

# ISHITA ISLAM

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I am an innovative interdisciplinary artist and experienced art professional whose studio practice transforms hand-harvested earth pigments, custom handmade papers, and reclaimed elements into tactile, abstract visual topographies. Spanning painting, abstract drawing, sculptural papermaking, installation, and animation, my research-driven practice centers on the regenerative use of organic materials and waste-free methods to explore the invisible networks of interdependence and connection weaving through nature and human experience. Holding dual MFAs from Miami University and the University of Dhaka, my global career bridges university level teaching, studio operations, K–12 instruction, and institutional arts research. As an educator, I am dedicated to fostering critical thinking and encouraging the exploration of emerging, experimental forms of art practice within a contemporary context. I am passionate about guiding students through inclusive, step-by-step, process-based learning that emphasizes the reuse of materials, object collecting, and non-toxic studio practices to create conceptually rigorous work rooted in contemporary ecological and cultural concepts.

## AREAS OF EXPERTISE & TECHNICAL STRENGTHS

**Pedagogy:** Higher Ed Curriculum Design, Studio Art Instruction, Workshop Facilitation, Student Mentorship.

**Gallery & Curation:** Contemporary Art Curation, Fine Art Handling, Exhibition Logistics, Digital Archiving.

**Digital Media:** Adobe Creative Suite, Dragonframe, After Effects, Advanced Photography.

**Operations & Safety:** Multi-Disciplinary Facility Maintenance, Equipment Inventory, OSHA & Hazardous Waste Compliance.

**Studio Artistry:** Regenerative Papermaking, Eco-Friendly Pigment Sourcing, Wood/Sculpture Shop Machinery.

**Languages:** Fluent in English, Bengali, Hindi, and Urdu.

## EDUCATION

MFA in Studio Art | Miami University

Oxford, Ohio, USA — Dec 2024

MFA in Drawing and Painting | University of Dhaka

Dhaka, Bangladesh — Apr 2015

BFA in Drawing and Painting | University of Dhaka

Dhaka, Bangladesh — Apr 2013

## EXHIBITION RECORD

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2025/10 ‘Mycelial Map’ (Solo) – West Gallery, Gettysburg College, Pennsylvania

2024/10 ‘Song of Earth’-Solo Exhibition at Oxford Community Art center, Ohio, USA.

2024/09 ‘On the Same Earth’-Solo Exhibition (MFA Thesis Show) at Hiestand Gallery, Miami University

### GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2025/12 ‘Sholo Rong’ (Group) – Chitrak Gallery, Bangladesh

- 2025/03 'Changing Spaces'-month long group exhibition at Contemporary Arts Center(CAC), Cincinnati, Ohio
- 2024/04 'Studio to studio' at Solway Gallery, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA
- 2024/03 'Weston work art challenge 2024', Weston Gallery, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA
- 2024/03 'Changing climate, changing communities', OCAC, Ohio, USA
- 2023 'Extrapolated Forms' at Oxford Community Art center, Ohio, USA.
- 2023 'Comeback Tomorrow', Lobby Gallery, Miami University, USA.
- 2023 'Shaping Forethought', Hiestand Gallery, Miami University, USA.
- 2023 'Its Our World'- Juried exhibition, Richard and Carole Cock Art Museum, Ohio, USA.
- 2023 'Studio to Studio', Solway Gallery, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA.
- 2022 'Interconnected'- Juried exhibition at Miami University Art Museum, Ohio, USA
- 2022 'Aligned'- Juried exhibition at Oxford Community Art center, Ohio, USA
- 2022 'Your eyes too'- Group exhibition, Hiestand Gallery, Miami University, USA
- 2022 'Borderland'- Group exhibition, Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana, USA
- 2019 "Gray"-Group exhibition at Zainul Gallery, Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka
- 2015 "Satrong"-Group exhibition at Zainul Gallery, Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka
- 2014 Annual art exhibition at Zainul Gallery, Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka
- 2013 Independence Day Art Exhibition by cactus.bd
- 2013 Annual art exhibition at Zainul Gallery, Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka
- 2012 Annual art exhibition at Zainul Gallery, Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka
- 2011 Selim-Al-Din memorial art exhibition at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
- 2010 Annual art exhibition at Zainul Gallery, Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka
- 2010 Rashed memorial art exhibition at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
- 2009 Annual art exhibition at Zainul Gallery, Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka
- 2009 Rashed memorial art exhibition at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

## **TEACHING & ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE**

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### **Fine Art Technician | Gettysburg College**

**Gettysburg, PA — Aug 2024 – Present**

- Manage daily multi-disciplinary art studio operations, facility layouts, and equipment maintenance.
- Partner directly with studio art faculty to optimize material delivery, equipment configurations, and classroom logistics.
- Serve as primary departmental coordinator for institutional health and safety compliance, managing OSHA standards, chemical logs, and hazardous waste disposal.
- Supervise, train, and mentor undergraduate student studio assistants, ensuring proper technical workflows and strict machinery safety.

University

- **Instructor of Record – Beginning Drawing (ART 155):** Developed complete standalone curricula and delivered observational and conceptual foundational studio instruction for diverse student populations (2023).
- **Instructor in Wood and Metal Shop:** Taught foundational design students safe hand-tool and large machinery operational mechanics and structural safety guidelines (Fall 2023).
- **Studio Assistant (Ceramics Shop):** Supervised clay laboratory procedures and directly assisted undergraduate students in preparing specialized chemical glazes and raw materials (Fall 2023).
- **Gallery Assistant (Hiestand Galleries):** Managed logistics, fine art handling, layout traffic, and physical installation/stripping for 8 separate institutional, juried, and guest-artist contemporary exhibitions.
- **Team Leader & Supervisor (Visual Resource Center):** Supervised administrative archiving, digital asset management, and historical research workflows, delegating tasks to student assistants to support faculty and student research (2023).
- **Community Educator (Saturday Art Project):** Designed and facilitated low-barrier, process-based community studio art workshops serving regional, non-institutional artists (Spring 2023).
- **Graduate Teaching Assistant:** Co-facilitated technical workflows, assisted with studio set-ups, and delivered formal critique evaluations across Painting I (Still Life/Plein Air), Painting III (Figure Painting & Abstract), and Sculpture.

Senior Designer / Art Researcher | BSCIC Design

Dhaka, Bangladesh — Oct 2017 – Dec 2021

Center, Ministry of Industries

- Directed field-based research initiatives analyzing traditional regional fine arts and crafts to drive sustainable preservation strategies under a premier government autonomous organization.
- Managed state-level gallery maintenance, curated historical artifact showcases, coordinated public craft fairs, and led interactive community art workshops.
- Developed innovative product designs for national folk craft collectives, effectively acting as a creative liaison between rural craftspeople and government bodies.

Lead Teacher (Art & Craft) | Government

Dhaka, Bangladesh — Apr 2014 – Sep 2017

Mohammadpur Model School and College

- Structured and executed comprehensive visual arts and crafts curricula as a lead instructor for a highly populated public high school institution.
- Organized community-facing student art exhibitions, regional youth art showcases, and educational cultural pageants.

**PUBLIC ARTIST TALKS**

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2025/10 — West Building, Gettysburg College, Pennsylvania

2025/03 — Contemporary Arts Center (CAC), Cincinnati, Ohio

2024/11 — Contemporary Artist Forum (CAF), Miami University, Ohio

## CURATORIAL PROJECTS & RESIDENCIES

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- Artist-in-Residence (3 Months) | Experimental Figure Drawing Focus – Dhaka Art Center, Bangladesh
- Exhibition Curator | Fine Art Photography Exhibition – DU Fine Art Photography Society (2010)

## GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

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- Summer Fellowship for Research Exploration | Miami University, Oxford, OH (Summer 2023)
- ‘Tara Savage’ Grant for Material Exploration | Miami University, Oxford, OH
- Graduate Student Merit Scholarship | Awarded by The Daily Star (Leading English Newspaper)
- Annual Institutional Merit Scholarships | Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka (2009 – 2014)

## TRAINING & WORKSHOPS

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- 2025** Sculptural Papermaking workshop (Instructor- Nichole Donnelly), Morgan Conservatory of Papermaking, Cleveland, OH
- 2022** Collagraph and Mono Print making (Instructor: Tracy Featherstone), Miami University, OH
- 2022** Photography Workshop (Instructor: Julia Cumes) at Art Center, Miami University, Oxford, OH
- 2021** Art Conservation and Restoration by BSCIC, Artifact showcasing methods by BSCIC.
- 2020** Exhibition organizing workshop by BSCIC.
- 2019** Gallery Management and Maintenance by BSCIC.
- 2018** Training for trainers (TOT) by BSCIC.
- 2018** Special Foundation Training Course for BSCIC Officials organized by BARD (Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development).
- 2013** Graphic Design & 3D animation Course organized by National Institute of Mass Communication.
- 2012** Bangladesh, Advance Photography Course from Chanchal Mahmud Academy.
- 2010** Recitation & Program Anchoring Course from ‘Abritty Academy’ at University of Dhaka.

## REFERENCES

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### **Dana Saulnier**

Professor of Art, Dept of Art  
Miami University, Oxford, OH  
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### **Ann Taulbee**

Director, Hiestand Galleries  
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### **Joomi Chung**

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