

Mandana Ranjbar, MFA

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EDUCATION

2023 | **Master of Fine Arts in Photography**

University of Houston | Houston, TX

2010 | **Bachelor of Science in Computer Software Engineering**

University of Science and Technology of Tehran | Tehran, Iran

2008 | **Associate Degree in Computer Software**

Danesh College | Tehran, Iran

2005 | **Associate Degree in Digital Photography**

Iran Technical and Vocational Training | Tehran, Iran

GPA: 3.93

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Assistant, Lab – Studio Art

Houston City College | Stafford, TX

Studio Art & Galleries | 2025 – Present

- Oversee daily operations of art studios and galleries across multiple campuses, ensuring functional, organized, and safe spaces compliant with institutional and NASAD accreditation standards.
- Schedule and supervise full- and part-time lab assistants based on academic course schedules and gallery exhibition needs; manage time entry corrections in PeopleSoft.
- Manage inventory across four categories (consumable supplies, tools, equipment/machinery, and furniture) using Ad Astra reporting; prepare comprehensive reports for accreditation and chair review.
- Coordinate procurement, P-Card transactions, requisition processing, and budget tracking with the department chair and fiscal leadership; ensure compliance with institutional purchasing policies.
- Serve as primary liaison for faculty regarding studio, classroom, and gallery needs; review and fulfill supply, tool, and equipment requests across campuses.
- Plan and execute faculty and student gallery exhibitions and receptions from concept to completion, including space preparation, paint patches, vinyl installation, food/event logistics, and assistant scheduling.
- Design and oversee production of exhibition posters, gallery vinyl, certificates, labels, medals, and promotional materials using Adobe Creative Suite and Canva, in coordination with graphic designers.
- Create digital registration, check-in/check-out, and artist submission systems using Microsoft Forms and QR codes for open studios and faculty exhibitions.
- Ensure compliance with OSHA 29 CFR 1910.1450 (Chemical Hygiene), 29 CFR 1910.1200 (Hazard Communication), and TAC 502.009 (Toxic & Hazardous Substances).
- Manage hazardous waste documentation, Safety Data Sheet (SDS) organization, flammable material storage, and chemical disposal in coordination with the Health & Safety Department.
- Conduct regular studio safety inspections across campuses; document and report equipment damage, structural issues, and emergency-readiness items (eyewash, safety showers, fire extinguishers, first-aid).
- Coordinate with campus libraries on student rosters for camera and Wacom tablet checkouts supporting photography and digital media courses.

- Supervise digital photo and video content creation for events; coordinate publication on institutional social media platforms in collaboration with the Office of Communications.

Instructor

Houston City College | Houston, TX

Art History | 2025

- Guided students in understanding historical and conceptual developments in art.
- Assisted students in developing research techniques and critical analysis skills.

Instructor

University of Houston | Houston, TX

Photography, Videography, Digital Media, and Adobe Software | 2021 – 2025

- Developed and taught Photography, Videography, Digital Media, and Adobe Software courses.
- Provided individualized instruction and feedback on image manipulation and visual storytelling.
- Maintained lab equipment and digital workstations.

Graduate Fellow, Digital Media & Lab Coordinator

University of Houston | Houston, TX

2020 – 2023

- Trained students and faculty on advanced printing, photography, and lab equipment.
- Maintained an organized inventory of lab materials and supplies.
- Provided technical support for software and hardware troubleshooting.
- Ensured secure storage and management of digital assets and lab resources.
- Utilized hand tools, power tools, and measuring equipment for studio and exhibition setup.
- Maintained a safe and organized studio/laboratory environment, adhering to safety protocols.
- Worked extensively with 2D, 3D, and digital media, including Adobe software and Microsoft Office Suite.
- Set up and operated video and audio equipment for multimedia projects.
- Managed logistics and scheduling, requiring evening and night availability.
- Assisted in student orientations and institutional data collection.
- Conducted demonstrations on lab equipment and ADA-compliant software.
- Monitored, logged, and troubleshot hardware/software issues, installing necessary updates.
- Secured and maintained lab equipment, ensuring proper usage and safety compliance.

Founder and Director | Woman.Life.Freedom

University of Houston | Houston, TX

2022

- Conceived and led the initiative from concept to completion, managing planning, organization, and execution.
- Directed, mentored, and coordinated artists, ensuring high-quality artistic production and curation.
- Installed and managed exhibitions, including wall painting, wall repair, and space preparation.
- Utilized hand tools, power tools, and measuring equipment for studio and exhibition setup.
- Maintained a safe and organized exhibition environment, adhering to safety protocols.
- Worked extensively with 2D, 3D, and digital media, including Adobe software.
- Set up and operated video and audio equipment for multimedia artwork.
- Engaged stakeholders and secured resources and funding to expand the initiative and ensure successful exhibitions.

Team Lead Manager

Cineworld Cinemas Ltd, Regal Entertainment Group | Houston, TX

2015 – 2022

- Managed A/V production operations, equipment maintenance, and inventory.
- Supervised daily operations, staff training, and workflow optimization.
- Provided technical troubleshooting and ensured seamless operations.

Photographer & Marketing Coordinator

Lumina Dental | Houston, TX

2017 – 2019

- Managed photography, social media content, and digital marketing.
- Designed and maintained company websites and promotional materials.

Freelance Photographer, Photojournalist, and Journalist

Various Locations |

2005 – 2018

- Official photographer for 300+ theater productions, short films, and cultural events.
- Provided documentary photography services for government agencies and media organizations.
- Specialized in digital image editing, composition, and lighting techniques.

Technician & Equipment Specialist

Aran Abnieh Tehran | Tehran, Iran

2008 – 2015

- Installed, maintained, and troubleshot facility and technical equipment.
- Provided technical support, inventory management, and safety training.

Founder & Manager

Boof | Tehran, Iran

2013 – 2015

- Led photography, videography, and advertising content production.
- Managed client collaborations, including government projects and commercial clients.
- Directed teams of photographers, videographers, and editors to deliver projects on time and within budget.

Accountant

Lian | Tehran, Iran

2014 – 2015

- Managed accounts payable/receivable and ensured timely, accurate processing.
- Prepared financial statements in compliance with local and international standards.

IT & Network Specialist

KarAfarin Bank | Tehran, Iran

2013 – 2014

- Managed IT system installations, network security, and data recovery.
- Provided technical support and system troubleshooting.

Computer Science / Art Instructor

Tehran Municipal Institute, Cultural Center | Tehran, Iran

2007 – 2013

- Taught photography, digital media, and computer science courses.
- Trained students in software, research, and digital tools.
- Maintained and secured lab resources.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Software Proficiency: MS Office Suite, Adobe Photoshop, Lightroom, Premiere Pro, Canva, Digital Asset Management Systems
- Hardware / Software Troubleshooting: Installation, upgrades, and technical support
- Database Management: Inventory tracking, digital cataloging, and reporting (Ad Astra, PeopleSoft)
- Lab Equipment Management: Digital printers, scanners, cameras, and studio lighting
- Student Support & Training: Conducting workshops, tutoring, and technical demonstrations
- Compliance Knowledge: OSHA 29 CFR 1910.1450 / 1910.1200, TAC 502.009, NASAD accreditation, ADA-compliant equipment

CORE COMPETENCIES

- Delivering High-Quality Work
- Problem-Solving & Troubleshooting
- Supporting Organizational Goals
- Managing Change
- Communicating Effectively
- Training & Student Engagement
- Maintaining Secure & Organized Learning Environments
- Ensuring Compliance with Institutional Guidelines

ATTACHED

Additional information including Exhibitions, Awards and Achievements, Professional Photo Collections, Curatorial and Gallery Experience, Grants, Residencies, Artist Talks and Presentations, Community, and Publications. References available upon request.

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

Color of Freedom | Elgin Studios | Houston, TX | 2023

Captivity | Elgin Studios | Houston, TX | 2022

Creative Theater Photos | Gallery of Iranshahr Theater | Tehran, Iran | 2013

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS, AWARDS, AND ACHIEVEMENTS

<i>45 Thesis Exhibition Blaffer Art Museum Houston, TX</i>	2023
<i>Founder and Director Woman.Life.Freedom University of Houston Houston, TX</i>	2023
<i>Woman.Life.Freedom Elgin Studios Houston, TX</i>	2023
<i>Marfa + Marfa Elgin Studios Houston, TX</i>	2022
<i>Process of Healing Elgin Studios Houston, TX</i>	2022
<i>UH School of Art Annual Student Exhibition Blaffer Art Museum Houston, TX</i>	2022
<i>Ballad of Our Changing World International Exhibition California, US</i>	2022
<i>Ballad of Our Changing World Selected Photo for Book Cover California, US</i>	2022
<i>UH School of Art Annual Student Exhibition Blaffer Art Museum Houston, TX</i>	2021
<i>Isolation International Exhibition Rome, Italy</i>	2019

<i>Theater Photographs Gallery of Iranian Artists Home Tehran, Iran</i>	2016
<i>Thirty-fourth International Fajr Festivals Home of Theater Tehran, Iran</i>	2016
<i>Theater Photographs Gallery of Iranian Artists Home Tehran, Iran</i>	2015
<i>Thirty-third International Fajr Festivals Home of Theater Tehran, Iran</i>	2015
<i>Dorbin Gallery of Iranian Artists Home Tehran, Iran</i>	2015
<i>Hamhavaie Home of Theater Tehran, Iran</i>	2015
<i>Sheklak Home of Theater Tehran, Iran</i>	2014
<i>Cinderella Home of Theater Tehran, Iran</i>	2014
<i>Light Home of Theater Tehran, Iran</i>	2014
<i>Sketch Home of Theater Tehran, Iran</i>	2014
<i>Theater Photographs Gallery of Iranian Artists Home Tehran, Iran</i>	2014
<i>Thirty-first International Fajr Festivals Tehran, Iran</i>	2013
<i>Theater Photographs Gallery of Iranshahr Theater Tehran, Iran</i>	2013
<i>Shabake Tasvir Gallery of Iranian Artists Home Tehran, Iran</i>	2013

PROFESSIONAL PHOTO COLLECTIONS

Color of Freedom | Women's Bodies Are Not a Battleground | Choice Should Be a Human Right | Woman as an Unlucky Prophet | Captivity

GRANTS

Graduate Fellow | University of Houston | Houston, TX | 2022

Graduate Fellow | University of Houston | Houston, TX | 2021

Graduate Fellow | University of Houston | Houston, TX | 2020

RESIDENCIES

Summer Residency | Doha, Qatar | 2024

Summer Intensive Elgin Street Studios Residency | Houston, TX | 2023

Creative Coding in the High Desert Marfa Residency | Marfa, TX | 2022

Summer Intensive Elgin Street Studios Residency | Houston, TX | 2022

ARTIST TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

Blaffer Art Museum | Houston, TX | 2023

University of Houston | Houston, TX | 2023

Artists Home | Tehran, Iran | 2014, 2016

Iranshahr Theater | Tehran, Iran | 2013

COMMUNITY

Member of Houston Center for Photography | Houston, TX | 2023

Member of Iranian Theater Home Photographers | Tehran, Iran | 2013–2023

PUBLICATIONS

Ballad of Our Changing World | Covid Group Photographs | Houston, TX | 2021

Black Orff | Theater Photos and Short Story | Tehran, Iran | 2017

OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Theater Photography Certificate, Professional Photography School | Tehran, Iran | 2011

Prophetic Lighting Certificate, Dream Light Institute | Tehran, Iran | 2010