

Awards / Grants / Honours

- 2021 **Ontario Arts Council** – Artist Response Initiative grant.
2021 **City of Ottawa** – Diversity in the Arts project grant.
2020 **Toronto Arts Council** – Emerging Visual Artist grant.
2020 **Canada Council for the Arts** – Digital Originals grant.
2020 **Remarkable Alumni Award**, Southridge School, Surrey, BC.
2019 **#RisingYouth Community Service Grant** (Canada Service Corps, TakingITGlobal and the Government of Canada).
2019 **Silk Road Institute** – Creative Arts grant. Montreal, QC.
2018 **Artist for Peace Award**, Les Artistes pour la Paix (APLP). Montreal, QC.
2018 **Certificate of Achievement** (Top 10), Portrait Society of Canada Annual Competition. Toronto, ON.
2018 **Official Selection**, Jubilee Arts International Film Festival (juried), Cinema NOS. Lisbon, Portugal.
Best Short Film – National, Jubilee Arts Canada (juried), Toronto, ON.
Best Mixed Media Artwork – Provincial, Jubilee Arts Quebec (juried), Montreal, QC.
2018 **Acquisition by McCord-Stewart Museum** collection (Prints from the “26 Project” and “Postering Peace”). Montreal, QC.
2017 **Digital Art Grant**, the Michaele Jean Foundation, CHAI Program: Combatting Hate Advancing Inclusion. Ottawa, ON.
2017 **Provincial Winner**, CANFAR Art Exhibit (juried). Canadian Foundation for Aids Research. Toronto, ON.
2016 **Conceptual Illustration of the Year** – National (juried), Applied Arts Canada. Toronto, ON.
2010 **People’s Choice Award**, Visual Impact group show (juried). Samuel Bronfman Building, McGill University. Montreal, QC.

Solo Exhibitions

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

Group Exhibitions / Film Screenings (selected)

- 2020 **OCAD U**, Feminist Art Festival: Narrative Healing. Toronto, ON. (juried)
2020 **Myseum of Toronto**: Quarantine Qapsule, in collaboration with Tea Base and Nightingale Nguyen. Toronto, ON. (juried)
2019 **Musée des beaux-arts de Mont-Saint-Hilaire**, Biennale du dessin. Mont-Saint-Hilaire, QC. (curated)
2018 **Cinema NOS (Lisbon)**. Jubilee Arts International Festival, Lisbon, Portugal. (juried)
2018 **Rialto Theatre**, Archipelago: A living museum. Montreal, QC. (curated)
2018 **Four Seasons Performing Arts Centre**, Jubilee Arts Canada Festival. Toronto, ON. (juried)
2017 **Aga Khan Museum**, The Silk Road Institute’s 4th Wall Showcase: Postering Peace, Toronto, ON. (juried)
2017 Travelling exhibition: **Peel Art Gallery and Museum Archives** (Brampton, ON), **Mississauga Celebration Square** (Mississauga, ON).
150 Muslim Contributions to Canada. (juried)
2017 **Stewart Hall Art Gallery**, Geopoetics. Pointe-Claire, QC. (curated)
2017 **Toronto Reference Library**. Nuit Blanche Toronto: Postering Peace. Toronto, ON. (curated)
2017 **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, QC. (curated)

Talks / Workshops / Performances (selected)

- 2020 **OCAD U**, Feminist Art Festival: Panelist, “Magnifying the Unseen.” Toronto, ON.
2020 **Human Rights Film Festival, hosted by JAYU**: Panelist, “Arts for Social Change.” Zoom. Toronto, ON.
2020 **#JeunesEnAction** – Documentary Launch: Panelist, “Cultures de résilience.” Facebook Live. Quebec City, QC.
2020 **Paul Smith’s College (New York)**: Guest speaker. (Recurring: 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020.) Paul Smiths, NY.
2020 **Southridge School**: Guest speaker and special guest for student critique. Vancouver, BC.

- 2019 **Musée des beaux-arts de Mont Saint-Hilaire:** Interactive performance, « Un défi de la paix. » Mont Saint-Hilaire, QC.
- 2019 **Centre for Social Innovation,** Beyond the Single Story Media Retreat: Panelist, “Stories as forces of meaning-making.” Toronto, ON.
- 2018 **Montreal Museum of Fine Arts,** Power of the Arts National Forum: Panelist, “Arts & Discrimination,” Montreal, QC.
- 2018 **Cinema NOS (Lisbon),** Jubilee Arts International Film Festival: Panelist, “International Artist & Filmmaker Q&A.” Lisbon, Portugal.
- 2018 **Trampolinhuset (Denmark),** Workshop facilitator, “Asylbørns fremtid.” Copenhagen, Denmark.
- 2017 **Arts Underground:** Artist Talk, Whitehorse, YK.
- 2017 **Stewart Hall Art Gallery:** Workshop facilitator, “Participatory portraits.” Pointe-Claire, QC.
- 2016 **Canadian Museum of Immigration:** Artist Talk and Interactive performance, Halifax, NS.
- 2016 **Galerie MX:** Guest speaker, McGill Alumni Association. Montreal, QC.
- 2015 **Southridge School:** Guest speaker. Vancouver, BC.
- 2014 **Canadian Race Relations Symposium:** Panelist, “Art & Canadian identity.” Ottawa, ON.

Community projects, collaborations, commissions, residencies (selected)

- 2021 **Amplified Opera:** Collaborative painting series and digital unveiling, Toronto, ON. (upcoming)
- 2020 **Southridge School:** 25th Anniversary Mural Commission for Southridge School, Vancouver, BC.
- 2020 **CCIQ (Centre culturel islamique de Québec):** 29 messages à Québec, Portes ouvertes, 3e anniversaire du 29 janvier, Québec, QC.
- 2020 **Paul Smith's College:** Artist residencies. (Recurring: 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020.) Paul Smiths, NY.
- 2018 **Copenhagen Poetry Club:** Vi ikke jeg. Copenhagen, Denmark.
- 2018 **Musée des beaux-arts de Mont-Saint-Hilaire:** Le Manifeste pour la Paix, Mont-Saint-Hilaire and Victoriaville, QC.
- 2018 **LX Factory:** Ela é uma mulher incrível. Lisbon, Portugal.
- 2017 **Canadian Centre for International Justice:** Portrait of Homa Hoodfar. Ottawa, ON.
- 2017 **Postering Peace:** Combatting Islamophobia (Film commissioned by the Michaelle Jean Foundation). Montreal, QC.
- 2017 **World Conference on Drowning Prevention:** The Life Jacket Project. Vancouver, BC.
- 2017 **#LawNeedsFeminism:** Portrait of Juanita Westmoreland-Traoré. Montreal, QC.
- 2017 **Montreal Vigil for Québec City Muslims,** Parc Metro: Stronger Together. Montreal, QC.
- 2017 **MURAL Festival:** Why support underrepresented artists? Montreal, QC.
- 2017 **Arts Underground:** Artist residency. Whitehorse, YK.
- 2016 **Toronto Symphony Orchestra:** Love letters. Toronto, ON.
- 2012 **Concordia University's School of Extended Learning:** University of the Streets, collaborative artwork. Montreal, QC.
- 2010 **Southridge School:** Artist residency. Vancouver, BC.

Publications as Author (selected)

- Virani, A. (2021). **Muslim American Writers At Home.** “Notre sang, la même couleur II” and “You’re infected.” San Francisco, USA.
- Virani, A. (2021). **Living Hyphen Magazine** (Issue: Across Generations). “Your letter across generations.” (upcoming)
- Virani, A. (2021). Artist publication in collaboration with **Amplified Opera.** “Microphone.” Toronto, ON.
- Virani, A. (2020). **International Centre of Art for Social Change** (blog). “FUTURES/forward: Collaborating with the OUR Ecovillage.” Vancouver, BC.
- Virani, A. (2020). Artist publication in collaboration with the **Silk Road Institute.** “29 messages à Québec.” Montreal, QC.
- Virani, A. (2019). **Art/iculation Magazine** (Issue: Queer & Now). “I resist compulsory heterosexuality: Interview with Clare Byarugaba.” Montreal, QC.
- Virani, A. (2018). **Living Hyphen** (Issue: Entrances & Exits). “Why support underrepresented artists?” Montreal, QC.
- Virani, A. (2018). **Art/iculation Magazine** (Issue: The Art of Healing). “Perfect metaphor.” Montreal, QC.
- Virani, A. (2018). **F-WORD.** “Clare Byarugaba.” Montreal, QC.
- Virani, A. (2016). **UPPERCASE Magazine.** “Why I care that my art is inclusive.” Calgary, AB.
- Virani, A. (2015). **Entitled Magazine** (Issue: Identity). “Drawing Canadian Identity.” London, UK.
- Virani, A. (2011). **Empty Easel** (emptyeasel.com). “Just one artist statement?”

Background

Visual arts education: Self-taught.

- 2020 **International Centre of Art for Social Change:** FUTURES/forward program – Summer 2020. Toronto, ON.
- 2020 Member, **Drawing Board Collective** (drawingboard.info), Montreal. 2016 - present.
- 2012 **Bachelor of Arts (BA)** in Liberal Arts, Philosophy, Marketing, McGill University, 2008 - 2012.
– J.W. McConnell Major Scholarship (\$20K), Semiahmoo Rotary Club Scholarship, Jim Ison Shield for Public Speaking

2021	Documentary	CBC Radio One: Doc Project , "This artist wrote 30 thank-you letters for his 30th birthday." Alisa Siegel. Toronto, ON.
2021	Print	Ottawa Citizen , "Stamps of approval." Lynn Saxberg. Ottawa, ON.
2020	Documentary	Adrijan Assoufi , "Cultures de résilience." Produced by TakingITGlobal and Government of Canada. Montreal, QC.
2020	Online	Southridge , "Southridge Welcomes Alumnus and Artist Aquil Virani," Natasha Karan. Vancouver, BC.
2020	Podcast	Never Was Average + #RisingYouth , "# 5 – Déterrer l'islamophobie." Eva Jomphe. Québec, QC.
2019	Online	Inspirit Foundation , "Muslims in Canada: The Bigger Picture." Shazlin Rahman. Toronto, ON.
2019	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, QC.
2018	Print	La Presse , « Aquil Virani célèbre la diversité des femmes. » Éric Clément. Montreal, QC.
2018	Print	TVA Nouvelles , « Aquil Virani, artiste pour la paix 2018. » Montréal, QC.
2018	Television	Global News , "CelebrateHer: Twelve inspiring, everyday women." Laura Casella. Montreal, QC.
2018	Radio	CBC's Homerun , "CelebrateHer with artist Aquil Virani and honouree Rachel Zellars." Sue Smith. Montreal, QC.
2018	Radio	CKUT's Upstage , "Interview with visual artist Aquil Virani." Sarah Deshaies. Montreal, QC.
2018	Radio	CBC Radio 1 , "Rialto Theatre transformed into a museum of original art." Nantali Indongo. Montreal, QC.
2017	Print	Le Devoir , « Des oeuvres, un silence et des mots. » Odile Tremblay. Montréal, QC.
2017	Print	La Presse , « Les arts en fête à Pointe-Claire. » Éric Clément. Montreal, QC.
2017	Online	The Globe & Mail , "The Quebec City Mosque Attack: What we know so far."
2017	Online	CBC North , "Yukon chiefs' personalities 'shine through' in colourful paintings." Philippe Morin. Whitehorse, YK.
2017	Print	Whitehorse Star , "Arts Underground artist-in-residence Aquil Virani." Vince Fedoroff. Whitehorse, YK.
2017	Print	L'aurore boréale , « L'ici et maintenant d'Aquil Virani. » Olivier de Colombel. Whitehorse, YK.
2017	Online	CBC Montreal , "Canada wraps its arms around victims of mosque attack." Jaela Bernstien. Montreal, QC.
2017	Online	Bramptonist , "New PAMA Exhibits Highlight Diversity of Communities in Canada." Leslie Hatton. Brampton, ON.
2017	Television	OMNI TV , "PAMA: Muslim contributions to Canada." Mahnoor Yawar. Brampton, ON.
2017	Television	MAtv , "#CelebrateHer on Montreal Billboard." Kim Sullivan and Tina Tennerriello. Montreal, QC.
2017	Television	Global News , "Notable women for an extraordinary project." Laura Casella. Montreal, QC.
2017	Television	McGill University Convocations , "Featured alumni" (video). Montreal, QC.
2017	Television	Canoë Télévision , "Manifestation des femmes contre Donald Trump à Montréal en direct." Montreal, QC.
2017	Radio	NPR , "Paul Smiths College freshmen collaborate with Montreal artist on new art." Todd Moe. New York.
2016	Online	Artistorian , "100 artworks in 1 week?" Cassandra Marsillo. Montreal, QC.
2016	Print	The Coast , "Consider your Canada at Pier 21." Morgan Mullin. Halifax, NS.
2016	Television	Breakfast Television , "100 artworks in 1 week." Derick Fage. Montreal, QC.
2016	Television	CBC's Daybreak Telecast , "Free art!" Mike Finnerty. Montreal, QC.
2016	Radio	CBC's Homerun , "At the gallery with Aquil Virani (100 artworks in 1 week)." Sue Smith. Montreal, QC.
2016	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, QC.
2015	Print	URBANIA Magazine , « Autoportrait en 842 fragments. » Julie Chaumont. Montreal, QC.
2015	Online	Canadian Geographic , "Crowdsourced art on Canadian identity." Carys Mills. Toronto, ON.
2015	Online	Applied Arts Magazine , "Canadian Identity." Kristina Urquhart. Toronto, ON.
2015	Television	Breakfast Television , "What is Canada's Self Portrait?" Montreal, QC.
2015	Television	CBC , "Montreal artist creates 24 pieces in 24 hours." Montreal, QC.
2015	Television	Channel 3 News , "New Paul Smith's students welcomed with unique art project." Rose Spillman. Vermont.
2015	Radio	CBC's Homerun , "Drawing Canadian Identity." Sue Smith. Montreal, QC.
2015	Radio	NPR , "Pounce!" Todd Moe. New York.
2015	Radio	CBC's Daybreak , "The 24 project." Mike Finnerty. Montreal, QC.
2014	Print	Victoria Times Colonist , "Sketches reveal Canucks' love of country." Richard Watts. Victoria, BC.
2014	Television	CBC , "Canada's Self Portrait at Heritage Days." Edmonton, AB.
2014	Television	CTV , "CTV Morning Live with Kelly Linehan: Canada's Self Portrait." Winnipeg, MB.
2014	Radio	CBC Nova Scotia , "Canada's Self Portrait." Yvonne Leblanc-Smith, Halifax, NS.
2014	Radio	CBC Manitoba , "Winnipeggers wanted for national art project." Ismaila Alfa. Winnipeg, MB.
2014	Radio	Boulevard du Pacifique (Ici) , « Un Vancouvérois traverse le Canada pour le dessiner. » Vancouver, BC.
2013	Print	Adirondack Daily Enterprise (front page), "Unifying Freshmen." Shaun Kittle. New York.
2013	Radio	NPR , "Revealing the artist in everyone." Todd Moe. New York.
2012	Online	Leacock's Magazine , "COPYCAT." Jessica Prupas. Montreal, QC.
2012	Television	Global News , "Focus Montreal." Richard Dagenais. Montreal, QC.