

PASSION CREATIVITY INSPIRATION

SONISES

CULTURAL

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

**Building a peaceful & healthy world by fostering understanding
about autism and neurodevelopmental disorders**

**SENSES CULTURAL PROMOTES HOLISTIC
PROGRAMS TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT
AUTISM AND NEURODEVELOPMENTAL
DISORDERS THROUGH CUTTING EDGE SCIENCE,
RESEARCH AND THE ARTS**



This year was a truly blessed year for us. At Senses Cultural, we launched our global program by raising awareness about autism in the Middle East. We mapped how autism is often neglected among refugee and migrant communities. And we decided to launch the Senses Academy of Health, to feature information about autism and neurodevelopmental disorders, and provide answers to people and communities in need about available programs and treatments.



Our Art for Autism projects were a big hit, including a rotating photography exhibition about the enduring power of women and people with autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders. Finally, we reached out to local groups in the United States, to build community networks among women working in the field of autism, by taking part in annual conferences.

SENSES CULTURAL and its cross-disciplinary team is proud to serve as an organization with a track record of good will to promote education on autism, and to support academic institutions that work in the field. Our ability to reach out to communities and experts, nationally and internationally, is an asset that few other organizations working in this field have. So, as we look forward to next year, I will share our work every step of the way toward promoting research projects and producing results that improve the quality of life for individuals with autism and neurodevelopmental disorders.

Tata Monfared

Founder and President, SENSES CULTURAL

Key Milestones in 2016



Launched Senses
Academy of Health
website

Health



Promoted journalism on journeys of women from immigrant and refugee communities dealing with autism and neurodevelopmental disorders



Participated at IAWF Conference, to raise awareness about women and autism

Advocacy



**Launched first
exhibition of Art &
Autism in Tehran**



**Launched Enduring Power, to
celebrate women from the
Middle East**

Art

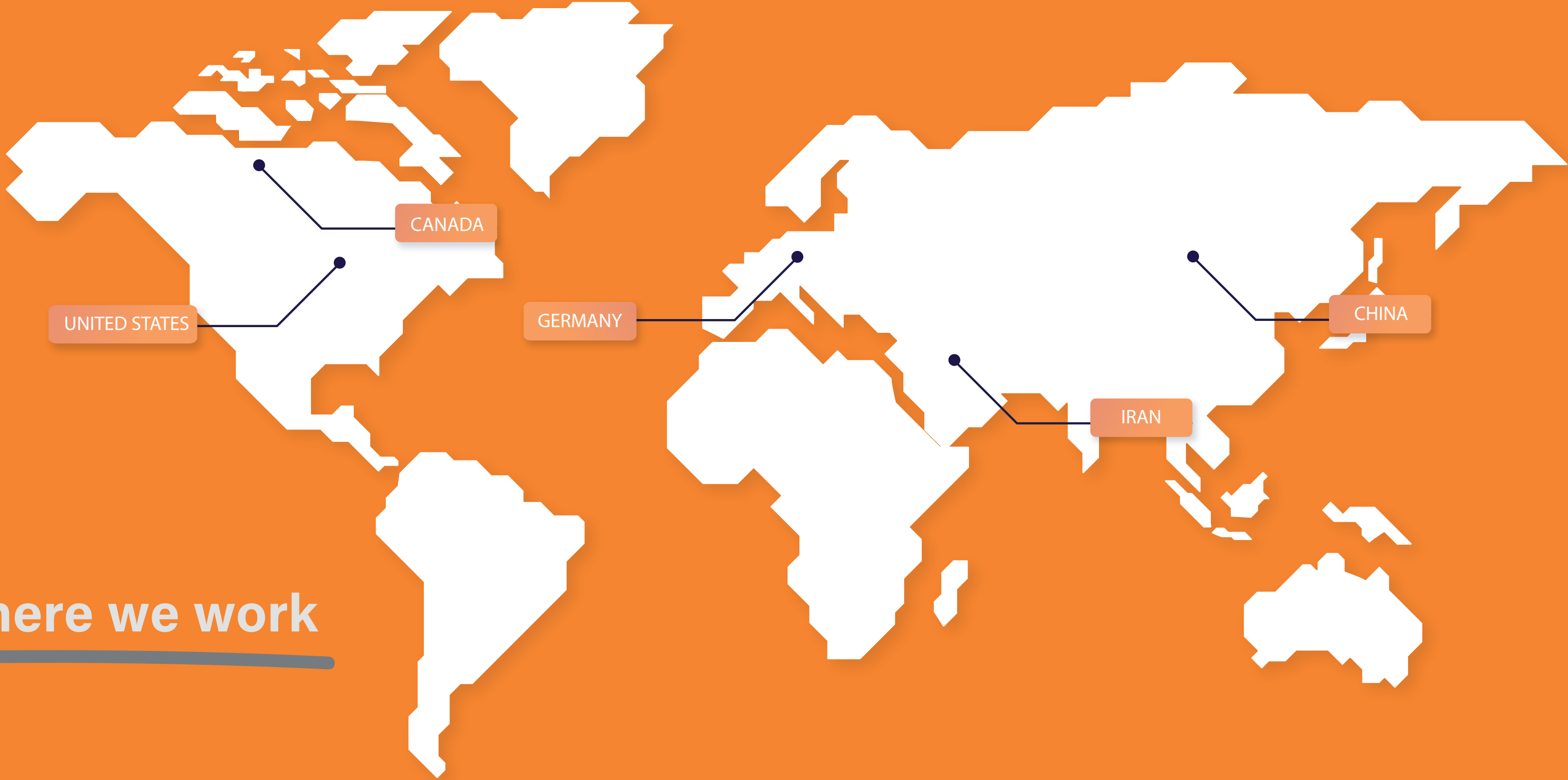
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Mission

Established in 2012, SENSES CULTURAL is a non-profit organization based in Sacramento, California, dedicated to creating a peaceful and healthy world by fostering understanding about autism and neurodevelopment disorders. We cultivate relations with national and international networks, build partnerships with artists, scientists and cultural advocates, and organize events for health experts and artists beyond their own geographic and social borders. Senses Cultural offers partnership opportunities to interested organizations so that together we can sponsor, host and promote projects that fulfill our common goals of serving people and communities dealing with autism and neurodevelopmental disorders. We especially encourage projects in which we can partner with others to build cross-cultural understanding and tolerance around the theme of autism, and celebrate the diversity of the autistic community.

Together with communities, scientists, researchers, social workers, teachers, and psychologists, SENSES CULTURAL is slowly but surely making a global impact



Where we work

***Our stories,
Our impact***

Our stories, Our impact

***SPOTLIGHT
ON HEALTH***



LAUNCHED SENSES ACADEMY OF HEALTH WEBSITE

On Mother's Day, Senses Cultural launched the Senses Health Academy, focusing on Middle Eastern families and featuring information about autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders. Autism is considered to be the fastest growing neurodevelopmental disorder among newborn children. Since mothers often carry the burden of caring for their child with special needs, Senses Cultural aims to give information on this site that lightens that burden. The site includes Question and Answer sections in English and Farsi in which parents ask questions about their child's development and treatment that are then answered by Academy experts. Answers are visible to others visiting the site, without identifying the persons asking the questions.



Our stories, Our impact

SPOTLIGHT ON ART



LAUNCHED FIRST EXHIBITION OF ART & AUTISM IN TEHRAN, IRAN

Senses Cultural and its Iranian sister organization Shokraneh Mavaddat Jahani (Blessings of Universal Contribution) presented the first Art & Autism exhibition at the Niavaran Institute of Art & Culture in Tehran in June and July. Curated by Senses Cultural and art director Atiyeh Razavi, well known and emerging artists in 40 the exhibit introduced the work of Iran. The significance of holding the exhibit in Iran is the growing number of autism cases in the country. The art pieces donated by artists benefitted start up schools helping Iranian immigrant and Middle Eastern families dealing with autistic children in the United States, and building bridges with communities in Iran and the region to share experiences on working with and treating autism through the educational system

LAUNCHED ENDURING POWER TO CELEBRATE MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN

Senses Cultural Made a stop at the UCSC as a site of its Enduring Power exhibition, featuring the lives of women. This traveling photography exhibition, entitled Enduring Power: The Middle Eastern and Iranian Women's Story was kicked off at the UCSC Women's Center. The exhibit was part of the center's Sister event, featuring powerful female photographers. Our exhibit features the work of seven 2016 Solidarity female photographers, displaying intimate, honest and often vulnerable work showing the everyday struggles and celebrations of Middle Eastern and Iranian women

LAUNCHED BILINGUAL AND BUCULTURAL ART EXHIBITIONS

SENSES CULTURAL launched a series of bilingual and bicultural art exhibitions in the US and internationally, to promote our mission to build a more peaceful world by raising awareness about autism and neurodevelopmental disorders. As part of our goal to build cultural understanding between nations, we were pleased to share The Heritage of Iran, a Persian culture and civilization exhibit, in the Persian language. The exhibit attracted local artists from Iran, to help our mission to build autism awareness in the Middle East.

LAUNCHED PERSIAN LANGUAGE FACEBOOK PAGE

To reach a wider audience in the Middle East, SENSES CULTURAL launched a Facebook page in the Persian language designed to raise awareness about autism and neurodevelopmental disorders, and available treatments. Our professional team of contributors worked diligently to connect us with more people around the world, and encourage Persian speakers from around the world to communicate with us.





PARTICIPATED IN GLOBAL WOMEN LEADERS CONFERENCE

SENSES CULTURAL founder, Ms. Tata Monfared, participated in the Global Women Leaders Conference in March, in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates. The WOIBEX conference is the largest gathering for women's empowerment in the 21st century, aiming to close gender gaps and bring women in emerging markets into the global economic mainstream. The conference pays tribute to women who translate leadership into action. Ms. Monfared underlines the obstacles to women's empowerment in the Middle East, especially those dealing with autism and neurodevelopmental disorders. The conference also gave SENSES CULTURAL the opportunity to speak to women art patrons from the Middle East, to explore ways to use the arts to raise awareness about autism.

NETWORKED WITH ARTISTS FROM THE MIDDLE EAST

SENSES CULTURAL networked with artists in the Middle East, to invite them to contribute art to raising awareness about autism and neurodevelopmental disorders. Our active participation in art forums was also enriching in terms of learning about the work of emerging artists from the region, including at Art Dubai international art fair in the MENA region and in South Asia (MENASA), the annual Abraaj Group Art Prize, Sharjah Art Exhibition and Art Foundation, the Global Art Forum, Shirin Gallery and Etemad Gallery in Iran. We also partnered with the International Museum of Women (IMOW) which merged with the Global Fund for Women to raise awareness on vital issues for women globally. To this end, we encouraged our members to submit art to IMOW's joint exhibition with the Global Fund for Women, Imagining Equality: Your Voices on Human Rights, to help the United Nations create a new set of international development goals.

Our stories, Our impact

***SPOTLIGHT
ON ADVOCACY***

PROMOTED JOURNALISM ON JOURNIES OF WOMEN DEALING WITH AUTISM AND NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS

Senses Cultural tracked news by the UN Refugee Agency, to examine the status of millions of Syrian refugees, including women and children, often neglected in terms of their needs coping with autism and neurodevelopmental disorders. This mapping enabled us to launch the Senses Health Academy, to feature information about autism and neurodevelopmental disorders, and provide answers to people and communities in need about available programs and treatments.

PARTICIPATION AT IAWF CONFERENCE

Senses Cultural Founder Ms. Tata Monfared was a featured speaker at the Iranian-American Women Foundation Conference in Orange County, California. She stressed the importance of team work and perseverance to overcoming obstacles to meeting the needs of people with autism. She also shared a Special Report by Senses Cultural on the First Autism Conference that it held in Tehran, Iran. Ms. Monfared stressed how the Tehran conference helped bring positive change for women dealing with autism.



Annual Financials

Senses Cultural receives the bulk of its funds from Ms. Monfared, and a few individuals as well as community donors, and through your financial contributions to the organization