

**Awards / Grants / Honours**

- 2020 **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 Competition, Portrait Society of Canada. 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), curated by Ashina Sheriff. Montreal.  
**Acquisition by McCord-Stewart Museum** collection (Prints from the “26 Project” and “Postering Peace”). Montreal.
- 2017 **Digital Art Grant**, CHAI: Combatting Hate Advancing Inclusion, Michaelle Jean Foundation. 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.  
**Centaur Theatre**, Confabulation’s 9th Anniversary Show: Speaker, “Get It Together.” 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 **Southridge School**: 25th Anniversary Mural 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** (Queer & Now). “I resist compulsory heterosexuality: An interview with Clare Byarugaba.” Montreal.
- 2018 **Art/iculation** (The Art of Healing). “Perfect Metaphor.” Montreal.
- 2017 **The Apollos** (Paul Smiths College). “Beyond the Canvas.” New York.  
**The Apollos** (Paul Smiths College). “Understanding systemic privilege.” New York.
- 2016 **UPPERCASE Magazine**. “Why I care that my art is inclusive.” Calgary.
- 2015 **Entitled Magazine** (Identity). “Drawing Canadian Identity.” London.
- 2011 **Empty Easel** ([emptyeasel.com](http://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](http://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. Montréal.  
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. Montréal.  
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. Montréal.  
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 Vancouvérois 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.