

# GALLERY SALLY DAN — CUTHBERT

ABDULLAH M. I. SYED | CV

Born in 1974, Karachi, Pakistan  
Lives & works between Sydney and Karachi

## Education

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

## Public Art Commissions

2023	<i>Woven Cascade, Australian Embassy</i> , Washington D.C. Commissioner: Government of Australia via the Agency 2023 Mural, UNSW Main Campus Library (7th Floor), Sydney UNSW Alumni Art Collection
2022	<i>Ripple Effect</i> , 5 Parramatta Square (PHive), Tilt Design, Sydney
2022	<i>Tesserae Wall</i> , UAP, Warwick Farm Commuter Car Park Façade, Sydney
2015	<i>Light upon Light</i> , Scotiabank Nuit Blanche, TIFF Lightbox, Toronto

## Solo Exhibitions

2023	<i>Rebellious Belly</i> , Penrith Regional Gallery, Sydney, Australia
2021	<i>Unframing Sight: Transparency &amp; Reflections</i> , From Collection X, Penrith Regional Gallery, Sydney, Australia <i>Common Threads Run Deep</i> , Gallery Sally Dan-Cuthbert, Sydney, Australia <i>Light Upon Light</i> , Aicon Contemporary, New York
2020.	<i>Cut from the Same Cloth</i> , Canvas Gallery, Karachi
2017	<i>Divine Economy: Structures (Chapter One)</i> , Aicon Gallery, New York,
2016	<i>Substitute: The Untold Narrative of a Mother and Son</i> , Fairfield City Museum & Gallery, Sydney, Australia
2015	<i>The Balancing Act</i> , UNSW Galleries, Sydney, Australia
2013	<i>Brut Nama</i> , Aicon Gallery, New York
2012	<i>Art Reserves</i> , Canvas Gallery, Karachi, <i>Curator: Nafisa Rizvi</i>
2010	<i>Buzzing (Bhin-bhenahut)</i> , VM Art Gallery, Karachi
2009	<i>Buzzing</i> , Kudos Gallery and COFA Space, Sydney, Australia
2007	<i>Born to Be</i> , VM Art Gallery, Karachi
2004	<i>Subliminal Voids</i> , VM Art Gallery, Karachi
2001	<i>Threading: Part Known, Part Unknown</i> , Galleria Sadequain, Karachi

## Selected Group Exhibitions

2024	<i>Dreams Nursed in Darkness</i> , Wollongong Art Gallery, Wollongong
2024	<i>Manzar: Art and Architecture from Pakistan 1940s to Today</i> , National Museum of Doha, Qatar
2024	<i>Sydney Contemporary</i> , Gallery Sally Dan-Cuthbert, Carriageworks, Sydney
2022	<i>Looking at Gold</i> , Casula Powerhouse, Sydney
2021	<i>The National</i> , AGNSW, Sydney, <i>curator: Matt Cox &amp; Erin Vink</i> 2019 Karachi Biennial, Karachi, <i>Curator: Muhammad Zeeshan</i>
2020	<i>In Nature</i> , Gallery Sally Dan-Cuthbert, Sydney <i>Make the World Again</i> , Vancouver, curator: Dr. Kevin Murray

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- 2019 *For Love or Money*, Town Hall Gallery, Melbourne, Curator: Sophia Chi  
*The Armory Show*, Aicon Contemporary, Focus section, New York, Curator: Crystal Bridges  
*How to: Democracy*, Campbelltown Arts Centre, Sydney, Curators: Michale Dagostino and Adam Porter
- 2018 *Art for Education: Artisti Contemporanei dal Pakistan*, Museo Diocesano Carlo Maria Martini Milano, Milan, Curator: Salima Hashmi & Rosa Maria Falvo  
*Infinite Present (Enough)*, Gallery 344, Cambridge, UK, Curator: Marie Costello  
*Khalas (Enough)*, UNSW Galleries, Sydney, Curators: Dr. Phillip George & Nur Shkempi  
*Waqt al-Tageer: Time of Change*, ACE Open, Adelaide, Curators: Nur Shkempi & Abul-Rehman Abdullah  
*All We Can't See*, Yellow House Gallery, Sydney, Curators: Arielle Gamble & Daniel New
- 2017 *Asia Triennial of Performance Art*, Melbourne  
*Karachi Biennial*, Karachi, Curator: Amin Gulgee  
*I Don't Want To Be There When It Happens*, Institute of Contemporary Art (PICA), Perth, Australia  
*Governance*, The Old Government House Parramatta, Curator: Lizzy Marshall  
*The Ancestors*, Dominik Mersch Gallery, Sydney, Curator: Catherine Benz
- 2016 *Between Structure and Matter: The Other Minimal Futures*, Aicon Gallery, New York  
*WAR: A Playground Perspective*, Newingont Armory Gallery, Sydney  
*Object in Space: Artist in the Garden*, Peacock Gallery, Sydney, Curator: Glenn Barkley  
*Creative Accounting*, Hawkesbury Gallery, Sydney, Curator: Holly Williams
- 2015 *48HR Mass Incident [Bucking Performance]*, 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, Sydney  
*Future Archaeology*, 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, Sydney  
*Beyond Measure: Domesticating Distance*, Robert McLaughlin Gallery, Oshawa  
*Homelands*, Delmar Gallery, Sydney, Curator: Catherine Benz
- 2014 *Subject to Ruin*, Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, Curator: Adam Porter  
*1st Karachi Print Triennial*, International, Karachi
- 2013 *MiddleHead: 33° 50' S, 151°14' E project*, Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney, Curator: John Cheeseman  
*Some Other Place*, Blacktown Arts Centre, Sydney, Curator: Paul Howard
- 2012 *Play Pause Stop Rewind*, Lawrie Shabibi, Dubai, Curator: Nafisa Rizvi  
*Money Talks*, Pataka Museum, Porirua
- 2010 *The Rising Tide: Contemporary Art of Pakistan 1990 - 2010*, Mohatta Palace, Karachi, Curator: Naiza Khan
- 2010 *Resemble Reassemble: Contemporary Art from Pakistan*, Devi Art, New Delhi, Curator: Rashid Rana
- 2009 *How Nations are Made*, Cartwright Hall, Bradford, Curator: Hammad Nasar
- 2009 *Bushwhacked*, Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney
- 2009 *Place*, Anant Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 2007 *Moving Ahead*, National Art Gallery, Islamabad, Curator: Salima Hashmi
- 2006 *3rd ASNA Clay Triennial*, International, Karachi

#### Grants and Scholarships

- 2020 Awarded – Blacktown Art Centre Grant
- 2019 Awarded – NSW Artists' Grant (NAVA)
- 2017 Awarded - Carstairs Prize, National Association for the Visual Arts (NAVA), Australia
- 2009 Awarded - UIPA - UNSW PhD
- 2006 Awarded - Senior Artists from Asia - UNSW MFA

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## Awards and Achievements

2024	Finalist - Environmental Art Prize, Northern Beaches, Sydney
2024-22	Finalist - Blake Religious Art Prize
2019	Finalist - Sovereign International Asian Art Prize
2018.	Finalist - Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize, Sydney
2016	Winner - Niggah Art Award (Printmaking), Pakistan
2015	Finalist - The Josephine Ulrick and Win Schubert Photography Award
2015	Finalist - Hazelhurts Art Prize
2014	Semi-Finalist - Doug Moran Photography Prize
2013	Highly Commended - Woollahra Small Sculpture
2010	Winner - Blacktown Art Prize (Drawing)
2010	Runners Up cash prize - Tim Olson Drawing Prize
2003	Winner - Installation Artist Award, IAO, Oklahoma
2002	Winner - New Artist Mixed Media, IAO, Oklahoma
1999	Award of Excellence: The Kennedy Center/ACTF XXXII, Program & Poster, Dallas

## Collections

Art Gallery of New South Wales  
Australian Embassy, Washington D.C.  
ANN Collection, Pakistan/Hong Kong  
Blacktown Arts Centre, Australia  
Casula Powerhouse Art Centre, Australia;  
Chevron Australian Art Collection  
the Devi Art Foundation, India  
Rangoonwala Collection, Pakistan  
University of New South Wales Art Collection  
University of Central Oklahoma Art Collection, USA  
US Art in Embassy Collection, Islamabad, Pakistan  
The Westfarmers Collection of Australian Art and numerous private collections across the world.

## Residencies and Workshops

2022	Garland Magazine, Craft Writing Residency
2019	ArtSpace, One-Year Studio Residency, Sydney
2018	ACE Open, Adelaide (NAVA Carstairs Prize Residency)
2014-15	Department of Ceramics, National Art School, Sydney 2015-16 Fairfield City Museum & Gallery Residency
2012-15	Parramatta Artists' Studios, Sydney
2011	Blacktown Arts Centre, Sydney
2008-09	Cicada Press, UNSW, Sydney
2005	Britto International Artists' Workshop, Dhaka & Bogra

## Performances

2023	<i>99:49</i> , Penrith Regional Gallery, Sydney
2019	<i>Bacha Jamoora</i> , Karachi Zoo, Karachi Biennial
2018	<i>Gift (Tohfa)</i> , ACE Open, Adelaide
2017	<i>Flesh &amp; Blood</i> , Asia Society Museum, Asia
2017	<i>Flying Buck Exchange</i> , Asia TOPA: Asia Triennial of Performance Art, Melbourne
2016	<i>Flying Buck</i> , Art Central Hong Kong, 4A Roundtable X

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- 2015 *Bucking & Laundering, 48HR Mass Incident*, 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, Sydney  
2012 *Char-Bagh*, Wall pelting, Blacktown Arts Centre, Sydney  
2003 *Caution: This May be Art*, Stage Centre, Oklahoma

Selected Bibliography

- 2021 Art Collector, Pull Focus with Abdullah M I Syed, *Interview with Susan Acret*, 2021  
Acret, Susan (2021, May/June), Poetic Resistance, *Art Asian Pacific*, Profile Feature  
Fenner, Felicity (2021, 31 March), Despair and hope; anger and optimism: The National 2021,  
*The Conversation*  
Kale, Neha (2021, 19 March), The National: using art to tell stories of family who could not  
speak, *The Sydney Morning Herald*
- 2019 Ghani, Zoe (2019, 5 March), The Worldly Currency of Abdullah Syed, *Garland Magazine*
- 2018 ABC Arts TV: The Mix Australia, *Interview with Eloise Fuss*, *Waqat-al-Tageer* Exhibition  
Simpson, Moira, (2018, Sep), Artist profile, *Textile Fibre Forum*, pp. 28-33  
Perlez, Jane, (2010, 17 December), Pakistan's Palette of Blood and Tears, *The New York Times*, New York