

Kamilla Kurmanbekova

Van Nuys, CA 91401
Phone: 626-701-6212
Email: kamilla8600@gmail.com

SUMMARY

Scenic Designer, Educator, and Creative Director with 15+ years of international experience in theater, film, and arts education. MFA-trained at Boston University, specializing in stage design, scenic painting, and hands-on teaching.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Southern California (USC) — Los Angeles, CA
Scenic Artist / Consultant, Spring 2026

LifePlus LA — Los Angeles, CA
Art & Academic Director, Dec 2023–Present

ArtFest LA — Los Angeles, CA
Lead Creative Director / Organizer, 2025

MJ Atelier — Los Angeles, CA
Lead Sculptor / Scenic Painter / Instructor, Dec 2019–Dec 2023

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

LifePlus LA — Los Angeles, CA
Academic Director / Art Instructor, 2023–Present

Almaty Design School — Almaty, Kazakhstan
Art Instructor, 2015–2016

Kazakh National Academy of Arts (T.K. Zhurgenov) — Almaty, Kazakhstan
Lecturer, 2012–2015

Boston University — Boston, MA
Teaching Assistant, 2010–2012

STAGE DESIGN / PRODUCTION EXPERIENCE

International (USA, Europe, Central Asia), 2005–2018

Designed sets, scenic painting, costumes, and props for 40+ productions.

Selected Works:

- *Qyrq Qyz (Forty Girls)* — Brooklyn Academy of Music; Dartmouth College; Musée du quai Branly – Jacques Chirac
- *Akiko in Aktas* — dir. A. Mayamirov, Auezov Theater, Almaty
- *Threepenny Opera* — dir. E. Nursultan, Auezov Theater, Almaty
- *Funny Money* — Auezov Theater, Almaty
- *Base Jumping* — Artishock Theater, Almaty
- *Alice in Wonderland* — TheaterLab, Spain
- *Assassins* — New Repertory Theater, Boston; Boston University
- *Woyzeck* — Boston University CFA
- *The Hairy Ape* — Boston University Theater Lab
- *ALZHIR* — National Opera and Ballet Theater, Astana
- *Medea* — KazNAA Stage, Almaty

FILM / CINEMATOGRAPHY EXPERIENCE

- 2015 — Costume Designer, *Crush Test Aglae*, dir. E. Gravel
- 2014 — Art Director, *Boy Duck*, dir. A. Uzabaev
- 2014 — Art Director, *Maxabatym Zhuregimde*, dir. A. Uzabaev
- 2013 — Costume Designer, *Wounded Angel*, dir. E. Baigazin (<https://www.augenschein-filmproduktion.de/en/films/detail/the-wounded-angel.html>)
- 2013 — Art Director, *Trace on the Water*, dir. T. Temenov
- 2009 — Art Director, *Mai*, dir. S. Abishev
- 2008 — Photographer, Kodak Project, Branson, MI, USA
- 2007 — Art Director, “Cesna” Commercial, Almaty
- 2007 — Art Director, “No Smoking” Campaign, Almaty

- 2006 — Art Director, *Man Stick*, dir. A. Gancev

EXHIBITIONS

- 2013 — Venice Biennale, Central Asian Pavilion, Venice, Italy
- 2011 — Prague Quadrennial, Prague, Czech Republic
- 2010–2012 — Incite Festival, New York, USA

AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2012 — Douglas W. Schmidt Award for Outstanding Scenic Design
 - 2012 — Kahn Career Entry Award (Nominee)
 - 2010 — Fund of the First President of Kazakhstan Grant
 - 2009 — Bolashak Scholarship
 - 2001–2002 — National Art Competition Awards (1st & 3rd Place)
-

EDUCATION

Boston University — Boston, MA

Master of Fine Arts in Stage Design, 2012

Teaching Assistant, 2010–2012

Douglas W. Schmidt Award for Outstanding Scenic Design, 2012

Esther B. & Albert S. Kahn Career Entry Award (Nominee), 2012

Kazakh National Academy of Arts — Kazakhstan

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Scenography, 2009

Bolashak Scholarship Recipient, 2009

Los Angeles City College (LACC) — Los Angeles, CA

Associate of Arts in Film Directing, 2022

Accademia del Giglio — Florence, Italy

Painting Studies, Summer Term, 2010

University of Theater and Cinematography named after Sh. Rustaveli — Tbilisi, Georgia

Immersive Theater Studies, 2007

Workshop with Graf Habben — Kazakhstan

Scenography Training, 2006

LANGUAGE SKILLS

- Kazakh (Native)
- Russian (Native)