

IBRAHIM KHAZZAKA

Ceramic Artist | Material Researcher | Inclusive Pedagogy Specialist

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

Professional Profile

Ceramic artist and researcher specializing in material psychology, cross-cultural craft dialogue, and digital fabrication methodologies. Academic background in clinical psychology informs neurodiversity-affirming pedagogical approaches that integrate perception, materiality, and cultural transmission. Research interests centre on ethics of collaboration, historical material exchange networks, and sustainable firing technologies. Experienced in international partnership development, grant acquisition, and programme leadership across educational and cultural institutions.

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

2018 – Present | Lebanon & United States

- Established strategic partnerships with Jono Pandolfi Designs and KleinReid LLC for technical mentorship and production methodology refinement
- Designed inclusive, psychology-informed ceramic curricula for neurodiverse adolescents at BKLYN Clay, New York
- Provided studio management and technical support at Watershed Centre for Ceramic Arts (Maine), SUNY New Paltz, 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, Colour 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

- Launched three project-based ceramics courses integrating contemporary techniques and cross-disciplinary approaches
- 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) | 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, Stepping Stones Centre (UAE), Holding Hands Pediatrics (US) | 2010 – 2017

- Case coordination and bilingual behavioural therapy services across Lebanon, United Arab Emirates, and United States
- This foundational experience informs current research-based practice in material psychology, user experience design, and neurodiversity-affirming pedagogy

Graduate Leadership & Teaching Roles

State University of New York at New Paltz | 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)

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 Local Artist Ibrahim Khazzaka." Pima Public Library Blog (2024).
- *Investigations* (Blog/Research Journal). Ongoing series on material psychology and ceramic 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 & Workshop Leadership

- Public Art Panelist, Arts Foundation for Tucson and Southern Arizona (2025,2026)
- Guest Judge, La Encantada Fine Art Festival, Tucson (2024, 2025)
- Preselection Panelist, PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival, IOM-UN Migration, New York (2018–2022)
- Workshop Leader, "Sculpting Comfort" (trauma-informed approaches and material engagement), CATALYST, Tucson (2024, 2025)

Technical Skills & Competencies

Material Innovation & Studio Practice

- Advanced firing technologies: Low-fire reduction, luster glazing, industrial clay/glaze troubleshooting
- Digital fabrication: Rhino, Fusion 360, 3D slicing software, mold design for ceramics

Pedagogy & Programme Development

- Neurodiversity-affirming studio practices and culturally responsive curriculum design
- Community-engaged arts practice and international partnership building

Research & Administration

- Practice-based research methodologies and material psychology investigation
- Grant writing and acquisition, exhibition design, studio management

Grants, Awards & Fellowships

- Creative West Leader of Color Fellowship, Arizona (2025)
- AZ Arts Artist Opportunity Grant (2026)
- ARPA, 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 (LGBTQ+ exhibition), 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)