

Raheleh T. Filsoofi

Itinerate /Interdisciplinary Artist
<https://www.rahelehfilsoofi.com/>
Raheleh.filsoofi@vanderbilt.edu

Born in Tehran, Iran - Based in Nashville, TN, USA.
Updated Resume: April 2026

SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS/AWARDS/GRANTS

- 2026 The United States Artists Fellowship
- 2025 NCECA Innovator Award, National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA)
- National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Art Projects Award, for The Resonance of the Lands: Unveiling Identity and Connectivity in Tennessee through Clay, Music, and Community, Washington, DC
- Tennessee Arts Commission Arts Build Communities Grant, for *Imagined Boundaries: Collective Chorus*, Nashville, TN.
- 2024 Creative Inquiry Grant, The Curb Center for Art, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
- 2023 VU Community Engagement Collaboration Grant, College of Arts and Science, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
- Joan Mitchell Fellowship, New York, NY
- 2022 Tennessee Arts Commission Arts Access Grant for The Resonance of the *Lands: Finding Identity and Place in Tennessee Through Clay, Music, and Community*, Nashville, TN
- Winner of Society 1858 Prize for Contemporary Southern Art, The Gibbes Museum of Art, Charleston, SC
- The Steinert Family Dean's Faculty Fellowship in Race, Racial Justice, or Social Justice for 2022- 2024, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
- 2021 2021 Southern Prize Tennessee State Fellowship, Atlanta, GA
- Tennessee Arts Commission Arts Access Grant for *Listening: The Fourth String*, Nashville, TN
- NCECA Helene Zucker Seeman Curatorial, Research, and Critical Writing Fellowship for Women, The National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA)
- Faculty Seeding Success Grant, Office of Provost, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
- 2020 The Alice Kleberg Reynolds Foundation Grant, in Collaboration with Dr. Katherine McAllen for Curatorial Project *Uncovered Space* in International Museum of Art and Science, McAllen, TX
- 2017 South Florida Cultural Consortium Fellowship Award for Visual and Media Artists, Miami, FL

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONSES AND PERFORMANCES (*TWO-PERSON)

- 2026 *Bite*, Performance, Nasher Museum, Duke University, Durham, NC
- *Held Ground*, Performance, NCECA Conference, Detroit, MI
- *Deep Listening*, Performance, Ismaili Center, Houston, TX
- *The Resonance of the Land*, performance, Frist Art Museum, Nashville, TN
- 2025-26 *Deep Listening*, Multimedia Installation, inaugural exhibition, Ismaili Center, Houston, TX
- 2025 *(Un)Grounded*, Multimedia Installation, Telfair Museum of Art, Savannah, GA
- At the edge of Arrival*, Multimedia Installation, The Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art, Charleston, SC
- *The Resonance of the Land*, Performance, Visual Arts Building, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL
- 2024 *The Excerpts of Earth*, Multimedia Installation, Galusha Gallery, Northern Clay Center, Minneapolis, MN

- Imagined Boundaries: Through the Eyes of the Past and Present*, Multimedia Installation, The Gibbes Museum of Art, Charleston, SC
- The Theater of Dust*, Performance in *The Parable of the Now*, The Hatcher Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- Bite*, Performance, Untitled Art, Miami Beach, FL
- **The Hum of the Earth*, Performance, in Collaboration with Reza Filsoofi, Untitled Art, Miami Beach, FL
- The Excerpts from Earth*, Multimedia Installation, Mardag Gallery, Franconia Sculpture Park, Shafer, MN
- 2023 **The Resonance of the Lands*, Exhibition and Performance in Collaboration with Reza Filsoofi, The 204 Gallery, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
- Diphtheria*, Multimedia Installation, Atlanta Contemporary, Atlanta, GA
- **Listening: The Fourth String*, Music Performance in Collaboration with Reza Filsoofi, Ingram Hall, The Blair School of Art, Nashville, TN
- Say Their Names (Against Oblivion)*, Performance, NCECA's 57th Annual Conference, *Current*, Duke Energy Convention Center, Cincinnati, OH
- 2022 *Debated Narrative*, Interactive Multimedia Installation, Engage Project, Chicago, IL
- Artifacting*, Video and Ceramics, Unrequired Leisure Gallery, Nashville, TN
- 2021 **Intersection*, Video and Ceramics, Engage Projects, Chicago, IL
- 2020 *Inh(a/i)bited*, Interactive Multimedia Installation, Spinello Project Gallery, Miami, FL
- 2019 *The Overview Effect*, Interactive Multimedia Installation, Betty Foy Sanders Gallery, Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, GA
- 2018 *On Transcending the Inhibited Space*, Interactive Multimedia Installation, O'kane Gallery, University of Houston Downtown, Houston, TX.
- 2017 *Imagined Boundaries*, Interactive Multimedia Installation, Abad Gallery, Tehran, Iran

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 *Imagined Boundaries: The Collective Chorus*, Multimedia Installation in *In Her Place*, The Frist Art Museum, Nashville, TN
- Argillotype and Dust Poem*, single-channel video and clay print, *MATERIA VIVA: Clay as Archive, Language, and Body*, The Frank C. Ortis Art Gallery, City of Pembroke Pines, FL
- 2025 *Bite*, Ceramic Objects and Single-Channel Video in *Everything Now All At Once*, The Nasher Museum of Art, Durham, NC
- Odyssey*, One-Channel Video Installation in *Celebrating the 1858 Prize for Contemporary Southern Art*, The Gibbes Museum of Art, Charleston, SC
- 2024 *Bite*, Video Installation in *Dug Deeper*, The Vernon Filley Art Museum, Pratt, KS
- Odyssey*, Video Installation in *Women Working with Clay: A Shared Purpose*, The Valentine Museum, Richmond, VA
- Halal #1*, Ceramics and Light in *To tongue-tie*, Brick Aux, Brooklyn NY
- 2023 *Only Sound Remains*, Multimedia Installation in *Thinking Historically in the Presence*, Sharjah Biennial 15, Sharjah, The United Arab Emirate
- 2022-23 *Imagined Boundaries Episode 3 (Facing the South, Facing the World)*, Video Installation in *Southern Voices/Global Visions*, The R.O.B, Lake City, SC
- 2022 *Odyssey*, Video Installation in *The Future is Female*, 21c Museum Hotel, Nashville, TN
- Bite*, Video and Ceramics in *2022 NCECA Annual – Belonging*, The Crocker Museum, Sacramento, CA

- A Transient's Paradox*, Multimedia Installation in *Fragile Earth*, The Grounds for Sculpture Museum, Hamilton, NJ
- Learning the Rope*, Video Installation in *Fail*, The Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans, LA
- 2021 *A Symmetrical Despondency, Inh(a/i)biting Space and Imagined Boundaries – Episode 2 (Alert; Miscommunication)*, Multimedia and Interactive installations in *The 2021 Southern Prize and State Fellowship Recipient Exhibition*, The Bo Bartlett Center, Columbus, GA
- Bite*, Video and Ceramics in *Objects of Faith, Healing and Transformation*, The Vanderbilt Museum of Art, Nashville, TN
- Imagined Boundaries – Episode 1*, Multimedia Installation in *Tenacity*, Strohl Art Center, Chautauqua, NY
- 2020 *Halal #1*, Ceramics and Light in *Work Up*, C24 Gallery, New York, NY
- 2019 *A Symmetrical Despondency*, Interactive Multimedia Installation in *YOU AM I*, Veronique Wantz Gallery, 2018 NCECA, Conference, Minneapolis, MN
- 2018 *The Peace Cylinder*, Performance in Collaboration with Artist Linda Behar and Musicians Reza Filsoofi and Susana Behar, Rosemary Duffy Larson Gallery, Davie, FL
- 2017 *...still traveling...* Interactive Multimedia Installation, in *Frontier*, the Second International Ceramic Based Exhibition, Iranian Artists Forum, Tehran, Iran
- 2016 *Fragile, Please Handle with Care*, Interactive Installation in *Breakable*, Contemporary Art Museum of Isfahan, Isfahan, Iran
- 2015 *Fragile, Please Handle with Care*, Interactive Installation and Performance, in *Breakable*, Niavaran Cultural Center, Tehran, Iran

SELECTED RESIDENCIES

- 2025 Nasher Museum, Duke University, Durham, NC
- 2024 Crisp-Ellert Art Museum, St. Augustine, FL
- 2023 MacDowell Residency, Peterborough, NH
- 2022 The Loghaven Artist Residency, Knoxville, TN

EDUCATION

- 2014 Master of Fine Art, Ceramics, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL, USA
- 1999 Bachelor of Fine Art, Studio and Craft, Al-Zahra University, Tehran, Iran

SELECTED ACADEMIC AFFILIATION

- 2020- Present Assistant Professor in Ceramics, Department of Art, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
- 2023- Present Secondary Appointment. The Blair School of Music, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
- 2016-2020 Assistant Professor in Ceramics. University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, McAllen, TX

SELECTED LECTURES/ PANELS /CONVERSATIONS

- 2026 Lecture Series, *Bite*, Nasher Museum, Duke University, Durham, NC
- Artist Talk, *Place and Politic of Presence*, Leu Center for the Visual Arts, Belmont University, Nashville, TN
- Panelist: *Living and Sustaining a Creative Life*, Panel Discussion at *NCECA Conference 2026*, Detroit, MI
- 2025 Lecture Series, *(Un)Grounded*, Telfair Museums (Jepson Center), Savannah, GA
- 2024 Lecture Series: *Nomadic Practices: A Shift in Artistic Consciousness*, Falvey Hall, Maryland Institute of Art, Baltimore, MD
- Visiting Artist Lecture Series, McCarty Auditorium, Art and Architecture Building, University of Tennessee Knoxville, Knoxville, TN

- 2023 Lecture: *Raheleh Filsoofi the 2023 Winner of the Society 1858 Prize*, Gibbes Museum of Art, Charleston, SC
- Inaugural Lecture: *On Listening*, Visiting Artist Series, Department of Art History, Museum & Cultural Heritage Studies, College of Fine Arts, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL
- 2021 Virtual Conversation: *3 Works: Raheleh Filsoofi, In Conversation with Curator Sequoia Miller*, Gardiner Museum, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
- Moderator & Panelist: *Strategies for Bridging Identity and Politics in Clay Communities*, 2021 Virtual NCECA Conference: Rivers, Reflections, Reinventions, Cincinnati, OH
- Keynote Speaker: *Women Potters in Iran: Tradition, Authenticity, Contemporaneity and Gender*, Women Working with Clay Symposium Virtual, Hollins University, Roanoke, VA
- 2019 Panelist: *What Craft Can Offer*, Panel Discussion at *Past Tense* in 2019 Conference, American Craft Council, Philadelphia, PA

SELECTED WORKSHOPS

- 2025 *Clay Collection and Process in The Stono Preserve*, in conjunction with the *At the Edge of Arrival* Exhibition, Hasley Institute of Contemporary, Charleston, SC
- 2024 *Embodied Connection through Clay, Circle, and Collective Creativity* Workshop in Collaboration with Reza Filsoofi, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN
- 2023 *An Alternative Practice: Ceramics and Kinesics*, The Department of Visual Arts and Art History, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL
- 2022 *An Alternative Practice in Clay*, Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts, Gatlinburg, TN.
- 2021 *The Pedagogy of Earth*, Summer Residency, Chautauqua School of Art, Chautauqua, NY

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2026 Frank, Nicholas. "New Ismaili Center in Houston to Feature Contemporary Art." *Glasstire*, January 6, 2026 ([Link](#))
- Gibbs, Audrey. "Channeling Their Pain into Art as War Rages: Nashville's Iranian, Kurdish Artists Turn to Music." *The Tennessean*, March 2026 ([Link](#))
- 2026 Awards and Honors, NCECA Journal 46, March 2026. 8.
- 2025 *Raheleh Filsoofi: At the Edge of Arrival*. Hyperallergic, September 3, 2025 ([Link](#))
- 3.09 | *Raheleh Filsoofi*. Barbara London Calling, episode 9. Podcast. April 29, 2025 ([Link](#))
- Logan, Beth. (Un)Grounded exhibit at Savannah's Jepson Center is an act of reframing works across time. *Savannah Morning News*, July 17, 2025 ([Link](#))
- "Raheleh Filsoofi: The Wandering Earth Within Me." *Textura Magazine*, July 15, 2025 ([Link](#))
- 2024 Torey Akers. *Raheleh Filsoofi's toothy performance at Untitled Art fair*, *The Art Newspaper*, December 6, 2024 ([Link](#))
- Jenny Gill. *In the Studio: Raheleh Filsoofi*, *Joan Mitchell Journal*, April 18, 2024 ([Link](#))
- 2023 Laura Hutson Hunter. *Raheleh Filsoofi Talks Memory, Ceramics and Winning the Joan Mitchell Fellowship*, *Nashville Scene*, November 16, 2023 ([Link](#))
- 2022 Farah Abdessamad. *No Narrative to Debate: Artist Raheleh Filsoofi Knows Iran, Clay, and Migration*, *Observer*, September 19, 2022 ([Link](#))
- Joe Nolan. *Raheleh Filsoofi's Sculpture and Video Installation Is a Meditative Mouthful*, *Nashville Scene*, May 26, 2022 ([Link](#))
- 2021 Jordyn Russell. *A creative Force: 'Tenacity' honors contemporary female visual artists, paying tribute to 100 years since ratification of 19th amendment*, *The Chautauqua Daily*, July 16, 2021 ([Link](#))
- 2019 Whitney Jones. *Featured: Raheleh Filsoofi's 'On Transcending the Inh(a/i)bitated Space' Exhibition*, *Cfile* Edited by Garth Clark, January 16, 2019 ([Link](#))

- 2018 Suzanne Weaver. *'Mi viaje del rio Grande Valley'*, Glasstire (Texas Visual Art), February 22, 2018 ([Link](#))
- Molly Glentzer. *Art Daybook: Raheleh Filsoofi's 'Inh(a/i)bited Space'*, Houston Chronicle, August 29, 2018 ([Link](#))

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AS AUTHOR

- 2026 *Clay in Performance*. NCECA Journal 46, March 2026. 104-105.
- 2025 Conclusion. In *Last Artist Standing: Living and Sustaining a Creative Life*, edited by Sharon Loudon. Chicago: Intellect Books, 2025
- Transcending the Institutional Archive. *New Suns*, accessed June 1, 2025 ([Link](#))
- 2023 *Say their Names*. NCECA Journal 44, March 2023
- 2021 *Strategies for Bridging Identity and Politics in Clay Communities*. NCECA Journal 42, March 2021. 161-163.
- 2020 *Teaching Art from a Distance Could Have Benefits*. *Hyperallergic*, March 25, 2022 ([Link](#))

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

- 2025 The Nasher Museum, Durham, NC
- 2024 The Gibbes Museum of Art, Charleston, TN
- 2022 SoHo House, Nashville, TN
- 2020 Metro Art Lending Library Collection, Nashville, TN

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL CONTRIBUTION

- 2026 Curator, *Clay in Performance*, NCECA 2026, Detroit, MI
- Co-Founder, Nashville Immigrant and Refugee Music and Art Project (NIRMA Project), Nashville, TN (Since 2024)
- 2024 Juror: *The 2024/25 MCAD-Jerome Fellowships for Early Career Artists*, Minneapolis, MN
- 2023 Director, *Visions of Diversity: Middle Eastern Arts and Aesthetics*, Faculty Impact Seminar, Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
- 2022 Curator, *Revive*, In Conjunction with 2023 Tennessee Triannual, Vanderbilt University Museum of Art, Nashville, TN
- Curator: *Uncovered Spaces*, with Thirteen Female Artists, International Museum of Art and Science, McAllen, TX
- 2019 Core Faculty, Chautauqua School of Art, Chautauqua, NY (2019-2022)

SELECTED COMMUNITY ENGAGED PROJECTS

- 2026 *Collective Chorus*, In Conjunction with *In Her Place* Exhibition, Frist Art Museum, Nashville, TN
- 2025 *Melodies of Crossing: An Immersive Night of Music Across Rooms*, Curb Center, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
- 2025 Performance, in Celebration of Immigrants and Refugee Communities of Nashville, in Collaboration with Reza Filsoofi, Frist Museum of Art, Nashville, TN
- 2024 Workshop on Ceramic Darbuka and Drums to Nashville International Center of Empowerment (NICE) Community, in Collaboration with Reza Filsoofi, Department of Art, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
- Performance, Demonstrations and Workshops on Shahtar Instrument, in Collaboration with Reza Filsoofi, The Blair School of Music, Nashville, TN
- 2023 Performance, in Celebration of Nowruz and Afghan Refugees, in Collaboration with Reza Filsoofi, Casa Azafran, Nashville, TN
- 2022 Performance, in Celebration of Nowruz and Community, in Collaboration with Reza Filsoofi, New Gallery, Austin Peay State University, Nashville, TN