

NILAY CARLSON

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Education

BA in Fine Arts (Sculpture), Dokuz Eylul University, Izmir, Turkey
1999-2006

Summary

Multidisciplinary artist with over 25 years of experience across sculpture, drawing, painting, mixed media, and land art. My work draws from nature, ritual materials, and myth, often weaving together personal and collective histories. Through natural forms and symbolic elements, I explore transformation, impermanence, and the unseen forces that shape the living world. I have continued my work independently since 2017, focusing on material experimentation, concept development, and creating a new body of sculpture. Alongside my studio practice, I've led community-based art workshops and created short documentaries centred on creative expression and cultural narratives. Grounded in fine art training and guided by material intuition, I work fluidly with organic matter, wood, metal, and clay—honouring both traditional craft and contemporary form.

Exhibition

2017 – Group Drawing Exhibition, Kocaeli, Turkey

2015 – Group Art Exhibition, Duncan, BC, Canada

2009 – Turkish Artists' Group Exhibition, Art Square Café, Toronto, Canada

2006 – Graduation Exhibition, Faculty of Fine Arts, Izmir, Turkey

2005 – “Colour, Form, Composition Exhibition,” Dokuz Eylul University, Izmir, Turkey

2005 – Sculpture Exhibition, 23rd Universiade Summer Games, Izmir, Turkey

2005 – Group Exhibition, Konak Art Gallery, Izmir, Turkey

2004 – “Non-Identification” Street Artists' Exhibition, Izmir, Turkey

2004 – “Design Exhibition,” Fine Arts Gallery, Izmir, Turkey

2001 – Sculpture Department Exhibition, Dokuz Eylul University, Izmir, Turkey

Symposium & Contest

2007 – Cappadocia Art Symposium, Turkey

2007 – 2nd Art Symposium, Fabrikart Group, Turkey

2004 – Metal Sculpture Symposium, SOKTAS, Aydin, Turkey

2003 – 15th International Wooden Sculpture Symposium, Izmit, Turkey

1992 – Second Place, Kocaeli Painting Contest, Turkey

Teaching & Sculpting Work Experience

2018 – Given Art Classes, Vancouver Island Regional Library, Courtenay, BC, Canada

2015 – Created a sculpture for Christian Life Children's Centre Playground, Campbell River, BC, Canada

2006 – Collaborated with clients to create busts to specification, Izmir, Turkey

2002 – Assisted with Kids Art Class, Izmir, Turkey



Filming and Photographing

2008 – Filmed and created clips of art exhibitions for Ulusal TV Channel Bindalli Art Gallery, Istanbul, Turkey
2006 – Produced documentary “Reality,” Turkey
2005 – Clay modeling and templating for Women’s Aid Foundation, Local Agency 21KABİSYEP, Dalyan, Turkey
Mardin-Sanlıurfa-Diyarbakir-Batman (Hasankeyf), Documentary Film Production, Izmir, Turkey
2005 – Photographed “Street League” for British Council, Izmir, Turkey
2004 – Photographed documentary “Village Institutions,” Izmir, Turkey
2000 – Documented behind-the-scenes of film “REC,” Urfa, Turkey
2017 – Lighting in Theatres Workshop, Courtenay, BC, Canada

Volunteering

2023 — Salvation Army Food Bank, Gibsons, BC
Supported community wellbeing through hands-on service, reflecting commitment to social care and connection.
2023 — Volunteered at Gibsons Public Art Gallery
2022 — Set Designer, Gate House Theatre, Port McNeill, BC
Created and constructed theatrical sets, applying sculptural techniques and creative design skills.
2022 — Fire Department, Port McNeill, BC
Assisted with community safety initiatives, emphasizing collaboration and resilience.
2022 — Loaves and Fishes, Port Hardy, BC
Engaged in community food support, fostering empathy and service.
2018–2019 — Care-A-van Comox Valley Care Society, Courtenay, BC
Participated in outreach and support programs, deepening community involvement.
2018 — Cumberland Wild Music Festival, Cumberland, BC
Helped set up art and music festival spaces, supporting cultural events celebrating creativity.
2018 — Winter Faire Setup, Cumberland Museum & Archives, Courtenay, BC
Assisted with event installation, enhancing public cultural experiences.
2017 — Comox Valley Food Bank, Courtenay, BC
Contributed to community resource support, reinforcing values of service and care.
2015 — Hop with Me, Comox Valley Family Services, Courtenay, BC
Supported family services programming, emphasizing community engagement.
2010–2012 — Various Cultural and Community Events, Victoria, BC
Participated in arts-related events, including tango and lantern festivals, contributing to creative community-building.
2009 — Amnesty International Canada, Toronto, ON
Wrote advocacy letters, supporting human rights and social justice causes.
2005 — Photographer, Cumhuriyet Newspaper, Turkey
Documented cultural events, merging art and storytelling through photography.
2005 — British Council “Street League” Photography, Izmir, Turkey
Captured urban life and social themes, honing visual documentation skills.
2001 — Assistant, Group Painting Lessons at MKM, Izmir, Turkey
Supported art education and community creativity.
2000 — Film Documentation, “Rec” Behind the Scenes, Urfa, Turkey
Recorded creative processes, bridging film and visual art worlds.

Soft Skills

Collaboration – Experienced in group projects and community art initiatives
Curiosity – Eager to learn from place, people, and materials
Problem-Solving – Resourceful in overcoming artistic and technical challenges
Open-Mindedness – Embraces feedback and diverse viewpoints
Responsibility – Self-directed, reliable, and respectful of shared spaces
Cultural Sensitivity – Aware of and responsive to cultural contexts and histories