

**Awards, grants, honours (selected)**

- 2021 **City of Ottawa** – Diversity in the Arts project grant.  
2021 **Ontario Arts Council** – Artist Response Initiative grant.  
2021 **City of Ottawa** – Youth in Culture emerging artist grant.  
2020 **Canada Council for the Arts** – Digital Originals grant.  
2020 **Toronto Arts Council** – Emerging Visual Artist 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 “Miracle of the Portrait” competition. Toronto, ON.  
2018 **Official Selection**, Jubilee Arts International Film Festival (juried), Cinema NOS. Lisbon, Portugal.  
– **Best Short Film**, Jubilee Arts Canada (juried), Toronto, ON.  
– **Best Mixed Media Artwork**, Jubilee Arts Quebec (juried), Montreal, QC.  
2018 **Acquisition by McCord-Stewart Museum** collection (“26 Project” and “Postering Peace”). Montreal, QC.  
2017 **Michaëlle Jean Foundation** – Digital Art grant, 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. Toronto, ON.  
2010 **People’s Choice Award**, Visual Impact group show (juried). McGill University. Montreal, QC.

**Solo exhibitions (selected)**

- 2020 **Online exhibition** with Canada Council for the Arts Digital Originals grant: CelebrateHer. (self-produced with catalogue)  
2018 **Morrice Hall at McGill University**, CelebrateHer in collaboration with Imago Theatre, Montreal, QC. (self-produced)  
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 at Pier 21**, 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, group film screenings (selected)**

- 2021 **Gerrard India Bazaar**, Street-level installation of acrylic vinyl panels. Toronto, ON. (juried) (upcoming)  
2020 **OCAD U**, Feminist Art Festival: Narrative Healing. Toronto, ON. (juried)  
2020 **Myseum of Toronto**: Quarantine Qapsule, in collaboration with Tea Base. Toronto, ON. (juried)  
2019 **Musée des beaux-arts de Mont-Saint-Hilaire**, Biennale du dessin. Mont-Saint-Hilaire, QC. (curated)  
2018 **Cinema NOS (Portugal)**. 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**, Postering Peace, Islamic Heritage Month Launch, Toronto, ON. (juried)  
2017 **Peel Art Gallery and Museum Archives**, 150 Muslim Contributions to Canada. Brampton, ON. (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)  
2010 **Avenue Art Gallery**, Body Talk. Montreal, QC. (curated)

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

- 2021 **Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21:** 2021 Artist-in-residence, Halifax, NS.
- 2021 **Amplified Opera:** Collaborative painting series and digital unveiling, Toronto, ON.
- 2021 **Ismaili Council Edmonton:** Collaborative artwork, “Reach,” with Ismaili Muslim youth, Edmonton, AB.
- 2020 **Southridge School:** 25th Anniversary Mural Commission for Southridge School, Vancouver, BC.
- 2020 **Centre culturel islamique de Québec:** 29 messages à Québec, Portes ouvertes, Québec, QC.
- 2020 **Paul Smith’s College (USA):** Artist residencies. (Recurring: 2013 - 2020.) Paul Smiths, NY.
- 2019 **#ContrePL21:** Anti-Bill-21 postering and mailout campaign. Montreal, QC.
- 2018 **Copenhagen Poetry Club (Denmark):** Vi ikke jeg. Intercultural project and poster campaign. 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 (Portugal):** Ela é uma mulher incrível. Street art intervention. Lisbon, Portugal.
- 2017 **Canadian Centre for International Justice:** Commissioned 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:** Commissioned 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.

## **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 (USA):** Guest speaker. (Recurring: 2013 - 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, « Défi de la paix. » Mont Saint-Hilaire, QC.
- 2019 **Centre for Social Innovation,** Beyond the Single Story: Panelist, “Stories as meaning-making.” Toronto, ON.
- 2018 **Montreal Museum of Fine Arts,** Power of the Arts National Forum: Panelist, “Arts & Discrimination,” Montreal, QC.
- 2018 **Cinema NOS (Portugal),** Jubilee Arts International Film Festival: Panelist, “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.
- 2014 **Canadian Race Relations Symposium:** Panelist, “Art & Canadian identity.” Ottawa, ON.

## **Education and background**

**Visual arts education:** Self-taught.

- 2021 Member, **Drawing Board Collective** (drawingboard.info), Montreal. 2016 - present.
- 2020 **International Centre of Art for Social Change:** FUTURES/forward program, 2020. Toronto, ON.
- 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: Public Speaking

## Publications as Author (selected)

- Virani, A. (2022). **Living Hyphen Magazine** (Issue: Healing Across Generations). “Your letter across generations.” (upcoming)
- Virani, A. (2021). **Race&Disability Zine**, produced by Naheen Ahmed. Supported by Suffering the Silence. Ottawa, ON. (upcoming)
- Virani, A. (2021). Bilingual anthology produced in collaboration with the **Silk Road Institute**. “Ottawa Inshallah.” Ottawa, ON.
- Virani, A. (2021). **Muslim American Writers At Home (USA)**. “Notre sang.” Freedom Voices. San Francisco, USA.
- Umezawa, A., 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: 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.” Montreal, QC.
- Virani, A. (2018). **Art/iculation Magazine** (Issue: The Art of Healing). “Perfect metaphor.” Montreal, QC.
- Virani, A. (2016). **UPPERCASE Magazine**. “Why I care that my art is inclusive.” Calgary, AB.
- Virani, A. (2015). **Entitled Magazine (UK)**. “Drawing Canadian Identity.” London, UK.
- Virani, A. (2011). **Empty Easel** (emptyeasel.com). “Just one artist statement?” Online.

## Press coverage (selected)

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| 2021 | Documentary | <b>CBC Radio One: Doc Project</b> , “Thirty.” (40:42). Produced by Alisa Siegel. Toronto, ON.                 |
| 2021 | Television  | <b>CTV Atlantic</b> , “Sharing stories through art.” Jennifer Grudic. Halifax, NS.                            |
| 2021 | Television  | <b>CBC Ottawa News</b> , “New Ottawa Art Book.” Adrian Harewood. Ottawa, ON.                                  |
| 2021 | Radio       | <b>CBC Ottawa: All in a Day</b> , “Ottawa Inshallah.” Alan Neal. Ottawa, ON.                                  |
| 2021 | Radio       | <b>CBC Ottawa Morning</b> , “30 thank-you letters for a 30th birthday.” Robyn Bresnahan. Ottawa, ON.          |
| 2021 | Print       | <b>Ottawa Citizen</b> , “Stamps of approval.” Lynn Saxberg. Ottawa, ON.                                       |
| 2021 | Online      | <b>CBC</b> . “This artist wrote 30 thank-you letters for his 30th birthday.” Alisa Siegel. Toronto, ON.       |
| 2021 | Online      | <b>APT613</b> , “New anthology reflects on possible futures.” Erika Ibrahim. Ottawa, ON.                      |
| 2021 | Online      | <b>MuslimLink</b> , “His hopes for Ottawa Inshallah.” Chelby Daigle. MuslimLink. Ottawa, ON.                  |
| 2021 | Online      | <b>APT613</b> , “Aquil Virani encourages us to take a moment.” Kenneth Ingram. Ottawa, ON.                    |
| 2020 | Documentary | <b>Adrijan Assoufi (filmmaker)</b> , “Cultures de résilience.” Produced by TakingITGlobal. Montreal, QC.      |
| 2020 | Podcast     | <b>Never Was Average + #RisingYouth</b> , “# 5 – Déterrer l’islamophobie.” Eva Jomphe. Québec, QC.            |
| 2019 | Online      | <b>Inspirit Foundation</b> , “Muslims in Canada: The Bigger Picture.” Shazlin Rahman. Toronto, ON.            |
| 2019 | Print       | <b>Adirondack Daily Enterprise</b> , “Image of a new semester.” Peter Crowley. New York.                      |
| 2018 | Radio       | <b>CBC Radio</b> , “Rialto Theatre transformed into a museum of original art.” Nantali Indongo. Montreal, QC. |
| 2018 | Print       | <b>Le Devoir</b> , « De l’art comme outil pacifiste. » Caroline Montpetit. Montréal, QC.                      |
| 2018 | Print       | <b>La Presse</b> , « Aquil Virani célèbre la diversité des femmes. » Éric Clément. Montreal, QC.              |
| 2018 | Print       | <b>TVA Nouvelles</b> , « Aquil Virani, artiste pour la paix 2018. » Montréal, QC.                             |
| 2018 | Print       | <b>Sequel Magazine</b> (cover), “We are all artists.” Andy Johnstone. New York.                               |
| 2018 | Online      | <b>MuslimLink</b> , “Posting Peace: An Interview with Visual Artist Aquil Virani.” Chelby Daigle. Ottawa.     |
| 2018 | Television  | <b>Global News</b> , “CelebrateHer: Twelve inspiring, everyday women.” Laura Casella. Montreal, QC.           |
| 2018 | Television  | <b>CTV</b> , “What’s On: Archipelago.” Christine Long. Montreal, QC.  |
| 2018 | Radio       | <b>CBC’s Homerun</b> , “CelebrateHer with honouree Rachel Zellars.” Sue Smith. Montreal, QC.                  |
| 2018 | Radio       | <b>CKUT’s Upstage</b> , “Interview with visual artist Aquil Virani.” Sarah Deshaies. Montreal, QC.            |
| 2017 | Print       | <b>Le Devoir</b> , « Des oeuvres, un silence et des mots. » Odile Tremblay. Montréal, QC.                     |
| 2017 | Print       | <b>La Presse</b> , « Les arts en fête à Pointe-Claire. » Éric Clément. Montreal, QC.                          |
| 2017 | Online      | <b>The Globe &amp; Mail</b> , “The Quebec City Mosque Attack: What we know so far.”                           |
| 2017 | Online      | <b>CBC North</b> , “Yukon chiefs’ personalities ‘shine through.’” Philippe Morin. Whitehorse, YK.             |
| 2017 | Print       | <b>Whitehorse Star</b> , “Arts Underground artist-in-residence Aquil Virani.” Whitehorse, YK.                 |
| 2017 | Print       | <b>L’aurore boréale</b> , « L’ici et maintenant d’Aquil Virani. » Olivier de Colombel. Whitehorse, YK.        |

**Press coverage** (selected) (continued)

2017	Print	<b>McGill News Magazine</b> , “Alumni hear young entrepreneurs’ stories.” Montreal, QC.
2017	Online	<b>CBC</b> , “Canada wraps its arms around victims of mosque attack.” Jaela Bernstien. Montreal, QC.
2017	Online	<b>Bramptonist</b> , “PAMA Exhibits Highlight Diversity of Communities.” Leslie Hatton. Brampton, ON.
2017	Television	<b>OMNI TV</b> , “PAMA: Muslim contributions to Canada.” Mahnoor Yawar. Brampton, ON.
2017	Television	<b>MATv</b> , “#CelebrateHer on Montreal Billboard.” Kim Sullivan and Tina Tennerriello. Montreal, QC.
2017	Television	<b>Global News</b> , “Notable women for an extraordinary project.” Laura Casella. Montreal, QC.
2017	Television	<b>Canoë Télévision</b> , “Manifestation des femmes contre Donald Trump à Montréal.” Montreal, QC.
2017	Radio	<b>NPR (USA)</b> , “Paul Smiths College freshmen collaborate with Montreal artist.” Todd Moe. New York.
2016	Online	<b>Artistorian</b> , “100 artworks in 1 week?” Cassandra Marsillo. Montreal, QC.
2016	Print	<b>The Coast</b> , “Consider your Canada at Pier 21.” Morgan Mullin. Halifax, NS.
2016	Television	<b>Breakfast Television</b> , “100 artworks in 1 week.” Derick Fage. Montreal, QC.
2016	Television	<b>CBC’s Daybreak Telecast</b> , “Free art!” Mike Finnerty. Montreal, QC.
2016	Television	<b>CTV</b> , “Aquil Virani’s latest project.” Christine Long. Montreal.
2016	Radio	<b>CBC’s Homerun</b> , “At the gallery with Aquil Virani.” Sue Smith. Montreal, QC.
2016	Radio	<b>NPR (USA)</b> , “A new school year and new art at Paul Smiths College.” Todd Moe. New York.
2015	Print	<b>La Presse</b> , « Esquisse de l’identité canadienne. » Éric Clément. Montreal, QC.
2015	Print	<b>URBANIA Magazine</b> , « Autoportrait en 842 fragments. » Julie Chaumont. Montreal, QC.
2015	Online	<b>Canadian Geographic</b> , “Crowdsourced art on Canadian identity.” Carys Mills. Toronto, ON.
2015	Online	<b>Applied Arts Magazine</b> , “Canadian Identity.” Kristina Urquhart. Toronto, ON.
2015	Television	<b>CTV</b> , “What’s On: Aquil Virani creates 24 artworks in 24 hours”. Montreal.
2015	Television	<b>Breakfast Television</b> , “What is Canada’s Self Portrait?” Montreal, QC.
2015	Television	<b>Channel 3 News (USA)</b> , “Paul Smith’s students welcomed with unique art.” Rose Spillman. Vermont.
2015	Radio	<b>NPR (USA)</b> , “Pounce!” Todd Moe. New York.
2015	Radio	<b>CBC’s Daybreak</b> , “The 24 project.” Mike Finnerty. Montreal, QC.
2015	Radio	<b>CBC’s Homerun</b> , “Drawing Canadian Identity.” Sue Smith. Montreal, QC.
2014	Television	<b>CBC</b> , “Canada’s Self Portrait at Heritage Days.” Edmonton, AB.
2014	Television	<b>CTV</b> , “CTV Morning Live with Kelly Linehan: Canada’s Self Portrait.” Winnipeg, MB.
2014	Radio	<b>CBC Nova Scotia</b> , “Canada’s Self Portrait.” Yvonne Leblanc-Smith, Halifax, NS.
2014	Radio	<b>CBC Manitoba</b> , “Winnipeggers wanted for national art project.” Ismaila Alfa. Winnipeg, MB.
2014	Radio	<b>Boulevard du Pacifique – Ici</b> , « Un Vancouverois traverse le Canada pour le dessiner. » Vancouver, BC.
2014	Print	<b>Victoria Times Colonist</b> , “Sketches reveal Canucks’ love of country.” Richard Watts. Victoria, BC.
2013	Print	<b>Adirondack Daily Enterprise (USA)</b> , “Unifying Freshmen.” Shaun Kittle. New York.
2013	Radio	<b>NPR (USA)</b> , “Revealing the artist in everyone.” Todd Moe. New York.
2012	Online	<b>Leacock’s Magazine</b> , “COPYCAT.” Jessica Prupas. Montreal, QC.
2012	Television	<b>Global News</b> , “Focus Montreal: We Are All Artists” Richard Dagenais. Montreal, QC.