Mönchehaus Museum; Goslar; Sharjah Biennial 15, Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah; Sevil Dolmaci Gallery, Istanbul; Kunstraum Potsdam, Potsdam; Fondazione Imago Mundi, Treviso; Villa Panza, Varese; T293 Gallery, Rome; New Museum, Albertz Benda, Charles Moffett Gallery, New York; Banff Centre for Arts & Creativity, Banff; Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver; and Paramo Gallery, Guadalajara; among others. Amiri lives and works in New Haven, Connecticut, USA.

For press and sales inquiries please contact the gallery:

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Hangama Amiri  
Muheb Esmat, 2024  
Muslin, cotton, linen, chiffon, denim, silk, velvet, leather, suede, and ikat-print on chiffon  
73.5 x 44.5 in (186.7 x 113 cm)  
H.A0070



Hangama Amiri  
*Portrait of Anoka Faruqee at Her Studio, 2024*  
Muslin, cotton, linen, chiffon, silk, suede, denim, tape, and pencil-on fabric  
45 x 58 in (114.3 x 147.3 cm)  
H.A0069





Hangama Amiri  
*Sara Tayeb-Khalifa at Her Apartment in Manhattan, 2024*  
Muslin, cotton, chiffon, silk, polyester, velvet, denim, suede, color pencil on fabric, and hand-embroidery and  
found fabric  
44.5 x 56 in (113 x 142.2 cm)  
H.A0068



Hangama Amiri  
*Renata Nagy with Her Dog, Izumi, 2024*  
Muslin, cotton, chiffon, linen, ikat-print on chiffon, silk, leather, suede, and velvet  
56 x 42 in (142.2 x 106.7 cm)  
H.A0072





Hangama Amiri  
*Dominic Chambers with His Portrait Painting of Trevon Latin, 2024*  
Muslin, cotton, chiffon, linen, velvet, denim, and silk  
52 x 42 in (132.1 x 106.7 cm)  
H.A0071



Hangama Amiri  
*Portrait of Kern Samuel at Yale Art Gallery, 2024*  
Muslin, cotton, chiffon, silk, linen, and velvet  
52 x 34.5 in (132.1 x 87.6 cm)  
H.A0073





Hangama Amiri  
*Bhasha Chakrabarti at Her Studio Space in New Haven, CT, 2023*  
Pencil on paper  
15 x 12 in (38.1 x 30.5 cm) Framed  
H.A0058



Hangama Amiri  
*Bhasha Chakrabarti at Her Studio Space in New Haven, CT, 2023*  
Pencil on paper  
15 x 12 in (38.1 x 30.5 cm)  
H.A0058  
Framed



Hangama Amiri  
*Fatima Naqvi at Her Office, 2023*  
Pencil on paper  
15 x 10.7 in (38.1 x 27.2 cm)  
H.A0060  
Framed

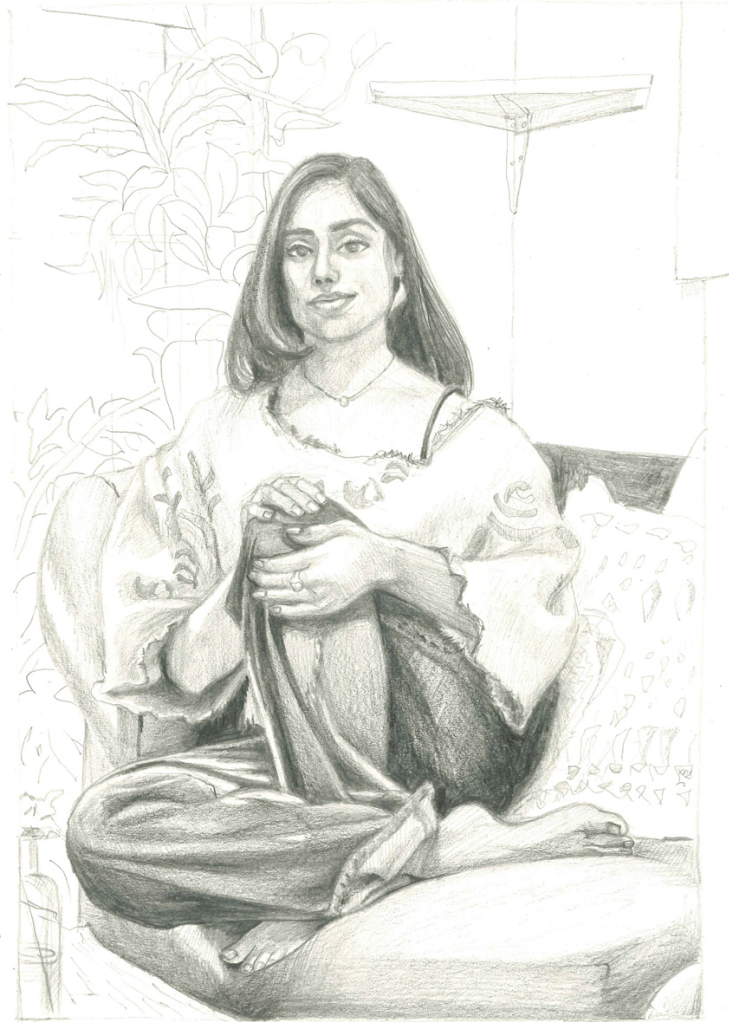


Hangama Amiri  
*Fatima Naqvi's Office at Yale University, 2023*  
Pencil on paper  
15 x 10.7 in (38.1 x 27.2 cm)  
H.A0061  
Framed





Hangama Amiri  
*Monique Pedroza at Their Lab, Yale Science, 2023*  
Pencil on paper  
15 x 10.7 in (38.1 x 27.2 cm)  
H.A0055  
Framed



*Portrait of Sadaf Paddar*

*Hangama Amiri '23*

Hangama Amiri  
*Portrait of Sadaf Paddar at Her Apartment in Brooklyn, NY, 2023*  
Pencil on paper  
15 x 10.7 in (38.1 x 27.2 cm)  
H.A0056  
Framed



Hangama Amiri  
*Sara Tayeb-Khalifa at Her Apartment in Manhattan, 2023*  
Pencil on paper  
10.7 x 15 in (27.2 x 38.1 cm)  
H.A0062  
Framed

## **Hangama Amiri**

Born 1989 Peshawar, Pakistan

Raised Kabul, Afghanistan

Lives and works in New Haven, Connecticut, USA

## **Education**

- 2022 MFA Yale School of Art, Painting/Printmaking, New Haven, USA  
2015 Canada Fulbright Post-Graduate Fellow at Council of East Asian Studies  
(CEAS), Yale University, New Haven, USA  
2012 BFA NSCAD University, Halifax, Canada

## **Solo Exhibitions**

- 2024 *Reminiscences II*, T293 Gallery, Rome, Italy  
*Circle of Friends*, Cooper Cole, Toronto, Canada  
2023 *Quiet Resistance*, Art Basel, Basel, Switzerland  
*Quiet Resistance (Kaiserring Scholarship 2023)*, Mönchehaus Museum  
Goslar, Goslar, Germany  
*Hangama Amiri: An Homage to Home*, The Aldrich Contemporary Art  
Museum, Ridgefield, USA  
2022 *Reminiscences*, Union Pacific Gallery, London, UK  
*Shabe Kheena/Henna Night*, David B. Smith Gallery, Denver, USA  
2021 *Mirrors and Faces*, Cooper Cole, Toronto, Canada  
*Wandering Amidst the Colors*, Albertz Benda, New York, USA  
*Spectators of a New Dawn*, Towards Gallery, Toronto, Canada  
2020 *Bazaar, A Recollection of Home*, T293 Gallery, Rome, Italy  
2018 *Ocean's Edge*, Laurie Swim Gallery, Lunenburg, Canada  
2017 *We Rise Again: Portraits of Afghan Women*, Lunenburg School of the Arts,  
Lunenburg, Canada  
2014 *At the Edge of the Shore*, Laurie Swim Gallery, Lunenburg, USA  
2012 *The Wind-Up Dolls of Kabul*, Anna Leonowens Gallery, Halifax, Canada

## **Group Exhibitions**

- 2024 *of intimacy and quietude*, co-curated with Lincoln Dexter, Sid Motion  
Gallery, London, UK  
*Can the Afghan Speak?*, Kunsthall 3.14, Bergen, Norway  
2023 *Botany of Desire*, Swivel Gallery, Brooklyn, USA  
*Silent Hands*, Hayy Jameel, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia  
*Memory is the Seamstress*, Green Art Gallery, Dubai, UAE  
*Plug In ICA Biennial*, Winnipeg, Canada



- Piecework*, Robert McLaughlin Gallery, Oshawa, Canada  
*Rumi*, Aga Khan Museum, Toronto, Canada  
*Thinking Historically in the Present*, Sharjah Biennial 15, Sharjah, UAE  
*Narrative Threads: Fiber Art Today*, The Moody Centre for the Arts,  
Houston, TX
- 2022 *Pop South Asia: Artistic Explorations in the Popular*, Sharjah Art  
Foundation, Sharjah, UAE  
*Qatra Qatra* Fondazione Imago Mundi, Gallerie delle Prigioni, Treviso, IT  
*Progetto Genesi. Arte e Diritti Umani*, Villa Panza, Varese, IT
- 2021 *Everything Has Its Place*, Sevil Dolmaci Gallery, Istanbul, Turkey  
*Alphabetic Image*, Arsenal Contemporary, New York, NY  
*Stockholm Sessions*, Carl Kostyál, Hospritalet, Stockholm, Sweden  
*THIS IS AMERICA*, Kunstraum Potsdam, Potsdam, Germany  
*Art and Human Rights*, Fondazione Imago Mundi, Treviso, Italy
- 2020 *Yale Painting and Printmaking MFA 2020*, Perrotin Gallery, New York, USA  
*Oh To Be A Painting*, Abigail Ogilvy Gallery, Boston, USA
- 2019 *Hold On, Hold Me*, Charles Moffett Gallery, New York, USA  
*New Suns Chapter 2*, Paramo Gallery, Guadalajara, Mexico  
*Cybernetic Alchemy, Foreign (Material) Affairs, New Inc.*, New Museum,  
New York, USA
- 2018 *Crying-Laughing*, Friends & Neighbors Gallery, Montreal, Canada  
*Here & There*, Studio Lab Gallery, New Glasgow, Canada  
*Three Artist: Paint, Stitch & Sculpt*, Laurie Swim Gallery, Lunenburg,  
Canada
- 2017 *Pause, a Break*, Project Space Gallery, Banff Centre for Arts & Creativity,  
Banff, Canada  
*Instants Video Film Festival*, Marseille, France
- 2016 *Women Voices Now*, Rolling Hill States, California, USA  
*Video Art Festival*, Casablanca, Morocco  
*The Art of the Burqa: Film, Performance, Art & Dialogue*, Pen + Brush  
Gallery, New York, USA  
*RBC Canadian Painting Competition*, Contemporary Art Gallery,  
Vancouver, Canada  
*The 28th Festival Les Instants Vidéo*, Milan Gallery, Marseille, France  
*Distant Attachments: Unsettling Contemporary Afghan Diasporic Art*, City  
Lore Gallery, New York, USA
- 2015 *The Lost Dhow: A Discovery from the Maritime Silk Route*, Aga Khan  
Museum, Toronto, Canada  
*Where We Now, Women Body & Space*, Reel Women Hong Kong, Film  
Festival, Hong Kong, China
- 2014 *Nova Scotia Art Bank*, Anna Leonowens Gallery, Halifax, Canada



*5th Passion for Freedom London Festival*, Embassy Tea Gallery, London, UK

2013 Original Species (Art. Official. Selection) Creative Art Nova Scotia, Museum of Natural History

*This is the Canadian Earth*, Teichert Gallery, Halifax, USA

*A little class goes along way*, EyeLevel Gallery, Halifax, USA

2012 *7th International Arte Laguna Prize*, Tese di San Cristoforo, Venice, Italy  
*4th Passion for Freedom London Festival*, Unit24 Gallery, London, UK

### Art Fairs

2023 Art Basel, with Cooper Cole, Basel, Switzerland

2022 NADA Miami, with Cooper Cole, Toronto, Canada

Art Toronto, with Cooper Cole, Toronto, Canada

2021 NADA Miami, with Towards Gallery, Miami, USA

### Press

2023 Kathy Battista, "Hangama Amiri's 'A Homage to Home' at The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, and in the Sharjah Biennial", Third Text, July 17  
Chris Dart, "This new exhibition wants you to know legendary poet Rumi 'as a once-living person'", CBC Arts, May 15

Cleo Roberts-Komireddi, "Artists of the Asian diaspora turn hybridity into resilience at Art Basel", Art Basel, May 5

Noelani Kirschner, "Afghan Women's Lives, Past and Present", The American Scholar, April 24

Eugenia Bell, "Home Isn't One Place; A textile tribute to the Afghan diaspora", The Yale Review, March 27

Jordan Amirkhani, "Hangama Amiri's Kaleidoscopic Textile Art Summons the Strength of Women in Afghanistan", Art in America, February 10

Ted Loos, "An Artist Puts Kabul in a New Light (With Lipstick and Manicure)", New York Times, February 9

Annabel Keenan, "Hangama Amiri Will Not Let Freedom for Afghanistan Women Be Forgotten", Cultured Magazine, February 6

2022 Urvi Kothari, "'Pop South Asia: Artistic Explorations in the Popular' at SAF navigates multiple themes" Stir World, December 8

Krishna Kumar, "'Pop South Asia' group show at Sharjah Art Foundation breaks new critical ground" Alarabiya News, December 5

Rahel Aima, "In 'Pop South Asia' Kitsch Reigns Supreme" Frieze, September 21

Hua Xi, "Back Draft: Hangama Amiri" Guernica, September 12

Muheb Esmat, "Gham, Private Spheres, and Informal Support Systems: A

- 2021  
 Conversation with Hangama Amiri”, C Magazine, Issue 151  
 “Artists for 2023 Sharjah Biennial revealed” ArtReview, April 19  
 Elisa Carrolo, “Hangama Amiri: A Thread Between Yale and Afghanistan”  
 Art She Says, December 13  
 Lila Nazemian, “Artist Spotlight with Hangama Amiri” ArteEast, November  
 Sun Woo Baik, “Fiction Tells the Truth: A Q&A with Hangama Amiri”  
 Asparagus Magazine, October 29  
 Georgia Gardner, “Hangama Amiri at Cooper Cole” [arttoronto.ca](http://arttoronto.ca), October  
 Alessandra Giacopini, "Women's Business, On memories, bazaars and  
 Afghan feminism: a conversation with Hangama Amiri" Nero Magazine,  
 January 08  
 Mario Gatti, "Il bazar interculturale di Hangama Amiri" Arts Life, Forum  
 Uniche, January 1
- 2020  
 Beatice Benella, "Intessendo la trama dei ricordi con Hangama Amiri, alla  
 galleria T293", Exibart, December 29  
 Manuela de Leonardis, "Ricordi dell' Afghanistan intessutinele stoffe  
 colorate", Il Manifesto, December 22  
 Dessane Lopez Cassell, “Our Favorite MFA Work From Yale and RISD”  
 Hyperallergic, August 27  
 Emily Steer, “These are the Ascendant Artists to Watch” The Elephant  
 Magazine, July 3  
 Caroline Goldstein, “After Yale Staged its MFA Students’ Graduate Show  
 IRL, Perrotin Gallery Revived it Online” Art Net, July 1
- 2017  
 Felicia Latour. “Afghan-Canadian artist Hangama Amiri on painting her  
 heroines.” CBC Mains Street NS, August 30  
 Pary Shuaib. “Art Can Let Afghan Women Express our Unique Selves.”  
 Free Women Writers, August 15  
 Charles Mandel. “Afghan Heroines.” LightHouse Now, pg. 16, June 28  
 Zheela Nori. “Meet Hangama Amiri.” Voice of America Dari, Voice of  
 America Dari, May 10
- 2016  
 Stacy Parker Le Melle. “Whenever I call friend.” The Huffington Post,  
 June 17  
 Celesta Hamilton Dennis. “Art of the burqa: exploring the many narratives  
 of the women under the veil.” Ivoh, New York, April 18  
 Noah Hurowitz. “Burqa Exhibit Coming to Flatiron Gallery This Weekend.”  
 DNAinfo, New York, March 3
- 2015  
 Suzanne Russell. “Secrets and Desires.” OF NOTE Magazine, The Burqa  
 Issue, December 7  
 Evan Bower. “Local artist recognized with two national awards.”  
 Lighthouse Now, November 22  
 Elissa Barnard. “Halifax Artist receives RBC Award” The Chronicle Herald,

Halifax, November 19

Kevin C. Griffin. "RBC Painting wonder to help foster Canadian-Filipino dialogue on art." *The Vancouver Sun*, November 19

James Adams. "Patrick Cruz wins \$25,000 RBC Canadian Painting Competition." *The Globe And Mail*, November 18

Lisa Paterson. "Hangama Amiri, Fulbright grant winner, headed to Yale University." *CBC News NS*, November 14

2014

Lizzy Hill. "Five art exhibits to see this summer." *The Coast*, June 19

Elissa Barnard. "The world is her inspiration." *The Chronicle Herald Arts & Life*, pg. 3, May 30

Elissa Barnard. "Landscape-inspired visions featured in *This Is the Canadian Earth*." *The Chronicle Herald Arts & Life*, February 13

2013

Robert Hirtle. "Lunenburg artist wins Portia White Prize 2013" October 30

Elissa Barnard. "Higgins shocked to win Masterworks Award." *The Chronicle Herald*, October 26

Robert Hirtle. "Artist Hangama Amiri opens new Lunenburg studio." *Progress Bulletin*, September 17

Robert Hirtle. "At the Edge of the Shore." *Progress Bulletin*, June 18

Heather Wood Rudolph. "Feminism Through Art: Meet Hangama Amiri." *Sexy Feminist*, May 3

Robert Hirtle. "Artist Focuses on human rights-themed works." *South Shore Now*, January 9, pg. 1-3

"Interview with Phlis McGregor." *CBC Radio*, January 1

2012

Greta McClain. "Afghan Canadian artist brings plight of Afghan Women to the world." *Digital Journal*, December 10, pg.1-4

Colleen Jones. "Art with a Message." *CBC News*, December 6

Beverly Ware. "Artist dedicates work to Afghan birthplace." *The Chronicle Herald*, November 25, pg. 1-3

Tahir Qadiry. "Passion for Freedom Exhibition in London." *BBC Persian News*, November 15

## Talks and Workshops

2023

Artist Talk, Hey Jameel, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, September 30

Voices of Contemporary Artists Lecture Speaker Series: "The Room of One's Own: A Look into The Private Spaces", Fine Art Museum of San Francisco, San Francisco, USA, September 7

Art Lecture at Sotheby's Institute, New York, USA, June 21

Aldrich Museum Teen Fellow Program, The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, USA, March - May 2023

Aldrich Museum Art Making Workshop: "Can It Be My Home?" The





- Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgfield, USA, February 25  
Art Lecture at School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University,  
March 17  
STAGE Speaker Series, PlugIn ICA, Winnipeg, March 23  
2022 Artist Talk "Place, Memory, and Gender in the Middle East" Denver Art  
Museum, Denver, USA, June 9  
2021 "Hangama Amiri in Conversation with Muheb Esmat" Cooper Cole,  
Toronto, Canada  
2021 Art Lecture at Arkansas University, Fayetteville, USA, Nov 17  
Art Lecture at Princeton University, Princeton, USA, Nov 16  
Art Lecture at Willamette University, Salem, USA, Oct 20  
2019 Embroidery Workshop at IRIS- Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services,  
New Haven, USA, November 15 - December 30

### Residencies

- 2019 The Long Road Projects, Jacksonville, USA  
2018 World of CO. Residency Program, Sofia, Bulgaria  
2017 JOYA: AiR, Arte + Ecologia Residency, Andalusia, Spain  
The Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, Banff, Canada  
2013 White Rabbit Arts. Economy, NS, Canada  
NSCAD-Lunenburg Community Residency Program, Lunenburg, Canada

### Awards and Grants

- 2023 Kaiserring Stipendium from Mönchehaus Museum Goslar  
Canada Council for the Arts (Concept to Realization Grant)  
2021 MobileCoin Art Prize, NADA Miami, USA  
2020 Dean's Critical Practice Research Grant, Yale School of Art, New Haven,  
USA  
2019 Schickle-Collingwood Memorial Prize, Yale School of Art, New Haven,  
USA  
2018 Arts Nova Scotia (Professional Development Grant)  
2017 Toronto Arts Council (Individual Grant)  
Arts Equity Funding (Special Travel Grant)  
Arts Equity Funding & Canada Council for the Arts (Creation Grant)  
2015 RBC Canadian Painting Competition (Honourable mention)  
Canada Fulbright Traditional Student Award  
2014 Arts Equity Funding & Canada Council for the Arts (Creation Grant)  
2013 Arts Nova Scotia (Presentation Grant)  
Portia White Prize Protege  
Creative Nova Scotia Grant



2012      Arts Nova Scotia Funding, Grants to Individuals  
Robert Pope Foundation Painting Scholarship  
Alexander J. McDonald Memorial Award

### **Public Collections**

Art Gallery of Nova Scotia  
Burger Collection  
Jiménez-Colón Collection  
Nova Scotia Art Bank  
RBC Corporate Collection  
Genesi Collection  
Denver Art Museum  
Naila Art Collection