

THK GALLERY

PRESS RELEASE



ABDUS SALAAM

Falls of Abundance

THK Gallery is proud to announce representation of Abdus Salaam and to present his first exhibition at THK Gallery, *Falls of Abundance*.

From the body of work *The Space Between*, Salaam invites us into the realm of the soul with his theosophical minimalism, focusing on the essential principles of existence, both seen and unseen.

Rooted in poetry, Salaam's considered use of light and dark reveals a sensitivity to three-dimensional spatial expression, and the metaphysical connotations inherent in materials. Moving freely between mediums - from 'light painting', video, augmented reality, music and painting - he creates poetic worlds, from the intimate, to large scale installations.

Abdus Salaam is a self-taught multi-disciplinary artist from Cape Town, South Africa. *Falls of Abundance* will first be presented online, before being exhibited in person in THK Gallery's Winter Exhibition.

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EXHIBITION TEXT BY ABDUS SALAAM



"Beneath falls of abundance
Your light and all that it opens
I am less the water
And more a fragile cup..."

- Abdus Salaam

We are an equilibrium of water and carbon, a balance of light and dark, life and death, with depths of meaning in these endless contrasts. The same stars that light the universe fade to dust and shine as light within us. It is a stage of spiritual growth, reflecting our intentions in relation to this universe we temporarily inhabit.

Falls of Abundance, from the body of work *The Space Between*, invites us to the realm of the soul and the miracle that is life. First exhibited by Sara Khan and Igsaan Martin at Jaffer Modern, this exhibition invites the witnessing of our perfectly balanced universe, from the perspective of our primordially balanced selves. Whether we choose to acknowledge this profound balance or not remains the question.

Continuing Salaam's exploration of 'light painting', using light, chemicals, photographic paper - at times paired with an 8 x10 vintage camera system - the artist works in a

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darkroom using instinctual, and at times calculated gestures as mark making. The focus of this body of work is providential balance, pairing the scientific process of darkroom development with the artist's poetic intentions. Using clay, glass, acrylic paint, as well as words, he expounds on the poetic nature of the natural world and its relation to metaphysical realities.

Life, the miracle of our expanding universe. By bearing witness to both the majesty of the universe and life itself, we give purpose to both the existence of the universe and to the ultimate

reality that is our detachment from this plane. Without consciousness, this small cosmic body that is our home, floating in the darkness of space, would be but a scattered marble in an ocean of nothingness.



Abdus Salaam is a self-taught multi-disciplinary artist from Cape Town, South Africa. Rooted in poetry, Salaam's considered use of light and dark reveals a sensitivity to three-dimensional spatial expression, and the metaphysical connotations inherent in materials. Contemporary in his theosophical minimalism, he incorporates classical elements present in the origins of Islamic art - namely the Ka'bah - with a focus on the essential principles of existence, both seen and unseen. Serving as a bridge between the natural and spiritual worlds, his work is both a personal journey and a meditation on the nature of existence. Moving freely between mediums - from 8 x 10 bellows photography, 'light painting', video, augmented reality, music and painting - he creates poetic worlds, from the intimate, to large scale installations.