

ABDULLAH M. I. SYED

Born 1974, Karachi, Pakistan

Syed's artwork utilizes a variety of mediums and techniques to communicate complex political ideas. This includes print screening and the shadow play produced with dollar bills and razorblades. His political commentary tackles controversial topics such as the War on Terror, immigration, and Western attitudes towards the East. He participated in the Britto artists' workshop and an artist residency at Cicada Press. He has also co-curated exhibitions, notably Michael Esson: A Survey of Drawing, Michael Kempson: A Survey of Prints, Aboriginal Dreams and Let's Draw the Line in Karachi, Pakistan. As a designer he coordinated the Design Department at the University of Karachi as well as lectured there and at UCO in the United States. He is currently completing his Ph. D at the College of Fine Arts in Sydney, Australia.

The artist lives and works between Sydney, Karachi and New York.

Education

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

Select Solo Exhibition

2017	<i>Divine Economy – Chapter One: Structures</i> , Aicon Gallery, New York
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
2009	<i>Buzzing</i> , Kudos Gallery and COFA Space, Sydney
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

- 2018 *Art for Education: Artisti Contemporanei dal Pakistan*, Museo Diocesano Carlo Maria Martini Milano, Milan, (Curator: Salima Hashmi & Rosa Maria Falvo)
- 2018 *Infinite Present (Enough)*, Gallery 344, Cambridge, (Curator: Marie Costello)
- 2018 *Drawn to Form II: Making Spaces*, Koel Gallery, Karachi, (Curator: Aziz Sohial)
- 2018 *Khalas (Enough)*, UNSW Galleries, Sydney, (Curators - Phillip George and Nur Shkembi)
- 2018 *Waqt al-Tageer: Time of Change*, ACE Open, Adelaide, (Curators - Abdul-Rahman Abdullah and Nur Shkembi)
- 2018 *All We Can't See*, Yellow House Gallery, Sydney, (Curator - Arielle Gamble)
- 2017 *I Don't Want To Be There When It Happens*, Perth Institute of Contemporary Art (PICA), Perth, (Curators - Mikala Tai, Kate Warren, Eugenio Viola)
- 2017 *We Are All Affected*, Peacock Gallery, Sydney, (Curator - Khaled Sabsabi and Nur Shkembi)
- 2017 *Botany of Desire*, Koel Gallery, Karachi, (Curator - Roohi Ahmed)
- 2017 *Governance*, The Old Government House Parramatta, Sydney, (Curator - Lizzy Marshal)
- 2017 *The Ancestors*, Dominik Mersch, Sydney, (Curator - Catherine Benz)
- 2016 *Delicate Bond of Steel*, Chatterjee and Lal, Mumbai, (Curator - Projjal Dutta and Andrew Shea)
- 2016 *Between Structure and Matter: Other Minimal Futures*, Aicon Gallery, New York, (Curators - Murtaza Vali and Prajit Dutta)
- 2016 *Creative Accounting*, Hawkesbury Regional Gallery, Sydney, (Curator - Holly Williams)
- 2016 *WAR: A Playground Perspective*, Newington Armory Gallery, Sydney, (Curators - Nick Vickers and Allan Giddy)
- 2015 *Future Archeology*, 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, Sydney
- 2015 *Scotiabank Nuit Blanche*, Tiff Bell Light-box, Toronto
- 2015 *Beyond Measure*, The Robert McLaughlin Gallery, Oshawa
- 2015 *Perrhesia II*, Koel Gallery, Karachi
- 2015 *Drawn to Form*, Blacktown Arts Centre, Sydney
- 2015 *Homelands*, Delmar gallery, Sydney
- 2015 *48HR Incident*, 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, Sydney
- 2015 *Semblance of Order*, Aicon Gallery, New York
- 2015 *It is a Bird, it is a Plane*, Hawkesbury Art gallery, Sydney
- 2015 *SiteLine*, Cross Art Project, Sydney
- 2014 *Subject to Ruin*, Causla Powerhosue Arts Centre, Sydney
- 2013 *Drawing Softly, Thinking Aloud*, Yifu gallery, Shanghai
- 2013 *Extra|Ordinary: 37 Do it Yourself Art Ideas for Free*, Canvas gallery, Karachi
- 2013 *MiddleHead: 33° 50' S, 151°14' E project*, Mosman Art gallery, Sydney
- 2012 *Stop, Play, Pause, Repeat* Lawrie Shabibi, Dubai
- 2012 *Méré Humd(r)um*, Aicon Gallery, New York
- 2011 *A Whole New World*, Third Party Gallery, Cincinnati, Ohio
- 2011 *The Sound of Drawing*, Lu Xun Academy of Fine Arts, Dalian, China
- 2011 *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*
- 2011 *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
- 2011 *And nothing but the truth: The problem with Parrhesia*, IVS gallery, Karachi
- 2011 *Whitewash*: Site Specific Drawing Project, Gandhara Art, Karachi
- 2011 *Imagi(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, Karachi
- 2010 *Blacktown Art Prize*: Blacktown Art Centre, Sydney, Australia
- 2010 *Tim Olson Drawing Prize*, Kudos Gallery, Sydney, Australia
- 2010 *Resemble Reassemble: Contemporary Art from Pakistan*, Devi Art Foundation, New Delhi, India
- 2009 *Moving Images*, Poppy Seed, Karachi
- 2009 *Figure of Speech*, Two person Exhibition (Cicada Residency), Chawkandi Art, Karachi
- 2009 *India Art Summit* (India's Modern and Contemporary Art Fair), New Delhi, India
- 2009 *How Nations are Made*, Cartwright Hall, Bradford, UK
- 2009 *No Honor in Killing: Making Visible Buried Truth*, National Art Gallery, Islamabad
- 2009 *Lines of Control*, V. M. Art Gallery, Karachi
- 2009 *Bushwhacked*, Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney, Australia
- 2009 *Place*, Anant Art Gallery, New Delhi, India
- 2008 *Simply Paper*, IVS Gallery, Karachi
- 2008 *Let's Draw the Line*, Chawkandi Art Gallery, Karachi
- 2007 *Dislocation*, Kudos Gallery, Sydney, Australia
- 2007 *Draw Your Soul Project*, Reg Vardy Gallery, Sunderland, UK
- 2007 *Moving Ahead*, (Inaugural Exhibition), National Art Gallery, Islamabad
- 2007 *Sohni Dharti*, Karachi Arts Council, Karachi
- 2006 *3rd ASNA Clay Triennial, International*, Karachi
- 2006 *256 Shades*, V M Art Gallery, Karachi
- 2006 *6/6: The Labyrinth*, V. M. Art Gallery, Karachi
- 2005 *Something Purple: Media Art From Pakistan*, Artist Commune, Hong Kong
- 2005 *Two Person Ceramic Sculptures Exhibition, Ripples series*, Khaas Gallery, Islamabad
- 2005 *1st M A Rangoonwala Visual Arts Award Exhibition*, V M Art Gallery, Karachi
- 2003 *Edge Art Now*, IAO Gallery, Oklahoma City
- 2001-02 *UCO Art & Design Faculty Show*, Central Museum Of Art, Edmond, Oklahoma
- 2002 *Momentum: Art Doesn't Stand Still*, Stage Center, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Awards & Honors

- 2019 *Finalist* – Sovereign International Asian Art Prize
- 2018 *Finalist* - Woollahra Small Sculpture
- 2017 *Winner: Carstairs Prize*, National Association for the Visual Arts, Australia
- 2016 *Winner - Niggah Art Award* (Printmaking), Pakistan
- 2016 *Finalist: Blake Religious Art Prize*, Casula Powerhosue, Sydney
- 2015 *Finalist: The Josephine Ulrick and Win Schubert Photography Award*, The Art Centre Gold Coast
- 2015 *Finalist: Hazelhurts Art Prize*, Hazelhurts Art Gallery, Sydney
- 2014 *Semi-Finalist: Doug Moran National Photography Prize* - in collaboration with Ben Rak
- 2013 *Finalist: Blake Religious Art Prize*, COFA Galleries, Sydney - in collaboration with Ben Rak
- 2013 *Highly Commended: Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize*, Woollahra Council, Sydney
- 2011 *Celeste Art Prize*, (catalogue selection), New York
- 2010 *Blacktown Art Prize (Winner - Works on Paper)*, Blacktown Art Centre, Sydney
- 2010 *Tim Olson Drawing Prize (First Runners Up)*, Kudos gallery, Sydney
- 2009 *UIPA - UNSW Postgraduate Scholarship (PhD)*, University of New South Wales, Sydney
- 2006 *COFA's Senior Artist from Asia Scholarship*, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia
- 2003 *Installation Artist Award*, Individual Artists of Oklahoma (IAO), Oklahoma
- 2002 *New Artist in Mixed Media Award*, Individual Artists of Oklahoma (IAO), Oklahoma
- 1999 *The Kennedy Center/ACTF XXXII, Program & Poster*, Award of Excellence, Dallas, Texas