

# Jila Nikpay

[www.jilanikpay.com](http://www.jilanikpay.com)

[www.jilanikpaymedia.com](http://www.jilanikpaymedia.com)

## **EDUCATION**

**MFA**, Film, *Department of Transmedia*  
**SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY**, Syracuse, NY  
Fellowship, 2012-2015

**MA**, Photography, *Department of Journalism and Mass Communication*  
**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA**, Minneapolis, MN

**BA**, Studio Arts and Economics, *Departments of Art and Economics: double major*,  
**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA**, Minneapolis, MN

## **SELECTED COLLEGE TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

*Department of Transmedia*, **SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY**, Syracuse, NY

### **Teaching Fellow**

Courses: "Filmmaking Narrative Storytelling" and "Business For Film Artists" (Spring 2014)  
"Filmmaking: Senior Project" and "Cinematic Modes of Production" (Fall 2013)

- Lectured on preproduction, script breakdown and scheduling, sound/image relationship, gave feedback to students on their work, script, production plan, assigned weekly readings

*Department of Art*, **UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA**, Minneapolis, MN

### **Adjunct Professor**

Course: "Photography: Silver Process" (intermediate level, Fall 2004)

- Designed syllabi, lectured on classical and contemporary approaches to photographic practice, taught camera/darkroom controls, historical overview of the medium

Course: "Photography" (introductory level, Fall 2003)

- Planned syllabi, gave presentations on technical aspects of photography, assignments emphasized creative process through hands-on experience, film development, enlarging and printing

## **ADDITIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Independent Filmmaker Project MN**, St.Paul, MN

**Instructor** (2016-present)

- Taught "Cine Production 2," a nine-week intermediate narrative production course for adult students, covered all aspect of pre-production and production from visualizing a script to working effectively with actors and crew members. Assignments included writing a short script, presenting visual strategy, and in class collaborative production exercises

## ADDITIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE (continued)

**COMPAS Writers & Artists in the Schools Program**, St. Paul, MN

**Minnesota State Arts Board's Arts in Education Residency Program**, St. Paul, MN

### Teaching Artist (2008-2012)

- Taught media arts to K-12 students in various Twin Cities schools
- Collaborated with teachers to integrate photography and media arts in their curriculum
- Designed age appropriate lesson plans for grades 9-12 to learn craft, create projects, and communicate ideas

**IFP CENTER FOR MEDIA ARTS**, St. Paul, MN

**MINNESOTA CENTER FOR PHOTOGRAPHY**, Minneapolis, MN

### Instructor (2006-2009)

- Presented "Evocative Portrait," a four-week digital photography class for adult students, lectured on contemporary and classic practices in portrait, assignments emphasized intimate approach to portrait making through various creative exercises and interactive techniques
- Taught "Poetry of Light," an eight-week lighting class for adult students, class assignments emphasized technical and creative approach in constructing light environments

*COMPLEAT Scholar Program*, **UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA**, Minneapolis, MN

### Workshop Presenter (2003-2004)

- Designed "Body Identity," a four-week interactive workshop, using photography as an explorative tool

## FILMOGRAPHY

2015 **Happy Republic**, 14:30 minutes, color HD, writer, director, cinematographer and editor. Eva and Utkan deal in the illegal market of pharmaceutical drugs for the elderly until something grim happens during one of the deliveries.

#### **Screenings:**

*Los Angeles CineFest, Online Festival, CA, 2015*

*Fort Worth Indie Film Showcase, Fort Worth, TX, 2015*

*Short of the Month, Online Film Festival, 2015*

2014 **Divided**, 8:30 minutes, color HD video, writer, director, cinematographer and editor. Separated as children, identical twin sisters, Alpha and Alice live in parallel worlds. Alice plans the ultimate sacrifice to rescue Alpha, who is imprisoned in a dystopian society.

2013 **Ways of Becoming**, 8:30 minutes, color HD video, writer, director and editor. A woman's memory of her failed relationship and her unexpected encounter with a stray dog intermix to create an uncanny sense of reality.

2011 **Hour of the Dark**, 6:45 minutes, color, HD video, director and editor. Haunted by the massive unrest and brutality in her homeland, a distraught exile descends into a personal nightmare.

#### **Screenings:**

*Walker Art Center Best Buy Film/Video Bay, Minneapolis, MN, 2012*

*Twin Cities Public Television, St. Paul, MN, 2012*

*Minneapolis-St. Paul International Film Festival, Minneapolis, MN, 2011*

2010 **Poem for the Sea**, 6:18 minutes, B&W, 16 mm film, writer, director and editor. A young Iranian man copes with life under the ominous presence of the state through his writing.

## FILMOGRAPHY (continued)

### **Screenings:**

*Walker Art Center's Best Buy Film/Video Bay, 2011*

*Twin Cities Public Television, St. Paul, MN, 2010*

- 2008 **In Waiting**, 6:20 minutes, B&W, 16 mm film, writer, director and editor.  
A woman is antagonized by a group of children but is rescued by a sonorous voice.

### **Screenings:**

*Walker Art Center's Best Buy Film/Video Bay, 2010*

*Twin Cities Public Television, 2009*

*Women with Vision International Film Festival: Dimensions, Short Film Showcase, organized by Women in Film & TV International, Walker Art Center, 2009*

- 2007 **Labyrinth**, 4:30 minutes, color, Mini DV video, director, cinematographer and editor.  
An exploration of the camera as an extension of thought using performance, text, and objects.

### **Screenings:**

*Women with Vision International Film Festival: Past/Present, Walker Art Center, 2008*

*Twin Cities Public Television, 2008*

*"Latitudes," an exhibition organized by Mizna & Metropolitan Art Council, California Building Gallery, Minneapolis, MN, 2007*

- 2007 **Rhythm of Tides**, 11:38 minutes, B&W, 16 mm film, writer, director and editor.  
A young woman navigates the terrain of her personal memory and historical events in search of lasting love and freedom.

### **Screenings:**

*International Short Films on Culture, Jaipur, India, 2008*

*Arizona International Film Festival, Tucson, AZ, 2007*

*Women with Vision International Film Festival: Mirror Image, Walker Art Center, 2007*

- 2004 **Keepers of the Garden**, 9:00 minutes, B&W, 16 mm film, cinematographer, director, and editor.

A young man solemnly imagines dramas of love, repression, and resistance.

### **Screenings:**

*Women with Vision International Film Festival: Amid Chaos, Walker Art Center, 2005*

*Central Standard Film Festival, organized by IFP, Minneapolis, MN, 2005*

- 2003 **Shroud and Torrent**, 6:19 minutes, 2003, B&W, 16 mm film, writer, director, cinematographer, and editor.  
A young Muslim woman awakens to the possibility of being free of the veil after she crosses paths with an old woman.

### **Screenings:**

*23rd Annual MPLS-St. Paul International Film Festival, Minneapolis, MN, 2005*

*Women with Vision International Film Festival: Home/Away From Home, Walker Art Center, 2004*

*"Sacred Texts," an exhibition curated by Diane Mullin, curator of Weisman Museum, film installation, Minneapolis College of Art & Design, Minneapolis, MN (catalogue), 2004*

## SELECTED SOLO PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITIONS

- 2010 **Solo Exhibition**, "Faces of New America," Cargill Hall Gallery, Central Library, Minneapolis, MN (project website: <http://www.facesofnewamerica.com>)
- 2007 **Solo Exhibition**, "Heroines Portraits," Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, MN
- 2006 **Solo Exhibition**, "Iran Diary," Minnesota Center for Photography, Minnesota Projects Gallery, Minneapolis, MN
- 2002 **Solo Exhibition**, "Three Portfolios: Jila Nikpay's Photographs/1995-2002," House of Artists, organized by the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, Tehran, Iran

## GRANTS/FELLOWSHIPS

2014 **Fulbright Fellowship Finalist**  
2014 **Syracuse University Graduate Fellowship** in the Department of Transmedia Film  
2012 **Syracuse University Graduate Fellowship** in the Department of Transmedia Film  
2012 **Artist Initiative Grant, Media Arts**, Minnesota State Arts Board, St. Paul, MN  
2011 **Media Arts Grant**, Puffin Foundation Ltd, Teaneck, NJ  
2010 **Artist Initiative Grant, Media Arts**, Minnesota State Arts Board, MN  
2009 **Arts, Culture & Humanities Grant**, St. Paul Foundation, St. Paul, MN  
2008 **COMPAS Community Art Program**, McKnight Foundation, Minneapolis, MN  
2008 **Film & Video Travel and Study Grant Program**, Jerome Foundation, St. Paul, MN  
2007 **Minnesota Film & Video Program**, Jerome Foundation  
2006 **Latitudes**, Mizna and Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, St. Paul, MN  
2006 **Artist Initiative Grant, Media Arts**, Minnesota State Arts Board  
2005 **Minnesota Film & Video Program**, Jerome Foundation  
2005 **Access Grant**, Independent Feature Project, Minneapolis/Saint Paul, MN  
2004 **Artist Initiative Grant, Media Arts**, Minnesota State Arts Board  
2004 **Minnesota Media Arts Program**, Jerome Foundation  
2003 **Access Grant**, Independent Feature Project, Minneapolis/Saint Paul, MN  
2002 **Travel and Study Grant Program**, Jerome Foundation  
2002 **Artist Assistance Fellowship**, Minnesota State Arts Board  
2001 **Career Opportunity Grant**, Minnesota State Arts Board  
2000 **McKnight Photography Fellowship**, McKnight Foundation  
1998 **Artist Assistance Fellowship**, Minnesota State Arts Board

## REVIEWS AND ARTICLES

**StarTribune newspaper**, September 17, 2011, "Exhibit examines cultural divide," review article by Liz Rolfsmeier  
**City Pages Blogs**, April 21, 2011, "Minneapolis-St. Paul International Film Festival showcases Minnesota Filmmakers," by Ann Regan  
**Minnesota Women's Press**, March 21, 2011, "Photo dialogue," feature article by Sheila Regan  
**Minnesota Public Radio News**, January 5, 2011, "The new faces of America," article by Marianne Combs  
**Twin Cities Daily Planet**, November 30, 2010, "Jila Nikpay's Faces of New America:" Coming to a library near you, article by Sheila Regan  
**Minneapolis / St. Paul magazine**, July 2009, "The New Face Book: Photographer Jila Nikpay points her lens at teenagers from local immigrant families," by Kate Dohman  
**The Bridge newspaper**, December 2007, "An Individual Journey," feature article by Anna Pratt  
**10,000 Arts magazine**, November 2007, "Point of Entry," feature article by Ann Klefstad  
**StarTribune newspaper**, July 30, 2006, section E, "Artist Jila Nikpay transformed lives with Heroines Project," feature article by Kay Miller  
**Minnesota Public Radio**, April 7, 2006, coverage of Heroines Music by Karl Gehrke  
**KFAI Radio** interviews with Minnesota artists: "Radio martists," April 6, 2006, interview with Jila Nikpay by Marya Morstad  
**Minnesota Public Radio**, April 5, 2006, interview with Jila Nikpay by Cathy Wurzer  
**Minnesota Women's Press**, Vol., 21, No. 26, March 2006, "An emotional Landscape: artist's book portrays women who have survived breast cancer," by Alison Bergblom Johnson  
**Minnesota Monthly magazine**, March 2006, Art section, feature article on Heroines Project  
**NY Arts**, Vol.9, No. 7/8, July/August 2004, review of "Sacred Texts" exhibition, pp 14-15  
**Minnesota Monthly magazine**, August 2003, Spotlight section, pp 77-78  
**AKS magazine**, No. 182, May 2002, interview in Farsi  
**Iran Newspaper**, No. 2105, April 23, 2002, review of solo exhibition at the House of Artists in Farsi

## **REVIEWS AND ARTICLES** (continued)

**Minneapolis Star & Tribune newspaper**, September 6, 2001, "New Photography: McKnight Fellows 2000/2001," Katherine Nash Gallery

## **PUBLICATION**

2006, "Heroines: Transformation in the Face of Breast Cancer," book published by Zenith, Minneapolis, MN.

## **COLLECTIONS**

Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, MN  
Target Corporation, Minneapolis, MN  
Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, Tehran, Iran  
The Museum of Modern Art Library, New York, NY

## **PROFESSIONAL SKILLS**

**Cinematography:** Skilled in creating lighting environments on location and studio settings

**Editing:** Expert in Final Cut Pro 7 Suite and Final Cut Pro X, proficient with Adobe Premier video editing software, good working knowledge of sound design

**Scriptwriting and Scheduling:** Fluent with Movie Magic Scriptwriting & Movie Magic Scheduling

**Web:** Skilled in media compression for web usage

## **GUEST/VISITING ARTIST PRESENTATIONS**

- 2011 **Guest artist**, "Faces of New America," Critical Studies of Race/Ethnicity, Department of Sociology, St. Catherine University, St. Paul, MN
- 2011 **Guest artist**, "Faces of New America," Department of Instructional Curriculum, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
- 2011 **Visiting artist**, "Faces of New America," Lake Agassiz Regional Libraries, Breckenridge, Moorhead, Mahanomen, MN
- 2011 **Guest artist**, "Faces of New America," Carver County Library, Chanhassen, MN
- 2009 **McGuire Visiting Artist**, "Migration and Identity," eight week residency at Blake School, Minneapolis, MN
- 2009 **Visiting artist**, "Visual Lecture Series," Department of Art and Design, University of Minnesota, Duluth, MN
- 2007 **Guest artist**, Department of Art and Art History, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN
- 2007 **Guest artist**, "Iran Diary," Minneapolis College of Art and Design, Minneapolis, MN
- 2006 **Guest filmmaker**, "Veil: An Exploration to Liberate the Body," Institute for Global Studies, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis
- 2006 **Guest filmmaker**, Veil: An Exploration to Liberate the Body, Institute for Global Studies, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis
- 2006 **Guest filmmaker**, One Night, post-screening discussion of a film by Niki Karimi, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN

## **LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

"Exploration of Identity Through Photographic Portraiture," 2008-2010  
Como Park Senior High School, St. Paul, MN

Initiated the program, led interactive creative sessions with youth, collaborated with teachers and administrators, wrote grant and was awarded \$41,000.

## **LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT** (continued)

- Worked with immigrant adolescents to explore issues of cultural identity through the photographic portrait; received support from Minnesota Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund (2010), St. Paul Foundation's Arts, Culture & Humanities Grant (2009) and COMPAS Community Art Program / McKnight Foundation (2008)

"Heroines," 2005-06

In collaboration with various organizations, Minneapolis, MN

Envisioned and managed all aspects of the project, including the book's design and production, public performance, PR staff, and raised \$90,000 in individual giving.

- Created interactive portraits and poetry, which were published as a book; photographs were the subject of a solo exhibition at Minnesota Historical Society in 2007; poetry was performed as a song-cycle composed by Carol Burnet at the Minnesota Center for Book Arts

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

**Cuse Casting**, Syracuse University, 2013-2014

Online film commission that connects student actors with student filmmakers

Represented film students in discussions with faculty from College of Visual and Performing Arts and S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications

**Panelist**, Media Arts Program, 2008

Jerome Foundation, St. Paul, MN

**Juror**, Merit Scholarship Competition, 2007

Minneapolis College of Art and Design, Minneapolis, MN

**Panelist**, Artist Assistance Photography Program, 1999 & 2000

Minnesota State Arts Board, St. Paul, MN

## **CONSULTANT**

**Educational Consultant, Multicultural Voices Initiative** program, June, 2009 and 2010

Perpich Center for Arts Education, Minneapolis, MN

- Designed a broad range of educational materials as a resource for educators in schools

## **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

University Film and Video Association (UFVA), based in U.S

Independent Filmmaker Project, New York, NY

## **FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

Fluent in Farsi and conversational in French

## **TRAVEL**

Travelled to Canada, France, Iran, Spain for extended time