

CONTACT

Phone: +14438510153

Email: ghazal.mojtahedi@hotmail.com

Address: Baltimore, MD

Portfolio: ghazalmojtahedi.com

EDUCATION

Master of Fine Arts in Intermedia and Digital Arts | 2022–2025

GPA: 3.83 out of 4

University of Maryland Batimore County, MD, USA

- Research Assistant, fully funded, Graduate Assistantship
- Recipient of the Kathy O’Dell IMDA Award for Outstanding MFA Thesis

Thesis: The Representation of Death iThesis: Hanging Gardens and Echo of Home — multimedia installation on migration, memory, and belonging. Published in ProQuest Dissertations & Theses (ID: 31999149), 2025

Master of Arts in Painting | 2016–2018

GPA: 18.63 out of 20

Islamic Azad University, Central Tehran Branch, Tehran, Iran

Thesis: The Representation of Death in Contemporary Art; A Visual and Theoretical Exploration

Bachelor of Arts in Scenic Design | 2011–2015

GPA: 18.32 out of 20

Islamic Azad University, Central Tehran Branch, Tehran, Iran

Thesis: Paper Puppet Theatre: Eugène Ionesco’s “Rhinoceros”

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Volunteer Research Assistant | Sep 2025 – Present

Designing Participatory Futures Lab, University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC)

- Developed and experimented with NFC-based prototypes and mobile interactions to enhance hands-free accessibility experiences.
- Conducted a literature review on tactile and multisensory art for blind and visually impaired audiences in museum contexts.

Volunteer Researcher | 2025

SynBio&Me Co-Design Workshop, UTEP–UMBC, BUGSS, Baltimore, MD

- Collaborated on a two-week NSF-funded biomaking workshop for 24 middle school participants at BUGSS, organized with UTEP, Loyola University Maryland, and UMBC.
- Managed audiovisual documentation, recording interviews and workshop sessions for subsequent qualitative analysis by the research team.
- Assisted with interviews, consent tracking, and observations to support ethical, community-based research on synthetic biology and co-design.

MFA Thesis Project, Hanging Gardens and echo of Home | 2022–2025

University of Maryland Batimore County, MD, USA

- Conducted interdisciplinary research integrating migration studies, material culture, and digital media through qualitative interviews with Iranian students.
- Created a multimedia installation combining video projection, sculpture, and animation to explore identity, displacement, and belonging.
- Applied theoretical frameworks from Judith Butler, Edward Said, and E. Helmar Oberg to analyze livability, cultural identity, and stages of migration.

Research Interests: HCI, digital humanities, data visualization, accessibility and inclusive design, human-centered innovation, information justice, and the cultural dimensions of technology.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Projection Mapping instructor | 2025

Dance & Bmore, Baltimore, MD, USA

- Lead a four-day intensive workshop on projection mapping using MadMapper for live performance and interactive art.
- Teach participants hands-on techniques in digital projection, spatial installation, and creative software workflows

Costume Design Workshop Instructor | 2025

Dance & Bmore, Baltimore, MD, USA

- Taught a workshop on costume and wardrobe design fundamentals.
- Covered creative process, core design principles, and practical techniques.
- Guided participants in developing basic skills for theatrical and visual storytelling.

Art Instructor | September 2025–Present

Art with a Heart, Baltimore, MD, USA

- Deliver studio-based visual arts instruction to elementary, young adult, and senior learners in community programs.
- Provide inclusive, adaptive teaching using diverse techniques aligned with AWAH's mission of accessible arts education.
- Collaborate in adapting and delivering pre-planned lessons that support creativity, confidence, and community engagement.

Workshop Instructor | 2025

Keswick Adult Living Center, Baltimore, MD, USA

- Led a three-session workshop, Carve. Print. Create., teaching woodblock carving and textile printing.
- Instructed participants in designing and printing custom woodblock patterns on fabric.
- Emphasized creativity, mindfulness, and accessible hands-on artmaking for adults and seniors.

Art Instructor | 2020–2022

Homaye Mehr School of Visual Art, Alborz, Iran

- Taught art, printmaking, theatre, and performance to over 50 youth and adult students through studio and performance-based classes.
- Led multi-session workshops that fostered creativity, confidence, and collaboration

Theatre Instructor | 2019–2022

Maha Talk Language Training Center & Armaghan High School, Alborz, Iran

- Taught English-language theatre to 3–6-year-olds in four classes of 10 using UC Irvine's early childhood theatre curriculum.
- Guided students in creating puppets and theatre boxes from household materials to support creativity and storytelling.
- Directed two student performances at Maha Talk with live audiences, contributing to a 30% increase in enrollment.
- Launched the program pre-COVID and adapted lessons for remote and hybrid learning.

Professional Development

- Art & Activity: Interactive Strategies for Engaging with Art, MoMA, 2025
- Teaching with Art: Using Inquiry, Activities, and Themes Specialization, MoMA, 2025

WORK EXPERIENCE

Multimedia Designer Technician | 2022– Present

Commonvision Design & Print Center, UMBC, Baltimore, MD

- Reviewed and remediated websites and digital documents to improve accessibility and ensure compliance with ADA and UMBC digital standards.
- Designed and printed posters, digital assets, and motion graphics for academic presentations, campus events, and exhibitions.
- Produced 3D-printed components and assisted students and faculty with fabrication, printing, and design support.
- Operated digital and large-format printers with precise color calibration and quality control.

Exhibition & Curatorial Coordinator Assistant | 2022–2025

Center for Art, Design and Visual Culture (CADVC), Baltimore, MD

- Co-curated and coordinated 11 contemporary art exhibitions, overseeing layout, installation, and development of wall text
- Developed public programs (talks, workshops, community events) to expand audience engagement
- Digitized and cataloged two art collections and 50+ MFA works spanning 20+ years, along with CADVC's full archive of posters and promotional materials.
- Filmed, edited, and subtitled artist talks for two exhibitions to expand digital access and archival preservation.

Independent Film Projects – Director & Producer| 2023–2025

Producer – Burial Permit | Tehran, Iran

- Managed production logistics and festival distribution.
- Short narrative on women's issues; selected by 10 international festivals including Maryland and Baku, and semifinalist at the Oscar-qualifying Rhode Island International Film Festival.

Director – Flight Among Shadows | Baltimore, USA

- Conducted interviews, co-directed, edited, and produced subtitles.
- Short documentary on student visa challenges; interviews, co-direction, editing, subtitles. Selected by 5 festivals; screened at UMD.

Director/Animator – Passport Tale | Baltimore, USA

- Created all illustration, animation, editing, and narrative design.
- Short experimental animation; illustration, animation, editing, and narrative design. Selected by 8 festivals in 4 countries; award-winning.

Creative and Collaborative Projects | 2018–2025

Designer – Timeline of Theatre and Performance in Iran, Roshan Institute, UMD | 2025

- Created a visual timeline highlighting major developments in Iranian theatre for Persian Studies Program.

Co-Creator – Your Story Belongs Here (UMBC Theatre) | Baltimore, USA | 2023

- Produced short videos for an interdisciplinary project on identity, race, and belonging.

Director/Editor – Media Projects | Tehran, Iran | 2019–2020

- Directed and edited two fashion photoshoots and multi-camera video productions.

Founder – Noa Gallery, Iran | 2018–2022

- Founded and managed an independent handmade brand producing limited-edition designs.
- Designed product collections, managed branding, and distributed works through local art markets and online platforms.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Freelance Costume & Set Designer (Theatre, Film & Television) | 2013–2025

- Led set, costume, and prop design for 12+ theatre, film, and TV productions in Iran and the U.S., including six public shows at Silver Spring Black Box Theatre and Vahdat Hall.
- Applied dramaturgical principles to costume design, aligning color, texture, and form with character and narrative.
- Created props and scenic accessories for Oliver Twist (Stage Opera) at Vahdat Hall with a 30+ member cast and crew.
- Recognized with Best Costume Designer Award for The Wild Duck at the 3rd University of Art and Architecture Theater Festival, Tehran.
- **Costume Designer, Bmore Broadway Live: Community Cabaret, The Voxel Theater, Baltimore, USA | 2025**
- **Costume Designer, Jegar-e-Khoob, Silver Spring Black Box Theatre, MD, USA | 2024**
- **Costume Design Assistant, Cold Blood (TV Series), Tehran, Iran | 2022**
- **Costume Design Assistant, Uncle Pourang's Cottage (TV Program), Tehran, Iran | 2021**
- **Costume Designer, Blue Days (TV Series), Rasht, Iran | 2020**
- **Stage & Costume Designer, Moza Moza, Vahdat Hall, Tehran, Iran | 2019**
- **Stage & Costume Designer, Jenga, Fadak Theatre, Tehran, Iran | 2018**
- **Costume Design Assistant, The 47 (Feature Film), Tehran, Iran | 2018**
- **Costume Design Assistant, Oliver Twist (Stage Opera), Vahdat Hall, Tehran, Iran | 2018**
- **Costume Design Assistant, Double (Short Film), Tehran, Iran | 2017**
- **Stage & Costume Designer, The Hothouse, Paliz Theatre, Tehran, Iran | 2017**
- **Stage & Costume Designer, Ubu Roi, Khane Kouchak Namayesh, Tehran, Iran | 2014**
- **Stage & Costume Designer, The Wild Duck, Iranian Artists Forum, Tehran, Iran | 2013**

EXHIBITIONS & PUBLIC ART ARTIST

- **Hands of the Artists, Area 405 Gallery, Baltimore, MD, USA | 2025**
- **Wise & Well Art Show, Keswick, Baltimore, MD, USA | 2025**
- **Windows on Charles, Public Art Installation, Baltimore, MD, USA | 2025**
- **The Only Way Out Is Through: IMDA MFA Thesis Exhibition, CADVC, Baltimore, MD, USA | 2025**
- **Windows on Charles, Public Art Installation, Baltimore, MD, USA | 2024**
- **Immigrant Contributions Mural, Public Art Installation, Baltimore, MD, USA | 2024**
- **Artscape 2024, Annual Arts Festival, Baltimore, MD, USA | 2024**
- **The Eighth Painting and Third Persian Garden Biennial, Municipal Gallery, Qazvin, Iran | 2022**
- **Sateen Visual Arts Recall, Cultural Center, Kish Island, Iran | 2022**
- **Sateen Visual Arts Recall, Art Space, Tehran, Iran | 2021**
- **Backpack Video Project, Online Screening curated by videoartist.ir, Tehran, Iran | 2021**
- **5th Annual Painting Exhibition of Alborz Province, Cultural and Artistic Hall, Tehran, Iran | 2021**
- **Golden Autumn, Ehsan Gallery, Tehran, Iran | 2019**
- **Rooya Jamali's Artworks Exhibition (Live Performance), White Line Gallery, Tehran, Iran | 2018**
- **Printmaking & Painting Exhibition, Elaheh Gallery, Tehran, Iran | 2017**

JUROR & SELECTION COMMITTEES

- **Wake Forest Film Festival, North Carolina, USA | 2025**
- **Apexart Open Call Juror (Fall & Spring), New York, NY, USA | 2024**
- **apexart Open Call Juror, New York, NY, USA | 2023**

Ghazal Mojtahedi

Multidisciplinary Artist | Filmmaker | Educator

ARTIST TALK

Artist Q&A and Screening, *Flight Among Shadows*, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, USA | 2025

- Screening and discussion of artistic practice with co-director Hashem Aliakbari

Artist Talk, Roshan Institute for Persian Studies, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, USA | 2025

- Invited speaker at the Virtual Fall Welcome Event, presenting on artistic practice, migration, and the Iranian diaspora.

ACADEMIC AWARDS & GRANTS

- **The Kathy O'Dell IMDA Award for Outstanding MFA Thesis and Exhibition | 2025**
- **Scholarly Development Fund, Dresher Center for the Humanities | 2024**
- **Best Costume Designer for *The Wild Duck*, 3rd University of Art and Architecture Theater Festival | 2013**

FILM FESTIVAL AWARDS

Flight Among Shadows (Short Documentary, Director & Producer) | 2024

- Jury's Award, FIAC, Mexico
- Special Jury Award, Tanizagam International Film Festival, India
- Honorable Mention, Aussie Gold Film Festival, Australia
- Top 3 Finalist, Athens International Monthly Film Festival, Greece

Passport Tale (Experimental, Director & Producer) | 2024

- Best Experimental Short, Mashkilbithaan International Film Festival, India
- Winner of the Season, Ural Shorts, Russia
- Top 3 Finalist, Athens International Monthly Film Festival, Greece
- Nominee, Couch Film Festival, Toronto, Canada

SKILLS

Digital & Intermedia Arts : Video production, projection mapping, motion graphics, 3D modeling, animation, digital installation, interactive media

Soft & Interpersonal Skills: Leadership, collaboration, communication, creative problem-solving, adaptability, critical thinking, time management

Research & Writing: Grant writing, scholarly writing, literature review, qualitative methods, thematic analysis, grounded theory, contextual inquiry, interview design, data synthesis

Software : Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, Illustrator, After Effects, Premiere Pro), MadMapper, TouchDesigner, Blender, Figma, AR/VR, Google Workspace, Microsoft Office

CERTIFICATES

CITI Program, Social/Behavioral Research (Human Subjects) | 2025

CITI Program, Health Information Privacy & Security | 2025

AI for Work and Life, University of North Florida (Certificate) | 2025

Google, Virtual Reality (VR) | 2024

Coursera, UI Design | 2023

PRESS & INTERVIEWS

- **BmoreArt, "Sweaty Eyeballs: Hands of the Artists," exhibition listing, USA | 2025**
- **IMDA.UMBC.edu, "Ghazal Mojtahedi is the 2025 Kathy O'Dell IMDA Award Winner." | 2025**
- **CADVC.UMBC.edu, "Featuring Ghazal Mojtahedi as one of five exhibiting artists." | 2025**
- **BmoreArt.com, "BmoreArt's Picks: March 25-31," USA | 2025**
- **HonarOnline.ir, "Interview with Ghazal Mojtahedi," Iran | 2019**
- **Theater Review, "Moza Moza: A Theatrical Critique on Corruption," Iran | 2019**
- **MehrNews.com, "Review of Moza Moza at the 15th Theater Critique Session," Iran | 2019**