

Sermin Ciddi

Award Winning Artist and Teacher

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Alexandria, VA

Passionate and renowned Turkish artist with extensive experience in producing collection of art, participating in solo exhibitions, and providing public talks on artwork.

Areas of Expertise

Key Strength

- Strong background in contemporary Ottoman miniature (*minyatür*) painting, and art of illumination (*tezhip*),

Specialization

- Possess in-depth understanding, knowledge, and inspiration regarding creation of acrylic, gouache, and watercolor paintings.

Notable Exhibitions

[Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art \(MOCA\) "Made in VA" \(2022-2023\)](#)—Recipient of the "[People's Choice](#)" Award

- Exposure to thousands of art visitors to museum, showcasing of work at state's premier art venue.

[Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Artist Relief Fellowship Program, \(2020\)](#)

- Gaining recognition of work by State's premier art museum and Governor.

[Smithsonian Anne Marie Sculpture Garden's "Folksy"](#)

- The selection of work to be exhibited at premier art venue in Maryland.

[Corcoran Women's Committee, Fine Arts Grant Recipient, \(2022\)](#)

- Recipient of a prestigious grant award from a leading Art Museum affiliate.

[E Quilt Exhibition](#)

- Donation and exhibition of artwork to local community organizations during COVID.

["Mixture" exhibition at the Touchstone Gallery](#)

- The selection of work to be exhibited at premier art gallery in Washington DC.

Career Experience

[Torpedo Factory Art Center](#)
Resident Juried Artist

2017 – Present

Leverage exceptional talent for creating innovative ideas for making contemporary miniature (*minyatür*) painting, one of highly specialized visual arts of Ottoman and Turkish culture. Display art in numerous galleries and cultural spaces across Turkey and the United States. Raise awareness and appreciation for contemporary miniature painting locally and nationally via attendance of local, state and national exhibitions.

- Voluntary demonstrations of miniature painting to visitors.
- Mentoring of local Alexandria high school student (2019-2020)

Teaching Experience

[A. Suheyl Unver Miniature Atelier, Istanbul University-Istanbul-Turkey](#)
Miniature Painting Instructor & Practitioner

1996 – 2016

Played significant role as art instructor in Istanbul's premier school of instruction for miniature painting. Supervised student work and delivered excellent advice on composition, painting technique in the atelier's sought after certificate program.

- Worked to raise over sixty art students interested in miniature painting from novice level to advanced level.

Significant Highlights

[Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art \(MOCA\) "Made in VA 2022"](#) Exhibition: "Old Town Alexandria in the Fall" selected from among 532 applications-only 31 accepted. Will be open to the public for viewing between October 8, 2022-February 5, 2023

[Corcoran Women's Committee Fine Arts Grant Recipient](#) (2022): Washington D.C. "An Anatomical Miniature Project" & award acceptance speech at Chevy Chase Club, September 20, 2022

Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, Chair's Reception (2022)

[Virginia Museum of Fine Arts](#) (2020): Artist [Relief Fellowship Program](#)-Grant Recipient (\$5000) & follow-on exhibit at Richmond International Airport: July, 2021-February 2022)

Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, Annual Board Meeting Exhibition, Alexandria, VA (2022)

[H*O*P*E Quilt Exhibition](#), Alexandria, VA and Washington D.C. (2020)

Smithsonian Anne Marie Sculpture Garden's "[Folksy](#)" (2019)

[“Mixture”](#) exhibition at the Touchstone Gallery (Washington DC, 2019)
Public lecture **“Under Pressure: Constraints on Artistic Expression in the New Turkey”** at [Johns Hopkins University](#) (2019)
Group exhibition at the Hermitage Gallery (2019)
“Around” Exhibition at the Van Landingham Gallery (2018)
TAG Gallery’s **“Postcards from the Ledge”** (2018)
Mosaic Gallery’s **“Cotempo”** exhibition (2018)
Voice of America-Turkish Service television interviews (2018)
Newly Juried Artist Show, Torpedo Factory Arts Center (2017)
Art Ankara International Contemporary Art Fair (2017)
Group Exhibitions in Istanbul-Turkey: **“Vizyon”**, **“The Ceremony of Art”**, **“We are Together from Many Places”**, **“The Art Core”** (2017)
Beylerbeyi-Tunel Art Gallery Exhibition (2016)
Group Exhibition: **“Existence in Art”** International Plastic Art Colony, Ankara-Turkey (2016)
Art Ankara International Contemporary Art Fair (2016)
[Hungarian Independence Day Commissioned Artwork](#) used for national television (TRT) documentary on ‘Ibrahim Muteferrika’ - Ottoman scientist (2015)
Commissioned artwork for **“The Man who Changed the Fate of the World”** Documentary, featured on TRT national television (2015)
[All Arts Exhibition](#), Classical and Modern Art Fair in Istanbul-Turkey (2013)
“Travels” Exhibition of Evliya Celebi, Ankara (2013)
[16 Commissioned works](#) depicting the travels of 17th century Ottoman explorer **“Evliya Celebi”** and the reign of Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent played feature roles in documentaries on Turkish public television (2013)
Commissioned artwork for TRT national television documentary titled **“From Markets to Shopping Malls”** (2013)
“Today’s Masters” series displayed as part of the 2010 Istanbul European Cultural Capital celebrations (2010)
“Sultans of Poetry” exhibition, Istanbul, Turkey (2010)
Two Commissioned artwork for TRT national documentary titled **“Katip Celebi”** (2009)
Public lecture on classical and contemporary miniature painting at the Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art, Gainesville, FL (2009)
Press Museum, solo exhibition **“Turkish Kilim and Rug Motifs in Objects”** (1997)
Group Exhibitions in various cities throughout Turkey under the theme of **“Seljukid and Ottoman Architectural Works”**: Sivas, Konya, Kayseri, Amasya, Mardin and Edirne (1996-2004)

Publications

“Journey”, *Smithsonian*, (2018) | **“An Illustrated History of Travel”**, *Dorling Kindersley*, (2017) | 1453 Istanbul Culture and Art Magazine (2017) | [Kadikoy Life](#) and Art Magazine (2017) | TRT *Vizyon* Magazine (2017) | The Guide Magazine: The Tales of Evliya Celebi (2017) | Book of Travels, The Journey of Evliya Celebi (2017)

Interviews & Media Appearances

[Old Town Edition](#), April 2022

“Sermin Ciddi: Crafting an Allegory of Hope”, [The Zebra](#), March 7, 2022

“Neighbors of Old Town Alexandria” Magazine, Interview with Alysha Sideman, September 2021

Interview with Seyhan Akinci, [Milliyet Arts Magazine](#) (Turkey), October 26, 2021

“Torpedo Factory Artist named Virginia Visual Artist Relief Grant Recipient”, [Alexandria Times](#), August 27, 2020

“City creatives: Humanity in Minyatür”, [Alexandria Times](#), July 30, 2020

[Voice of America](#) Interview with Dilge Timocin (2018)

[Voice of America](#) Interview with Ozlem Tinaz (2018)

Interview with Berkin Safak, Johns Hopkins University, (2017)

Honors & Awards

Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art (Virginia Beach, VA), “Made in VA” finalist, 2022-23 and “People’s Choice” award recipient

Corcoran Women’s Committee, Fine Arts Recipient, Grant Award, 2022

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (Richmond, VA) Relief Fellowship Program, Grant Award, 2020
Selected to be member of the Torpedo Factory Arts Center in April 2017

Education

A Suheyl Unver Miniature Painting Atelier, Istanbul University, Diploma (1996-1999)

Istanbul State Fine Arts Academy, (Guest student 1972-1977)

Languages

Turkish (native tongue)

English (fluent)