

ABDULLAH M. I. SYED

Artist Abdullah M. I. Syed was born in Karachi, Pakistan and presently works between Karachi, Sydney, and New York. Syed's art practice weaves together real and fictional narratives of East and West, seamlessly knitting together cultural and art historical references and concerns from each. Trained in diverse disciplines, Syed utilizes a variety of mediums and techniques including sculpture, video installations, drawing, performance and texts to investigate collisions between art, religion, economy and politics.

Education

2015	Doctor of Philosophy (Art, Design and Media), University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia
2009	Master of Fine Arts, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia
2001	Master of Education (Art & Design), University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond, U.S.
1999	Bachelor of Art (Graphic Design & 3D Arts), University of Central Oklahoma
1995	Bachelor of Commerce, University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan

Select Solo Exhibition

2016-17	<i>Substitute: The Untold Narrative of a Mother and Son</i> , Fairfield City Museum & Gallery, Sydney and Canvas gallery, Karachi
2015	<i>The Balancing Act</i> , UNSW Galleries, Sydney
2013	<i>Brut-Nama (The Chronicles of Brut)</i> , Aicon Gallery, New York
2010	<i>Buzzing (Bhin-bhenahut)</i> , V. M. Art Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
2009	<i>Buzzing</i> , Kudos Gallery and COFA Space, Sydney, Australia
2007	<i>Born to Be</i> , V. M. Art Gallery, Karachi
2004	<i>Subliminal Voids</i> , V. M. Art Gallery, Karachi
2001	<i>Threading: Part Known, Part Unknown</i> , Galleria Sadequain, Karachi

Special Projects, Biennial and Triennial

2017	<i>Karachi Biennial</i> , Karachi, (Chief Curator - Amin Gulgee)
2017	<i>Asia Contemporary Art Week (ACAW) Thinking Project</i> , Asia Society Museum, New York
2017	<i>Asia TOPA (Asia Triennial of Performance Art)</i> , MPavilion, Melbourne
2015	<i>Scotiabank Nuit Blanche (10 for 10th)</i> , TIFF Lightbox, Toronto, (Curator - Che Kothari)
2014	<i>1st Karachi Print Triennial</i> , International, Karachi
2006	<i>3rd ASNA Clay Triennial</i> , International, Karachi

Select Group Exhibitions

2017	<i>We Are All Affected</i> , Peacock Gallery, Sydney, (Curator - Khaled Sabsabi and Nur Shkembri)
2017	<i>Botany of Desire</i> , Koel Gallery, Karachi, (Curator - Roohi Ahmed)
2017	<i>Governance</i> , The Old Government House Parramatta, Sydney, (Curator - Lizzy Marshal)
2017	<i>The Ancestors</i> , Dominik Mersch, Sydney, (Curator - Catherine Benz)
2016	<i>Delicate Bond of Steel</i> , Chatterjee and Lal, Mumbai, (Curator - Projjal Dutta and Andrew Shia)
2016	<i>Between Structure and Matter: Other Minimal Futures</i> , Aicon gallery, New York, (Curators - Murtaza Vali and Prajit Dutta)
2016	<i>Creative Accounting</i> , Hawkesbury Regional Gallery, Sydney, (Curator - Holly Williams)
2016	<i>WAR: A Playground Perspective</i> , Newington Armory Gallery, Sydney, (Curators - Nick Vickers and Allan Giddy)

- 2015 *Future Archeology*, 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, Sydney
Scotiabank Nuit Blanche, Tiff Bell Light-box, Toronto
Beyond Measure, The Robert McLaughlin Gallery, Oshawa
Perrhesia II, Koel Gallery, Karachi
Drawn to Form, Blacktown Arts Centre, Sydney
Homelands, Delmar gallery, Sydney
48HR Incident, 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, Sydney
Semblance of Order, Aicon Gallery, New York
It is a Bird, it is a Plane, Hawkesbury Art gallery, Sydney
SiteLine, Cross Art Project, Sydney
- 2014 *Subject to Ruin*, Causla Powerhosue Arts Centre, Sydney
- 2013 *Drawing Softly, Thinking Aloud*, Yifu gallery, Shanghai
Extra|Ordinary: 37 Do it Yourself Art Ideas for Free, Canvas gallery, Karachi
MiddleHead: 33° 50' S, 151° 14' E project, Mosman Art gallery, Sydney
- 2012 *Stop, Play, Pause, Repeat* Lawrie Shabibi, Dubai
Méré Humd(r)um, Aicon Gallery, New York
- 2011 *A Whole New World*, Third Party Gallery, Cincinnati, Ohio
The Sound of Drawing, Lu Xun Academy of Fine Arts, Dalian, China
MOVIE NIGHT VOL. 4: GLOBAL HOUSE VIDEO SCREENINGS KUNSTHALLE GWANGJU,
Curated by the 3rd Gwangju Biennale International Curator Course, 13 Gwangsan-dong Dong-gu,
Gwangju, Republic of Korea - *Traveling exhibition*
Messages from the South: Contemporary Australian Prints from CICADA Press, COFA UNSW,
International Exhibition Hall, Art Museum of National Taiwan University of Arts, New Taipei
City, Taiwan
And nothing but the truth: The problem with Parrhesia, IVS gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
Whitewash: Site Specific Drawing Project, Gandhara Art, Karachi, Pakistan
Imigi(ni)ng Cities: A South-South Dialogue, Amin Gulgee gallery, Karachi – *Traveling exhibition*
- 2010 *The Rising Tide: Contemporary Art of Pakistan from 1990 to 2010*, Mohatta Palace Museum,
Blacktown Art Prize: Blacktown Art Centre, Sydney, Australia
Tim Olson Drawing Prize, Kudos Gallery, Sydney, Australia
Resemble Reassemble: Contemporary Art from Pakistan, Devi Art Foundation, New Delhi, India
- 2009 *Moving Images*, Poppy Seed, Karachi, Pakistan
Figure of Speech, Two person Exhibition (Cicada Residency), Chawkandi Art, Karachi, Pakistan
India Art Summit (India's Modern and Contemporary Art Fair), New Delhi, India
How Nations are Made, Cartwright Hall, Bradford, UK
No Honor in Killing: Making Visible Buried Truth, National Art Gallery, Islamabad, Pakistan
Lines of Control, V. M. Art Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
Bushwhacked, Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney, Australia
Place, Anant Art Gallery, New Delhi, India
- 2008 *Simply Paper*, IVS Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
Let's Draw the Line, Chawkandi Art Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
- 2007 *Dislocation*, Kudos Gallery, Sydney, Australia
Draw Your Soul Project, Reg Vardy Gallery, Sunderland, UK
Moving Ahead, (Inaugural Exhibition), National Art Gallery, Islamabad, Pakistan
Sohni Dharti, Karachi Arts Council, Karachi, Pakistan
- 2006 *3rd ASNA Clay Triennial, International*, Karachi, Pakistan
256 Shades, V M Art Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
6/6: The Labyrinth, V. M. Art Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
- 2005 *Something Purple: Media Art From Pakistan*, Artist Commune, Hong Kong, China
Two Person Ceramic Sculptures Exhibition, Ripples series, Khaas Gallery, Islamabad, Pakistan
1st M A Rangoonwala Visual Arts Award Exhibition, V M Art Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
- 2003 *Edge Art Now*, IAO Gallery, Oklahoma City, USA
- 2001-02 *UCO Art & Design Faculty Show*, Central Museum Of Art, Edmond, Oklahoma, USA
- 2002 *Momentum: Art Doesn't Stand Still*, Stage Center, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, USA

Awards & Honors

2017	<i>Winner: Carstairs Prize</i> , National Association for the Visual Arts, Australia
2016	<i>Finalist: Blake Religious Art Prize</i> , Casula Powerhouse, Sydney
2015	<i>Finalist: The Josephine Ulrick and Win Schubert Photography Award</i> , The Art Centre Gold Coast <i>Finalist: Hazelhursts Art Prize</i> , Hazelhursts Art Gallery, Sydney
2014	<i>Semi-Finalist: Doug Moran National Photography Prize</i> - in collaboration with Ben Rak
2013	<i>Finalist: Blake Religious Art Prize</i> , COFA Galleries, Sydney - in collaboration with Ben Rak <i>Highly Commended: Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize</i> , Woollahra Council, Sydney
2011	<i>Celeste Art Prize</i> , (catalogue selection), New York
2010	<i>Blacktown Art Prize (Winner - Works on Paper)</i> , Blacktown Art Centre, Sydney <i>Tim Olson Drawing Prize (First Runners Up)</i> , Kudos gallery, Sydney
2009	<i>UIPA - UNSW Postgraduate Scholarship (PhD)</i> , University of New South Wales, Sydney
2006	<i>COFA's Senior Artist from Asia Scholarship</i> , University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia
2003	<i>Installation Artist Award</i> , Individual Artists of Oklahoma (IAO), Oklahoma
2002	<i>New Artist in Mixed Media Award</i> , Individual Artists of Oklahoma (IAO), Oklahoma
1999	<i>The Kennedy Center/ACTF XXXII, Program & Poster</i> , Award of Excellence, Dallas, Texas