

CV **Abdullah M. I. Syed**

Born in 1974, Karachi, Pakistan

Lives & works between Sydney, Karachi & New York

Website: www.abdullahmisyed.com

Academics

- 2015 **Doctor of Philosophy** (Art, Design and Media), University of New South Wales (UNSW), Sydney
- 2009 **Master of Fine Arts**, UNSW, Sydney
- 2001 **Master of Education**, University of Central, Edmond, USA
- 1999 **Bachelor of Art** (Graphic Design & 3D Arts), University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond
- 1995 **Bachelor of Commerce**, Karachi University, Karachi

Solo Exhibitions – * Catalogued /Brochure

- 2017* **Divine Economy: Structures (Chapter One)**, Aicon Gallery, New York
- 2016* **Substitute: The Untold Narrative of a Mother and Son**, Fairfield City Museum & Gallery, Sydney and Canvas Gallery, Karachi
- 2015 **The Balancing Act**, UNSW Galleries, Sydney
- 2013* **Brut Nama**, Aicon Gallery, New York
- 2012* **Art Reserves**, Canvas Gallery, Karachi
- 2010* **Buzzing (Bhin-bhenahut)**, VM Art Gallery, Karachi
- 2009 **Buzzing**, Kudos Gallery and COFA Space, Sydney
- 2007* **Born to Be**, VM Art Gallery, Karachi
- 2004* **Subliminal Voids**, VM Art Gallery, Karachi
- 2001* **Threading: Part Known, Part Unknown**, Galleria Sadequain, Karachi

Selected Group Exhibitions – * Catalogued

- 2018* **Khalas (Enough)**, UNSW Galleries, Sydney
- 2018* **Waqt al-Tageer: Time of Change**, ACE Open, Adelaide
- 2018 **All We Can't See**, Yellow House Gallery, Sydney
- 2017 **I Don't Want To Be There When It Happens**, Perth Institute of Contemporary Art (PICA), Perth
- 2017 **We Are All Affected**, Peacock Gallery, Sydney
- 2017* **Botany of Desire**, Koel Gallery, Karachi
- 2017* **Governance**, The Old Government House, Sydney
- 2017* **The Ancestors**, Dominik Mersch Gallery, Sydney
- 2016 **The Bonds of Steel**, Chatterjee and Lal, Mumbai
- 2016* **Wit(h)ness**, Shrine Empire Gallery, New Delhi - (
- 2016* **Between Structure and Matter: The Other Minimal Futures**, Aicon Gallery, New York
- 2016 **WAR: A Playground Perspective**, Newington Armory Gallery, Sydney
- 2016* **Creative Accounting**, Hawkesbury Gallery, Sydney,

- 2015* **Drawn to From**, Blacktown Arts Centre, Sydney
- 2015 **Future Archaeology**, 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, Sydney
- 2015* **Beyond Measure: Domesticating Distance**, Robert McLaughlin Gallery, Oshawa
- 2015* **Homelands**, Delmar Gallery, Sydney
- 2014 **Site Lines**, Cross Art Projects, Sydney
- 2014 **Subject to Ruin**, Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre
- 2013* **Semblance of Order**, Parramatta Artists Studios exhibition space, Sydney
- 2013 **Drawing Softly, Thinking Aloud**, Yifu Gallery, Shanghai
- 2013* **Extra | Ordinary**, Canvas Gallery, Karachi
- 2013* **MiddleHead: 33° 50' S, 151° 14' E project**, Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney
- 2013* **Some Other Place**, Blacktown Arts Centre, Sydney
- 2012* **Play Pause Stop Rewind**, Lawrie Shabibi, Dubai
- 2012* **The Colour of Narrative: Contemporary Art of Pakistan**, Bangkok Art Centre, Bangkok
- 2012* **Money Talks**, Pataka Museum, Porirua, New Zealand
- 2012 **Mere Humd(r)am**, AICON gallery, New York
- 2011 **The Sound of Drawing**, Lu Xun Academy, Dalian
- 2011* **Whitewash**, Gandhara Art, Karachi
- 2010* **The Rising Tide: Contemporary Art of Pakistan 1990 - 2010**, Mohatta Palace Museum, Karachi
- 2010* **Resemble Reassemble: Contemporary Art from Pakistan**, Devi Art Foundation, New Delhi
- 2009 **How Nations are Made**, Cartwright Hall, Bradford
- 2009* **No Honor in Killing: Making Visible Buried Truth**, National Art Gallery, Islamabad - Traveling show
- 2009* **Lines of Control**, V. M. Art Gallery, Karachi
- 2009* **Bushwhacked**, Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney
- 2009* **Place**, Anant Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 2008* **Simply Paper**, IVS Gallery, Karachi
- 2008* **Let's Draw the Line**, Chawkandi Art, Karachi
- 2007* **Moving Ahead**, National Art Gallery, Islamabad

Biennial, Triennial and Special Projects

- 2017 **Karachi Biennial**, Karachi
- 2017 **Asia Triennial of Performance Art (Asia TOPA)**, MPavilion, Melbourne
- 2015 **Scotiabank Nuit Blanche**, TIFF Lightbox, Toronto
- 2015 **48HR Mass Incident [Bucking Performance]**, 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, Sydney
- 2014 **1st Karachi Print Triennial, International**, Karachi
- 2006 **3rd ASNA Clay Triennial, International**, Karachi

Art Fairs

Art Basel, Art Central, Art Abu-Dubai, Art Dubai, Art International Istanbul, Art 15 London Dubai, Art Stage Singapore, India Art Fair

Performances

- 2017 **Gift (Tohfa)**, ACE Open, Adelaide
2017 **Flesh & Blood**, Asia Society Museum, Asia Contemporary Art Week (ACAW), New York
2017 **Blue Chip**, Aicon Gallery, New York
2017 **The Flying Buck: Eid Edition**, The Big Anxiety Festival, Fairfield Ground, Sydney
2017 **The Flying Buck Exchange**, Asia TOPA: Asia Triennial of performance Art, Melbourne
2016 **The Flying Buck**, Art Central Hong Kong, 4A Roundtable X
2015 **Bucking & Laundering, 48HR Mass Incident**, 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, Sydney
2012 **Char-Bagh**, Wall pelting II, Blacktown Arts Centre, Sydney
2011 **They see neither their heads, nor the stones, nor even the walls!** Wall pelting I, Gandhara Art, Karachi
2011 **Bucking**, Amin Gulgee Gallery, Karachi
2003 **Caution: This May be Art**, Stage Centre, Oklahoma
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Curatorial Work - * Catalogued

- 2015* **Drawn to Form**, Blacktown Arts Centre, (Co-Curator Merran Esson)
2014 **Archival | Revival**, Parramatta Artists Studios and Riversides Theater, Also includes, an International Artists Residency Project for Parramasala
2013* **Semblance of Order**, Parramatta Artists Studios and Cicada press, UNSW - International Artists Residency Print Project - *Traveling exhibition*
2012* **Remarking | Remaking**: Contemporary Australian Drawing Connections, Blacktown Arts Centre - (Co-Curator Wenmin Li, Ph.D.)
2010* **Aboriginal Dreams**, Indigenous Art from Papunia Tjupi, IVS Gallery, Karachi - (Co-Curators, Kasumi Erji, Michael Kempson, and Roohi Ahmed)
2010* **Seen | Unseen**, Survey of Prints by Michael Kemposn, VM Art, Karachi - (Co-Curator Roohi Ahmed)
2010* **Where All the Butterflies Go**, Survey of Drawings by Michael Esson, VM Art, (Co-Curator Roohi Ahmed)
2008* **Let's Draw the Line**, Chawkandi Art, Karachi, (Co-Curator Roohi Ahmed)
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Artists' Workshop and Residency

- 2018 **Carstairs Award Residency**, ACE Open, Adelaide
2015-16 **Fairfield City Museum & Gallery Residency**
2014-15 **Visiting Artist in Residence**, Department of Ceramics, National Art School, Sydney
2013-15 **Parramatta Artists Studios Residency**, Sydney
2011-12 **Blacktown Art Centre Residency**, Sydney
2008-09 **Cicada Press Print Residency**, COFA-UNSW, Sydney
2005 **Britto International Artists' Workshop**, Bangladesh

Achievements and Awards

- 2017 **Winner - Carstairs Prize**, National Association for the Visual Arts (NAVA), Australia
2016 **Finalist - Blake Religious Art prize**
2014 **Finalist - Moran Photography Prize**
2016 **Finalist - Blake Religious Art prize**
2013 **Highly Commended - Woollahra Small Sculpture**
2010 **Winner - Works on Paper, Blacktown Art Prize**
2010 **Runners Up cash prize - Tim Olson Drawing Prize**
2009 **Awarded - UIPA - UNSW Postgraduate (PhD)**
2003 **Winner - Installation Artist Award**, Individual Artists of Oklahoma (IAO), Oklahoma
2002 **Winner - New Artist Mixed Media**, IAO, Oklahoma
1999 **Award of Excellence: The Kennedy Center/ACTF XXXII**, Program & Poster, Dallas
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Collection

ANN Collection (Pakistan/Hong Kong), Blacktown Arts Centre (Australia), Devi Art Foundation Collection (India), Casula Powerhouse Art Centre (Australia), Cicada Press, UNSW (Australia), University of Central Oklahoma (USA), Rangoonwala Collection (Pakistan), US Art in Embassy Islamabad Collection

Work and Teaching Experience

- 1999- **Visual Artist & Designer**
2008-12 **Casual Lecturer, UNSW Art & Design**, UNSW, Sydney
2004-12 **Visiting Lecturer**, Department of Visual Studies, University of Karachi, Karachi
2006 **Coordinator (Design & Media Arts)**: Department of Visual Studies, University of Karachi
1999-03 **Adjunct Lecturer**, College of Arts, Media & Design, University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond
2001-03 **Designer & Art Director**, ClockTower Studio, USA
2001-03 **Designer & Print Consultant**, Advanced Print, USA
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Selected Publications (Catalogue essays, articles, papers & conference proceedings)

- 2018 **Decent by Tazeen Qayyum**, Solo exhibition catalogue essay, Canvas Gallery, Karachi
2017 **Manzoom Muzahamat: Notes on Poetic Activism in Contemporary Pakistani Performance Art**. In TAASA (*The Asian Arts Society of Australia*) Review, vol. 22 (no. 3), September 2017, pp. 16-17
2016 **In Conversation with Ben Rak**, Solo exhibition 'Picture of Scratches' catalogue, Manly Art Gallery & Museum, Sydney
2015 **Art of Barzakh, The Poses, Props and Performances of Masculinity in Pakistani Art**, Ph.D. dissertation, UNSW Art, Media & Design

- 2015 ***Drawn to Form: The Beautiful Ruins***, Exhibition 'Drawn to Form: Matter at Hand' catalogue essay, Blacktown Arts Centre, Sydney, pp. 6-10
- 2015 ***In Conversation with Adeel-uz-Zafar***, Solo exhibition 'Monomania' catalogue, Aicon Gallery, New York
- 2013 ***Drawn from Blood and Tears: Body, Performance and Contemporary Drawing in Pakistan***, Collaborator: Roohi Ahmed. In 6th IDRI Drawing Connections Conference, Marking Time. Donghua University, Shanghai
- 2012 ***Drawing in the Third Space***, Exhibition 'Remaking | Remaking' exhibition catalogue essay, Blacktown Arts Centre, Sydney, pp. 4-10
- 2011 ***Ruptured Masculinity: Male Body in Popular Pakistani Poster Art***. In *Impact 7: Intersections & Counterpoints, International multi-disciplinary printmaking conference, Conference proceedings, Monash University, Melbourne*.
- 2011 ***Let's Draw the Line: The Hidden Pages of Sketchbooks of Pakistani Artists In Recto Verso: Redefining the Sketchbook Conference***, University of Lincoln, Lincoln
- 2010 ***One Stone at a Time - Australian Art in Karachi***, Imprint, June Issue, Print Council of Australia, Sydney
- 2010 ***Seen | Unseen***, Collaborative Catalogue essay with Roohi Ahmed, Survey of Prints by Michael Kempson, V M Art Gallery, Karachi, pp. 4-12
- 2010 ***Where All the Butterflies Go***, Catalogue essay, Survey of Drawings by Michael Esson, V M Art Gallery, Karachi, pp. 4-10
- 2009 ***Baked or Unbaked: Mitti (Clay), Kumhar Culture and the Development of Contemporary Ceramic Arts of Pakistan***. In *First Australian Ceramics Triennial Conference*, Published in CELSIUS: Sydney College of the Arts, Australia. pp. 189-98
- 2009 ***Apology, Protocol and Freedom of Expression in the Muslim World: From Muhammad's Caricature to Benazir's Photo***. In *Art and Appropriation: Post the Apology Symposium*. Sydney: College of Fine Arts UNSW. (Unpublished paper)
- 2009 ***Truck Art of Pakistan, Collaboration, Appropriation and Assimilation***. Research notes courtesy of Durriya Kazi. In *Art and Appropriation: Australia Post Apology Symposium*. UNSW, Sydney
- 2009 ***Let's Draw the Line: Contemporary Pakistani Drawings***. Collaborator: Roohi Ahmed. In 4th IDRI Drawing Connections Conference, Marking Time. College of Fine Arts, UNSW, Australia. (Visual paper)
- 2005 ***Building Global Community on an University Campus***, *Journal of Philosophy and History of Education*, 2005, vol. 55, p. 96
Paper presented at SOPHIE Annual Conference, USA. Collaborators: Malinda Green and Jennifer Endicott.
- 2002 ***UCO's World Within Program and Perception of Muslim Students***, Paper presented at ROCKY Mountain Annual Conference, Stillwater
- 2001 ***Teaching African Art and Multicultural Art Online – Course Website Design***, Poster presented at UCO's Research Day, Edmond, Oklahoma

Bibliography

Books

Hashmi, Salima. *The Eyes Still Seeks*, New Delhi, Penguin, 2015

Khan, Naiza ed. *The Rising Tide, Contemporary Pakistan Art from 1990 to 2010*. Karachi: Mohatta Palace Museum Publications, 2010. pp. 19 and 40 to 44. *The Rising Tide, Contemporary Pakistan Art from 1990 to 2010*. Karachi: Mohatta Palace Museum Publications, 2010. pp. 19 and 40 to 44

Ali, Salwat. *Journeys of the Spirit*, Pakistan Art in the New Millennium. Karachi: FOMMA and Pakistan National Council of the Arts, Foundation of Museum of Modern Art Publications, 2008. pp. 18 & 25

Media Appearances

FBI Radio, *Interview with Isabella Feros, Khalas (Enough)* Exhibition, Sydney, 2018

ABC Arts TV: The Mix Australia, *Interview with Eloise Fuss, Waqt – al-Tageer* Exhibition, Adelaide, 2018

702 ABC AM Radio (Australia), *Interview with Linda Mottram*, Live Broadcast on MiddleHead site, 2013

ABC National Radio (Australia), *Interview with Debora Susan Macoy*, Potters perspective, 2009

Selected Magazines and Newspapers

Dow, Steve, (March 01, 2018), 'I have a post-9/11 mentality': creating art while Muslim in Australia, *The Guardian*

Nicholls, Christine J., , (March 07, 2018), Exhibition explores the diversity of Muslim Australian identities, *In Daily*
<https://indaily.com.au/arts-and-culture/adelaide-festival/2018/03/07/exhibition-explores-diversity-muslim-australian-identities/>

Tan, Cher, (April 2018), Review: *Waqt al-tagheer: Time of Change, Runway*
<http://conversations.runway.org.au/conversations/time-communal-sovereignty/>

Sliuzas, Adelè, (March 2018), *Waqt al-tagheer: Time of Change, Un Projects*
<http://unprojects.org.au/un-extended/reviews/waqt-al-tagheer/>

Correspondent, (2017, January 6), *Capturing a lifetime: Son Pays Tribute to Mother via Photographs*, Tribune PK

Blackwell, Eoin, (2018, February 09), *Australian Artists Powerfully Call Attention To Child Abuse In Offshore Detention Camp*, Huffington Post, Australia

Ahmady, Leeza, (2017, October 6), *An Introduction to Field Meeting Take 5: Thinking Projects*, New York, *Ocula*

Noor, Tausif, (2017, November 03), *Asia Contemporary Art Week Field Meeting: Thinking Projects*, Art Asian Pacific

Correspondent, (2017, January 6), *Capturing a lifetime: Son Pays Tribute to Mother via Photographs*, Tribune PK

Walker, Winsome, (2016, August 3), *Fairfield Host Exhibition from Pakistani Born Artist*, Daily Telegraphy, Sydney

Cotter, Holland, (2016, June 30), *Between Structure and Matter: Other Minimal Futures*, *The New York Times*, New York

Kabra, Fawa, (2016, July), *Between Structure and Matter: Other Minimal Futures*, *Ibraaz: Contemporary Visual Culture in North Africa and the Middle East*. (10), 3

Guglielminetti, Alexandra, (2016, June 10), *Critic's Pick, Between Structure and Matter: Other Minimal Futures*, *ArtForum*

Pearlman, Allen, (2016, March 29), *Binging on Selfies and Regurgitating Money: The Best of Hong Kong's Art Fair Week*, Hyperallegic.com

Fahy, Patrick, (December 2015), *Hawkesbury Gazette* <https://www.hawkesburygazette.com.au/story/3564441/mount-druitt-artists-hive-of-skull-caps-points-to-harmony/>

Zhang, Shellie, (2015, December), *Beyond Measure: Domesticating Distance: Art Asian Pacific*: <http://artasiapacific.com/Magazine/WebExclusives/BeyondMeasureDomesticatingDistance>

One on one Interview, (2015, November 20-21), Abdullah M I Syed, *Canvas* (2), 10

Guest, Luise, (2015, November 16), *Future Archeology, The Art Life*: <http://theartlife.com.au/2015/future-archaeology/>

Adam, James, (2015, October 2), *Toronto's Sweet 16: What to See at Nuit Blanche this Year. The Globe and Mail*: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/toronto/nuit-blanche-16-things-to-see-in-toronto-thisweekend/article26631167/>

Jalil, Rabeya, (2014, October 24), *Karachi to Sydney, The Friday Times*: <http://www.thefridaytimes.com/tft/karachi-to-sydney/>

Mirza, Quddus, (2015, March), *Art in Dubai, The News on Sunday*: <http://tns.thenews.com.pk/art-in-dubai-2015/#.VTIqCEvN71o>

Rajgopal, Ambika, (2013, December), *4 Pakistani artists making art out of violence, Art Radar Asia: Contemporary art trends and news from Asia and beyond* <http://artradarjournal.com/2013/12/13/3-pakistani-artists-making-art-out-of-violence/>

Vasvani, Bansie, (2013, September), *Brut Reconsidered: Abdullah Syed Dissects Pakistani Culture, The Cultural Trip*

Fitzgerald, Michael, (2013, September), *Bullseye as art reveals hidden gems, The Sydney Morning Herald, Arts*, 18

Lipman, Ryan, (2013, September 25), *Artists takes note of capitalist culture, St Mary's-Mt Druitt Standard*

Rizvi, Nafisa, (2012, December), *Interview, ArtNow Pakistan (online), Artist in Diaspora*

Ali, Salwat, (2012, March), *Beyond Warholian Theatrics, Gallery, The Dawn, Cover feature*

Husain, Rumana, (2011, October), *Whitewash in September, Nukta, Vol 6 (2), 22 & 23*

Books and Arts, *Breath of Violence, Contemporary art that reflects the many-sided violence afflicting Pakistan, The Economist, December 16, 2010*

Perlez, Jane, (2010, December 17), *Pakistan's Palette of Blood and Tears, The New York Times, New York*

The Nukta Team, (2010, May), *The Moving Image (Interview), Nukta, Vol 5 (1), 117 & 118*

Rajani, Shahana, (2010, May), *Figure of Speech, Nukta, Vol 5 (1), 13 & 14*

Khan, Sumbul, (2007), *Born to be. Nukta, (22)*

Rizvi, Nafisa, (2007, July), *Interview, Herald, 130 – 133*

Ali, Salwat, (2005, May), *Breaking new grounds, Newsline, Vol 17 (10), 133*

Ali, Salwat, (2005, April), *Artist's predicament, Gallery, The Dawn, Cover feature*

Husain, Marjorie, (2004, June), *Looking for void, Dawn Gallery, Karachi, 3 & 8*

Staff, (2003, April), *Creative sculpture wins top honor before losing original image, Art Review, Daily Oklahoman*

Update - May 2018