

IBRAHIM GEORGES KHAZZAKA

Creative Studio | Fabrication & Material Science | Strategic Partnerships & Grant Acquisition

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Portfolio: ibrahim-khazzaka.com

Languages: English (Native), Arabic (Native), French (Fluent), Spanish (Intermediate)

Value Proposition

- **Strategic Program Management:** Expertise in designing international curricula, securing grants, and managing complex cross-border production workflows (US–China). Proven ability to lead studio operations, orchestrate exhibition designs, and drive organizational efficiency.
- **Inclusive Design & DEI Leadership:** Leveraging a clinical psychology background to translate behavioral insights into actionable business strategies. Specialized in building Diversity-affirming environments and advising on equitable, cross-cultural partnership frameworks.
- **Cross-Cultural Intelligence:** Native proficiency in Arabic and English, with fluent French and intermediate Spanish. Adept at bridging cultural divides, negotiating international agreements, and facilitating seamless collaboration across global teams.
- **Innovation & R&D:** Merging traditional craftsmanship with advanced digital fabrication (Fusion 360, 3D printing) to solve complex production challenges. Committed to driving sustainable design methodologies and material innovation

Education & Qualifications

Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Ceramic Arts

State University of New York at New Paltz, United States | 2021 – 2023

- Thesis: *At the Gate of Dawn* — Material investigation of Sufi epistemology through low-fire reduction luster glazing
- Focus: Slip casting and digital fabrication in ceramic practice

Bachelor of Arts in Clinical Psychology

The Lebanese University, Fanar, Lebanon | 2005 – 2010

Professional Experience

Independent Studio Practice | Ceramic Artist & Researcher|

United States | 2018 – Present

- Established strategic partnerships with Jono Pandolfi Designs and KleinReid LLC for technical and business mentorship and production design
- Designed inclusive, psychology-informed ceramic curricula for neurodiverse adolescents at BKLYN Clay, New York

IBRAHIM GEORGES KHAZZAKA

- Provided community and residency studio management and technical support at Watershed Centre for Ceramic Arts (Maine), SUNY New Paltz, 92Y and Brickhouse Ceramic Art Center (New York)

Academic Researcher | Art & Design Department

Pima Community College, Tucson, Arizona, United States | 2024 – 2025

- Developed and delivered courses in Art History, Visual Arts, Color Theory, and Design Thinking with culturally responsive pedagogical approaches
- Established partnerships with Tucson Museum of Art, University of Arizona Museum of Art, and CATALYST Maker Space for community engagement programming
- Implemented competency-based assessment strategies to support diverse student population

Studio Manager & Teaching Artist

92nd Street Y, New York, United States | 2019 – 2021

- Managed daily studio operations, technical support, and equipment maintenance for community arts programming
- Fostered inclusive studio culture serving participants across diverse backgrounds and abilities

Production Coordination & Cross-Cultural Liaison

HB Wink Animation Co. (Los Angeles/China), Mycotoo Inc. (Pasadena, US) | 2015 – 2018

- Coordinated production logistics for large-scale immersive installations, including theme park projects (Alice in Winterland, Winterfest)
- Served as primary liaison between California and China teams for HB Wink Animation, managing cross-border workflow and communication
- Managed international contractor logistics, safety compliance, and project scheduling

Clinical Psychology & Behavioural Therapy

*Lebanese Autism Society (Beirut, Lebanon), Stepping Stones Centre (Dubai, UAE), Holding Hands Pediatrics (Burbank, US)
2010 – 2017*

- Case coordination and bilingual behavioral therapy services across Lebanon, United Arab Emirates, and United States

Graduate Leadership & Teaching Roles

State University of New York at New Paltz, (NY, US) | 2021 – 2023

Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging MFA Student Representative (December 2021 – May 2023)

- Represented international, BIPOC, neurodivergent, and LGBTQ+ student constituencies in faculty-student policy dialogue
- Advocated for reforms in cross-disciplinary studio access and inclusive critique protocols

Assistant Studio Manager (August 2021 – May 2023)

- Directed industrial kiln logistics, complex firing schedules, and raw material inventory management
- Mentored undergraduate studio assistants while enforcing health and safety protocols (zero-incident record)

IBRAHIM GEORGES KHAZZAKA

Teaching Assistant / Associate Lecturer – Art Foundations and Ceramics (August 2021 – December 2023)

- Delivered comprehensive Art Foundations curricula to diverse cohorts of art majors and non-majors
- Taught specialized Introductory Ceramics courses covering hand-building, wheel throwing, digital fabrication, and material experimentation

Publications & Media

Book Feature

- Carter, Ben. *The Complete Guide to Low-Fire Glazes for Potters and Sculptors*. Luster Glaze section featuring technical process documentation and studio work (2024).

Academic Publication

- *At the Gate of Dawn*. MFA Thesis, State University of New York at New Paltz (2023).

Interviews & Research Journal

- "The Artistic Journey of Artist Ibrahim Khazzaka." Pima Public Library Blog (2024).
- *Investigations* (Blog/Research Journal). Ongoing series on material psychology and process methodologies.

Research Interests & Public Discourse

Active Research Projects

- *The Ethics of Collaboration* (2023–Present): Investigating frameworks for equitable cross-cultural partnerships in ceramic arts and material research
- *Back on the Silk Road: Cross-Cultural Dialogue in Ceramic Art, Architecture and Craft* (2021–2024): Exploring historical material exchange networks to inform contemporary sustainable design methodologies

Juror, Panelist

- Grant Panelist, (Organizations) Creative Capacity Grant, Arizona Commission on the Arts (2026)
- Grant Panelist, Alumni Professional Development Fund Grant, Creative West (2026)
Public Art Panelist, Arts Foundation for Tucson and Southern Arizona (2025,2026)
- Guest Judge, La Encantada Fine Art Festival, Tucson (2024, 2025)
- Panelist, PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival, IOM-UN Migration, New York (2018–2022)

Grants, Awards & Fellowships

- Alumni Professional Development Fund Grant, Creative West (2026)
- Artist Opportunity Grant, Arizona Commission on the Arts (2026)
- Leader of Color Fellowship, Arizona Representative, Creative West (2025)

IBRAHIM GEORGES KHAZZAKA

- ARPA Grant, Arts Foundation for Tucson and Southern Arizona (2025)
- 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)

Selected Exhibitions

- Sculpture Tucson 2025, Tucson, Arizona (2025)
- *The Veils of Dawn*, Residency Exhibition, CATALYST, SAACA, 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 Center, Port Chester, New York (2022)
- *Insight on Site*, Historic Huguenot Street Foundation, New Paltz (2021)
- Faculty Show, 92nd Street Y, Manhattan (2019)

Artist Residencies

- CATALYST, Southern Arizona Arts and Cultural Alliance, Tucson (2024)
- Watershed Center for Ceramic Arts, Newcastle, Maine (2022)