

About Abdus Salaam

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

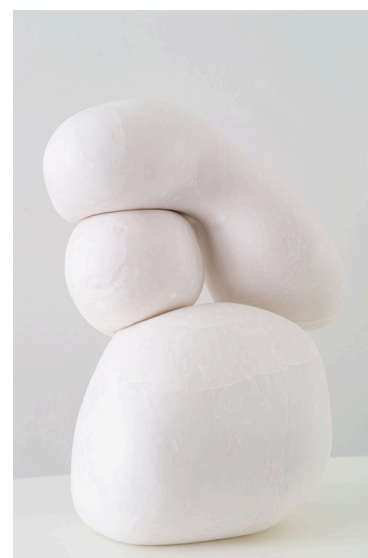
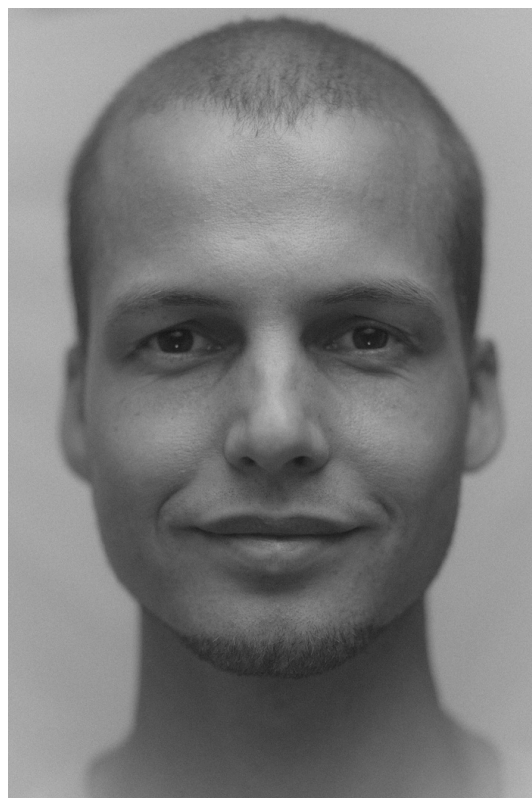
Salaam is a self-taught multi-disciplinary artist inspired by natural beauty, ecology and spirituality. Salaam reveals a sensitivity to three-dimensional spatial expression and the metaphysical connotations inherent in nature, materials, forms and colours. Contemporary in his mystic abstraction, his 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, where his earliest memories were shaped on a farm, spending time painting and sculpting with natural materials in the mountains of South Africa with his mother.

Salaam is represented in collections locally and abroad, including the Mohammed Afkhami and EKARD Collections. He held two sold out solo presentations in 2022, both at the Investec Cape Town Art Fair and Abu Dhabi Art. In 2023, he was a finalist in the Art Figura Prize, leading to an exhibition at the Perla Castrum Museum in Schwarzenberg Castle, Germany. That same year, he was selected as the artist-in-residence for the prestigious Institute of Public Architecture’s Blockhouse Residency on Governor’s Island, New York. In November 2023, he returned to Abu Dhabi Art for another sold-out presentation.

Salaam completed a residency at the prestigious Nirox Foundation, followed by a critically acclaimed exhibition in 2024. In June that same year he completed the Giorgio Angeli Residency in Pietrasanta, Italy.

In 2025, Salaam will complete a residency at Studio Maretti, Pietrasanta, Italy, following which he will present his first public solo exhibition in Italy, via the Medici Foundation and the Pietrasanta Arts Council. In conjunction with this major presentation, Salaam will also feature in significant institutional exhibitions at Oude Leeskamer, Stellenbosch, and at the Javett Art Center, at the University of Pretoria.



Abdus Salaam. Child, Mother, Earth, 2024.

CV

Solo Exhibitions

2025

Tesoro, Marchi Chapel - Church of the Madonna del Carmine Seravezza, Italy. Seravezza, Italy
Seeking Softness, Galleria Giovanni Bonelli, Pietrasanta, Italy

2024

Abu Dhabi Art Fair, Abu Dhabi, Manarat Al Saadiyat, United Arab Emirates
Insaan, RMB Latitudes Art Fair, Johannesburg, South Africa
Insaan: human being, NIROX Foundation, Johannesburg, South Africa

2022

Abu Dhabi Art Fair, Abu Dhabi, Manarat Al Saadiyat, United Arab Emirates
The Space Between, THK Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
Soft As Stone, Investec Cape Town Art Fair, Tomorrows/Today sector, THK Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2021

Falls Of Abundance, Online exclusive, THK Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2019

The Ocean of Limitlessness, AVA Gallery, 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, United Arab Emirates
Followed by Nine Zeros: Experiments in Deep Time, Oude Leeskamer, Stellenbosch
The One and the Many, Javett Art Center, The University of Pretoria, Pretoria

2024

Investec Cape Town Art Fair, THK Gallery, Cape Town

2023

Investec Cape Town Art Fair, THK Gallery, Cape Town

2022

Synaptic, THK Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
Seeds of the Fig, Reservoir Projects x WITW at Krone Gallery in Tulbagh, South Africa.

2021

Tell Me Three Things About Yourself, Jaffer Modern, 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

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