

# Jila Nikpay

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

## COLLEGE TEACHING EXPERIENCE

*Department of Communication Studies, Film, and New Media*, **AUGSBURG UNIVERSITY**,  
Minneapolis, MN

**Adjunct Professor** (2017-present)

Course: "Making Media For Change: Ethical Consumption and Well-Being" (Spring 2021)

- Initiated, researched, and developed this undergraduate cross-disciplinary course in communication and environmental studies, the course has a community-based experiential component that focuses on storytelling as a communication technique to promote individual and environmental health and well-being, students learning combines research, interview and storytelling techniques, fundamentals of media production to collaborate on projects generated by West Bank Business Association for the neighborhood

Course: "Video Editing Practicum" (Fall 2017, Spring & Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Spring 2020)

- Created the objective, course material, and lab component for *Video Editing Practicum*, a beginning level class that exposes the students to theoretical and aesthetic aspects of editing through lectures and demonstration, students achieve basic proficiency in video and sound editing through lab work, creative assignments, and class critique

Course: "Issues In Contemporary Cinema" (Fall 2017, 2018, 2019)

- Researched and formulated content for *Issues In Contemporary Cinema*, an intermediate film studies class which provides the students with historical and aesthetic foundation for examining contemporary cinema and film culture from a global perspective, students respond to the class material by actively participating in weekly forum posts, film discussions, and assignments that range from writing critical essays to creative work

Course: "Film Sight and Sound" (Spring 2017 & 2018, Summer online 2018, 2019, 2020)

- Developed course content, syllabus, and a comprehensive Moodle site for *Film Sight and Sound*, a beginning level theory and film production course that engages students from various disciplines with the language of film through lectures, class discussions, writing critical film essays, and making short videos

Course: "Film Producer" (Spring 2017)

- Devised course material and designed syllabus for *Film Producer*, which is an introductory class for film majors, topics covered are generating story ideas, optioning scripts,

## **COLLEGE TEACHING EXPERIENCE** (continued)

creating budget, researching and writing proposals to solicit funding, class combines interactive lectures and guest presentations by industry professionals

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

### **Teaching Fellow** (2013-2014)

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

- Presented mini lectures on pre-production, script breakdown, scheduling, sound/image relationship, and gave feedback to students on their scripts and creative works

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

### **Adjunct Professor**( 2003-2004)

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

- Designed syllabus, introduced the students to classical and contemporary approaches to the medium, and advanced camera/darkroom controls

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

- Planned syllabus, gave presentations on technical aspects of photography, assignments emphasized creative process through hands-on experience

## **ADDITIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Perpich Arts High School, Minneapolis, MN**

**Media Instructor** (Spring 2020-present)

- Teaches cinema courses in fiction and documentary production to high school juniors and seniors

**FilmNorth, St. Paul, MN**

**Instructor** (2017-2019)

- Teaches "The Screen and The Female Gaze: A Filmmaking Intensive," a two-day production workshop, combining a brief survey of work by female directors with writing and collaborative production exercises to inspire the beginning adult students to write and direct short videos

**Instructor**

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

**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, and designed age appropriate lesson plans for grades 9-12 to learn craft, create projects, and communicate ideas

## ADDITIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE (continued)

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, 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

## FILMOGRAPHY

- 2020 **Objects of Love**, 9:54 minutes, color HD, director and editor.  
The 20-year-old feisty Roya floats between her demanding immigrant father and old-world grandmother. When against their wishes, she reunites with her estranged American mother, she learns a lesson about loyalty.  
**Screenings:**  
*Shorts Entertainment Networks (ShortsTV), Santa Monica, CA, 2020-2021*  
*Premiers on December 26 at 4 pm and 7 pm ET.. Additional air time are on January 8, 13, 17, 26, 2020, and February 4 & 8, 2021.*
- 2016 **Dreaming with Lola**, 8:30 minutes, color HD, director, cinematographer and editor.  
A documentary about a young duck farmer who follows her dream of owning a small farm, driven by a desire to have a voice in food production.  
**Screenings:**  
*Austin Asian American Film Festival, Austin Film Society Cinema, Austin, Tx, 2017*  
*San Francisco Green Film Festival, Roxie Theatre, San Francisco, LA, 2017*  
*Minneapolis-St. Paul International Film Festival, Minneapolis, MN, 2017*  
*MNTV, Twin Cities Public Television, St. Paul, MN, May 14, 15, 20, 2017*  
*Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN, 2017*
- 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*

## FILMOGRAPHY (continued)

- 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.  
**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 a 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: 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

## GRANTS/FELLOWSHIPS (continued)

- 2002 **Solo Exhibition**, "Three Portfolios: Jila Nikpay's Photographs/1995-2002," House of Artists, organized by the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, Tehran, Iran
- 2019 **Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropy Grant**, Minneapolis, MN
- 2018 **Cultivate Placemaking Grant**, Springboard for the Arts, St. Paul, MN
- 2014 **Fulbright Fellowship Finalist**
- 2014 **Syracuse University Graduate Fellowship** in the Department of Transmedia, Syracuse, NY
- 2012 **Syracuse University Graduate Fellowship** in the Department of Transmedia, Syracuse, NY
- 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 Roflsmeier
- 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

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

**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

**Minneapolis Star & Tribune newspaper**, September 6, 2001, "New Photography:

McKnight Fellows 2000/2001," Katherine Nash Gallery

## **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 TECHNICAL SKILLS AND CERTIFICATE**

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

**Editing:** Expert in Adobe Premiere Pro and Final Cut Pro X video editing softwares, proficient with Adobe Audition and After Effects, good working knowledge of Adobe Photoshop

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

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

**Online Learning Platforms:** Proficient with Moodle & Google Classroom learning management systems

**Certificate:** Visual Effects For Educators, a course in using After Effects as a tool in creating new environments from realistic to fantastic, Adobe Education Exchange, 2019

## **GUEST/VISITING ARTIST PRESENTATIONS**

2019 **Workshop presenter**, "Non-Profit Storytelling," Metropolitan Regional Art Council, St. Paul, MN

2018 **Guest filmmaker**, School of Communication: Creative Media and Film Program, Flagstaff, AZ

2017 **Guest speaker**, "Designing and Communicating Change," Minnesota International NGO Network's Idea Summit, Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

2017 **Guest speaker**, "Digital Storytelling," a presentation at the University of Minnesota Communicators Forum's monthly professional development events, St. Paul, MN

2016 **Guest filmmaker**, Intercultural Communication class, Communication Department, Augsburg College, Minneapolis, MN

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

## **GUEST/VISITING ARTIST PRESENTATIONS** (continued)

2006 **Guest filmmaker**, One Night, post-screening discussion of a film by Niki Karimi, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN

## **LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

“Faces of New America,” 2008-2010

In collaboration with Twin Cities high schools and Minneapolis Central Library, Minneapolis, MN Initiated the idea, recruited young participants, and managed the creative and educational aspects of the project, wrote grant proposals and was awarded \$41,000 from Minnesota Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund (2010), St. Paul Foundation’s Arts, Culture & Humanities Grant (2009) and COMPAS Community Art Program / McKnight Foundation (2008).

- Worked with immigrant adolescents to explore issues of cultural identity through the photographic portrait

“Heroines,” 2005-2006

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**

**Juror**, Minneapolis-Saint Paul Italian Film Festival, 2020

Organized by the Italian Cultural Center and Film Society of Minneapolis St. Paul, MN Juried short films directed by Italian and Minnesota filmmakers.

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

Cuse Casting is an 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