

IMMIGRATION



NAZILA JAHANGIR

 Stala Contemporary
ART GALLERY+PROJECTS

12Apr-10May

Based on a true story;

IMMIGRATION – Nazila Jahangir

The story of *IMMIGRATION* begins in a unique light. At the University of Western Australia, in a garden with tall pine trees and a beautiful white Elephant Palm, the idea of *Immigration- Annunciation* came to life.

In the second piece, *Immigration- Birth*, the scene is by Herdsman Lake. A small island, covered with yellow Acacia flowers and dark green Macrozamia leaves, floats in still water. This painting reflects my mixed feelings during my journey to Australia. A duck joins me on this long trip.

When traveling to a new country where no one speaks your mother tongue, you truly feel the “otherness” of language. In *Immigration- Waiting for Godot*, I explored this feeling through a scene from Samuel Beckett’s play, focusing on Lucky’s monologue. The setting is a pub by the river in Perth. I visited this spot many times after finishing the painting, but the figures in sackcloth never returned.

Immigration- Chasing a Butterfly is a story set in the bushland on shores of Lake Monger. While the story captures the joy and freedom of playing in the wild, it is also shadowed by an underlying tension lurking from behind. The butterfly in this piece is a Painted Lady, known for its long migrations.

Immigration- Shellhouse reflects my search for a new home, with a view of Perth’s skyline in the background. The shell I found on Swanbourne Beach, featured in this painting, carries the ocean's salt and song—a small relic from the vast, untamed world to which I belong.

In 2023, I returned to Iran, my first trip back since moving to Australia in 2019. There, I met an old friend and fellow painter. Her embrace—a warm, black hug—expressed the sorrow and grace of our homeland. It was a hug filled with history, peace, and unspoken grief.

The lizard in my painting *Immigration- Friend* symbolises age and the passage of time. I placed it on my watch, reminding me that time is fragile and fleeting—a Vanitas, whispering that nothing lasts.

Sometimes, familiar things become strange. An everyday object can lose its meaning and seem uncanny. In sleepless nights, the world shifts, making the ordinary feel haunting. The shell from *Immigration- Shellhouse* appears again, but this time it seems unsettling. I call this painting *Immigration- Insomnia*.

Immigration- Still Life features two items I brought from Iran: an antique copper vessel from my father and a smooth, cow-shaped stone from the Sefid-Rud River. Together, they represent Iran's rich history and civilization. Yet, within this stillness, something stirs. From the mouth of the copper vessel, a cascade of wild, black hair spills out, disrupting the order—a silent rebellion against the past.

The cloudy sky inspires me, with its shapes and light representing the creation of art. In my piece *Immigration- Creation*, I aim to bring something new into existence. The rectangular cube in my hand symbolizes the skills I use in my creative process.

Immigration- Self Portrait is the final piece in my immigration series. It reflects who I am now, two years into my artistic journey to produce this collection. I combine elements from Western Australia's Eucalyptus erythrocorys tree (commonly called the Red Capped Gum or Illyarrie) with a pearl oyster from Qeshm Island, Persian Gulf. This mix shows that I have become a hybrid being, ready to rise and create something new.

Nazila Jahangir

2025

Nazila Jahangir holds a Master's in Fine Arts (Painting) from the University of Alzahra, Tehran (2011). Moving to Australia in 2019, she pursued a Master of Fine Arts (Research) at the University of Western Australia. In 2022, she won the National Emerging Artist Award at the Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize and held her first Australian solo exhibition, Forget-Me-Not, at UWA. Her work was showcased on Perth's Yagan Square Digital Tower, receiving widespread acclaim.



Title: Immigration- Annunciation

Medium: oil on canvas

Dimensions: 60 x 90 cm

Year: 2023

Price: \$3800



Title: Immigration- Birth

Medium: oil on canvas

Dimensions: 60 x 90 cm

Year: 2023

Price: \$3800



Title: Immigration- Waiting for Godot

Medium: oil on canvas

Dimensions: 70 x 100 cm

Year: 2024

Price: \$6000



Title: Immigration- Chasing a Butterfly

Medium: oil on canvas

Dimensions: 60 x 90 cm

Year: 2024

Price: \$6000



Title: Immigration- Shellhouse

Medium: oil on canvas

Dimensions: 100 x 70 cm

Year: 2024

Price: \$6000



Title: Immigration- Insomnia

Medium: oil on canvas

Dimensions: 100 x 70 cm

Year: 2024

Price: \$5000



Title: Immigration- Friend

Medium: oil on canvas

Dimensions: 70 x 100 cm

Year: 2024

Price: \$6000



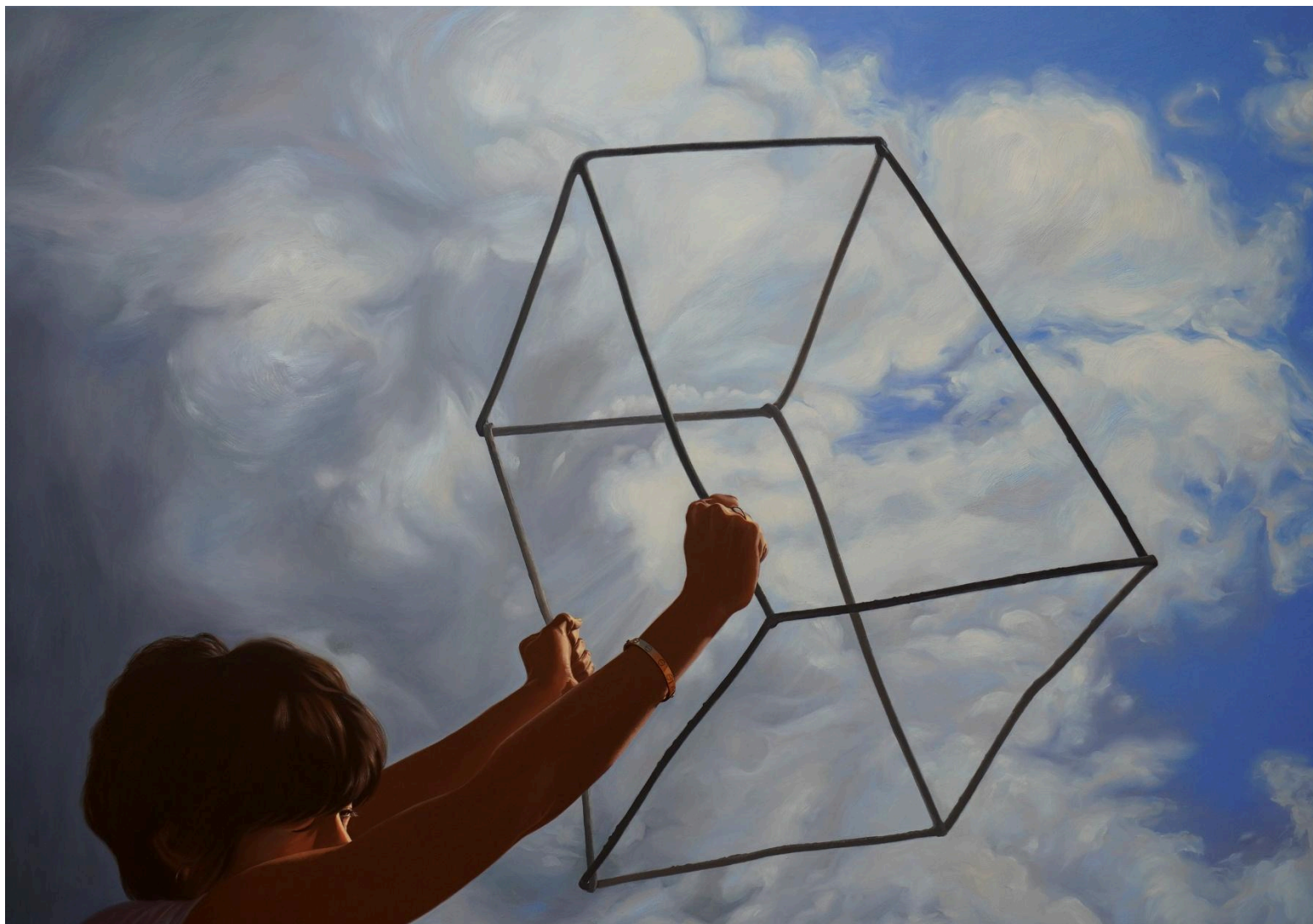
Title: Immigration- Still-life

Medium: oil on canvas

Dimensions: 60 x 60 cm

Year: 2024

Price: \$4500



Title: Immigration- Creation

Medium: oil on canvas

Dimensions: 70 x 100 cm

Year: 2025

Price: \$5000



Title: Immigration- Self Portrait

Medium: oil on canvas

Dimensions: 70 x 100 cm

Year: 2025

Price: \$6000