

Anahita Ghazanfari

Born: 1977 in Khoramabad, Iran

Master of Art in Illustration, Art University, Iran

Bachelor of Art in Painting, University of Science and Culture, Tehran, Iran

Anahita Ghazanfari's passion for art is something that has been cultivated since early in her life, nurtured by the belief her archeologist father holds that self-knowledge comes from an understanding of one's past, encouraging her to learn, understand and appreciate her country's culture and traditions. This encouragement included allowing her to express her art freely, including on the walls of their home, and exposure to history books, poems, and museums. These experiences still feature prominently in her work today.

Although her pursuit of art as a career path received support from her parents throughout her early life, Anahita regards the beginning of her lifelong journey really began when she turned 18, and received a life-changing gift from her father, an analogue camera.

Anahita's philosophy of artistic practice is that art transcends medium, with both the camera and brush complementing each other to help her create poetic visual stories.

Currently, Anahita lives in Malaysia, a move that she regards as one that has allowed her to expand her horizons and view art from a perspective that goes beyond her home country.

Nature features prominently in Anahita's body of work, combined with elements of memories from her past and influences from Iranian Islamic art. Despite accepting the modern world, Anahita realizes that nature is all enveloping, and that we, too, are very much a part of nature.

Using nature as a basis, her works delve into the subject of human perception, combining diverse elements such as her own insights, emotions, memories, and observations.

"I truly believe that art is soulful and resides deep within oneself. Art is roused by the harmonious vibes and beauty of nature that envelopes us. Nature is within us as it is around us and we all hail from nature. Modernity does not annul this fact.

Nature touches and invokes its most primal creativity in an artist. Hence, works of art are projections of an artist's soul to the outside world. In my case, nature speaks to my soul and predominantly through its magnificent beauty and permanence paradoxical to the evanescence imposed by human ambition and limitations. Nature gives us recognition of source and hope of continuity."

- **Anahita Ghazanfari**, extracted from her artist's statement

Awards (Selected)

2010	Shortlisted for First Monorail Photo Festival, Malaysia
2002	First Place, Abyaneh group photo exhibition/competition, University of Science and Culture, Tehran, Iran
2001	First Place, Dialogue of Civilisations group photo exhibition/competition, University of Science and Culture, Tehran, Iran

Solo Exhibitions

2016	The Story of Rooms	Atelier Art Space, Jaya One, Petaling Jaya
2006	Autumn solo photo exhibition	Ferdos Gallery, Iran
2000	Ahvaz solo photo exhibition	Iran

Group Exhibitions (selected)

2017	People of Seremban	GlogauAir, Berlin, Germany
	Story of Rooms	GlogauAir, Berlin, Germany
	Calligraphy and Illumination by Iranian Artists	White Box, MAP@Publika, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
	Journey	Creative Space, Seri Pacific Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
	Rediscover KL	The Row, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
	Collective Individuals	Urbanscapes House, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
	Meadows Personal Structures	Palazzo Mora, Venice, Italy
	XS	Titimerah Gallery, Art Row, Publika, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
	Lock Up Locker Art Exhibition	Harry Rogers Home, Jaya One, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia
2016	Langkawi Art Biennale 2016	Pulau Langkawi, Kedah, Malaysia
	IMMORTAL?	L'Atelier Rouge, Jaya One, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia
	Quatre Femme	L'Atelier Rouge, Jaya One, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia
	Exploration x Expression Sembilan Residency Exhibition	Port Commune, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia
	Daydreaming	Ella Art Space, Art Row, Publika, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2015	International Exhibition of Iranian Artist in Southeast Asia and Pacific	MATIC Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
	Art Connexion International	MATIC Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2014	Contemporary Iranian Artists	Melaka Art Gallery, Melaka, Malaysia
	Iranian Artist Painting Exhibition	Cube Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

2013	International Women's Day Exhibition	Art Malaysia @ Viva Homes, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2012	SEPULUH DAH: Iranian Artist Exhibition	Art Seni Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
	Malaysia Iran Art Exhibition MAIRA	Gallery Aswara, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2010	Monorail Photo Festival	Malaysia
2001	Group Painting Exhibition	Nivaran Art Gallery, Iran

Residency Experience

- 2017 Artist in Residence, Glogauair Residency, Berlin, Germany
- 2015 Artist in Residence, Sembilan Art Residency, Seremban, Malaysia

Other Artistic Activities

- 2016 Documentary Photographer, Langkawi Art Biennale 2016, Langkawi, Malaysia
- 2015 *Balik Balik Art Bazaar*, National Visual Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2014 Documentary Photographer, Langkawi Art Biennale 2014, Langkawi, Malaysia
- 2012 to 2014 Photographer (full time), Centre for Content Creation, Limkokwing University for Creative Technology, Cyberjaya, Malaysia
- 2010 to 2011 Freelance Photographer and Writer, Monorail Magazine (Iranian lifestyle magazine), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

In The Media (selected)

- 2017 **"LOCK UP LOCKER ART"** – BFM Radio, March 1 2017
(<https://www.bfm.my/locker-art-kenneth-wong-linda-liao-anahita-ganzafari.html>)
- 2016 **"Immortal?"** – interview, Nanyang Siang Pau, October 18 2016
(https://umlib.um.edu.my/newscut_details.asp?cutid=18140)
- "Immortal?"** – interview, Sin Chew Press, October 2016
- "Immortal?"** – interview, "THE ART OF BEING GREEN", BFM Radio, October 5 2016
(<https://www.bfm.my/anahita-ghazanfari-jael-estrella-art-green>)
- "Quatre Femmes"** – interview, Sin Chew Press, September 2016
- "Exploration x Expression"** – interview, BFM Radio, May 20 2016
(<https://www.bfm.my/sembilan-art-residency-exploration-expression>)
- "The Story of Rooms"** – “安娜希塔 - 让房间说故事” (Anahita – Lets The Room Tell The Story), eNanyang.my, March 21 2016 (<http://www.enanyang.my/news/20160321/安娜希塔br-让房间说故事/>)
- "Changing The Landscape"** – Marie Claire Magazine, January 2016