
Zahra Amini

Illustrator | Children's Book Illustrator

London, United Kingdom | zahraamini.me@gmail.com | +447944390804 | www.zahraamini.com |

Instagram: [@zaraa.illustration](https://www.instagram.com/zaraa.illustration) | <https://www.linkedin.com/in/za-illustration>

Artist Profile

London-based illustrator with a strong focus on children's book illustration, with **seven years** of professional experience and recognition across the **United Kingdom, the United States, China, Qatar, Australia, Lebanon and Iran**, including published books, exhibitions, and international awards. MA Children's Book Illustration & Graphic Novels, Middlesex University, London, United Kingdom (2023–2024). Nominated by IIDCYA (Iran) as **the only illustrator** from Iran for the **BIB–UNESCO Albín Brunovský Workshop** at the **28th Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava** held with the support of (IBBY), Slovakia, in 2021. Selected as **one of 43 artists** from **450 submissions** to design and paint a sculpture for **Wild in Art's Peter Rabbit™**: Tales on the Tyne art trail in Newcastle (2026), with her artwork on public display at **Newcastle Central Station** from July to September 2026. Also selected to exhibit at *With My Roots*, the 6th Iranian Contemporary Art Biennale, at **Mall Galleries**, London, in May 2026. She has **three further exhibitions** confirmed for 2026–2027, including a Selected Illustration at the 4th International Philip K. Dick Festival in California, USA, and two group exhibitions in London — *Unveiling the Forest* (2026) and *Voices Across Generations* (2027). Illustrator of **five children's books**, including two titles published in both English and Arabic by **HBKU Press in Qatar** and showcased at major international book fairs including **Frankfurt, Bologna, and London**. The books have received international recognition, including Finalist placements at the American Book Fest, a **Bronze Medal** at the Living Now Book Awards, and Honourable Mentions at the Purple Dragonfly Awards and Royal Dragonfly Awards. Official volunteer Illustrator Coordinator for **SCBWI** (Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators) in the **South of England and London region**.

Artistic Experience

Zahra Amini | Lebanon, Iran, Qatar, Australia, United States, China, United Kingdom | 2019 to Present

- **2019:** Illustrator of children's book *Daisy Seed*, published in Arabic by Baa Center Publication, Lebanon. ISBN: 9786144740217, <https://roozrang.ir/ایک کتاب گل بخارو نه/>
- **2019:** Illustrator of children's book *Javad Loves Cooking*, published in Arabic by Baa Center Publication, Lebanon. ISBN: 9786144740293, <https://kotohon.com/book/جواد يحب الطبخ/eIBUJWVikYUI3Tm1qNWZZOTBYR2p1UT09>
- **2019:** Illustrator of children's book *Call Me Rusty*, published in Arabic by Baa Center Publication, Lebanon. ISBN: 9786144740798, <https://kotohon.com/book/اسمى قصص رستى راجو حة/Rmh3UnJHaTM4V294emxnaUFLTE9FZz09>
- **2019 February:** 7th Youth Visual Arts Festival, Illustration Category, Second Prize, Iran.
- **2019 March:** Selected artist for the Baharestan Art Trail project by Tehran Municipality, designing and painting giant eggs exhibited across the city in Spring 2019, Tehran, Iran
- **2019 May:** Interview about the process of creating *Daisy Seed* book, published on the Roozrang website, Iran.
- **2019 August:** 26th Festival of Visual Arts of Iran, Participated in a One-Week Illustration Workshop, with Work Exhibited in the Final Exhibition, Ilam, Iran.
- **2020 December:** Selected illustration, Bologna Children's Book Fair, Illustrators Wall: Season's Greetings Edition (Online Exhibition), 14 December 2020 – 6 January 2021, Bologna, Italy.
- **2021:** Illustrator of children's book *The Mysterious Blossom*, published in Arabic and English by HBKU Press, Doha, Qatar. ISBN: 9789927155055 EN | ISBN: 9789927151842 AR
<https://www.waterstones.com/book/the-mysterious-blossom/shaikha-al-zevara/9789927155055>
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/stores/Zahra-Amini/author/B0DTWT1SV8/allbooks>
- **2021 March:** Selected artist for the Spring Sparrows Art Trail by the Qom Municipality's Beautification Organization, designing and painting large-scale sparrow sculptures exhibited throughout the city of Qom in Spring 2021, Qom, Iran.
- **2021 August:** Received an honourable Mention in the Best Illustration category for *The Mysterious Blossom* book at the Purple Dragonfly Awards, Arizona, USA.
- **2021 October:** Nominated as the only illustrator from Iran for the BIB–UNESCO Albín Brunovský Illustration Workshop with the support of (IBBY) (one of 9 illustrators from developing countries), for the 28th Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava, Slovakia.
<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/457083/Iran-nominates-Zahra-Amini-for-workshop-at-Biennial-of-Illustrations>

- **2021 November:** Finalist for The Mysterious Blossom book in the 18th Annual Best Book Awards (American Book Fest) in the Children's Mind/Body/Spirit category , Arizona, USA.
- **2022:** Illustrator of children's book What If There Was No School, published in English and Arabic by HBKU Press, Doha, Qatar. ISBN: 9927155999 EN | ISBN: 9927155557 AR
<https://www.waterstones.com/book/what-if-there-was-no-school/andalous-ibrahim/9789927155994>
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/What-there-School-Andalous-Ibrahim/dp/9927155999>
- **2022 January:** Received an honourable Mention for What If There Was No School book at the Royal Dragonfly Awards in Picture Books 5 & Younger category, Arizona, USA.
- **2022 March:** Selected artist for the Baharestan Art Trail project by Tehran Municipality, designing and painting giant eggs exhibited across the city in Spring 2022, Tehran, Iran.
- **2022 May:** Selected artist for exhibiting three illustrations at the First Annual Illustration Exhibition of Alborz; published in the festival book, and exhibited in Iranian Artists Forum, Tehran, Iran.
- **2022 June:** Illustration for KOOKIE Magazine, Issue 19, Australia and UK
ISSN: 22088628, <https://youkiemag.com/store/issue-19/>
- **2022 July:** Selected to exhibit three illustrations at "Celebrating the Centenary of Mehdi Azar-Yazdi, Good Stories for Good Children" at the Iranian Artists Forum, and Selected to receive a Commended recognition in the Main Section of the exhibition, Tehran, Iran.
- **2022 August:** Received an honourable Mention for What If There Was No School book at the Purple Dragonfly Awards in School Issues category, Arizona, USA.
- **2022 October:** Received a Bronze Medal at the Living Now Book Awards in children's inspirational picture book category for the book What If There Was No School book, Michigan, USA.
- **2022 November:** Finalist in the 19th Annual Best Book Awards (American Book Fest) in children's fiction category for the book What If There Was No School book, Arizona, USA.
- **2023 January:** Spoke about the creative process of The Mysterious Blossom book on the HBKU Press website, Qatar.
- **2024 October:** Shortlisted in the Uncommissioned Category at the Hiii Illustration Awards, Nanjing, China.
- **2025 June:** Received Certificate of Merit in 3x3 International Illustration Award in Student category, New York, USA
- **2025 November:** Selected to exhibit one illustration at the 6th Illustration Week organized by The Iranian Illustrators Society in Iranian Artists Forum, Tehran, Iran.
- **2025 November:** Invited as a speaker for BA Illustration students to talk about a professional journey as a published illustrator (58 students enrolled for the talk) | Industry Week at Middlesex University, London, UK.
- **2026 May:** Selected artist to exhibit at With My Roots, the 6th Iranian Contemporary Art Biennale, (22–30 May 2026), Mall Galleries, London, UK.
- **2026 July:** Selected to feature three illustrations in Arts to Hearts Magazine, Issue 13, USA, INDIA.
<https://apply.artstoheartproject.com/artist/arts-to-hearts-magazine-issue-13/selected-artists>
- **2026 July-September:** Selected to design and paint a sculpture for the Art Trail for Wild in Art Peter Rabbit™: Tales on the Tyne, with the artwork on public display at Newcastle Central Station for two months, Newcastle, UK
- **2026 August/Future:** Selected Illustration, 4th International Philip K. Dick Festival (PKDFEST 2026), organised in partnership with the Society of Illustrators of Los Angeles, California State University, Fullerton, (20–23 August 2026)- California, USA.
- **2026 October/Future:** Group Illustration Exhibition, 3 Artworks, Unveiling the Forest, (19-23 October 2026) Curated by Sahar Haghgoo, Pan Intercultural Arts, London, UK.
- **2027 April-May/Future:** Group Illustration Exhibition, 3 Artworks, Voices Across Generations, (7 April–4 May 2027) Curated by Sahar Haghgoo, Lauderdale House, London, UK.

Awards and Recognition

- **2025 June:** 3x3 International Illustration Award | Student category | Certificate of Merit.
- **2024 October:** Hiii Illustration Awards | Uncommissioned Category | Shortlisted.
- **2022 November:** The 19th Annual Best Book Awards (American Book Fest) | children's fiction category | What If There Was No School Book | Finalist.
- **2022 October:** Living Now Book Awards | What If There Was No School Book | children's inspirational picture book category | Bronze Medal.

- **2022 August:** Purple Dragonfly Awards | What If There Was No School Book | School Issues category | Honourable Mention.
- **2022 July:** Celebrating the Centenary of Mehdi Azar-Yazdi, Good Stories for Good Children | Main Section | Commended.
- **2022 January:** Royal Dragonfly Awards | What If There Was No School book | 5 & Younger category | Honourable Mention.
- **2021 November:** The 18th Annual Best Book Awards (American Book Fest) | The Mysterious Blossom Book | Children's Mind/Body/Spirit category | Finalist.
- **2021 October:** BIB–UNESCO Albín Brunovský Workshop (One of the most prestigious biennial illustration events worldwide). | Nominated.
- **2021 August:** Purple Dragonfly Awards | The Mysterious Blossom Book | Best Illustration category | Honourable Mention.
- **2019 August:** 26th Festival of Visual Arts of Iran | Illustration Category | Selected to participate in a One-Week Illustration Workshop.
- **2019 February:** 7th Youth Visual Arts Festival | Illustration Category | Second Prize.

Publications

- **2022: What If There Was No School** | Children's Book | HBKU Press Publication | Qatar.

Awards of this book:

1. Finalist, The 19th Annual Best Book Awards (American Book Fest), children's fiction category, Arizona, USA, 2022
 2. Bronze Medal, Living Now Book Awards, children's inspirational picture book category, Michigan, USA, 2022
 3. Honourable Mention, Purple Dragonfly Awards, School Issues category, Arizona, USA, 2022
 4. Honourable Mention, Royal Dragonfly Awards, 5 & Younger category, Arizona, USA, 2022
- **2022: KOOKIE Magazine** | Children's Magazine | Issue 19 | Australia and the UK.
 - **2021: The Mysterious Blossom** | Children's Book | HBKU Press Publication | Qatar.

Awards of this book:

1. Finalist, The 18th Annual Best Book Awards (American Book Fest), Children's Mind/Body/Spirit category, Arizona, USA, 2021
 2. Honourable Mention, Purple Dragonfly Awards, Best Illustration category, Arizona, USA, 2021
- **2019: Call Me Rusty** | Children's Book | Baa Center Publication, Lebanon.
 - **2019: Javad Loves Cooking** | Children's Book | Baa Center Publication, Lebanon.
 - **2019: Daisy Seed** | Children's Book | Baa Center Publication, Lebanon.

Exhibitions and Proof of appearance

- **Future-2027:** Group Illustration Exhibition, 3 Artworks, Voices Across Generations, (7 April–4 May 2027) Curated by Sahar Haghighi, Lauderdale House, London, UK.
- **Future-2026:** Group Illustration Exhibition, 3 Artworks, Unveiling the Forest, (19-23 October 2026) Curated by Sahar Haghighi, Pan Intercultural Arts, London, UK.
- **Future-2026:** Selected Illustration, 4th International Philip K. Dick Festival (PKDFEST 2026), organised in partnership with the Society of Illustrators of Los Angeles, California State University, Fullerton, (20–23 August 2026)- California, USA.
- **2026:** Selected artist, Art Trail for Wild in Art Peter Rabbit™: Tales on the Tyne, Newcastle Central Station - Newcastle, UK.
- **2026:** Group Exhibition *With My Roots*, 6th Iranian Contemporary Art Biennale, (22–30 May 2026), Mall Galleries, London, UK.
- **2025:** Group Exhibition Iranian Illustration Week, Iranian Artists Forum - Tehran, Iran.
- **2022:** Group Exhibition First Annual Illustration Exhibition of Alborz | Iranian Artists Forum, Tehran, Iran.
- **2022:** Group Exhibition Celebrating the Centenary of Mehdi Azar-Yazdi, Iranian Children's Book Council, Iranian Artists Forum - Tehran, Iran.
- **2022:** Selected artist for the Baharestan Art Trail project by Tehran Municipality, designing and painting giant eggs exhibited across the city in Spring 2022, Tehran, Iran.

- **2021:** Selected artist for the Spring Sparrows Art Trail by the Qom Municipality's Beautification Organization, designing and painting large-scale sparrow sculptures exhibited throughout the city of Qom in Spring 2021, Qom, Iran.
- **2020:** Selected Artwork, Bologna Children's Book Fair, Illustrators Wall: Season's Greetings Edition (Online Exhibition), 14 December 2020 – 6 January 2021, Bologna, Italy.
- **2019:** Selected artist for the Baharestan Art Trail project by Tehran Municipality, designing and painting giant eggs exhibited across the city in Spring 2019, Tehran, Iran.

Media Recognition

- **2026:** Featured illustrator, Arts to Hearts Magazine, Issue 13.
- **2023:** HAMAD BIN KHALFA UNIVERSITY PRESS | Creative Process Talk | The Mysterious Blossom Book.
- **2019:** Roozrang website, Interview about the process of creating Daisy Seed book.

Speaker

2025: Invited Speaker | Professional Journey as a Published Illustrator | Industry Week | Middlesex University | London, United Kingdom

Education

MA Children's Book Illustration & Graphic Novels
United Kingdom | September 2023 – September 2024

Middlesex University, London,

BA Graphic Design
2013–2017

Sepehr Art University, Isfahan, Iran

Official Volunteer

September 2025 - Present | **SCBWI** (Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators) | Illustrator coordinator | England South and London region | United Kingdom.

- Founded and led monthly Sketch Meetups for illustrators across London, delivering guided sketching sessions and sharing practical techniques while bringing artists together to draw and exchange ideas. Three events have been held to date at various museum venues, with the series ongoing.
- Co-founded a Picture Book Book Club, selecting a children's picture book each session for online discussion among members; inaugural session held on *The Tiger Who Came to Tea* by Judith Kerr.
- Created illustration work for SCBWI product packaging.
- Co-hosting and co-teaching an online session in December alongside two other illustrators on creating a picture book from concept to publication.

Professional Memberships

- **Member, Iranian Illustrators Society** | 2018–Present
- **Member, Association of Illustrators (AOI)** | 2025–Present
- **Premium Member, Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI)** | 2025–Present