

# MANDANA RANJBAR, MFA

Houston, TX

+1 (713) 261-5437

mandana.ranjbar@gmail.com

www.mandanaphotography.com

---

## Curriculum Vitae

### EDUCATION:

- **Kathrine G McGovern College of the Arts, University of Houston, Houston, TX**  
Master of Fine Arts in Photography, 2023
- **University of Science and Technology of Tehran, Tehran, Iran**  
Bachelor of Software Engineering, 2010
- **Danesh College, Tehran, Iran**  
Associate degree in Computer Software, 2008
- **Iran Technical and Vocational Training, Tehran, Iran**  
Associate degree in Digital Photography, 2005
- **Hadaf High School, Tehran, Iran**  
Diploma and preuniversity in Experimental Sciences, 2003

### OBJECTIVE:

My passion for expressing ideas through photography combined with my passion for teaching as an art educator have motivated and propelled me to seek opportunities as an Art Instructor of Photography in the most reputable art institutions in the US.

### WORK EXPERIENCE:

#### **University of Houston – Art/Photography Instructor, School of Art, Houston, TX, 2021-2023**

- Rekindling students' fervor for conceptual photography
- Encouraging students to push boundaries, and utilizing photography as a powerful tool for storytelling and expressing ideas

## **MANDANA RANJBAR, MFA**

- Developed course materials, including syllabi, assignments, and lectures
- Lectured daily, scheduled exhibits and tours for critique, and provided student feedback
- Taught courses in Photography and Fundamental Photography
- Provided one-on-one instruction and constructive criticism to students
- Assist more than twenty students in developing their own artistic vision and technical skills
- Coordinated group shows at the end of each semester, assigned midterm projects, and final exams

### **University of Houston – Instructional Assistant, School of Art, Houston, TX, 2020-2023**

- In charge of the Art tech center and print shop lab, inventory, and auditing
- Trained students on how to use photography and print equipment
- Ensured equipment was checked in and out per standard operating procedures

### **Cineworld Cinemas Ltd– Team Lead Manager, Regal Entertainment Group, Houston, TX, 2015-2022**

- Operations and management, continuously review and optimize workflows and processes to enhance efficiency and productivity within the organization
- Responsible for employee and customer relations – conflict and problem resolution
- Trained and developed team members on company processes and procedures
- Managed day to day operations; employee schedules, and cash handling

### **Lumina Dental – Full time photographer and Marketing Coordinator, Houston, TX, 2017-2019**

- Designated special events photographer, capturing moments of patient success stories and vital procedures
- Designed and maintained business website
- Monitored, managed, and provided content for digital platform and social media

### **Tehran Municipal Institute – Computer Science/Art Instructor, Cultural Center, Tehran, Iran, 2007 - 2013**

- Developed course materials in Art and Computer Science including syllabi, assignments, and lectures

## **MANDANA RANJBAR, MFA**

- Mentor more than forty students in developing their own artistic vision and technical skills
- Lectured daily, scheduled group critique, and provided student feedback
- Taught courses in Fundamental Photography, Graphic Software, and Computer Science
- Provided one-on-one instruction and creative feedback to students
- Assigned midterm projects, and final exams

### **Freelance Photographer – Various Locations, 2005 - 2018**

- Official Photographer of more than three hundred theater scenes and street theaters, and short films  
2007-2018
- Official photographer, Food Industry, 2015-2017
- Official photographer, Sarv Wood factory, 2015
- Official photographer, Municipality and Government of Iran, 2014
- Photography and making a documentary for the president of Iran, 2013
- Official photographer, "Creative Theater Festival", 2012
- Photographer and director, "Farib e Atash" theater, 2012
- Photographer of reading play in favor of East Azerbaijan province earthquake, 2012
- Official photographer, Tiwall social network of art and culture, 2010-2012
- Photojournalist, Dadnak news agency, 2009
- Photographer and reporter, Onib news agency, 2008
- Photographer and reporter, Arian oceanographer's institute, 2007
- Photojournalist, Young Journalists Club, 2005-2006

### **SKILLS:**

- Skills in digital photography and post-processing techniques involve capturing compelling images, understanding lighting and exposure, composition, and proficiency in using various camera equipment and editing software like Adobe Photoshop, Lightroom, and Adobe Premiere

## **MANDANA RANJBAR, MFA**

- Keen eye for colors, composition, and perspective
- Finding ways of using the photographic medium to create images with powerful and poignant storytelling
- Ability to simplify complicated technical processes for students with my experience in software engineering and photography, so they can understand the fundamentals easily to resume their journey in photography
- Skills in software engineering encompass programming languages like Java, C#, problem-solving abilities, knowledge of algorithms, data structures, and the ability to design and develop product, efficient software applications
- Skilled in drawing and sculpting

### **REFERENCES:**

- Additional references are available upon request

### **ATTACHED:**

- Exhibitions, Professional Photo Collection, Curatorial and Gallery Experience, Award and Achievements, Grants, Residencies, Artist Talks and Presentations, Community, Publications, and Other Relevant Experience

# **MANDANA RANJBAR, MFA**

## **EXHIBITIONS:**

### **SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS:**

- Solo Exhibition, "Freedom of Color", Elgin Studios, University of Houston, Houston, TX, 2023
- Solo Exhibition, "Captivity", Elgin Studios, University of Houston, Houston, TX, 2022
- Solo Exhibition, "Creative theater photos" Gallery of Iranshahr Theater, Tehran, Iran, 2013

### **SELECTED TWO-PERSON/SMALL GROUP EXHIBITIONS:**

- Group Exhibition, "45 Thesis Exhibition", Blaffer Art Museum, Houston, TX, 2023
- Group Exhibition, "Woman.Life.Freedom", Elgin Studios, University of Houston, Houston, TX, 2023
- Group Exhibition, "Marfa + Marfa", Elgin Studios, University of Houston, Houston, TX, 2022
- Group Exhibition, "Process of Healing", Elgin Studios, University of Houston, Houston, TX, 2022
- Group Exhibition, "UH School of Art Annual Student Exhibition", Blaffer Art Museum, Houston, TX, 2022
- Group Exhibition, " UH School of Art Annual Student Exhibition", Blaffer Art Museum, Houston, TX, 2021
- Group Exhibition, "Isolation", Rome, Italy, 2019
- Group Exhibitions, "Theater photographs", Gallery of Iranian Artists Home, Tehran, Iran, 2016
- Group Exhibitions, "Theater photographs", Gallery of Iranian Artists Home, Tehran, Iran, 2015
- Group Exhibitions, "Theater photographs", Gallery of Iranian Artists Home, Tehran, Iran, 2014
- Group Exhibitions, Gallery of Iranshahr Theater, Tehran, Iran, 2013

### **PROFESSIONAL PHOTO COLLECTIONS:**

- Color of Freedom, 2023
- Women's bodies are not a battleground, 2023
- Choice should be a Human Right, 2020

## **MANDANA RANJBAR, MFA**

- Woman as an unlucky prophet, 2019
- Captivity, 2018

### **CURATORIAL AND GALLERY EXPERIENCE:**

- "Woman.Life.Freedom", Elgin Studios, University of Houston, Houston, TX, 2023

### **AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS:**

- Founder and Director of, "Woman.Life.Freedom", Elgin Studios, University of Houston, Houston, TX, 2023
- Selected Photos, "Ballad of our changing world", International Exhibition in California, US, 2022
- Selected photo for the book cover, "Ballad of our changing world", International Exhibition, 2022
- Selected Photo, "Isolation", International Exhibition, Rome, Italy, 2019
- Selected Photo, "Thirty-fourth" International Fajr Festivals, Tehran, Iran, 2016
- Selected Photo, "Thirty-third" International Fajr Festivals, Tehran, Iran, 2015
- Selected Photo, "Dorbin" Photo Contest, Tehran, Iran, 2015
- Selected Photo, "Hamhavaie" Theater, Tehran, Iran, 2015
- Selected Photo, "Sheklak" Theater, Tehran, Iran, 2014
- Selected Photo, "Cinderella" Theater, Tehran, Iran, 2014
- Selected Photo, "Light" Theater, Tehran, Iran, 2014
- Selected Photo, "Sketch" Theater, Tehran, Iran, 2014
- Selected Photo, "Thirty-first" International Fajr Festivals, Tehran, Iran, 2013
- Selected Photo, "Shabake Tasvir" Photo Contest, Tehran, Iran, 2013

### **GRANTS:**

- University of Houston, Houston, TX, 2022
- University of Houston, Houston, TX, 2021
- University of Houston, Houston, TX, 2020

# **MANDANA RANJBAR, MFA**

## **RESIDENCIES:**

- Summer Intensive Elgin Street Studios Residency, University of Houston, 2023
- Creative Coding in the High Desert Marfa Residency, Marfa, TX, 2022
- Summer Intensive Elgin Street Studios Residency, University of Houston, 2022

## **ARTIST TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

- Artist talk, Blaffer Art Museum, Houston, TX, 2023
- Artist talk, University of Houston, Houston, TX, 2023
- Artist talk, Artists Home, Tehran, Iran, 2014, 2016
- Artist talk, Iranshahr Theater, Tehran, Iran, 2013

## **COMMUNITY:**

- Current member of Houston Center for Photography, Houston, TX, 2023
- Current member of Iranian theater home photographers, Tehran, Iran, 2013-2023

## **PUBLICATIONS:**

- " Ballad of Our Changing World" Covid group photographs, 2021
- " Black Orff " with theater photos and a short story, 2017

## **OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE:**

- Theater photography certificate, Professional Photography School, Tehran, Iran, 2011
- Prophetic lighting certificate, Dream light institute, Tehran, Iran, 2010