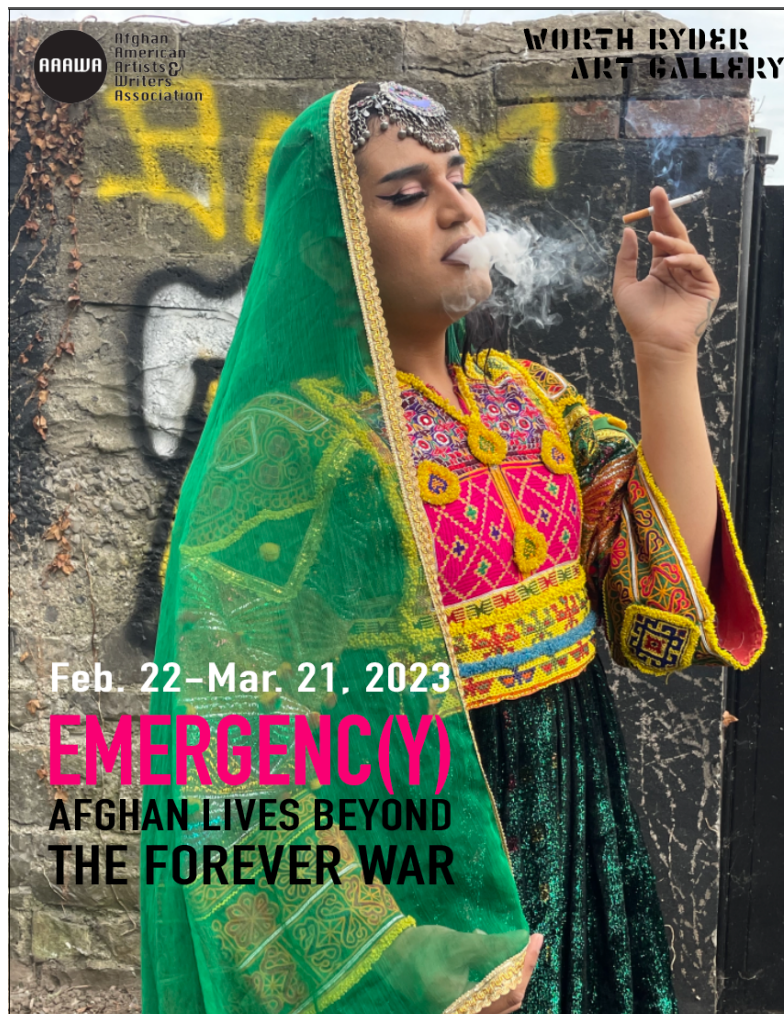


Happy 2023 from AAAWA. We have a lot of exciting news and programming to share with you in this latest newsletter. From the launch of an art exhibit at UC Berkeley to updates on community engagement, the new year is off to a dynamic and promising start. Thank you to all our readers for staying with us on this journey!

Save the Dates! AAAWA and the Worth Ryder Art Gallery at UC Berkeley present "Emergenc(y): Afghan Lives Beyond the Forever War," an exhibit highlighting visual art and writing from Afghan artists and writers from Afghanistan and the diaspora



The Afghan American Artists and Writers Association is getting ready to open our new exhibit, ***Emergenc(y): Afghan Lives Beyond the Forever War***, at the Worth Ryder Art Gallery in February 2023!

But we need your help.

We are launching a campaign to help fund both our exhibit and anthology that will **center Afghan creative voices** using art as a tool to reclaim humanity and critique a world of impenetrable borders.

Our goal is to raise \$13,000 to fund the production of **our upcoming exhibit, anthology,** and to **pay a stipend to all participating artists.**

aaawa.net/donate



Your support would be greatly appreciated! If you or anyone you know is interested in donating or becoming a sponsor, please visit or share this link: aaawa.net/donate

To learn more about our exhibit themes, please visit: aaawa.net/emergency

The Afghan American Artists and Writers Association is getting ready to open **our new exhibit, *Emergenc(y): Afghan Lives Beyond the Forever War*** in partnership with UC-Berkeley's Worth Ryder Art Gallery in February 2023!

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Our goal is to raise \$13,000 to fund the production of our upcoming exhibit, anthology, and to pay a stipend to all participating artists.

To donate or to become a sponsor, please click [here](https://aaawa.net/donate) and please share widely. You can add a note ("Emergenc(y) Exhibit" and/or "Emergenc(y) Anthology") to PayPal to indicate exhibition donations. Thank you!

Please reach out to info@aaawa.net if you or your organization are interested in sponsoring the exhibit and accompanying anthology.

AAAWA Wins New York State Council of the Arts Grant!

We are excited [to announce](#) that in November 2022, AAWA was a recipient of an operational grant from the New York State Council of the Arts. This grant will be critical in supporting AAWA's operational costs and developing public programming at the crossroads of the arts and advocacy in New York. Thanks to all of our members who have supported us throughout our public programming and art exhibits!

Afghan Adjustment Act Update

Unfortunately, the Afghan Adjustment Act was not included in the \$1.7 trillion fiscal year 2023 Omnibus Appropriations bill. What this means is that the almost 80,000 Afghans who were evacuated in August 2021 are still facing legal limbo. Advocates continue to call for legal certainty for these Afghans as well as continue to call for relocation of at-risk Afghans. AAWA urges Congress to pass the Afghan Adjustment Act so that Afghans are given legal protections as they rebuild their lives with dignity in the United States. For more on the Afghan Adjustment Act, please see [this helpful resource](#).

Art Workshop with Newcomers to the Bay Area



AAAWA board members, Katayoun Bahrami and Gazelle Samizay led the first of four creative workshops to recently resettled Afghan women in the San Francisco Bay Area in collaboration with the nonprofit, ARTogether. “Tekah Tekah” is a creative space for Afghan women to tell their own stories drawing from their own narratives and cultural contexts, connecting artists with women from the Afghan refugee community to exploring creative art

forms such as embroidery, textile painting, cyanotype, quilt-making, and visual storytelling. The workshops will culminate in an exhibit of their creative work.

Photo courtesy of Gazelle Samizay

Afghan American Artists and Writers Association

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