

Faisal Anwar / interactive, NewMedia Artist

Formal Training and Education

- 2004** Post-graduate certificate, Interactive Art and Entertainment Program, The Canadian Film Center's Habitat New Media Lab, Toronto, Canada
- 2001** Courses towards a master's degree in New Media, Academy of Art College, San Francisco, U.S.A
- 1996** Bachelors degree in Graphic Design, National College of Arts, Lahore, Pakistan

Residencies

- 2013** Artist in Residence program, e|Galley UTM (University of Toronto Mississauga)
- 2012** Roots and Branches! Artists in the community- Working in collaboration with AGM (Art Gallery of Mississauga) and Mississauga City Library on the project mycitystories.
- 2011** 4 week mentoring residency at Livid Inc. San Jose, for the project 'Titra'
- 2008** BNMI Self Directed Residency, Banff New Media Institute, Banff Center, for the project 'Odd Spaces'
- 2007** Luminal Screen Co-Production, Banff New Media Institute, participant in a 4week co-production residency for the project "Into it!"
- 2006** Almost Perfect Lab, Banff New Media Institute, Banff Centre - Participant in the co-production workshop.
- 2004** Interactive Project Lab , a 6-week business development workshop at CFC Media Lab

Research

- 2011- 2013** +City Development
Funded by SSHRC Insight Development grant, +City developed and launched a beta archiving and analytical tool
- 2005-07** Interactive educational and learning media/tools for universal kids.
This research was part of the CulturAll program- the project 'Into it!' was selected under the Artist as Innovators category, for research for kids with multiple disabilities.
(CFC Media Lab, Banff Centre, University of Toronto's Adaptive Technology)

Artwork

Up in the Sky High, 2015

10 for 10th - Memory Lane curated by Che Kothari

Project Co-Producer: Artscape Wychwood Barns, Scotiabank Nuit Blanche

Up in the Sky High takes the past photo archives of Scotiabank Nuit Blanche as a starting point and invites the viewer to explore the infinite potential within their memory clouds, revealing its incredible beauty while sharing enriching thoughts. Large clusters of white eco-friendly balloons are suspended in the space with photo memories hanging below, creating a "memory lane" allowing viewers to navigate through the still memories and the delicate sounds of movement.

TweetGarden - 2013-2015

AGM (Art gallery of Mississauga) - (Sep, 2014 to Jan,2015)

No Vacancy, Burlington - (Sep, 2014)

ROM (Royal Ontario Museum), Toronto - (May to July, 2013)

Defining Moments National Project, Canada- (Jan to March, 2013)

Tweetgarden is a real-time, interactive installation that engages the spaces of human interaction in public and private environments. This project is a contemporary hybrid Web/Social Art conceived with tweeter narrative and exploring networks between multiple locations and time-zones.

Byob (bring your own bollywood) -2013-2014

ByobBring Your Own Bollywood (ByOb) is a photo-based project where you become the celebrated stars. A collaborative project that brings iconic Bollywood movie posters to life. Inviting public to participate in a makeshift photo booth to have their photo taken amidst Bollywood movie posters. he project explores the power of myth making in mass media imagery.

+City - 2011-2013

Funded by SSHRC Insight Development grant, +City is an advanced creative/artistic and analytical application that tracks, visualize and archive content generated via social media platforms. Co-conceived and created with Siobhan O'Flynn

Project history

- Data visualization app for iPhone and iPad, supported by McLuhan Festival Toronto- 2011
- Real-time interactive installation at Nuit-Blanche Toronto in partners with Second City - 2012
- Development of tool and application with tweeter #TAGS to generate data visualizations - 2013

Odd Spaces – 2008 -2010

Site- specific, real-time video installation based on locative media and public interventions.

Independently developed, researched and created.

Presented at Socia Bank Nuit Blanche, 2010, Toronto, partners with Vasl artists' collective, Pakistan

Presented at CodeLive, 2010 Cultural Olympiad in Vancouver. Co presented by CODElive and the Canadian film center in partners with Vasl artists' collective, Pakistan and Britto arts collective, Bangladesh.

Presented at the exhibition 'Six Degrees of Separation: Chaos, Congruence & Collaboration' 2008, curated by; KHOJ, International Artists' Association in Delhi, India, VASL artists' collective, Pakistan , THEERTHA Arts Collective in Sri Lanka, BRITTO Arts Trust in Bangladesh and SUTRA Arts' Trust in Nepal.

MyCityStories (formerly known as 360EXtEndEd)– 2009-on going

Real-time, site-specific installation at the Toronto City Hall presented as part of City of Toronto 175th Anniversary celebration at the Nathan Phillips Square. MyCityStories is a community based, multi-platform project, which explores a city's evolution. The website enables community based interaction about the city you live in and the shared stories along with videos are used to create a real-time site-specific video installation.

STIR – March 2009

A Multimedia performance, presented at MIST theater, U of T Mississauga Campus with Blackwood gallery Collaboration with Castellanos brothers and Sampradaya Dance Company

XIBALBA – Oct. 2008

Interactive Installation at the Scotiabank Nuit Blanche, Toronto 2008

Co-conceived and directed with artist Ulysses Castellanos

XIBALBA is an interactive sculpture/installation consisting of two cubic structures that glows and pulsate in increasing increments depending on the viewer's proximity to each structure.

Safe Mapping AKA They Are Watching! - June 2008

A collaborative Real-time webcam stream and performance presented in partnership with Loading Open Lab in Bucharest, Romania.

Collaborating artists: Theo Pelmus (Ottawa), Ulysses Castellanos (Toronto), Faisal Anwar (Toronto) and Loading Open LAB (Romania)

Safe Mapping is a retro projection on 2 windows in Romania. The project has performative aspects that involves surveillance cameras taking footage from Canada and live feeding them to the Loading Open LAB.

Zero Cluster: Deportation- 2007-2009

A site specific film and video installation presented at the AGO Youth Festival (Toronto) 2009, MAI (Montreal) 2007, Hot& Spice festival at Harborfront (Toronto)2007, International Performing Arts Festival (Lahore, Pakistan) 2007.

Conceived and created a unique way to experience live music, space and visuals using multiple projections and real_time video mixing. Zero Cluster: Deportation is a collaborative, multi-arts installation using hybrid technologies, live music performance and real-time video/film with multi-layer projection experience. This project reflects on unconventional uses of technologies and stretches the limits of integrated experience, namely how both performers and audiences normally experience music and video.

Double Date -2006-2007

An interdisciplinary sight, sound, performance experience, based on the tradition of tableaux vivant directed by Tazeen Qayyum. Performed at AKA Gallery Saskatoon, 2006 and Lennox Contemporary Gallery Toronto, 2007.

Created a site specific, real-time video projection as part of the performance

Double Date is a collaborative, inter-disciplinary, interactive performance project between artists from SAVAC (South Asian Visual Arts Center), Toronto and AKA Gallery, Saskatoon. By using contemporary experimental and performance techniques, this project investigates the possibilities of merging South Asian and Western artistic practices.

G.o.t.c.h.a [Gathering Ordinary Telephotos and Capturing Hidden Attitudes] -2006

A real-time cell phone based installation at Scotiabank Nuit Blanche 2006 presented in collaboration with SAVAC (South Asian Visual Arts Center)

Independently conceived developed and presented

G.o.t.c.h.a is a real-time, new media installation created over a span of 12 hours. Artists and audiences attending Nuit Blanche were welcomed to participate in this surveillance project.

Diplomatic Immunities 2005 – 2008

An interactive performance directed by Darren O'Donnell, produced by Mammalian Diving Reflex.

Performed at Buddies in Bad Times theater 2007, Playright festival, Calgary, 2006, International Performing Arts Festival, Lahore, Pakistan 2007

Directed and created performance based real-time video work and special effects, also collaborated as a researcher and performer

Diplomatic Immunities is a multimedia interactive ensemble piece, presenting encounters between a company of research artists and the inhabitants of a city.

Into it! -2004-2005

A 3-dimensional Interactive Installation for kids with multiple disabilities and otherwise. Prototypes created with the support of CFC media Lab, Toronto and Banff New Media Center. Presented at Lennox Contemporary, Gallery, Toronto

Co-founded and co-conceived with artist Deborah Hessen

Into it! An interactive story/game Installation that provides an immersive experience to the user(s) from animals' perspective. User(s) access the digital content (Video, Animation & Audio) through physical movements, native to the animal they occupy. <http://actionpactdesigns.com>

Independent Short Films and Videos

Walking Spirits – 2009, duration; 5min

Screened at: Ctrl+ Alt + Del, 2009 curated by Amit Kumar Jain, at Stainless Gallery, New Delhi, India, Toronto Urban Film Festival (TUFF)- 2009

I MISS PAKISTAN – 2009, duration; 6min

Screened at: Sohni Dharti II, 2009 at Karachi Arts Council, Pakistan, 2009, Toronto Urban Film Festival (TUFF)- 2009

Mozart in Lahore – 2009, duration; 3min

Screened at: shortsnonstop.com 2009

City Revenge – 2008, duration: 1min

Screened at: Toronto Urban Film Festival (TUFF)- 2008

Clifton to Saddar- 2006, duration: 1min.

Screened at: 'Monitor 3: Contemporary South Asian Film and Video' 2007, at Innis Town Hall, Toronto, Pollution, 2007 at INTERart,

aluCine -Toronto Latin Festival 2007

shortsnonstop.com 2007

Gurriya- 2005, duration: 3min 8sec

Screened at: 'Bollywood Chat' presented by SAVAC at Design Exchange, Toronto 2005

ID. Check-2003, video installation

exhibited at: 'Bolly>Lolly>Holly>Tolly' a SAVAC exhibition at Harborfront Center Toronto 2003

It's as simple as that- 2001, duration: 12min

Screened at: 'Death...It's Out There' 2007, curated by Ulysses Castellanos at TPW Gallery Toronto

Awards and Grants

2011-2013 Co-funded, SSHRC Insight Development Grant for the project '+City'
2010 Ontario Arts Council, Access and Career development Grant
2009-08 Canada Council Travel grant
2007 "Into it!" selected for Xmedia Lab, Singapore, themed Media aRt&D" for a three- day mentorship conference.
2007 "Zero Cluster- Deportation" nomination at PopVox Awards, Vancouver under creative special effects category.
2007 Project Grant – Ontario Arts Council
2007 "Diplomatic Immunities" nomination at Dooars,
2006-07 Research grant for "Into it!" selected under the Artist as Innovators category by CulturAll, for research on kids with multiple disabilities. Grant partners;CFC Media Lab, Banff Centre, University of Toronto's Adaptive Technology
2006 "Into it!" presented for discussion at World Usability Day Conference, Toronto
2003 Scholarship for post-graduate studies at CFC Media Lab
1996 Best Performer of the year, National College of Arts, Lahore, Pakistan
1994 Scholarship to participate in International Design Conference, Karachi, Pakistan
1995-93 Three gold medals for outstanding performances in puppetry by The Puppeteers NCA, Lahore, Pakistan

Affiliation

Mentor, IAEP Alumni mentorship for Interactive art and Entertainment program (fall session) at CFC Media Lab, Canadian Film Center,

Programming Committee member, SAVAC, South Asian Visual Artist Center, 2006-07,

Member, INTERACCESS, Electronic Media Arts Centre, Alumni, CFC Habitat Lab.