

Awards / Grants / Honours

- 2020 **Canada Council for the Arts** – Digital Originals grant (CelebrateHer).
Remarkable Alumni Award, Southridge School, Surrey, BC.
- 2019 **#RisingYouth Community Service Grant** (Canada Service Corps, TakingITGlobal and the Government of Canada).
Creative Arts Grant, The Silk Road Institute. Montreal.
- 2018 **Artist for Peace Award**, Les Artistes pour la Paix (APLP). Montreal.
Certificate of Achievement (Top 10), Portrait Society of Canada Annual Competition. Toronto.
Official Selection, Jubilee Arts International Film Festival (juried), Cinema NOS. Lisbon, Portugal.
Best Short Film – National, Jubilee Arts Canada (juried), Toronto.
Best Mixed Media Artwork – Provincial, Jubilee Arts Quebec (juried), Montreal.
Acquisition by McCord-Stewart Museum collection (Prints from the “26 Project” and “Postering Peace”). Montreal.
- 2017 **Digital Art Grant**, the Michaele Jean Foundation, CHAI Program: Combatting Hate Advancing Inclusion. Ottawa.
Provincial Winner, CANFAR Art Exhibit (juried). Canadian Foundation for Aids Research. Toronto.
- 2016 **Conceptual Illustration of the Year** – National (juried), Applied Arts Canada. Toronto.
- 2010 **People’s Choice Award**, Visual Impact group show (juried). Samuel Bronfman Building at McGill University. Montreal.

Solo Exhibitions

- 2018 **Morrice Hall at McGill University**, CelebrateHer (in collaboration with Imago Theatre), Montreal. (self-produced)
Collège de Rosemont, CelebrateHer (in collaboration with Imago Theatre), Montreal. (curated)
- 2017 **Arts Underground**, Here is a gift. Whitehorse, Yukon. (curated)
- 2016 **Canadian Museum of Immigration**, Canada’s Self Portrait. Halifax. (curated)
- 2015 **Galerie Mile-End**, Canada’s Self Portrait. Montreal. (self-produced)
- 2012 **Fridge Door Gallery**, Copycat. Montreal. (curated)

Group Exhibitions / Film Screenings (selected)

- 2020 **OCADu**, Feminist Art Festival: Narrative Healing. Toronto. (juried)
- 2019 **Musée des beaux-arts de Mont-Saint-Hilaire**, Biennale du dessin. Mont-Saint-Hilaire, QC. (curated)
- 2018 Travelling exhibition: **Conseil des Arts de Montréal** (Montréal), **Musée des beaux-arts de Mont-Saint-Hilaire** (Mont-Saint-Hilaire),
Festival de la Paix de Victoriaville (Victoriaville). Lancement du Manifeste pour la Paix. (curated)
Cinema NOS (Lisbon). Jubilee Arts International Festival, Lisbon, Portugal. (juried)
Rialto Theatre, Archipelago: A living museum. Montreal. (curated)
Four Seasons Performing Arts Centre, Jubilee Arts Canada Festival. Toronto. (juried)
- 2017 **Aga Khan Museum**, The Silk Road Institute’s 4th Wall Showcase: Postering Peace, Toronto.
Travelling exhibition: **Peel Art Gallery and Museum Archives** (Brampton), **Mississauga Celebration Square** (Mississauga).
150 Muslim Contributions to Canada. (juried)
Stewart Hall Art Gallery, Géopoétique. Pointe-Claire, QC. (curated)
Toronto Reference Library. Nuit Blanche Toronto: Postering Peace. Toronto. (curated)
Stewart Hall Art Gallery, The art that inhabits us. Pointe-Claire, QC. (juried)
- 2011 **Light Night Festival**, Light Bite, Nottingham, United Kingdom. (juried)
- 2010 **Avenue Art Gallery**, Body Talk. Montreal. (curated)
Samuel Bronfman Building, McGill University, Visual Impact. Montreal. (juried)

Talks / Workshops / Performances (selected)

- 2020 **OCADu**, Feminist Art Festival: Panelist, “Magnifying the Unseen.” Toronto.
Southridge School: Guest speaker, “Community.” Vancouver.
- 2019 **Musée des beaux-arts de Mont Saint-Hilaire**: Interactive performance, « Un défi de la paix. » Mont Saint-Hilaire, QC.
Centre for Social Innovation, Beyond the Single Story Media Retreat: Panelist, “Stories as forces of meaning-making.” Toronto.
MAX Mentors and the Silk Road Institute: Panelist, “From Mosque to Museum: Contemporary Muslim Voices.” Montreal.
Paul Smith’s College (New York): Guest speaker. (Recurring: 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019.) New York.

- 2018 **Montreal Museum of Fine Arts**, Power of the Arts National Forum: Panelist, “Arts & Reconciliation” and “Arts & Discrimination,” Montreal.
Cinema NOS (Lisbon), Jubilee Arts International Film Festival: Panelist, “International Artist & Filmmaker Q&A.” Lisbon, Portugal.
Trampolinhuset (Denmark), Workshop facilitator, “Asylbørns fremtid.” Copenhagen, Denmark.
Inspirit Foundation: Speaker, “Remembering January 29 & Leading Change.” Ottawa.
- 2017 **Arts Underground**: Artist Talk, Whitehorse, YK.
Stewart Hall Art Gallery: Workshop facilitator, “Participatory portraits.” Pointe-Claire, QC.
Alfred B. Dixon Elementary: Guest speaker, “Les oeuvres collaboratives.” Vancouver.
- 2016 **Canadian Museum of Immigration**: Artist Talk and Interactive performance, Halifax.
Galerie MX: Guest speaker, McGill Alumni Association. Montreal.
- 2015 **Southridge School**: Guest speaker. Vancouver.
- 2014 **Canadian Race Relations Symposium**: Panelist, “Art & Canadian identity.” Ottawa.
- 2013 **Riverdale High School**: Workshop facilitator, Overture With The Arts. Montreal.
- 2010 **Southridge School**: Guest speaker. Vancouver.

Community projects, collaborations, commissions, residencies *(selected)*

- 2020 **International Centre of Art for Social Change**: FUTURES/forward program – participating artist, Toronto.
Southridge School: 25th Anniversary Mural Commission for Southridge School, Vancouver.
Centre culturel islamique de Québec: 29 messages à Québec, Portes ouvertes, 3e anniversaire du 29 janvier, Québec.
- 2019 **La Table Fleurie d’Algerie**: CelebrateHer, Montréal.
Paul Smith’s College: Artist residencies. (Recurring: 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019) New York.
- 2018 **Copenhagen Poetry Club**: Vi ikke jeg. Copenhagen, Denmark.
LX Factory (Lisbon): Ela é uma mulher incrível. Lisbon, Portugal.
- 2017 **Canadian Centre for International Justice**: Portrait of Homa Hoodfar. Ottawa.
World Conference on Drowning Prevention: The Life Jacket Project. Vancouver.
#LawNeedsFeminism: Portrait of Juanita Westmoreland-Traoré. Montreal.
Montreal Vigil for Québec City Muslims, Parc Metro: Stronger Together. Montreal.
Mural Festival: Why support underrepresented artists? Montreal.
Arts Underground: Artist residency. Whitehorse, YK.
- 2016 **Toronto Symphony Orchestra**: Love letters. Toronto.
- 2012 **Concordia University’s School of Extended Learning**: University of the Streets, collaborative artwork. Montreal.
- 2010 **Southridge School**: Artist residency. Vancouver.

Writing / Publications *(selected)*

- 2019 **Art/iculation Magazine** (Queer & Now). “I resist compulsory heterosexuality: An interview with Clare Byarugaba.” Montreal.
- 2018 **Art/iculation Magazine** (The Art of Healing). “Perfect Metaphor.” Montreal.
Living Hyphen Magazine, “Why support underrepresented artists?” Aquil Virani. Toronto.
F-WORD, “Clare Byarugaba,” Aquil Virani. Montreal.
- 2017 **The Apollos** (Paul Smiths College). “Beyond the Canvas,” and “Understanding systemic privilege.” New York.
Géopoétique (Exhibition catalogue), Stewart Hall Art Gallery, Aquil Virani. Pointe-Claire, Quebec.
- 2016 **UPPERCASE Magazine**. “Why I care that my art is inclusive.” Calgary.
- 2015 **Applied Arts Magazine**, “Canada’s Self Portrait.” Aquil Virani. Toronto.
Entitled Magazine (Identity). “Drawing Canadian Identity.” London.
- 2011 **Empty Easel** (emptyeasel.com). “Just one Artist Statement?”
The Concordian. “How to create your own art show.” Montreal.

Background

Arts education: Self-taught.

Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts, Philosophy, Marketing, McGill University, 2008 - 2012.

– J.W. McConnell Major Scholarship for academic excellence and community involvement (\$20K).

Member: **Drawing Board Collective** (drawingboard.info), Montreal. 2016 - present.

Member: **Galerie Mile-End**, Montreal. 2015 - 2018.

Press / Publications (selected)

- 2020 Print **Southridge**, "Southridge Welcomes Alumnus and Artist Aquil Virani," Natasha Karan. Vancouver.
Podcast **Never Was Average x TakingITGlobal**, "L'attentat de Québec après 3 ans : le pouvoir des petits gestes." Eva Jomphe. Québec.
- 2019 Print **Inspirit Foundation**, "Muslims in Canada: The Bigger Picture." Shazlin Rahman. Toronto.
Print **Adirondack Daily Enterprise**, "Image of a new semester." Peter Crowley. New York.
- 2018 Print **Le Devoir**, « De l'art comme outil pacifiste. » Caroline Montpetit. Montréal.
Print **La Presse**, « Aquil Virani célèbre la diversité des femmes. » Éric Clément. Montreal.
Print **TVA Nouvelles**, « Aquil Virani, artiste pour la paix 2018. » Montréal.
TV **Global News**, "CelebrateHer: Twelve inspiring, everyday women." Laura Casella. Montreal.
TV **CTV**, "What's On: Archipelago." Christine Long. Montreal.
Radio **CBC's Homerun**, "CelebrateHer with artist Aquil Virani and honouree Rachel Zellars." Sue Smith. Montreal.
Radio **CKUT's Upstage**, "Interview with visual artist Aquil Virani." Sarah Deshaies. Montreal.
Radio **CBC Radio 1**, "Rialto Theatre transformed into a museum of original art, live performances." Nantali Indongo. Montreal.
- 2017 Print **Le Devoir**, « Des oeuvres, un silence et des mots. » Odile Tremblay. Montréal.
Print **La Presse**, « Les arts en fête à Pointe-Claire. » Éric Clément. Montreal.
Print **The Globe & Mail**, "The Quebec City Mosque Attack: What we know so far." Canada.
Print **CBC North**, "Yukon chiefs' personalities 'shine through' in colourful paintings." Philippe Morin. Whitehorse.
Print **Whitehorse Star**, "Arts Underground artist-in-residence Aquil Virani." Vince Fedoroff. Whitehorse.
Print **L'aurore boréale**, « L'ici et maintenant d'Aquil Virani. » Olivier de Colombel. Whitehorse.
Print **CBC Montreal**, "Canada wraps its arms around victims of mosque attack." Jaela Bernstien, Loreen Pindera. Montreal.
Print **McGill News Magazine**, "Alumni hear young entrepreneurs' stories." Montreal.
Print **Bramptonist**, "New PAMA Exhibits Highlight Diversity of Communities in Canada." Leslie Hatton. Brampton.
TV **OMNI TV**, "PAMA: Muslim contributions to Canada." Mahnoor Yawar. Brampton.
TV **MAtv**, "#CelebrateHer on Montreal Billboard." Kim Sullivan and Tina Tennerriello. Montreal.
TV **Global News**, "Notable women for an extraordinary project." Laura Casella. Montreal.
TV **McGill University Convocations**, "Featured alumni" (video). Montreal.
TV **Canoë Télévision**, "Manifestation des femmes contre Donald Trump à Montréal en direct." Montreal.
Radio **NPR**, "Paul Smiths College freshmen collaborate with Montreal artist on new art." Todd Moe. New York.
- 2016 Print **Artistorian**, "100 artworks in 1 week?" Cassandra Marsillo. Montreal.
Print **The Coast**, "Consider your Canada at Pier 21." Morgan Mullin. Halifax.
TV **Breakfast Television**, "100 artworks in 1 week." Derick Fage. Montreal.
TV **CBC's Daybreak Telecast**, "Free art!" Mike Finnerty. Montreal.
Radio **CBC's Homerun**, "At the gallery with Aquil Virani (100 artworks in 1 week)." Sue Smith. Montreal.
Radio **NPR**, "A new school year and new art at Paul Smiths College." Todd Moe. New York.
- 2015 Print **La Presse**, « Esquisse de l'identité canadienne. » Éric Clément. Montreal.
Print **URBANIA Magazine**, « Autoportrait en 842 fragments. » Julie Chaumont. Montreal.
Print **Canadian Geographic**, "Crowdsourced art on Canadian identity." Carys Mills. Toronto.
Print **Applied Arts Magazine**, "Canadian Identity." Kristina Urquhart. Toronto.
TV **Breakfast Television**, "What is Canada's Self Portrait?" Montreal.
TV **CBC**, "Montreal artist creates 24 pieces in 24 hours." Montreal.
TV **Channel 3 News**, "New Paul Smith's students welcomed with unique art project." Rose Spillman. Vermont.
Radio **CBC's Homerun**, "Drawing Canadian Identity." Sue Smith. Montreal.
Radio **NPR**, "Pounce!" Todd Moe. New York.
Radio **CBC's Daybreak**, "The 24 project." Mike Finnerty. Montreal.
- 2014 Print **Victoria Times Colonist**, "Sketches reveal Canucks' love of country." Richard Watts. Victoria.
TV **CBC**, "Canada's Self Portrait at Heritage Days." Edmonton.
TV **CTV**, "CTV Morning Live with Kelly Linehan: Canada's Self Portrait." Winnipeg.
Radio **CBC Nova Scotia**, "Canada's Self Portrait." Yvonne Leblanc-Smith, Halifax.
Radio **CBC Manitoba**, "Winnipeggers wanted for national art project." Ismaila Alfa. Winnipeg.
Radio **Boulevard du Pacifique (Ici)**, « Un Vancouverois traverse le Canada pour le dessiner. » Vancouver.
- 2013 Print **Adirondack Daily Enterprise** (front page), "Unifying Freshmen." Shaun Kittle. New York.
Radio **NPR**, "Revealing the artist in everyone." Todd Moe. New York.
- 2012 Print **Leacock's Magazine**, "COPYCAT." Jessica Prupas. Montreal.
TV **Global News**, "Focus Montreal." Richard Dagenais. Montreal.