

## **ANILA QUAYYUM AGHA**

Having lived on the boundaries of different faiths such as Islam and Christianity, and in cultures like Pakistan and the USA, Anila's art is deeply influenced by the simultaneous sense of alienation and transience that informs the migrant experience. This consciousness of knowing what is markedly different about the human experience also bears the gift of knowing its core commonalities and it is these tensions and contradictions that she tries to embody in her artwork. Through the use of a variety of media, from large sculptural installations to embroidered drawings she explores the deeply entwined political relationships between gender, culture, religion, labor and social codes. In her work, she has used combinations of textile processes such as embroidery, wax, dyes, and silk-screen printing along with sculptural methodologies to reveal and question the gendering of textile work as inherently domesticated and excluded from being considered an art form. Her experiences in her native country and as an immigrant here in the United States are woven into her work of redefining and rewriting women's handiwork as a poignant form of creative expression. Using embroidery as a drawing medium she reveals the multiple layers resulting from the interaction of concept and process and to bridge the gap between modern materials and historical patterns of traditional oppression and domestic servitude. The conceptual ambiguity of the resulting patterns, create an interactive experience in which the onlooker's subjective experiences of alienation and belonging become part of the piece and its identity.

### **Education**

- 2004 Master of Fine Arts, University of North Texas, Denton, TX  
1989 Bachelor of Fine Arts, National College of Art, Lahore, Pakistan

### **Academic Experience**

- 2016 Associate Professor - Drawing, Herron School of Art and Design, IUPUI, IN  
2008-13 Assistant Professor - Drawing, Herron School of Art and Design, IUPUI, IN

### **Select Solo Exhibitions**

- 2018 Forthcoming Show, Curator: Jennifer Dasal, North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, NC  
Forthcoming Show, Curator: Dr. Lisa J. Nicoletti, Meadows Museum, Shreveport, LA  
2017 Forthcoming Show, Jaime DeSimone, MOCA JACKSONVILLE, Jacksonville, FL  
Forthcoming Show, Curator: Elizabeth Rooklidge, Katonah Museum of Art, Katonah, NY  
Forthcoming Show: *Sublime Light*, Kiran Nader Art Museum, New Delhi, India  
2016 *Walking With My Mothers Shadow*, Aicon Art Gallery, New York City, NY  
*All the Flowers are for Me*, Brooklyn Music Academy, Brooklyn, NY  
*Intersections*, Curator: Sona Datta, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA  
*Intersections*, Curator: Mark Ruschman, Indiana State Museum, Indianapolis, IN.  
2015 *Crossing Boundaries*, Cheongju Craft Biennale, Cheongju, Korea  
*Intersections: Islamic Arts Festival 17th Edition*, Sharjah Contemporary Art Museum, Sharjah, UAE  
*Intersections*, Curator: Kim Davenport, Rice University Gallery, Houston, TX  
*Intersections*, Justine Ludwig/ Ariel Saldivar, Dallas Contemporary Art Museum, Dallas,

- TX Intersections*, HUB Artprize, Grand Rapids, MI  
*Murmuration* - Lure of The Eye, Sharjah Art Expo, Sharjah, U.A.E.
- 2014 *ArtPrize: Intersections*, Grand Rapids Art Museum, Grand Rapids, MI  
*Anila Quayyum Agha: My Forked Tongue*, Curator: Elizabeth Petrulis, Swope Art Museum, Terra Haute, IN  
*'Sacred Silence*, Harrison Art Center, Indianapolis, IN  
*Lure of the Eye*, Solo Art Exhibition, Directorate of Art, Government of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates  
*Quicksand: Landscape of the Feminine*, Curator: Shannon Linker, 924 Gallery, Indianapolis Arts Council, Indianapolis, IN
- 2013 *Wound/Wound*, Curator: Alison Erasmus, John Day Gallery, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD  
*Intersections*, Basile Gallery, Herron School of Art & Design, Indianapolis, IN
- 2012 *Spirit Animals*, Art Gallery at Park Tudor School, Indianapolis, IN  
*Rights of Passage*, Madigan Gallery, Penn College, Williamsport, PA 2011  
*A Flood of Tears*, Stewart Center Gallery, Purdue University, W. Lafayette, IN  
*And Red Is The Earth...*, New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art, New Harmony, IN
- 2010 *Anila Quayyum Agha - My Forked Tongue III*, Curator: Jillian Sokso, Ortlip Art Gallery, Houghton, NY  
*Traveling Text*, Curator: Salima Hashmi, Rohtas II Art Gallery, Lahore, Pakistan *Traveling Text II*, Curator: Naeem Pasha, Rohtas 1 Art Gallery, Islamabad, Pakistan
- 2009 *My Forked Tongue*, Basile Gallery, Herron School of Art & Design, Indianapolis, IN  
*Anila Quayyum Agha - New Work*, Lipscomb Gallery, South Carolina Governor's School, Greenville, SC
- 2008 *When Words Aren't Enough*, Gallery Director: Paula Webb, Joan Wich Art Gallery, Houston, TX
- 2007 *Anila Quayyum Agha - New Work*, Kiva Gallery, Mountain View College, Dallas, TX  
*Silent Voices*, McCormick Gallery, Midland College, Midland, TX
- 2006 *Changing Realities*, Bradbury Gallery, Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, AR  
*Illuminated Spaces*, Joan Wich Gallery, Houston, TX *Configuring Space*, Fork gallery, Wimberley, TX
- 2004 *Question of Honor*, Cora Stafford Art Gallery, MFA Show, University of North Texas, Denton, TX

### Select Group Exhibitions

- 2016 *Delicate Bond of Steel*, Curators: Projjal Dutta + Andrew Shea, Chatterji and Lal, Mumbai, India  
*The Arch of My Eye's Orbit*, Curator: Hrag Vartanian, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Brooklyn, NY  
*Take Ten: The Gallery celebrates a decade of contemporary art*, Gallery at Penn College, Williamsport, PA  
*Un-Named Need: Pattern and Beauty in Contemporary Art*, Wriston Art Galleries, Lawrence University, Appleton, WI
- 2015 *Fear Nothing, She Says*, Curator: Rosa Martinez, National Museum of Sculpture, Valladolid, Spain

- 2014 *Small Works*, Curator: Isabel Mattia, Dedee Shattuck Art Gallery, Westport, MA.  
*Scope: National Contemporary Islamic Art*, Curator: Dr. Iftikhar Dadi. LuminArte Art Gallery, Dallas, TX. Juried.
- 2013 *Rights of Passage*, Curator: Julia Moore, Indianapolis International Airport, Indianapolis, IN  
*Object Object: Good, Good Things*, Helmuth Projects, San Diego, CA  
*Mother Load*, Curator: Leslie Robertson, Group Installation Project, Prescott College Art Gallery, Prescott, AZ  
*Art Center's 10 Invitational*, Curator: Elaine Tailor, Ft Worth Community Art Center Gallery, Ft Worth, TX  
*Text Embodied*, Curator: Aisha Khan, Twelve Gates Art Gallery, Philadelphia, PA  
*Love Books*, Group Installation, Indianapolis Museum of Contemporary Art (IMOCA), Indianapolis, IN
- 2012 *Plurality*, Kingwood Art Gallery, Kingwood, TX  
*TURF - IDADA Art Pavilion*, Super Bowl, Old City Hall, Indianapolis, IN
- 2011 *The Ocean In Us*, Curator: Barbara Benish & Neal Nolan, 5 Gyres Institute, Vancouver, Canada  
*Crafting Live(s): Ten Years of Artists in Residents*, Curator: Keelin Burrows, Center For Contemporary Craft, Houston, TX  
*Common Threads: Contemporary Art from Afghanistan*, Bangladesh, Iran and Pakistan, Al Serkal Cultural
- 2010 *What Will Be*, Invitational Group Show, Curators: Barbara Benish & Eileen Haring Woods, Safe Planet/ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change COP 16, Cancun, Mexico  
*Tectonics: Print Exchange*, MAPC, Portfolio Organized by Meredith Setser & Danielle Rante, Minneapolis, MN  
*DELINEATE: An Invitational Exhibition of Drawings*, Curator: Mana Hewitt, McMaster Gallery, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC  
*Substantialis Corporis Mixti (Substantial Form Of The Blended Body)*, THE SYNERGIES EXHIBITION OF THE BASEL, ROTTERDAM AND STOCKHOLM CONVENTIONS, Curator: Mark Cervenka, The Bohemian National Hall, New York City, NY. (The exhibition is sponsored by The Czech Republic and organized by Safe Planet: the United Nations Campaign for Responsibility on Hazardous Chemicals and Wastes on the occasion of the 18th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development)  
*Janus*, Two-Person Show, Curator: Sameera Raja, Canvas Art Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan  
*Feminist Art of Indiana*, Curator: Esther Adler, Group Show, New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art, New Harmony, IN
- 2009 *A Mid Summer's Night*, Curator: Cris Worley, Pan American Art Projects, Dallas, TX  
*Translucent/ Transparent*, Curator: Wade Wilson, University of Texas, San Antonio, TX  
*Texas Biennial*, Curator: Michael Duncan, Myriad Galleries in Austin, Austin, TX  
*Mind The Gap - Artists As Educators*, Harrison Center, Indianapolis, IN
- 2008 *Tête-à-tête*, Two Person Show, Art League Art Center, Houston, TX  
*Cohesive Discord*, Houston Arts Alliances Space 125 Gallery, Houston, TX  
*Curve*, O'Kane Gallery, Curator: Mark Cervenka, Houston, TX  
*Sculpture Vision - Time Marker/ Keeper*, Curator: Mari Omori, Lone Star College, Houston, TX
- 2007 *2007 BBAP Xmas Tree*, Houston 7, Green Tree, Wortham Center, Houston, TX

- Dia De La Muertos, Lawndale Art Center, Houston, Texas  
*Crossroads: Asia/ America*, Montgomery College Art Center, Curator: Mari Omori, Montgomery, TX  
*The One Show*, Elder Street Art Gallery, Houston, TX  
*In Residence: Clay, Fiber, Glass, Metal, and Wood*, Curator: Amanda Clifford, Center for Contemporary Craft, Houston, TX  
*Myriad Voices*, Curator: Anila Quayyum Agha, Intexure Design - Alternative Space, Houston, TX  
City Hall Invitational Exhibit, Curator: Gus Kopriva, City Hall, Houston, TX  
*Clay and Fiber Show*, Curator: Bonnie Jon, Kingwood Gallery, Houston, TX  
2006 *Crossroads: Asia/ America*, Galveston Arts Center, Curator: Clint Willour, Galveston, TX  
*Platform*, Arlington Museum of Art, Curator: Simeen Ishaque, Group Show, Arlington, TX  
*Naturalis*, Bath House Cultural Center, Curator: Enrique Fernandez Cervantes, Dallas, TX  
*Texas National*, The Art Building, Curator: Paul Brach, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX  
*Hardly Soft*, 2 Person Installation, Voices Breaking Boundaries - Arts Organization, Houston, TX  
*Place of in-between*, 3 Person Show, Curators: Rachel Bounds & Carol Ivey, The Fort Worth Community Art Center, Fort worth, TX  
City Hall Invitational Exhibit, Curator: Gus Kopriva, City Hall, Houston, TX  
2005 *The 2nd Annual November Invitational*, Curator: Marie Weichman, Studio Gallery, Houston, TX  
*Paper or Plastic*, University of Dallas, Curator: Mirka Hokkanen, Group Show, Dallas, TX  
*Fugue: Counter Point*, Graceland University, Curator: Mary Foster, Group Show, Lamonie, IA  
*Art in the Metroplex*, Templeton Art Center, Curator: James Elaine, Group Show, Fort Worth, TX  
*Out of Site: An Altered Environment*, A Group Happening in Denton, Curator: Jessica McCambly, Denton, TX  
*Salon Du Fit*, Bath house Cultural Center, Curator: Rita Barnard, Group Show, Dallas, TX  
2004 *Dhanak*, Sabira Gallery, Curator: Dr. Shams Rasheed, Group Show, Dallas, TX  
*Five Times Five*, 500 X Gallery, Curator: Nancy Brown, Group Show, Dallas, TX  
*Alertness: What Color Are You?* McKinney Avenue Contemporary, Members Show, Dallas, TX  
*Sphere*, Bath House Cultural Center, Curator: Takako Tanabe, Group Show, Dallas, TX  
*36th Annual Juried Fine Arts Awards Exhibition*, Juror: Carol Benson, Center for the Visual Arts, Group Show, Denton, TX  
*Vagina Monologues*, The Gallery Art Space, Group Show, Dallas, TX  
2003 *Sneak Preview*, Cora Stafford Art Gallery, Curator: Anila Agha, Group Show, University of North Texas, Denton, TX  
*Fiber Invitational*, Slocumb Galleries; East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tennessee  
*Formalist Perspectives*, Larson Art Gallery, Two Person show, University of Minnesota, ST. Paul, MN  
2002 *Members Show*, Dallas Art review, Tranquilla, Dallas, TX  
*Fiberart 2002*, Gallery 510, Juried Group Show, Decatur, IL  
*Girl Friends*, Dallas City Hall, Dallas, TX  
2001 *My Piece on the Wall*, Dallas Center for Contemporary Art, Group Show, Dallas, TX  
*By Hand*, Garland Performing Arts Center, Garland, TX

## Artist Residencies

- 2016 *Writing Sacred Spaces*, PEM, Salem, MA
- 2012 Artist in Residence, Glen Rogers Studio, Mazatlan, Mexico
- 2007 Creative Capital Professional Development Workshop, Diverse Works, Houston, TX
- 2006 Creative Capital Professional Development Workshop, Diverse Works, Houston, TX
- 2005 Artist in Residence - Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, Houston, TX

## Honors Awards Grants

- 2016 Awarded: Glen W. Irwin, Jr., M.D. Research Scholar Award – 2016, IUPUI, Indianapolis, IN
- 2015 Awarded: Joan C. Edwards Distinguished Professor's Award, Marshall University, Huntington, WV
- 2014 Juried Grand Prize - Intersections, \$100,000, ArtPrize, Grand Rapids, MI  
(\$200,000 Split between two contestants - ArtPrize)  
Popular Grand Prize - Intersections, \$200,000, ArtPrize, Grand Rapids, MI  
Popular Installation Category - Intersections, ArtPrize, Grand Rapids, MI  
IUPUI Arts and Humanities Internal Grant (IAHI), \$15,000, Creation of New Work, Indiana University, Indianapolis, IN  
Empower Grant, \$5,000, Indiana University, Indianapolis, IN
- 2012 New Frontiers Exploratory Research Grant, \$35,000, Creation of New Work, Indiana University, Indianapolis, IN  
Creative Renewal Fellowship, \$10,000, Indianapolis Arts Council, Indianapolis, IN  
New Frontiers Travel Grant - Artist Residency - Mazatlan, Mexico, \$2,500, IUPUI, Indianapolis, IN  
IU Overseas Study Program Development Grant - Spain, \$3,000, Herron School of Art & Design, IUPUI, Indianapolis, IN
- 2011 New Frontiers Travel Grant - Spain, \$2,500, Indiana University, Indianapolis, IN  
Turf: Installation, \$2,000, Indianapolis Super Bowl, Old City Hall, Indianapolis, IN  
RPC Award for SECAC Conference in Savanna, GA, Herron School of Art and Design, Indianapolis, IN
- 2010 Efroymsen Art Fellowship, \$20,000, CICF - Efroymsen Foundation Cash Artist Award, Indianapolis, IN  
IUPUI Arts and Humanities Internal Grant (IAHI), \$12,500, Indiana University Purdue University, Indianapolis, IN  
New Frontiers Travel Grant - Pakistan, \$2,500, Indiana University, Indianapolis, IN  
Resource Planning Committee - Faculty Grant, Herron School of Art and Design, Indianapolis, IN  
Houghton College Honorarium, Houghton, NY
- 2009 New Frontiers Travel Grant - Pakistan, \$2,500, Indiana University, Indianapolis, IN  
CICF - Efroymsen Foundation Travel Grant, \$2,500, Indianapolis, IN  
Resource Planning Committee - Faculty Grant, Herron School of Art and Design, Indianapolis, IN

## Collections

- 2016 Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA  
Steve Conant, Indianapolis, IN
- 2015 Cummins Wellness Center, Columbus, IN  
Four Seasons Hotel, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
Kiran Nader Art Museum, New Delhi, India  
Private Collection, Dubai, UAE  
Private Collection, Spain
- 2014 Private Collection, New York City, NY
- 2012 Robert Schloss, Indianapolis, IN
- 2011 Jeremy Efroymson, CICF Foundation, Indianapolis, IN  
Weisman Museum of Art, Minneapolis, MN  
Eli Lilly Pharmaceutical Corporation, Indianapolis, IN
- 2008 Sherry Merfish, Houston, TX
- 2007 Caroline & Gregg Tyson, Wade Wilson Art Gallery, Houston, TX
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Sherry Merfish, Houston, TX  
Kathy Overly, Houston, TX  
Wendy Nahman, Houston, TX  
Arne & Mary Le Johnson, Houston, TX  
Dorie & Ron Kerr, Houston, TX