

Curriculum Vitae

TAHA AHMAD

Visual Artist | Photographer | Filmmaker | Researcher | Educator

Nationality: Indian

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Professional Profile

Interdisciplinary visual artist, photographer, filmmaker, researcher and educator with an MFA in Applied Art from Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi. My practice bridges photography, contemporary visual art, filmmaking and archival research, examining themes of memory, identity, language and material culture. Internationally recognised through Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia, the Regenerative List of 100 Next-Generation Leaders by the United Nations and Gucci, and The Week 40 Under 40, I have exhibited and published internationally and lectured in various institutions in India while working across academia, editorial and fashion, the film industry and cultural institutions. My research focuses on photography, Islamic art and aesthetics, archives, material culture, and contemporary visual storytelling.

Education

- MFA Applied Art, Jamia Millia Islamia
- BFA Applied Art (Gold Medal), Jamia Millia Islamia

Research Interests

Contemporary Photography, Documentary Photography, Islamic Arts, Archives and Memory, Material Practice, and Film

Awards, Honors & Grants

- Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia (Arts), 2024
- Australia India Youth Dialogue (AIYD) Delegate, Australia, 2026
- The Week Magazine 40 Under 40 India, 2022
- Listed in the Regenerative List of 100 Next-Generation Leaders by Gucci, the United Nations and Irregular Labs, 2020
- The Documentary Project Fund Award, 2017
- Toto-Tasveer Award for Photography, 2018
- Social Documentary Photography Grant, SACAC, 2020
- Samyak Drishti Photo South Asia Grant, 2020
- Emerging Artist Award, Extended Support Platform, Foundation for Indian Contemporary Art (FICA), 2020
- Neel Dongre Grant for Excellence in Photography, 2017
- Social Documentary Network (SDN) Award, Documentary in the Era of Post-Truth, 2018
- Nominee, International Photography Grant (Photojournalism), London, UK, 2017
- Shortlisted, Lucie Foundation Emerging Scholarship, USA, 2017, 2018 & 2019
- Shortlisted, Imagining the Nation State Grant, Chennai Photo Biennale, Diffusion Festival & British Council Wales, 2020
- Nominated, World Press Photo 6x6 Global Talent Program, 2018 & 2020
- Featured in the Times of India 28th Anniversary Issue, 2023

Fellowships, Residencies and Professional Development

- La Napoule Foundation Artist Residency, Château de La Napoule, France, 2026
- PAIR Artist Residency, Pier-2 Art Centre, Kaohsiung, Taiwan, 2019
- Creative Interruptions Artist Residency (funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, UK), in partnership with The University of British Columbia (Canada), The University of Strathclyde (UK), CRCI (Delhi) and Preet Nagar Trust, 2018
- Selected for Activating our Archives: Protest and Play, Fusion Arts, Oxford, UK, 2021
- VII Photo Agency Mentorship Program (USA), selected as one of only two photographers from South Asia, 2019
- Selected among 30 photographers from 13 countries for the 14th Angkor Photo Workshop, Cambodia, 2018
- Selected for a climate change and advocacy project In Search of an Oasis, supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Switzerland), Ministry of External Affairs (India), and the Embassy of Switzerland in India, 2023

Exhibitions

- Chennai Photo Biennale, India, 2025
- Rencontres Photographie Marrakech, Morocco, 2025
- Alliance Française, New Delhi-Notes on Omission, 2024
- Studio Art Gallery, New Delhi-Echoes of Existence, 2024
- Museo Camera-Drishti: 75 Years of Indian Image Making, India, 2022
- Mahindra Sanatkada Lucknow Festival, India, 2022

- Sharjah Art Foundation-Vantage Point Sharjah 9, UAE, 2021
- Städtische Galerie Nordhorn, Germany, 2021
- The Reach Gallery Museum-Duje Pase Ton (From the Other Side), Canada, 2021
- Gather Art Gallery-Our India, Taiwan, 2020
- Indian Photo Festival, India, 2017 & 2020
- Pier-2 Art Center, Taiwan, 2019
- Serendipity Arts Festival-Merchant of Images, Goa, India, 2019
- Addis Foto Fest, Ethiopia, 2018
- Festival Influences Indiennes, Angers, France, 2018
- Photography Festival Maribor, Slovenia, 2018
- Eyes on Main Street Outdoor Photo Festival, North Carolina, USA, 2018
- Neon Heater Art Gallery-Born Under a Bad Sign, Ohio, USA, 2018
- Kuala Lumpur Photography Festival – Something Black Something White, Malaysia, 2017
- Print Space Gallery-Photography on a Postcard, London, UK, 2017
- Travelling Exhibition with Girl Count, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao & United Nations India, 2016
- Penn Gallery, Pennsylvania College of Technology, USA-Exhibition and Installation, 2025

Screenings

- Naples, Italy (curated by Mario Spada), 2020
- Alliance Française de Bangalore, India, 2018
- Photography Festival Maribor, Slovenia, 2017
- Odesa/Batumi Photo Days, Georgia, 2017
- Lostgens' Contemporary Art Gallery-Realities, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 2017

Permanent Museum Collections

- Six works from Swan Song of the Badlas acquired for the permanent collection of the Kiyosato Museum of Photographic Arts, Japan, 2024

Films and Series (Film Still Photographer)

- 'A Suitable Boy' directed by Indian American filmmaker Mira Nair, produced by American film director/producer Lydia Dean Pilcher, BBC Studios and Netflix
- 'Santosh' directed by British Indian film director Sandhya Suri
- 'The Braid' directed by French film director/actress/writer Laetitia Colombani, produced by Moana Films and Curiosa Films
- 'Khufiya' directed by Indian filmmaker Vishal Bhardwaj, produced by Vishal Bhardwaj productions and Netflix
- 'Shikara' (assistant Still Photographer) directed by Indian filmmaker Vidhu Vinod Chopra, produced by VVC Films and Amazon

- 'Feels like Ishq' directed by Indian filmmaker/writer Tahira Khurana Kashyap, produced by Netflix
- 'Yo-Yo Honey Singh: Famous' Documentary directed by Indian filmmaker Mozez Singh, produced by Netflix
- 'For your Eyes Only' directed by Indian filmmaker Sumit Purohit, produced by Netflix
- 'MAI' directed by Indian filmmaker Anshai Lal and Atul Mongia, produced by Anushka Sharma (Clean Slate Production) and Netflix
- 'Kota Factory Season 2' directed by Indian filmmaker Raghav Subbu, produced by The Viral Fever (TVF) and Netflix
- 'Kohrra' directed by Indian filmmaker Gunjit Chopra, Sudip Sharma and Randeep Jha, produced by Anushka Sharma (Clean Slate Production) and Netflix
- 'IC814' directed by Anubhav Sinha, produced by Netflix
- 'Decolonisation' directed by French film director Ali Bougheraba and comedian Redouane Bougheraba
- 'Saare Jahaan se Accha' directed by Sumit Purohit and produced by Netflix
- 'Single Papa' Season 1 directed by Ishita Moitra and Neeraj Udhwani and produced by Netflix

Fashion, Advertising, Architecture and Lifestyle

- Photographed Rahul Mishra's campaign 'The Dawn' that opened up at the Federation de la Haute Couture et de la Mode/Paris Fashion Week 2021
- Location shoot for Louis Vuitton 2023
- Photographed and styled Indian interior designer Adil Ahmad's house in Lucknow for the AD 100 2022 List (Anniversary Issue) 2022
- Cover for Architectural Digest India October Issue 2020
- Shot One Plus campaigns 'Never Settle', 'One Plus x Anuv Jain', One Plus 'Ecosystem' 2023 and 2024
- Curated Goodearth's 'Festive' Campaign 2024

Publications and Podcasts

- The Times and The Sunday Times UK, Vogue India, New York Times, Vogue Britain, Radio Times UK, Invisible Photographer Asia, The Sunday Guardian, The Guardian, The Spectator, Atlas Obscura, Design India, The Telegraph UK, News and Star UK, Mans World India, Forbes India, Architectural Digest India, Times Of India, The Week Magazine, The Hindu, Hindustan Times, BRIC Radio, DELO, VEČER, LIBERATION, Social Documentary Network (SDN), Zeke Magazine, LE TEMPS, Le Soir, La Croix, ASAP Connect, The Quint, Mid-Day, Asian News International (ANI), Mojarto NDTV, NDTV Gadgets 360, Eastern Eye, FR24 News, Angers tele France, News Nation Channel, Republic TV, Firstpost, Le Courrier de l'ouest, Dodho Magazine, IZ fotografevi magazine, Sahapedia, The Diplomat, Homegrown, MUSÉE Magazine, Better Photography Magazine, Platform Magazine, Fountain Ink Magazine, Asian Age, Millennium Post, Ouest France, Le Couze, SCROLL IN, Art Arcade, New Indian Express, Business Standard, Edge of Humanity, Photo Mail, Black+White Photography Magazine, Life Force Magazine, Neocha Magazine, THE PHOTO

ACADEMY Magazine, Quartz India, Tasveer Journal, PHOTODIVISION, Artpil, Travel Secrets Magazine, The Indian Quarterly, Mint Lounge, WWD, Elle India, T-Magazine Le Temps, The Curator Magazine, IANS, National Herald, Svasa Life, Conde Nast Traveler, Variety, Livingetc, India Today Homes, Mumbai Mirror, Radio Mirchi, Taj Magazine, Esquire, The Word Magazine, etc

- Podcasts with the Photography Ethics Centre Belfast, Apple US, and BRIC Radio Brooklyn New York
- Featured among 150 greatest visual artists/photographers in Dr. Paul Lowe's new book Photography Rules: Essential Do's and Don'ts from Great Photographers published by Frances Lincoln Press 2020
- Contributed to the chapter 'One whose throat is Blue' in the book 'A Saint, A Folktale and Other Stories' authored by Rana Safvi and published by Rupa Publications
- Photographed and curated stories for international magazines and newspapers like La Croix (France), Le Soir (Belgium), Le Temps and T Magazine (Switzerland), Le Point (France), Les Echos (France)
- Featured in the photo book and journal 'Le Voyage de La Tresse' published by Editions Grasset France and based on the film 'The Braid' directed by Laetitia Colombani 2023

Teaching and Speaking Experience

- Lecture at Faculty of Fine Arts, Jamia Millia Islamia New Delhi 2024 and 2025
- Guest Faculty at The National School of Drama NSD 2023
- Lecture at The Pearl Academy of Fashion New Delhi 2019
- Guest Faculty at The Delhi School of Photography 2016-2019
- Speaker at Koshala Literature Festival 2025
- Speaker at Koshala Literature Festival alongside Indian film director Muzaffar Ali 2024
- Speaker at the Chennai Photo Biennale alongside Filmmaker Faraz Arif Ansari, Film Critic and Exc. editor New Indian Express Sudhir Srinivasan and Actor Malini Jeevarathnam titled 'The Cinematic Lens' 2025
- Taught workshops with Kiran Nadar Museum of Art India, Pier 2 Art Center Taiwan, Navajivan Trust (Satya Art Gallery) and others

Guest of Honor and Mentor at INTACH Filmit Film Festival 2023

Miscellaneous Projects

- DST Core Project by WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) 2015
- Creative Director at 'Ilham' Artists and Writers Residency Program Fort Mahmudabad UP India 2017-2019

References

Mr. Hafeez Ahmed

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Mr. Nick Hackworth

British Curator, Writer and Critic

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Laetitia Colombani

French Filmmaker and Writer

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Social Media

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/taha.ahmad.33671/>
 - Instagram: https://instagram.com/taha_ahmadlucknow?igshid=ZGUzMzM3NWJiOQ=
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