



سيلينا الليل سيد



SELENA al-LAYL SYED

syedse@mit.edu | [+1 \(437\) 267-7933](tel:+14372677933)

EDUCATION

Massachusetts Institute of Technology & Harvard University Aga Khan Program for Islamic Art and Architecture Master of Science in Architectural Studies (cross-registration)	Cambridge, Massachusetts GPA: IPR 2026—2028
University of Toronto Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design Honours Bachelor of Arts in Architectural Studies, Specialist	Toronto, Ontario GPA: 4.0 2022—2026
Victoria University Faculty of Arts and Science Honours Bachelor of Arts in Art History, Major	

RESEARCH & APPOINTMENTS

Massachusetts Institute of Technology Part-Time, Research Assistant. Dr. Nasser Rabbat	Cambridge, Massachusetts September 2026—May 2028
Jackman Humanities Institute Fellowship, Research Assistant. Dr. Hülya Arık	Toronto, Ontario May 2026—June 2026
➤ Conducted archival and institutional research on exhibitions associated with Muslim artists and Islamic themes in Toronto since 2001, resulting in the development of a dataset and geospatial ArcGIS digital humanities project in mapping creative production across the city. Participated in artist residencies such as Gibraltar Point Centre for the Arts, research programming at the Aga Khan Museum, and presenting at Victoria University's symposium.	

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

AKPIA-MIT Graduate Fellowship, (100% tuition, 80% stipend, health insurance)	2026—2028
Jackman Scholar Award, Issued by Victoria College. CA\$1,000	June 2026
➤ Awarded to a student in the Scholar-in-Residence (SiR) program, an intensive 4-week paid research fellowship in humanistic social-science research for upper-undergraduates.	
David R. Graham Undergraduate Scholarship, Issued by DRG. CA\$8,000 (declined)	April 2025
David R. Graham Undergraduate Scholarship, Issued by DRG. CA\$8,000 (declined)	April 2024

- The DRG seeks to establish and invest in opportunities and relationships to promote cultural exchange between France and Canada to support the arts and artists through a combination of scholarships or grants, as required by a proposed and agreed to project.

Entrance Scholarships, Issued by Daniels Faculty. CA\$12,000 2023—2026

- Awarded to an applicant beginning or continuing in an undergraduate program at the Daniels Faculty on the basis of academic merit.

PRESENTATIONS

Research Symposium of Art History: Realms of the Unseen HASA, University of Toronto. Conference Chair	March 29, 2026 Toronto, Ontario
Research Symposium of Renaissance Studies: Intercontinental Borders RENSSA, University of Toronto. Invited Panelist	February 27, 2026 Toronto, Ontario
Research Symposium of Art History & English: Poetics of the Periphery Canvas, McGill University. Invited Panelist	February 21, 2026 Montréal, Québec

EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Syed, Selena. Editor-in-Chief. *Journal of Art History* vol. 9 (2026). University of Toronto.
<https://hasauoft.squarespace.com/symposium>.

PUBLICATIONS

Syed, Selena. “Un-Provincializing the Baroque: The Authority of the Nuruosmaniye” *Journal of Art and Design Education Pakistan* vol. 2 (2026): [page range]. Lahore: National College of Arts.

<https://jps.library.utoronto.ca/index.php/nmcjournal/issue/view/3044/>. See also *Journal of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations* vol. 15 (2026): 72–85. University of Toronto. <https://jps.library.utoronto.ca/index.php/nmcjournal/issue/view/3044/>.

Syed, Selena. “As the Badshāh Saw with Basīra: Bichitr’s Albumic Reordering of the Renaissance” *Journal of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations* vol. 15 (2026): 86–100. University of Toronto.

<https://jps.library.utoronto.ca/index.php/nmcjournal/issue/view/3044/issue-xv>. See also *Canvas: Journal of Art History & English* vol. 25 (2026). McGill University.
<https://www.canvasjournal.ca/2026-symposium-archive/as-the-badshh-saw-with-barabichitrs-albumic-reordering-of-the-renaissance>.

Syed, Selena. “Harām-Zāda Modernities: Auto-Imperial Aesthetics in Postcolonial Pakistan.” *Journal of Hart House Student Art Committee* vol. 1 (2026): 133–141. University of Toronto.

https://www.hhartcommittee.com/_files/ugd/71b90e_cdec292ff37c4bd3a76e9a6684a3dee2.pdf ↗.
See also *Confluence: The Undergraduate Journal of Discourse on Religion* vol. 1 (2026): 133–141.
University of Toronto <https://jps.library.utoronto.ca/index.php/CUJDR/issue/view/3043> ↗.

Syed, Selena. Contributing Writer. *The Varsity*, 2022–2026. *The Varsity*. <https://thevarsity.ca/> ↗.

FORTHCOMING WORKS

Syed, Selena. “Valide Sultan & Kızlar Ağa: Spatial Sovereigns of the Ottoman Unseen” *Final Thesis Reviews* (2028): [page range]. Massachusetts Institute of Technology. <https://> ↗.

REFERENCES

*Additional references available upon request.

Ijlal Muzaffar Recurring Visiting Professor Rhode Island School of Design imuzaffa@risd.edu	Nasser Rabbat AKPIA Director and Professor Massachusetts Institute of Tech nasser@mit.edu	Hülya Arık Assistant Professor University of Toronto—SC hulya.arik@utoronto.ca
Shaun Midanik Sessional Lecturer University of Toronto shaun.midanik@utoronto.ca	Jason Nguyen Assistant Professor University of Toronto je.nguyen@daniels.utoronto.ca	Heba Mostafa Associate Professor University of Toronto h.mostafa@utoronto.ca

LANGUAGES & TRAINING

English (primary), French (secondary), Urdu (secondary), Arabic (NML110Y1 with Dr. Adam Ali)

Adobe Creative Suite; CAD modelling; ArcGIS; digital fabrication and laser printing; analog and digital photography; film production; equestrian sports.

CLASSES — FALL 2026

4.607—Thinking About Architecture, Mark Jarzombek

HAA.226V—Visual, Material, and Architectural Cultures Between East and West (Early Modern Ottoman Empire, 15th-17th Centuries), Gülru Necipoğlu

4.221—Architecture Studies Colloquium, Mark Goulthorpe

4.646—Advanced Study in the History of Modern Architecture and Law, Timothy Hyde

4.s65—Advanced Study in Islamic Architecture in Spain: Lives and Afterlives, Michele Lampracos

