

## BIOGRAPHY

**Abdullah M.I. Syed** (b. 1974) is a Pakistani-born contemporary artist and designer working between Sydney, Karachi and New York. His art practice weaves real and fictional narratives of east and west, seamlessly knitting together cultural and art historical references and concerns from each.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 utilises a variety of mediums and techniques including sculpture, video installations, drawing, performance and texts to investigate the complex artistic, spiritual, economics and political collisions of hybrid identities. Syed holds a PhD in Art, Media and Design (2016) and a Master of Fine Arts (2009) from University of New South Wales, Sydney. He also holds a Bachelor of Art in Design (1999) and a Master of Education (2001) from University of Central Oklahoma (UCO), Oklahoma, USA. Syed coordinated the Department of Design at the University of Karachi and has lectured at UCO (2000-2003) and UNSW Art & Design (2009-2012).

Syed's works have been featured in nine solo exhibitions and several national and international curated group exhibitions such as *Substitute*, Fairfield City Museum and Gallery, Sydney (2016), *Between Structure and Matter: The Other Minimal Futures*, Aicon Gallery, New York (2016); *Creative Accounting*, Hawkesbury Regional Gallery, Sydney (2016); *WAR*, Newington Armory Gallery, Sydney (2016), *Future Archeology*, 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, Sydney (2015); *Scotiabank Nuit Blanche*, Tiff Bell Light-box, Toronto (2015); *48HR Incident*, 4A, Sydney (2014); *Subject to Ruin*, Causla Powerhouse Arts Centre, Sydney (2014); *Drawing Softly, Thinking Aloud*, Yifu gallery, Shanghai (2013); *MiddleHead*, Mosman Art gallery, Sydney (2013); *Play Pause Stop Rewind*, Lawrie Shabibi, Dubai (2012); Art Reserves, Canvas Gallery, Karachi (2012); *The Sound of Drawing*, Lu Xun Academy of Fine Arts, Dalian (2011); Gandhara Art, Karachi (2011); *The Rising Tide*, Mohatta Palace Museum, Karachi (2009); *Resemble Reassemble*, Devi Art Foundation, Gurgaon (2010); *How Nations are Made*, Cartwright Hall, Bradford (2009) and *Moving Ahead*, National Art Gallery, Islamabad (2007). Syed has also participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> ASNA International Clay Triennial, Karachi (2003) and numerous art fairs including Art Dubai, Art Abu Dhabi, Art Stage Singapore, India Art Fair, Art Basel and Art Central, Hong Kong (2016) where he performed *The Flying Buck*.

His notable curating and co-curating credits include *Michael Esson (2010): A Survey of Drawings*, *Michael Kempson: A Survey of Prints* (2010), *Aboriginal Dreams* (2010), *Let's Draw the Line* (2008), and *6/6: The Labyrinth* (2006) all in Karachi and *Remarking Remaking: Contemporary Australian Drawing Connections* (2012), *Semblance of Order* (2013), *Drawn to From* (2015) and *The 'F' Show* (2016) in Sydney.

Syed's work is held in many private and public collections notably Devi Art Foundation, AAN Collection, ASAL Collection, Blacktown Arts Centre, Casula Powerhouse and University of Central Oklahoma (International office).

He has undertaken artist residencies at Fairfield City Museum and Gallery (2015-2016), Parramatta Artists Studios (2013-2015), Cicada Press (2009 and 2013) and Blacktown Arts Centre (2011) in Sydney. His awards include the *Blacktown Art Prize* (2010), the *UNSW Postgraduate Research Scholarship* (2009) and the IAO Installation Art Award (2003). Syed was highly commended in the *Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize* (2014) and was a finalist in the *Hazlehurst Prize* (2015), *Moran Photography Prize* (2014) and the *Blake Prize* (2013 and 2016).

[www.abdullahmisyed.com](http://www.abdullahmisyed.com)