

## **Fiona Aboud Biography**

Brazilian-American artist Fiona Aboud creates images rooted in photography that are inspired by painting and natural elements. Aboud's lyrical and humanistic style frees the imagination while challenging issues of perception, multiculturalism and stereotypes.

Aboud's practice is influenced by photographers like Edward Curtis who documented Native Americans whose culture was in danger of disappearing. This mindset influenced Aboud to create projects that preserve cultures through photography, such as *Sikhs: An American Portrait*. Inspired by hate crimes and American realist painters explore what it means to be American and examine the human prejudice of physical differences. This series received numerous awards from American Photography, grants from the Sikh Foundation and was exhibited at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

Her show at the Wing Luke Museum in Seattle in May 2018 explores the central character she created from the cartoons of Vishvjit Singh. Inspired by Singh's cartoons, she encouraged him to dress up as Captain America, which led to his persona becoming an internet sensation. His image and messages of tolerance are used in classrooms around the country to teach cultural understanding to school children.

Her project for Sports Illustrated on Amputee Soccer players in Sierra Leone in 2007 inspired the making of the documentary "The Flying Stars" and the sale of her prints has raised thousands of dollars for job training for Amputees in Sierra Leone.

More recently, Aboud's work has pivoted toward abstraction to address narrative about self-perception and identity. With her *Imperception Series*, she creates a visual allegory for our distorted self-perception by projecting an image into water and then photographing the projection. Aboud collaborates with water to create a decisive moment infused with energy from our physical world.

For a heightened interactive experience, Aboud has designed a 3D installation that allows viewers to experience her interdisciplinary process live. Installed in a dark room, visitors are encouraged to make ripples in a tank of water into which an image is projected in order to bring each water painting to life. Viewers are then invited to add their own vision to the project by photographing the projection for themselves.

Aboud's work has been published in *Time Magazine*, *Sports Illustrated*, *The New York Times*, *New York Magazine* among others. Her work is collected by the Library of Congress, the Microsoft Corporation, the Polaroid Collection and many private collections. She attended Columbia University where she graduated Cum Laude with a degree in Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures with a focus on culture and identity. Raised in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and Boston, MA, Aboud currently lives and works in New York City.

## Fiona Aboud

### ARTIST CURRICULUM VITAE (Abridged version)

<http://www.fionaaboud.com>

917-721-1190

Born: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, December 4th, 1976

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#### COLLECTIONS

Microsoft Collection (Seattle, WA)

Library of Congress Collection (Washington, DC)

Polaroid Collection (Cambridge, MA)

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#### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2016 *The African Amputee Football Stars*, Gladstone Hotel, Toronto, Canada

2010 *Sikhs: An American Portrait, Immigrant Heritage Week*, NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, New York, NY

2009 *Sikhs: An American Portrait*, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

2007 *Emergence: The African Amputee Football Stars*, Cascadia College, Bothell, WA

2006 *Portraits of Peacemakers*, The Plaza Hotel, New York, NY

2006 *Portraits of Peacemakers*, Sponsored by Polaroid and Duggal Digital, Skylight Studios, New York, NY

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#### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2018 *Captain Sikh America*, Wing Luke Museum, Seattle, WA

2017 *Reflective Pool*, Curated by Heather Zises, The Cluster Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

2016 *Imperception Series*, Berlin Photo Biennale, Berlin, Germany

2015 *Rites of Summer: Imperception Series*, Ripe Art Gallery, Huntington, NY

2015 *Imperception Series*, Gallery LIC, Long Island City, Queens, NY

2012-2014 *SlideLuck PotShow*, Traveling Exhibition Barcelona, Beijing, Milan, Bogata, Nairobi, Toronto, NYC

2008 *Erotic Beauty* Benham Gallery, Seattle, WA

2007 *Leaving Hollywood Behind*, Nobis Gallery, Jersey City, NJ

2005 *Viridian Artists Gallery 16th Juried Exhibition*, Juror: Robert Rosenblum, Guggenheim Museum, NY, NY

2003 *Polaroid International Photography Competition*, Traveling Exhibition

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#### SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

2016 *Folio Magazine* Cover Story "Women in Media"

2013 *The New York Times Magazine*, Portraits of TEP Students "They grow up so fast"

2012 *Huffington Post* "Photographing Sikhs with Fiona Aboud"

2009 *The New York Times Magazine*, "Portrait of Ruth Reichl"

2009 *Maisonneuve Magazine*, Feature: "Sikhs in America"

2009 *American Photo* Feature: "Sikhs in America"

2008 *New York Magazine*, Cover and Photo Essay: "The Obama Generation"

2007 *New York Times*, Photo Essay: "The March of Nations"

2007 *Sports Illustrated*, Leading Off Story "1\* All Amputee Tournament in Sierra Leone"

2006 *AARP Bulletin*, Patriotism Cover Story

2006 *Time Magazine*, "Marathon Runners"

2005 *Sports Illustrated*, "After the Finish Line" NYC Marathon Portraits

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#### SELECTED AWARDS

2017 American Photography Chosen for Online

2010 Selected for Descubrimientos at PhotoEspana Madrid, Spain

2009 American Photography Selected for Book

2006 Critical Mass finalist

2006 International Photography Awards

2006 Craig Aurness Memorial Fund Education Grant

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#### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor FIT Pre-College Summer, Fall 2018

Student Mentor Bronx Guild High School 2006  
Teaching Assistant ICP Photoshop I and II 2003-2004  
Student Mentor PS 223 2000-2001

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**EDUCATION**

1999 Columbia University, Cum Laude, Middle Eastern Studies with focus on Identity and Culture, New York, NY