



CALL TO ARTISTS #OurStoryIsOne

Portland Public Library invites artists to submit work for an upcoming exhibit from July-September 2024 with a focus on international and women's healthcare and wellbeing. We are looking for work specifically responding to the international [#OurStoryIsOne campaign](#) launched by the Baha'i International Community in 2023. The exhibit will be juried by a committee of library staff and volunteers.

Submission Guidelines: The exhibit is open to all media, including original work in painting, sculpture, fiber, photography, ceramics, original printmaking, drawing, encaustic, pastel, glass, and mixed media. All work must be gallery ready and clean. Wall pieces should be wired securely with picture wire and screw eyes. No wet paint will be accepted. Diptychs are allowed but multiple-piece works with more than two pieces will not be accepted.

- **Size Limits:** Artists may enter two pieces with a size limit of 60 inches each. Larger works will be considered if space allows.
- **Deadlines:** Please email up to [5] photos of the piece(s) with a description of the work by May 15th. Submissions should be emailed to harkness@portlib.org including #OurStoryIsOne in the email subject line.
- **Entry Fee:** There is no entry fee. Works will not be for sale.
- **Notification:** Portland Public Library will notify all artists who have submitted artwork by June 1, 2024.
- **Dates and Location:** The exhibit, #OurStoryIsOne, will be on display in the Lewis Gallery alongside an exhibit of works from an international health non-profit from July 5 to September 16, 2024.

About #OurStoryIsOne from [The Baha'i International Community](#)

10 Bahá'í women were taken to a square in Shiraz, Iran, under the cloak of night. After months of torture and imprisonment, they were mass executed without the knowledge of their families. One was 17, most in their 20s. Their crime was their belief in a faith that promoted gender equality — absent and criminalized in Iran — justice and truthfulness. They were hanged one by one, each forced to watch the next woman's death in a harrowing attempt to coerce them into renouncing their faith. None did.

Their story, however, is not over. It was a chapter in the unfolding story of Iranian women's resilience and sacrifice for equality. Following that tragic event and for the four decades that



followed, hundreds more Bahá'í women were persecuted — facing discrimination both as women and as Bahá'ís — imprisoned, tortured, and executed. Bahá'í women serving in positions of influence in the country were dismissed from their jobs, arrested or killed. Those left to live were barred from universities, public employment and virtually all aspects of social life.

Today, in the blood, tears and wounds of thousands of young women in Iran fighting for equality, we can see the legacy of the 10 women of Shiraz whose tragic death touched the lives of many. We see the same spirit, the same choice being made: to stand up for the principles of justice and equality at any cost, even one's life. Though mistreated and imprisoned, today's women — just like those before them — are bravely and joyously sacrificing their all to live in a more prosperous Iran.

The Baha'i International Community has now launched a global campaign, called #OurStoryIsOne, to honor the executed women and the long struggle for equality lived by women of all faiths in Iran for more than four decades which continues to this day. The campaign aims to demonstrate that despite the Iranian government's efforts to sow discord and hate between groups, that our story is a shared one. We have become unified in our suffering and resilience, in our persecution and unwavering strength to combat oppression and above all to rebuild Iran, whatever sacrifices it takes.

Join us in honoring not only the anniversary of these 10 women but to use it as an opportunity to honor all women who have contributed to building a better Iran through their suffering, to say that our story is one and that through our unity, we will combat oppression.