

IBRAHIM GEORGES KHAZZAKA

Creative Studio Practice · Cultural Programme Management · Grant Review & Fiscal Oversight · Curriculum Design
· i.khazzaka@gmail.com · ibrahim-khazzaka.com · Arabic (native) · English (native) · French (fluent) · Spanish (developing)

PROFILE

I bring a distinct operational rigour to the cultural and creative sectors. My work translates psychological insights into actionable business practices, ensuring that complex international projects are delivered on time, within budget, and with deep community resonance.

Currently, I serve as a grant review panellist for major US regional arts agencies (Creative West, Arizona Commission on the Arts), evaluating organizational budgets and strategic plans. This insider perspective on funding criteria allows me to design robust, fundable programs that align with global priorities in economic dignity and heritage preservation.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Independent Ceramic Artist, Material Researcher & Studio Consultant | Ibrahim Khazzaka LLC

Jan 2018-Present · United States & Lebanon · Hybrid

- Research low-fire lustre glaze reduction, a technique rooted in the Islamic Golden Age and transmitted through Al-Andalus into Manises and Valencia; apply glaze chemistry and firing methodology as both technical practice and material history.
- Provide technical production consulting and studio mentorship to ceramic studios across the US and Lebanon.
- Designed inclusive ceramics curriculum for neurodiverse adolescent learners at BKLYN Clay, New York, integrating a clinical background into project-based, accessible studio teaching.
- Directed studio operations, kiln logistics, and technical support at Watershed Centre for the Ceramic Arts (Maine), SUNY New Paltz, 92nd Street Y, and Brickhouse Ceramic Art Centre; managed multi-user studio environments and industrial kiln scheduling for high-density residency and community programs.
- Taught and collaborated across English, Arabic, and French, building a cross-cultural studio and teaching practice suited to international ceramic institutions.
- Since relocating to Beirut in 2025: developed a structured, multi-module ceramic studio consulting framework for the Lebanese market (covering curriculum development and conflict de-escalation in creative spaces);

IB Diploma Programme (DP) Examiner, Visual Arts | International Baccalaureate

Apr 2026-Present · Remote

- Completing standardization and examiner training across all three graded Visual Arts components (Comparative Study, Process Portfolio, Exhibition), practicing criterion-referenced marking against benchmarked exemplars to calibrate judgment to IB global standards.

Fellow, Leaders of Colour Fellowship for Arizona | Creative West

Jan 2025-Aug 2025 · Remote

- Selected for this regional leadership and professional-development program supporting BIPOC changemakers in the arts and cultural sectors; completed intensive workshops and peer mentorship in cultural equity, community engagement, and strategic leadership.

University Lecturer, Fine Arts Foundations | Pima Community College

Aug 2024-Aug 2025 · Tucson, Arizona

- Reconfigured Fine Arts Foundations coursework around a material-first, process-based approach, incorporating cross-cultural and decolonial material histories into a majority-Hispanic, largely first-generation student population.
- Designed competency-based assessment frameworks responsive to neurodivergent and first-generation student needs; built collaborative programming with the Tucson Museum of Art and CATALYST Maker Space.

Assistant Studio Manager | Watershed Centre for the Ceramic Arts

May 2023-Sep 2023 · Edgecomb, Maine

- Oriented rotating cohorts of 80+ resident artists and board members to a shared-station studio of up to 18 concurrent artists with 24-hour access; managed studio and fast turnover kiln schedule and day-to-day crisis resolution across a live-in residential cohort.

Equity, Inclusion and Belonging MFA Student Representative for the Arts | SUNY New Paltz

Dec 2021-Jun 2023

- Represented BIPOC, neurodivergent, and LGBTQ+ graduate student constituencies in departmental equity policy during the MFA program.

Adjunct Professor, Ceramics and Art Foundations | SUNY New Paltz

Aug 2021-Jan 2023 · New Paltz, New York

- Delivered undergraduate instruction in wheel-throwing, hand-building, glaze chemistry, and kiln firing; built formative and summative assessment methods and trained students in structured peer critique.
- Also served as Assistant Studio Manager (Aug 2021-May 2023) maintaining studio safety compliance across kiln firing, glaze chemistry, and shared equipment use.

Production Assistant | Kleinreid LLC

Feb 2020-Aug 2021 · Greenpoint, Brooklyn

- Worked the full slip-cast production line under founders David Reid and James Klein, from Mold prep through bisque-ready finishing, for B2B wholesale and direct-to-customer fulfilment.

Studio Manager | Teaching Artist | 92Y

Feb 2019-Aug 2021 · Manhattan, New York

- Led studio operations for a facility with 25 potters' wheels and multiple kilns: maintenance scheduling, inventory management, and vendor coordination, maintaining health and safety compliance.
- Designed and taught project-based ceramics courses for adult and teen learners; trained and mentored two new staff members in studio protocols and instructional support.

Production Assistant | Jono Pandolfi Designs

May 2018-Aug 2019 · Union City, New Jersey

- Executed slip casting and hollowware forming for a high-volume hospitality client roster including Eleven Madison Park, Four Seasons, Rosewood, and Gramercy Tavern; represented the studio at Manhattan pop-up events.
- Advanced from entry-level production to a full-time role with negotiated benefits based on demonstrated reliability and technical growth.

Project Coordinator | HB Wink Animation Co., Ltd. (Huayi Brothers)

Apr 2017-Apr 2018 · Burbank, California

- Managed bookkeeping, payroll, and accounts payable for a Sino-American animation studio coordinating a lean five-person Burbank team with a Shanghai office, on a theatrical co-production slate with Hollywood talent including David Silverman.
- Supported recruitment and led new-hire onboarding; tracked and shared industry trends between the California and China teams, building practical fluency in cross-cultural business etiquette.

Production Coordinator | Mycotoo Inc.

Dates to be confirmed · Pasadena, California

- Coordinated production logistics for large-scale immersive installations, including theme park projects; managed international contractor logistics, safety compliance, and project scheduling. Exact employment dates not yet confirmed against a primary source; currently placed near HB Wink (2017-2018) based on the June 2026 CV's combined framing.

Bilingual Behavioural Therapist | Holding Hands Paediatric Therapy & Adult Services

May 2016-Oct 2017 · Los Angeles, California

- Delivered ABA and DIR/Floor time intervention to a bilingual (Arabic/English) caseload spanning early childhood through adulthood; coordinated with school districts and regional centres to align care across providers.

Gallery Educator | Mapel Orientation Gallery, The Huntington

Mar 2016-Feb 2017 · San Marino, California

Case Manager | **Behavioural Therapist** | Stepping Stones Centre

Dec 2012-May 2015 · Dubai, United Arab Emirates

- Delivered individualised education plans (IEPs) for ASD clients at Uptown School, a Taaleem IB World School, coordinating an average of four stakeholders per case and leveraging Arabic/English bilingual fluency across Middle Eastern and Western family contexts.

Behavioural Therapist | **Special Educator** | Lebanese Autism Society (NGO)

Sep 2010-Aug 2012 · Beirut, Lebanon

- Designed individualised education plans supporting academic, social, and vocational integration for neurodiverse adolescents; represented the organisation, a founding member of the Arab Network for Autism, in fundraising and national advocacy campaigns.

GRANT REVIEW, PUBLIC ART & FUNDING PANELS

- Panellist, Creative West Artist Fund (16 Western States), Dec 2025-Present. Review panellist for a trust-based-philanthropy regional fund; evaluate applications for no-strings-attached grants against core funding pillars.
- Panellist, Alumni Professional Development Fund Grant, Creative West (2026): reviewed applications for this fellowship-alumni programme.
- Panellist, Creative Capacity Grant (Arizona Commission on the Arts), Apr 2026-Present. Review organizational budgets and operational plans for nonprofit general-operating-support requests, assessing fiscal responsibility.
- Public Art Panellist, Arts Foundation for Tucson and Southern Arizona, Jan 2025-Present. Serve on public art selection panels for city-commissioned projects, reviewing proposals with budgets up to \$200,000.
- Art Consultant & Guest Judge, Southern Arizona Arts and Cultural Alliance, Oct 2024-Sep 2025. Evaluate portfolios for veterans, youth, and culturally diverse cohorts across regional festivals and residencies.
- Pre-Selection Committee Member, PLURAL+ (UNAO / IOM-UN Migration), Jun 2018-Jun 2020.

PROJECTS

- Alice in Winterland (Nov 2016-Jan 2017): coordinated financial accountability, new-hire onboarding, scheduling, and production oversight for a 250,000\$ budget seasonal event production.
- Winterfest, Absolute Events Solution (Nov 2015-Jan 2016): coordinated production of a public event at the Orange County Fairgrounds from conception through completion.

GRANTS, AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS RECEIVED

- ARPA Grant, Arts Foundation for Tucson and Southern Arizona (2025).
- Artist Opportunity Grant, Arizona Commission on the Arts (2026).
- Alumni Professional Development Fund Grant, Creative West (2026); held alongside panel service for a different Creative West programme, the Artist Fund, in the same period.
- Sojourner Truth Diversity Fellowship, SUNY New Paltz (2022, 2023).
- Graduate Student Research and Creative Project Award, SUNY New Paltz (2022).
- ANDRAH Merit Scholarship, SUNY New Paltz (2021, 2023).

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

- At the Gate of Dawn, MFA thesis, SUNY New Paltz (2023): a material investigation of Sufi epistemology through low-fire reduction lustre glazing.
- Featured in Ben Carter, The Complete Guide to Low-Fire Glazes for Potters and Sculptors, lustre glaze section (2024).
- “The Artistic Journey of Artist Ibrahim Khazzaka,” Pima Public Library Blog (2024).
- Investigations (blog/research journal): ongoing series on material psychology and process methodologies.

- Active research: The Ethics of Collaboration (2023-Present), on equitable cross-cultural partnership frameworks in ceramic arts; Back on the Silk Road (2021-2024), on historical material exchange networks informing contemporary sustainable design.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS & RESIDENCIES

- Sculpture Tucson, Tucson, Arizona (2025).
- The Veils of Dawn, residency exhibition, CATALYST, Tucson (2025).
- Artistic InQueeries, Subspace, Tucson (2024).
- MFA and Faculty Show, Katonah Public Library, New York (2023).
- Semblance, SUNY New Paltz (2022); Object/Image, Clay Art Centre, Port Chester, New York (2022).
- Insight on Site, Historic Huguenot Street Foundation, New Paltz (2021).
- Artist Residencies: CATALYST, Southern Arizona Arts and Cultural Alliance, Tucson (2024); Watershed Centre for Ceramic Arts, Newcastle, Maine (2022).

EDUCATION

MFA, Ceramic Arts and Ceramics, State University of New York, New Paltz (2021-2023), GPA 3.66.

Thesis: At the Gate of Dawn, a material investigation of Sufi epistemology through low-fire reduction lustre glazing.

BA, Clinical Psychology, The Lebanese University, Fanar, Lebanon (2005-2010).

LANGUAGES

Arabic | English native or bilingual proficiency · French, fluent · Spanish, developing proficiency