

Ahmad Khoshniat

PhD Candidate, Visual and Performing Arts

Teaching Associate

Harry W. Bass Jr. School of Arts, Humanities, and Technology

University of Texas at Dallas

Email: Ahmad.Khoshniat@utdallas.edu

EDUCATION

University of Texas at Dallas (UTD), USA

PhD Candidate, Visual and Performing Arts

August 2022 – present | GPA: 3.86/4.0

- Dissertation (Practice-as-Research), in progress:

“Creating a Transnational Political Image Through Experimental Animation: Bridging Resistant Strategies of Iranian Art Cinema with Anti-hegemonic Aesthetics”

- Creative Project: *Sensorship*

An experimental animated short film exploring the political image through visual and sensory experience.

Tehran University of Art, Tehran, Iran

MA in Animation

September 2014 – October 2017 | GPA: 3.87/4.0

University of Applied Science & Technology, Tehran, Iran

BA in Architecture

January 2011 – February 2013 | GPA: 3.93/4.0

University of Applied Science & Technology, Tehran, Iran

Associate Degree in Civil Engineering

January 2008 – February 2010 | GPA: 3.88/4.0

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Investigating cinematic form as a site of political meaning through experimental animation and film practice, with a focus on art cinema—especially Iranian art cinema—anti-hegemonic aesthetics, and transnational frameworks including intercultural and accented cinema.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Texas at Dallas (UTD), USA

Teaching Associate (Instructor of Record):

Spring 2026 – present

FILM 2332 – Understanding Film

- Designed and delivered lectures, assignments, and assessments.

Teaching Assistant:

August 2022 – Fall 2025

- FILM courses (4 semesters)
- ART HISTORY courses (3 semesters)
- ART courses (1 semester)
- Assisted faculty with grading, leading discussions, and supporting course instruction across eight semesters.

Farabi International Campus, Tehran University of Art, Tehran, Iran

Lecturer:

February 2019 – December 2020

Animation Directing I & II (MA level)

- Taught graduate-level animation directing with emphasis on visual storytelling, pre-production, production, post-production, and creative direction.

Teaching Certification:

Effective Teaching 101: Starting the Semester Strong (ACUE), Association of College and University Educators, January 2026.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

FFTG Awards Film Fest, USA

Official Selection Committee Member

2021

LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

Bass School's Association of Graduate Students (AGS)

University of Texas at Dallas (UTD), USA

Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) Representative

Fall 2025 – Spring 2026

- Advocated for graduate students in the Visual and Performing Arts program, facilitating communication between students and school administration, and supporting academic and professional development initiatives.

The College Student Scientific Society (Animation Division)

Tehran University of Art, Tehran, Iran

President

2015 – 2016

- Organized animation-related academic events, screenings, workshops, and talks for the student community.

PUBLICATION

Khoshniat, Ahmad. "Bertolt Brecht's Soul in the Body of Experimental Animation: Common Audiovisual Strategies between Epic Theatre and Robert Breer's Short Animations." *Avanca Cinema Journal*, No. 13 (2022): 61 – 71. <https://doi.org/10.37390/avancacinema.2022.a369>

Khoshniat, Ahmad. "Visual Method of Paronomasia in Amir-Hamzeh Animation as a Strategy for Creating a Musical-Literary Animated Narrative" In *Short Film Studies: Narration in Short Film*, 13-37. Tehran: JICA Publication, 2021.

Khoshniat, Ahmad. "Figurative Language Methods as Strategies of Socio-Political Criticism in Jan Švankmajer's Films." *Journal of Visual Art and Design*, No. 12 (2020): 56-78. <https://doi.org/10.5614/j.vad.2020.12.1.4>

Khoshniat, Ahmad. *Cryptic Arms: Jan Švankmajer's Filmmaking Techniques as Strategies of Sociopolitical Criticism*. Shiraz: Shivatir, 2019.

Khoshniat, Ahmad. "Common Aspects Between Feature and Short Films in Applying Major Styles of Figurative Language" In *Short Film: Tehran International Short Film Conference 'Past, Present, Future'*, 183-205. Tehran: Aban Publication, 2018.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Khoshniat, Ahmad. "The Unbreakable Bond Between Politics and Film in the History of Iranian Cinema." *Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS) 2026 Conference*, Chicago, Illinois, USA, March 26, 2026.

Khoshniat, Ahmad. "Examining Experimental Animation Strategies and Pixilation to Develop a Body- and Mind-based Style." *Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA) 57th Annual Convention*, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA, March 6, 2026 (online).

Khoshniat, Ahmad. "Mythological Destabilization of Masculine Hegemony in Lucrecia Martel's *Salta Trilogy*." *International Association of Maternal Action & Scholarship (IAMAS 2025): (Re-)Producing Motherhood, Motherwork, and Mothering*, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts, USA. June 19, 2025. (online)

Khoshniat, Ahmad. "Examining Experimental Animation and Pixilation as Bait to Develop an Engaging Personal Filmmaking Style." *16th Annual RAW Graduate Student Conference: Bait, Prompt, and Aid*, University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson, USA. March 1, 2025.

Khoshniat, Ahmad. "Mircea Eliade's Mythological Vision & Mark and Pearson's Archetypal Patterns Through Terrence Malick's Lens." *South Atlantic Modern Language Association (SAMLMA 96): Seen and Unseen*, Jacksonville, Florida, USA. November 16, 2024.

Khoshniat, Ahmad. "Bertolt Brecht's Soul in the Body of Experimental Animation: Common Audiovisual Strategies between Epic Theatre and Robert Breer's Short Animations." *AVANCA CINEMA: 13th International Conference on Cinema – Art, Technology, Communication*, Avanca, Portugal. July 28, 2022. (online)

Khoshniat, Ahmad. "Visual Method of Paronomasia in Amir-Hamzeh Animation as a Strategy for Creating a Musical-Literary Animated Narrative." *Second Tehran Seminar on Short Film Studies*, Tehran, Iran. October 4, 2020.

Khoshniat, Ahmad. "Common Aspects Between Feature and Short Films in Applying Major Styles of Figurative Language." *Tehran International Short Film Conference: Past, Present & Future*, Tehran, Iran. November 8, 2016.

ACCEPTED / FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Khoshniat, Ahmad. “Animating Presence in Experimental and Expanded Animation: Materiality, Performance, and Artistic Agency.” *Society for Animation Studies (SAS) 37th Annual Conference: Animate Experience 2026*, Pittsburgh, PA, USA, June 15–18, 2026 (forthcoming).

CREATIVE PRESENTATIONS

Khoshniat, Ahmad. *The Redistribution of the Visible: Performance*. 17th Annual RAW Graduate Student Conference: *Under the Surface: Visibility and Politics*, University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson, USA. February 21, 2026.

Khoshniat, Ahmad. *Cruel White: Performance & Installation*. 15th Annual RAW Graduate Student Conference: *Fugly Aesthetics, Activism, Politics*, University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson, USA. February 17, 2024.

PUBLIC LECTURES

Guest Lecturer, Art History (Dr. Jacquelyn Delin McDonald). “Framing Myth: From Sandro Botticelli’s Canvas to Terrence Malick’s Lens.” University of Texas at Dallas, USA. May 5, 2025.

EXHIBITIONS

Landscape(s): Reimagining Our Shared Spaces, International Juried Exhibition

Old Walls Gallery, Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA, April 3–24, 2026

Artwork included: **HUROCKMON** (from the *Natural Humonsters* series)

Medium: pencil, ink, marker, and colored pencil on paper (17 × 11 in; framed 19 × 13 in)

Before the Algorithm, Art Exhibition, Juried Exhibition

The Courtyard Theater Gallery, Plano, Texas, USA, February 19–March 21, 2026

Artwork included: **HUMUDMON** and **HUROCKMON** (from the *Natural Humonsters* series)

Medium: pencil, ink, marker, and colored pencil on paper (17 × 11 in; framed 19 × 13 in)

Artist as Catalysts for Social Change, International Juried Exhibition

Ludington Area Center for the Arts (LACA), Ludington, Michigan, USA, October 3–31, 2025

Artwork included: **HUROCKMON** (from the *Natural Humonsters* series)

Medium: pencil, ink, marker, and colored pencil on paper (17 × 11 in; framed 19 × 13 in)

ACADEMIC HONORS & AWARDS

Dean’s Teaching Fellowship, University of Texas at Dallas, 2026–2027. Competitive award for excellence in teaching and research.

Harry W. Bass Jr. Graduate Research Award, University of Texas at Dallas, Fall 2025.

Bremer Travel Award, University of Texas at Dallas, 2024–2025. Awarded for participation and presentation at SAML A 96 Conference.

Fully Funded PhD Scholarship, University of Texas at Dallas, 2022–present. Comprehensive funding package for doctoral studies in Visual and Performing Arts.

Best Paper Award, 2nd Tehran Seminar on Short Film Studies, 37th Tehran International Short Film Festival, Tehran, Iran, 2021.

Paper: “Visual Method of Paronomasia in *Amir-Hamzeh* Animation as a Strategy for Creating a Musical-Literary Animated Narrative.”

Best Paper Award, Short Film Studies Conference “Past, Present, Future,” 33rd Tehran International Short Film Festival, Tehran, Iran, 2016.

Paper: “Common Aspects Between Feature and Short Films in Applying Major Styles of Figurative Language.”

FILM HONORS & AWARDS

Khoshniat, Ahmad.

RED, BLACK & BLUE (2023, 6 min.)

Co-director and co-producer with Dárē Akinwole

Editor and Sound Designer

Awards

- Best Director, Cosmic Film Festival, University of Texas at Dallas, USA, 2024.
- Best Sound Design, Cosmic Film Festival, University of Texas at Dallas, USA, 2024.
- Audience Choice Award, Cosmic Film Festival, University of Texas at Dallas, USA, 2024.

Official Selections

- Minnesota Film Festival, Minnesota, USA, 2025.
- 5th Ethereal Horror Fest, Austin, USA, 2024.
- 11th International Student Film Festival Opavský páv, Opava, Czech Republic, 2024.

Khoshniat, Ahmad.

WHEN L.R WEPT (2022, 5 min. 30 sec.)

Director, Writer, Producer, Animator, Editor, and Sound Designer

Awards

- Honorable Mention, Student World Impact Film Festival (SWIFF), USA, 2023.

Official Selections

- IMPACTE! Human Rights Film Festival of Catalonia, Barcelona, Spain, 2024.
- 12th Annual Queens World Film Festival, USA, 2022.
- 39th Tehran International Film Festival, Iran, 2022.
- 17th Shorts Mexico: Mexico International Short Film Festival, Mexico, 2022.

Khoshniat, Ahmad.

V. CYCLE (2019, 3 min. 45 sec.)

Director, Writer, Producer, Animator, Editor, and Sound Designer

Official Selections

- FFTG Awards, USA, 2020.
- 25th Linea d'Ombra Festival, Italy, 2020.
- Short Short Story Film Festival, USA, 2019.

Khoshniat, Ahmad.

LOCKED (2019, 11 min. 22 sec.)

Director, Writer, Producer, and Editor

Awards

- Jury's Sound Special Award, Kimera International Film Festival, Italy, 2021.
- Best Animation (Golden Earth Prize), International Cittadella GeoFilmFestival, Italy, 2020.

Official Selections

- 5th Chaniartoon: International Comic & Animation Festival, Greece, 2021.
- Link International Film Festival, United Kingdom, 2020.
- Festival Internacional de Cine Silente, Mexico, 2019.
- International Shahr Film Festival, Iran, 2019.
- Tehran International Animation Festival, Iran, 2019.

Khoshniat, Ahmad.

For Freedom (2016, 3 min. 20 sec.)

Director, Writer, Producer, Animator, Editor, and Sound Designer

Official Selections

- Cabriole Film Festival, Lebanon, 2018.
- Bute Street Film Festival, United Kingdom, 2018.
- Festival Internacional de Cine Silente, Mexico, 2018.
- Constantine's Gold Coin Animated Film Festival, Serbia, 2017.
- Festival Cinema Invisible, USA, 2017.
- Asia Peace Film Festival, Pakistan, 2017.
- Derechos Humanos Festival de Cine Madrid, Spain, 2016.
- Wolves Independent International Film Awards, Latvia, 2016.
- 33rd Tehran International Short Film Festival (Book & Cinema Section – National Competition), Iran, 2016.
- Chandler International Film Festival, USA, 2016.
- Move Me Production Online Film Festival, Belgium, 2016.
- 4th Indian Cine Film Festival (ICFF), India, 2016.
- 12th Action on Film Festival, USA, 2016.

Khoshniat, Ahmad.

Fashion Nazi (2016, 1 min. 40 sec.)

Director, Writer, Producer, Animator, Editor, and Sound Designer

Official Selections

- Iranian Film Festival, USA, 2017.
- Kargil International Film Festival, India, 2017.
- Preview International Film Festival, Spain, 2017.
- Tehran International Animation Festival, Iran, 2017.
- International 100-Second Film Festival, Iran, 2017.
- Constantine's Gold Coin Animated Film Festival, Serbia, 2017.
- Short to the Point Online Film Festival, Romania, 2016.

Khoshniat, Ahmad.

The Prophets of Terror (2016, 4 min. 25 sec.)

Director, Writer, Producer, Animator, Editor, and Sound Designer

Official Selections

- Salento Finibus Terrae Film Festival, Italy, 2017.
- 13th Human Rights Film Festival of Barcelona, Spain, 2016.

Khoshniat, Ahmad.

Unjust Matches (2016, 3 min. 50 sec.)

Director, Writer, Producer, Animator, Editor, and Sound Designer

Honors / Official Selection

- Official Selection and Top 12 Ranking, FEELFEST International Online Festival, Spain, 2017.

PROFICIENCIES

Animation & Video: TVPaint Animation, Adobe Premiere Pro

Sound Design: Nuendo

AI & Digital Media: Familiarity and emerging use of generative AI tools in creative and pedagogical contexts

LANGUAGES

Persian (Farsi): Native

English: Fluent (academic and professional proficiency)