

Jila Nikpay

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

*Video Production Program, **North Central Technical College**, Wausau, Wisconsin*

Video Production Faculty (2021-present)

Curriculum Design: Short Narrative Production, Creative Process, and Video Foundation Intensive courses designed for the Wisconsin Technical College System (2021-2022)

Courses: "Creative Process," "Short Narrative Production," "Video Foundation Intensive," "Video Editing," "Film & Video Language & Technique," "Video Production Studio," "Portfolio Preparation For Video Production," and " Documentary Production" (Fall & Spring Semesters)

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

Adjunct Professor (2017-2020)

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

COLLEGE TEACHING EXPERIENCE (continued)

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,

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 (2020-2021)

- Taught cinema production courses in experimental, fiction, and documentary genres to high school juniors and seniors. Courses focused on storytelling, cinematography, sound production, and editing

FilmNorth, St. Paul, MN

Instructor (2017-present)

- Taught "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

ADDITIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE (continued)

- 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

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

2024 **Fragments of Freedom**, documentary, 57 minutes, color HD, producer, director, and editor. This film tells an intimate story of a city and a neighborhood devastated by social unrest and violent looting through the eyes of three business owners who lost their livelihood, but are determined to rebuild and rise from the ashes.

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, January-February, 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

FILMOGRAPHY (continued)

- 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.
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

FILMOGRAPHY (continued)

- 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
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

- 2021 **Creative Support for Individual Artist**, Minnesota State Arts Board
2019 **Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropy Grant** (research & curriculum development for an environmental sustainability course for undergraduate students), 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 Rolfsmeier
City Pages Blogs, April 21, 2011, "Minneapolis-St. Paul International Film Festival showcases Minnesota Filmmakers," by Ann Regan

REVIEWS AND ARTICLES (continued)

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
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 and Illustrator
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 and Blackboard 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
Certificate: Completed the *AE Kickstarter*, an eight-week long intensive online training, through School of Motion on creating motion graphics using the Adobe After Effects software, 2024

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

GUEST/VISITING ARTIST PRESENTATIONS (continued)

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

LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

"Public Film Screening and Discussion," North Central College Cinema , February 2022

- Initiated, organized, and facilitated the public screening and discussion session for the feature documentary, *Midnight Traveler* with several Afghan refugees as contributing guests to promote understanding of resettlement process for the local audience

"Volunteer Translator," for the New Beginnings for Refugees community organization, 2022

- Translated several resettlement training sessions for the Afghan refugees from English to Farsi

"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

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE (continued)

Panelist, Media Arts Program, 2008
Jerome Foundation, St. Paul, MN

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE (continued)

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

Festival Scope Pro, an online international platform for film professionals and festival programmers
to view films featured in top-tiered film festivals from around the world

FilmNorth, a film resource and educational center for independent filmmakers, Minneapolis, MN

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Fluent in Farsi and conversational in French

TRAVEL:

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