

Submission deadline: May 22, 2021 – 11:59pm ET

# Ottawa Inshallah asks local Muslim artists to dream of a better future

Recently awarded a community project grant from the City of Ottawa's Diversity in the Arts program, *Ottawa Inshallah* is a bilingual art anthology to be produced by artist Aquil Virani that features 25 Ottawa-area Muslim artists.

The interdisciplinary project starts with an open call for submissions in **any visual medium that can fit on a printed page** – whether drawing, henna art, performance documentation or writing. Two separate hour-long Zoom workshops will help artists brainstorm creative ideas to submit if they need it; these online gatherings will also serve as a Q&A for prospective artists. Submissions will be judged by an esteemed jury of three based on their artistic merit and relevance to the theme. 25 selected artists will receive a modest honorarium and a free personal copy of the anthology.

Mockup of "Ottawa Inshallah"  
Bilingual Muslim artist anthology



**AQUIL.CA**

Contact : Aquil Virani  
514 677 4137 – [aquilvirani@gmail.com](mailto:aquilvirani@gmail.com)

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# Call for Submissions

**Eligibility:** Ottawa-based Muslim artists, writers, photographers, creatives, people

**Theme:** Ottawa Inshallah presents our collective vision for a better future. A just future where we thrive. A beautiful future where we blossom. A glorious future where we transcend and resist and continue to assert our right to be represented on our own terms.

**Honorarium for selected artists:**  
CAD\$100 + free anthology copy

**Notifications:** Our goal is to confirm reception of your submission within one week. We plan to notify artists of the results of the jury by late-May-early-June.

**If not selected:** Our community of artists is much larger than what can be contained in the book. As a result, a larger “community” section will publish the names and websites of those who submitted artwork but were not featured. The goal is to connect like-minded artists and platform the diverse work of Ottawa-based Muslim artists.

## To apply

Send up to 3 separate submissions via email to [ottawainshallah@gmail.com](mailto:ottawainshallah@gmail.com) with the subject line: “Submission #1 – First Name Last Name” by 11:59pm ET on May 22, 2021.

**1. Attach a square image in PDF, JPG or PNG format** at a minimum of at a minimum of 2000 x 2000 pixels based on theme of “Ottawa Inshallah: A better future.” **Writers may submit** a short poem or prose as a Word document with the understanding that, if selected, this will be laid out by the book designer.

**2. Copy-paste the following information** of yours in the body of the email:

- **Contact information:** Full name, age, email address, phone number, mailing address, artistic medium of the submission, artist website and/or social media handles (if you have them)
- **Combined biography and statement** about the artwork (200 word maximum in the third person). Be sure to explain or suggest how your artwork relates to the theme.



## A few notes

Any visual that fits on a printed page is eligible, including drawings, written poems, photographs of performances, illustrations or even Excel art. Our creativity knows no bounds. Limit of 3 submissions per person. For photographs, ensure proper lighting and focus.

There is no pressure to “Muslim it up” – there will be no preference for work that is explicitly Islamic in reference or inspiration. Muslim artists can make work about daal, delight, dragons, devotion, and anything in-between.

Our goal is to represent a diversity of Muslim voices in Ottawa, so if you feel comfortable identifying yourself, we will be happy to know which priority groups are included in our submissions.



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Questions? Need help brainstorming?

# Optional workshop / Q&A

English workshop: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 - 12:00pm ET

This is an optional Zoom workshop to help artists brainstorm creative ideas to submit, if needed. Prospective artists can also ask questions during a Q&A. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83867605394>



## About the organizer

Based in Ottawa, Aquil Virani is an Ismaili Muslim and an award-winning visual artist, filmmaker and graphic designer. Awarded as the “Artist of the Year” by the Quebec-based artist collective “Les artistes pour la paix,” he often integrates public participation into his socially-conscious art projects. His work has been supported by the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council, the City of Ottawa, the Toronto Arts Foundation as well as the the International Centre of Art for Social Change, the Silk Road Institute, the Michaelle Jean Foundation, TakingITGlobal and the Government of Canada. Find videos and images of his work at [aquil.ca](http://aquil.ca).

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the City of Ottawa.



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