

Hala Qasqas

Ph.D. Candidate | Islamic Art History

Address: Victoria, BC, V8N6K8 | **Phone:** 289-885-3040

E-mail: halaqasqas@uvic.ca

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/halaqasqas/>

Website: <https://www.halaqasqas.com/>

A Ph.D. Candidate in Islamic Art History awarded a Canadian Graduate scholarship (CGS D) from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. A professional researcher with over ten years of relevant experience. Specializes in socio-urban history in Damascus, the cultural history of Coffee and Coffeehouses in the 17th and 18th centuries.

DEGREES

2021-09- Current	Ph.D. in Art History and Visual Studies University of Victoria - Victoria, BC
2015-09- Current	Ph.D. in Art History Damascus University - Damascus, Syria
2009-09- 2012-03	Master of Arts: Art History Damascus University - Damascus, Syria
2002-09- 2007-06	Bachelor of Arts: Interior Design Damascus University - Damascus, Syria

WORK HISTORY

2021-11- Current	Research Assistant University of Victoria, Victoria, BC Working on research and a website that provides documentation for craft activities conducted in across Iraq from the seventh century to the present.
2021-09- Current	Teacher Assistant University of Victoria, Victoria, BC Teacher assistant in Art History & Visual Studies department, Teaching: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exploring World Art AHVS 120• Horror Video Games AHVS 311F
2022-02- Current	Instructor Pacific Design Academy, Victoria, BC Seasonal Instructor in Interior Design and Building Technology programs, Teaching Courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Space Planning, I & II & III• Design Development, I & II• Commercial Projects• AutoCAD, I & II

Research Skills

- Documentation abilities.
- Keen attention to detail.
- Exceptional written communication skills.
- Excellent researching skills.
- Excellent translation skill between Arabic English.
- Great critical thinking skills.
- Working with primary sources professionally.
- Using online image and archival databases.
- Gathering and analyzing Information.
- Organizing information.
- Evaluating research results.
- Convert artwork into 3D graphics using computer software.

Languages

- **Arabic**
Native or bilingual proficiency
- **English**
Full professional proficiency
- **French**
Limited working proficiency

Affiliations

- 2022** | ICOMOS Canada
- 2022** | ICOM Canada
- 2021** | Historian of Islamic Art Association

2007-01-
2019-01

Senior Interior Architect

Futurism, Damascus, Syria

- Communicated with contractors, builders, and clients regarding 50+ projects in the Middle East
- Designed floor plans, including schematic designs in AutoCAD and 3D perspectives.
- Supervised projects and coordinated with cross-functional departments to achieve company goals.

2010-09-
2017-06

Teacher Assistant

Damascus University, Damascus, Syria
Course: Interior Design Projects

2014-09-
2015-06

Teacher Assistant

Damascus University, Damascus, Syria
Course: Architecture Drawing

AWARDS

2022

Canada Graduate Scholarship Doctoral

SSHRC Doctoral Awards competition (\$105,000)

2022

President's Research Scholarship

Faculty of Graduate Studies at UVic (\$15,000)

2022

SSHRC Doctoral Fellowships

Social Science Research Council (\$80,000)

2022

Florence and Wallace Wilkinson

Memorial Bursary at UVic (\$5000)

2021

Herbert Bertram Falkenstein

Graduate Scholarship in Fine Arts at UVic (\$20,000)

2021

Jeffrey Rubinoff Scholar

Art as a Source of Knowledge Scholarship (\$2000)

2021

University of Victoria Graduate Fellowship

Art History & Visual Studies (\$36,000)

CERTIFICATIONS

2022-01-
2022-06

French for Reading and Translation

University of Wisconsin-Madison – Madison, USA

2019-09-
2020-06

Visual Effects

Sheridan College - Oakville, ON

2019-01-
2019-08

3D Computer Animation

Sheridan College - Oakville, ON

2018-01-
2018-12

General Art and Sciences (ESL)

Sheridan College - Oakville, ON

Accomplishments

2021 | Damascus Heritage Archive Project

A community of professional researchers committed to conserving the Damascene cultural heritage, tangible and intangible.

Output: <https://damascus-heritage.org/>

2015 | A solo art exhibition in Damascus

On Sufi and Mawlawi art entitled 'Ishq. Damascus, Arab Cultural Center, Damascus.

Software

Microsoft Office
Excellent

Adobe Creative Suite
Very Good

Autodesk AutoCAD
Excellent

Autodesk Maya
Excellent

Autodesk 3Ds Max
Very Good

Houdini
Good

Nuke/Nuke Studio
Good

Davinci Resolve
Good

Zbrush
Good

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

- *Damascene Mosques in the Mamluk Era: Architectural-Historical Study.* (Damascus: Dar Ninawa, 2020)
- *History of Damascene Coffeehouses.* (Damascus: Dar Ninawa, 2019)
- *Damascene Mosques in the Ottoman Era: Architectural-Historical Study.* (Damascus: Dar Ninawa, 2018)
- *Gardens Architecture: Study in the foundations of garden design and styles.* (Damascus: Dar Ninawa Publishing, 2017)
- *Islamic gardens: A Study in The Design of Islamic Gardens and Their Constituent Elements.* (Damascus: Dar Ninawa, 2015)

REFEREED JOURNALS PAPERS

- "Traditional Artworks roles in Damascene Coffeehouses." Aleppo University Journal of Engineering Sciences (2017)
- "Al-barrani the outside section of Damascus public bath Social and Beauty Value." Damascus University Journal of Engineering Sciences (2016)
- "A Study on Entertainment Signs of Old Time Festivals in Damascus." Damascus University Journal of Engineering Sciences (2016)
- "Al-Badri and the Discourse of Beauties: A Study of the Concept of Islamic Garden." Journal of Architecture and Planning, King Saud University 27, no. 2 (2015)
- "Ibn al-'Awwam and the Book of al-Filāha: The Science of Gardening in Islamic Tradition." IUG Journal of Natural and Engineering Studies Islamic University-Gaza 22, no. 2 (2014)
- "Water in the Islamic Garden: Between the Physical and Symbolic." Aleppo University Journal of Engineering Sciences 102 (2011)

CONFERENCE PAPERS

- "The Legitimacy of Coffee and Coffeehouses in Damascus 1600-1800." In MEICON, Vancouver: The University of British Columbia (2022)
- "The Visual Heritage of Popular Tales: Folk Art in Damascene Coffeehouses 1850-1950." In Visual Inputs, Victoria: The University of Victoria (2022)
- "The Role of Women in Building Mosques during the Ayyubid and Mamluk Eras in Damascus". In Eye on the Mosques of Damascus, Damascus: al-Takiyya al-Sulaimanyyia (2016) In Eye on the Mosques of Damascus, Damascus: al-Takiyya al-Sulaimanyyia (2016)