

SAKS AFRIDI

Born 1975, Peshawar, Pakistan

Saks Afridi is a multi-disciplinary artist who was raised in several countries. Saks's art practice is two-fold: Collaborative and Personal. His personal work investigates the predicaments and perplexities of the life of an 'Insider Outsider'. This is the practice of achieving a sense of belonging while being out of place, finding happiness in a state of temporary permanence, and re-contextualizing existing historical and cultural narratives with the contemporary.

His latest project 'SpaceMosque', exists in a new genre he terms as 'Sci-fi Sufism'. Here he explores the idea of 'spiritual machines' that fuse mysticism and technology, bringing humanity closer to understanding itself. Inspired by AfroFuturism, he sees this para-fictional approach to Islamic folklore and mythology as a contemporary sister movement he calls Subcontinental Futurism.

Saks comes to art with a background in advertising, as a Creative Director on brands such as Mercedes-Benz and MTV. He studied at the Academy of Art and later sculpture at the Art Students League of New York. He speaks English, Arabic, Urdu and Pashto. Saks is the proud recipient of 2 Gold Cannes Lion Awards, 3 D&AD Pencils, 2 OneShow pencils and a United Nations Award for Peace & Understanding. His work has also been featured in The New York Times, The Guardian, Al Jazeera, CNN and The Colbert Report.

The artist lives and works in New York City.

Education

2016	Art Students League of New York, Sculpture
2004	Academy of Art University, Commercial and Advertising Art
1998	Eastern Connecticut State University

Selected Exhibitions

2019	<i>SpaceMosque</i> , Aicon Gallery, New York
2018	<i>Delicate Bond of Steel</i> , Aicon Gallery with Marta Hewett Gallery, Cincinnati
2018	<i>Something Else - Off Biennale</i> , Cairo
2018	<i>Hyperreal</i> , Aicon Gallery, New York
2017	Pulse Art Fair, Miami, Florida
2017	National Art Gallery, Islamabad, Pakistan
2017	Abu Dhabi Art Fair, Abu Dhabi, UAE
2017	Governors Island Art Fair, New York
2017	Aljira Center for Contemporary Art, New Jersey
2017	<i>Sown Together</i> , Aicon Gallery, New York
2017	Whitebox Gallery, New York
2016	Salt Arts Festival, London
2016	Children's Museum of Manhattan, New York
2016	Whitebox Gallery, New York
2014	Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Netherlands
2014	Dumbo Art Festival, New York
2014	Miami Art Basel, The Fringe Art Fair
2014	The Society of Domestic Museology, New York
2013	Phyllis Harriman Mason Gallery, New York
2012	<i>Artists in Advertising</i> , The Gartner Gallery, New York

Awards & Residencies

Cannes Lions

D&AD

UN Award for Peace and Understanding

The One Show

The Clio

Art Directors Club

Communication Arts (Advertising, Design & Typography)