

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 multidisciplinary artist whose practice is informed by nature, ecology and spirituality. Working across sculpture, painting, film, photography, poetry and sound, he explores the metaphysical language of the natural world, translating its forms, rhythms and silences into contemplative works that meditate on materiality, transcendence and the relationship between the physical and the immaterial. Rooted in poetry and spiritual inquiry, his practice moves fluidly between mediums while maintaining a sensitivity to three-dimensional spatial expression and the evocative potential of materials, form and colour.

Working in solitude, Salaam imbues each work with deliberate intention, creating poetic worlds that range from intimate objects to large-scale installations. His work draws together Western, Eastern and African sensibilities, shaped by his international upbringing while remaining deeply rooted in the landscapes and spiritual traditions of South Africa.

Salaam spent his formative years on a remote farm in South Africa, where he began painting and sculpting with earth, stone and clay. These early experiences fostered a profound connection to the natural world and continue to inform his practice, which seeks moments of stillness, contemplation and spiritual resonance through material exploration.

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

His notable residencies include the Institute of Public Architecture's Blockhouse Residency on Governors Island, New York (2023), the Giorgio Angeli Residency (2024), and the Studio Maretti Residency in Pietrasanta, Italy (2025). This was followed by his first public solo exhibition in Italy with the Medici Foundation and Pietrasanta Arts Council.

Salaam has presented with THK Gallery at Art Cologne, Abu Dhabi Art, Art Düsseldorf and Enter Art Fair. He is currently working on a major solo exhibition, *Antecedence*, which will be unveiled in February 2027.



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

2026

Enter Art Fair, THK Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark
 Art Cologne: Palma Mallorca, THK Gallery, Spain
 Art Cologne, THK Gallery, Germany

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