

Artist Statement _ Randa Hijazi

I am Randa Hijazi, a Syrian-Canadian visual artist residing in Laval, Quebec, Canada. I consider art a means of expressing the issues of humanity and society, dedicating my work to shedding light on topics such as poverty, hunger, illness, and wars. I also continuously work on documenting the history of peoples and civilizations through paintings that reflect the rich history of humanity.

I studied fine arts at the University of Damascus, where I obtained a degree in visual arts, which laid a strong foundation for my artistic vision and creative approach. I also studied journalism and media at the same university, which allowed me to merge the heart of an artist with the eye of a journalist. This combination expanded my perspective and insight greatly. This blend of art and media made me more capable of observing the finer details and understanding the experiences of individuals and societies, and presenting them in a powerful artistic manner.

My artistic journey began in Damascus, where I was born and raised, and then I moved to Dubai, where the city's international atmosphere had a profound impact on my artistic experience by engaging with diverse cultures and broadening my vision. Later, I settled in Canada, which opened up a new realm of expression and creativity in an entirely different environment. This movement between East and West deeply influenced my artistic work, allowing me to merge my profound Eastern culture with the modern Western experience, resulting in a contemporary artistic style that blends tradition with modern life.

I began my artistic journey in a style that combined impressionism and realism for many years. Over time, I decided to shift toward a newer, more contemporary style that incorporates creativity and imagination under the umbrella of surrealism, creating an ongoing body of work titled "Human Threads." This new style represents an important step in developing my artistic experience, as I continue to connect artistic creativity with significant humanitarian issues that resonate deeply with the viewer.

I have been deeply influenced by my experiences in these different cities. The movement between Damascus, Dubai, and Canada taught me that art is not just a reflection of cultures, but a bridge connecting people, history, and geography. Through this artistic journey, I was able to create a unique visual language that reflects the impact of diverse environments, which helped me expand my vision and deepen my understanding of shared human emotions across cultures.

In "Human Threads," I seek new ways to view the world, hoping that my works carry a cultural and civilizational message that touches the emotions of the viewers and encourages them to reflect on human conditions. I see art as a tool for social change, and through it, I strive to leave a human message that contributes to the promotion of values of goodness and love.

Recently, one of my paintings was selected by the Canadian government and the Canadian House of Commons to be the cover of the official greeting card for the Canadian government for the years 2024-2025.