

## About Abdus Salaam

Abdus Salaam (b. 1989) is a visual artist who lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa.

Salaam is a self-taught multi-disciplinary artist inspired by natural beauty, ecology and spirituality. Salaam reveals a sensitivity to three-dimensional spatial expression and the metaphysical connotations inherent in nature, materials, forms and colours. Contemporary in his mystic abstraction, his work is rooted in poetry, calling from a familiar place to a state of peaceful and intensive longing. Through his use of materials, he explores the immaterial, always working alone to infuse his pieces with deep intention. Moving freely between mediums — from sculpture to painting, video, photographic ‘light paintings’, poetry, augmented reality, and music — he creates poetic worlds, from the intimate to large-scale installation.

His work is a cultural fusion of Western, Eastern and African sensibilities, shaped by his international coming of age and rooted in the dramatic landscapes around Cape Town. His earliest memories were formed on a farm, spending time painting and sculpting with natural materials in the mountains of South Africa with his mother.

Salaam is represented in prominent international private and institutional collections, including the EKARD Collection, Farjam Collection, Mohammed Afkhami Collection, Rupert Collection and the Scheryn Collections. He has presented in critically acclaimed institutional exhibitions at the Javett Art Center at the University of Pretoria, Oude Leeskamer, Stellenbosch and the NIROX Foundation which followed his residency at the Foundation in 2024. Salaam was additionally acknowledged as a finalist in the Art Figura Prize in 2023, which led to an exhibition at Perla Castrum Museum, Germany.

Salaam has completed notable residencies including the Institute of Public Architecture’s Blockhouse Residency on Governor’s Island, New York (2023), the Giorgio Angeli Residency (2024) and the Studio Maretti Residency (2025) located in Pietrasanta. This was followed by his first public solo exhibition in Italy via the Medici Foundation and Pietrasanta Arts Council.

In November 2025, Salaam showcased at the Art Cologne fair with THK Gallery, which was followed by his highly anticipated fourth solo presentation at Abu Dhabi Art. He is currently working on a major sculptural commission in the Middle East which will be unveiled in 2026.



Abdus Salaam



Abdus Salaam. *Fatherhood*, 2025. Marble and jewelry grade aquamarine.

CV

Residencies

2025

Residency at Studio Maretti, Galleria Giovanni Bonelli, Pietrasanta, Italy

2024

Giorgio Angela Residency, Galleria Giovanni Bonelli, Pietrasanta, Italy  
 NIROX Foundation, Johannesburg, South Africa

2023

Institute for Public Architecture Residency, New York City, USA  
 Künstlerstadt Kalbe Winter Campus Grant Residency, Kalbe Milde Germany

Prizes

2023

Art Figura Sculpture Prize Nominee, Schwarzenberg Castle Museum, Germany

Solo Presentations

2025

Abu Dhabi Art Fair, THK Gallery, Manarat Al Saadiyat, UAE  
*Tesoro*, Marchi Chapel, Church of the Madonna del Carmine Seravezza via the Medici Foundation  
 and Pietrasanta Arts Council, Pietrasanta, Italy  
*Seeking Softness*, Galleria Giovanni Bonelli, Pietrasanta, Italy  
 Art Dubai, Baro Galleria, Dubai, UAE

2024

Abu Dhabi Art Fair, THK Gallery, Manarat Al Saadiyat, UAE  
*Insaan*, RMB Latitudes Art Fair, THK Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
*Insaan: human being*, NIROX Foundation, Johannesburg, South Africa

2023

*Efflorescence*, THK Gallery, Abu Dhabi Art, UAE

2022

Abu Dhabi Art Fair, THK Gallery, Manarat Al Saadiyat, UAE  
*The Space Between*, THK Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
*Soft As Stone*, Tomorrow's Today: Investec Cape Town Art Fair, THK Gallery, South Africa

2021

*Falls Of Abundance* (online exclusive), THK Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2019

*The Ocean of Limitlessness*, Association for Visual Arts, Cape Town, South Africa

2018

*The Ocean of Limitlessness*, Addis Foto Festival, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
*An Experience – Namibia*, V&A Waterfront, Cape Town, South Africa  
*The Ocean of Limitlessness*, The Castle, Cape Town, South Africa

2017

*An Experience – Namibia*, V&A Waterfront, Cape Town, South Africa

2016

*An Experience – Namibia*, V&A Waterfront, Cape Town, South Africa

## Group Exhibitions

2025

*The Other Side of the Moon*, Baró Abu Dhabi + O-Contemporary, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
*Followed by Nine Zeros: Experiments in Deep Time*, Oude Leeskamer, Stellenbosch, South Africa  
*The One and the Many*, Javett Art Center, The University of Pretoria, South Africa  
Art Cologne, THK Gallery, Germany  
Investec Cape Town Art Fair, THK Gallery, South Africa  
Enter Art Fair, THK Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark

2024

Investec Cape Town Art Fair, THK Gallery, South Africa  
*Light + Space II*, THK Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
AKAA – Also Known As Africa, THK Gallery, Paris, France  
Enter Art Fair, THK Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark

2023

Investec Cape Town Art Fair, THK Gallery, South Africa  
*Liminal States*, THK Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
Enter Art Fair, THK Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark

2022

*Synaptic*, THK Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
*Seeds of the Fig*, Reservoir Projects x WITW at Krone Gallery, Tulbagh, South Africa  
Enter Art Fair, THK Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark

2021

*Tell Me Three Things About Yourself*, Jaffer Modern, Cape Town, South Africa  
*Mashura*, Greatmore Studios, Woodstock, Cape Town, South Africa

2019

*Unresolved Category*, Gallery MOMO, Cape Town, South Africa  
*From Behind a Clear Mirror*, Robert Sherwood, Cape Town, South Africa

2018

*Throwing Shapes*, SMITH Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2017

*The Ocean of Limitlessness*, Amplify Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
*Mercy*, Amplify Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa