

## Brief bio for Martine van Bijlert

Martine van Bijlert is a mixed media artist, poet and researcher, who grew up in Iran, lives in the Netherlands and, in between, worked as an aid worker, researcher and diplomat, mostly in Afghanistan. She has written extensively on Afghanistan for the [Afghanistan Analysts Network](#). Her [poetry](#) and [art](#) have appeared in literary magazines and other venues across the world.

### Focus on Afghanistan

Martine van Bijlert is co-founder of the Afghanistan Analysts Network (AAN) and has closely followed Afghanistan since the early 1990s. She has published widely, travelled extensively and is near-fluent in Dari.

Martine worked as an aid worker in Grozny (1995) and Taliban-ruled Kabul (1996), as political secretary at the Netherlands Embassy in Tehran in the aftermath of 9/11 (2001-4), political adviser to the EU Special Representative in Kabul (2004-7) and independent adviser on Uruzgan to the Netherlands Embassy in Kabul (2008-9). She co-founded the Afghanistan Analysts Network (AAN) in Kabul in 2009 where she served as co-director until 2017. After a break (to work on a novel) Martine re-joined AAN as a freelance senior analyst and editor.

For more information see: <https://www.afghanistan-analysts.org/en/>

### Focus on literary work

Martine van Bijlert is a poet, novelist and non-fiction writer who grew up in Iran, lives in the Netherlands and, in between, worked as an aid worker, researcher and diplomat, mostly in Afghanistan—a country she still closely follows from afar. She is co-founder of the Afghanistan Analysts Network.

Martine has written a (yet unpublished) novel set in Afghanistan. Her poetry, and art work, has been appearing in literary magazines across the world. She is the author of the forthcoming poetry collection *Peace, peace they say*.

For details see: <https://martinevanbijlert.com/published-work>

### Focus on visual art

Martine van Bijlert is a mixed media artist, poet and researcher, who grew up in Iran, lives in the Netherlands and, in between, worked as an aid worker, researcher and diplomat, mostly in Afghanistan. Her work is firmly rooted in the years she spent reflecting on conflict and transition, identity, hybridity, displacement and belonging.

Martine's visual art shows a fascination with edges and layers and how they affect our lives, using gestures of overlap, overwriting and re-emergence. Interested in residue, movement and friction, she borrows from patterns made by recurring use and repeated change, accident and repair.

Find her art at: <https://www.artworkarchive.com/profile/martine-van-bijlert>

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