About Sahlah Davids

Sahlah Davids (b. 1998) is a Cape Town-based visual artist whose practice centers on textiles and beadwork.

In her studio practice, Sahlah Davids uses a material language of textiles, upholstery, and needleworking to explore the oral histories of her heritage and strong affiliation to the realm of religiopolitics. Cape Town born and raised, Davids has described her methods of creation as the product of the blended learning and trades of the Cape Muslim community, specifically the elders within her family.

Davids looks to the prevalence of seamstressing as a profession, unpicking the layered and complex social narratives that led to its adoption by so many in her family and community. For the artist, it represents a memory that many can relate to - the “coloured” as the artisan, the tailor, the carpenter, and the seamstress. A shared profession of plight and adversity, but also a position of power and strength that many women of colour have stepped into throughout their lives. The bead, the pin, and the ruching of the fabric become an assemblage of these memories. Through a sense of materiality each object holds meaning. The pin that hurts but binds, the upholstery foam and material as a physical reminder of place called home, and the scarf serving as a symbol encompassing all her culture and the essence of her identity. The distortion, abstraction, allowing the materials to be almost engulfed by the pinned beads, representing a growing realisation of what it means to exist generationally within the aftermath of apartheid.

Sahlah Davids holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Michaelis School of Fine Arts, University of Cape Town, and recently completed her Master’s degree in Urban Design. She hopes to combine her streams of research and artistic practice to create community orientated city spaces with human and ecological learning and trades of the Cape Muslim community, needs at the forefront.

Following her acclaimed solo exhibition with WHATIFTHEWORLD in 2024, Davids presented at 1-54 London with THK Gallery and later, Abu Dhabi Art in 2025. Her work stands part of notable private collections, in South Africa and abroad. In 2026, Sahlah Davids presented as part of *A Grammar of Belonging* at THK Gallery and the Investec Cape Town Art Fair and was featured in a group exhibition as part of HEAT Festival 2026 at THK Gallery. In August she was in a group exhibition *The File Cannot Be Restored* which was presented at the THK Gallery in Cape Town. In early November, Davids participated in a group exhibition in Cologne, titled *Alongside.* Looking ahead, they will be participating in a group show titled ‘LIGHT + SPACE III’ taking place in December until early February at THK Gallery in Cape Town.





Sahlah Davids, Aunty Shariefa, 2024

CV

Solo Exhibitions

2025
Pinned to Memory, Eclectica Contemporary, Cape Town

2024
Amatie, WHATIFTHEWORLD, Cape Town
Voices of The Future Exhibition, Art School Africa, Cape Town

2022
Gathered. Remembered. Forgotten. Made., WHATIFTHEWORLD, Cape Town
Salon Afrique, District Six Homecoming Centre, Cape Town
Akhlaq, Reservoir / Norval Art Foundation, Cape Town

Group Exhibitions

2026
LIGHT+ SPACE III, THK Gallery, Cape Town
Alongside, THK Gallery, Germany
The File Cannot Be Restored, THK Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
Investec Cape Town Art Fair, Gallery Nosco, Cape Town, South Africa
A Grammar of Belonging, THK Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2025
Solstice I + II, THK Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
Abu Dhabi Art, Eclectica Contemporary, Abu Dhabi, UAE
1-54 London, THK Gallery, UK
Collected Memory, THK Gallery, Cape Town

2024
Against the Bias: Unravelling Material Codes, Reservoir Projects, Mount Nelson, Cape Town
RMB Latitudes Index, Latitudes, Johannesburg

2023
Jive, Under Projects, Cape Town
Jive, Goethe Institute, Johannesburg
Oh So Quiet, WHATIFTHEWORLD, Cape Town

2022
Investec Cape Town Artfair, WHATIFTHEWORLD, Cape Town
Falling Awake, The Fourth and Reservoir Projects, Cape Town

2021
Toll gate, Cape Town
40 Under 40, What If The World Gallery, Tulbagh
Mashurah, Greatmore Studios, Cape Town
Tell me 3 Things, Jaffer Modern Gallery, Cape Town