

Behrouz Soheili Esfahani

Art Studies

No 173, Lahour st, West
Mobarezan st. Isfahan. Iran

behrouz.soheili@yahoo.com
www.behrouzsoheili.com

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**Dear Committee Members of Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali
Institute of Iranian Studies,**

I am writing to express my deep interest in the postdoctoral fellowship opportunity at the Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Institute of Iranian Studies at the University of Toronto. With a Ph.D. in Art Studies from the Art University of Isfahan, where I specialized in the intersection of visual arts, cultural studies, and discourse analysis, I believe my academic background and interdisciplinary approach make me a strong candidate for this position.

My academic journey is rooted in an in-depth analysis of modern and contemporary Iranian art. My doctoral dissertation, titled "Discourse Analysis of Iranian Handicrafts from the Constitutional Era to the Twelfth Government of the Islamic Republic," provided a critical examination of how handicrafts have been used as a medium for articulating political, social, and religious narratives across various historical periods in Iran. This research, supervised by Professor Zeinab Saber, highlights the complex interplay between form, content, and function in Iranian art, offering new perspectives on the evolution of Iranian cultural identity.

In addition to my research, I have actively engaged in teaching and mentoring students as an Assistant Professor at the Art University of Isfahan. My teaching portfolio includes courses on modern and contemporary Iranian art, discourse analysis in art, and the role of gender and masculinity in artistic expression. Through these courses, I have strived to foster critical thinking and interdisciplinary exploration among my students, encouraging them to view art not just as a visual medium but as a lens through which cultural and social issues can be understood and debated.

As an artist, my work has been exhibited in both solo and group exhibitions, where I have explored the fusion of traditional Iranian motifs with contemporary art practices. My artistic practice is deeply informed by my academic research, particularly in the areas of cultural preservation and the dialogue between tradition and modernity. This dual perspective as both a researcher and a practicing artist allows me to bring a unique approach to my work, one that is both analytically rigorous and creatively expressive.

I am particularly drawn to the Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Institute because of its commitment to fostering a multidisciplinary approach to Iranian Studies. The Institute's focus on the cultural and artistic expressions of Iranian identity aligns closely with my own research and creative interests. I am eager to contribute to the Institute's ongoing projects, particularly those that explore the intersection of art, politics, and cultural heritage in the Iranian context.

If selected for this fellowship, I plan to expand my research by investigating the impact of globalization on Iranian handicrafts and the evolving role of Iranian museums in preserving and presenting these art forms. I believe that my work will not only complement the Institute's current initiatives but also offer new insights into the complexities of Iranian cultural heritage in the contemporary world.

Thank you for considering my application. I have attached my CV and other supporting materials for your review. I am available at your convenience for an interview and would be pleased to provide any additional information required.

Yours sincerely

Behrouz Soheili Esfahani