

Natasha Malik
Bio



Natasha Malik (b. 1988, Pakistan) is a multidisciplinary artist who lives and works in Islamabad. Malik received her BFA from the National College of Arts (NCA), Lahore, in 2012, and her MFA from the Slade School of Fine Art, London, in 2015.

Natasha Malik's practice draws on Indo-Persian histories and the miniature painting tradition, blending pre-colonial visual languages with autobiographical narratives. Working across painting, printmaking, film, photography, and installation, she examines the body, identity, sexuality, trauma, and memory. Her empowered female protagonist subverts patriarchal and colonial narratives, inhabiting psychological landscapes alongside symbolic human-animal-botanical hybrids. Influenced by regional art history and critical scholarship, Malik transforms archival materials, dreams, and sensory impressions into multi-media works that explore dualities of visibility, intimacy, remembrance, and transformation.

Malik's work has been exhibited nationally and internationally. Her first solo show, titled *a cage elusive as a shadow* took place at Sanat Initiative, Karachi, in 2016. In the same year, she received a Special Commendation from Dentons Art Prize, London, and in 2018 was nominated for the Sovereign Asian Art Prize. Her second solo show, *"The soul breathes differently"*, took place at Satrang Gallery in Islamabad. Her third solo show, *The Life of an Image*, was at Khaas Contemporary in 2022. She has shown her work at Coningsby Gallery (London), Asia House (London), and COMO Museum of Art (Lahore). She was a participating artist in the Lahore Biennale 2020 as a member of the Pak-Khawateen Painting Club.

Education

- 2015 MFA Painting, Slade School of Fine Art, University College London, London, UK
- 2012 BFA Miniature Painting, National College of Arts, Lahore, Pakistan

Solo Exhibitions

- 2022 *The Life of an Image*, Khaas Contemporary, Islamabad
- 2018 *The soul breathes differently*, Satrang Gallery, Islamabad
- 2016 *A cage as elusive as a shadow*, Sanat Initiative, Karachi

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2025 "Seen & Unseen" as part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, United Nations Pakistan at PNCA Islamabad, Pakistan
The Daughters that Dreamed, Mandy Zhang Art, London
Encounters in Time, Gallery 8B2, Islamabad
Artist in Residence Exhibition, Villa Lena Foundation, Tuscany, Italy
- 2024 *Haryali*, Danish Ambassador's Residence, Islamabad
Knowledge of the Ancients, Barkat Ali Islamia Hall, Lahore
Legacies of Crossings, Shahnaz Gallery, London
At Daybreak, Ignition Art Project, Coningsby Gallery, London
Triptykon, LungA School, Seyðisfjörður
Losing, Looping, Forgetting, List í ljósi, Seyðisfjörður
- 2023 *Pas-E-Aaina*, Dominion Gallery, Lahore
Ecological Study, ArtNext Gallery, Lahore
The Unforgotten Moon, IVS Gallery, Indus School of Art and Architecture, Karachi
- 2022 *The Unwritten*, Satrang Gallery, Islamabad
Tutti Frutti Kahaniyan, Canvas Gallery, Karachi
A Decade, Satrang Gallery, Islamabad
- 2021 *Spinning and Unspinning*, O Art Space, Lahore
Transforming Narratives, CollaborArtists, Birmingham
The Architecture of Being II, AAN Gandhara Art Space, Karachi
- 2020 *Pretty Art for Pretty People*, Curated by Champa, Sanat Initiative, Karachi
- 2019 *Indus Water Machines*, Lahore Biennale, Punjab Institute of Language, Art and Culture, Lahore
Crosscut: Consumerism & Ethics, Gurmani House, Lahore

- 2018 *From the Hills to the Sea*, AAN Gandhara Art Space, Karachi
National Exhibition, Alhamra Art Gallery, Lahore *within/without*, Asia House, London
Oaks Editions Lithography Studio, Riverside Gallery, London
Art for Artist, Qutub Rind and Contemporaries, O Art Space, Lahore
Solitude, Koel Gallery, Karachi
Future Debris, Zahoor-UI-Akhlaq Gallery, National College of Arts, Lahore
- 2017 *You're Killing the Mountain*, Murree Museum Residency/Faiz Intl. Festival, Lahore
Embodied Experience, Taseer Art Gallery, Lahore
Of Other Spaces, 8-F Gulberg 2, Lahore
Water, Murree Museum, Murree
Crossing Borders, Siddhartha Art Gallery, Kathmandu, Nepal
Fine Print, IVS Gallery, Indus School of Art and Architecture, Karachi
- 2016 *Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours 204th Exhibition*, Mall Galleries, London
- 2015 *The London Group 82nd Open Exhibition*, The Cello Factory, London
Hix Award Exhibition, CNB Gallery, London
Material Matters, Goodenough College, London
- 2014 *Slade Interim Show*, Slade Research Centre, London
- 2012 *Day After Tomorrow*, Alhamra Art Gallery, Lahore
- 2010 *Sanjh*, Art Exhibition to Raise Funds for Flood Affectees, Alhamra Art Gallery, Lahore
- 2008 *Culture and Democracy: The Exhibition*, Zahoor-UI-Akhlaq Gallery, NCA, Lahore
Transformation, Zahoor-UI-Akhlaq Gallery, NCA, Lahore

Residencies and International Visits

- 2025 Artist in Residence, Villa Lena Foundation, Tuscany, Italy
- 2024 LungA School, Seyðisfjörður
- 2022 Visitor by Invitation of Mondriaan Fonds, Amsterdam
- 2017 *Printmaking Workshop*, Return to Basics, VASL Residency, Indus School of Art and Architecture, Karachi
The Water Book, Murree Museum Artist Residency, Murree

Curatorial Projects

- 2023 *The Unforgotten Moon: Liberating Art from Guantánamo Bay*, IVS Gallery, Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, Karachi
- 2019 *Unmaking History*, co-curator, Research and Publication Centre, Lahore
- 2018 *River in an ocean*, co-curator, 51-N Gurumangat Road, Gulberg 2, Lahore
- 2017 *Of Other Spaces*, 8-F Gulberg 2, Lahore

Edited Journals

- 2021 Co-edited with Abdullah Qureshi. *The Creative Process: Critical Perspectives on Art, Research, and Education from Pakistan and Beyond*, *Research in Arts and Education*

Selected Press

- 2024 Pramodha Weerasekera, *Resonant Shells, Animated Bodies: Natasha Malik's Film Experiments*
- 2023 Naimat Khan, *Former Pakistan Guantánamo Detainee Uses Art to Portray Anguish of Years in Confinement*, *Arab News Pakistan*
- 2022 Nayha Jahangir Khan, *Art Review: Natasha Malik at Khaas Contemporary*

Selected Publications and Articles

- 2023 Kate Wilson, *Drawing and Painting: Materials and Techniques for Contemporary Artists*, Artist Profile: Natasha Malik, pp. 124–125, Thames & Hudson, UK
- Natasha Malik, *The Unforgotten Moon: Liberating Art from Guantánamo Bay*, *NO-NIIN Magazine*, Finland
- Feliz Solomon, *540 Days at CIA Black Sites...*, *Wall Street Journal*
- Sonia Ghezali, Shahzeb Wahlah, *Pakistani artist asks US military to return the artwork...*, *France 24*

Awards and Nominations

- 2018 Nominated for Sovereign Asian Art Prize, Hong Kong
- 2016 Special Commendation, Denton's Art Prize, London
- 2015 Shakir Ali Award, National College of Arts, Lahore
- 2013 University College London Studentship for postgraduate work, Slade School of Fine Art, London
- 2012 Selected among 10 best works, *Day After Tomorrow*, Alhamra Art Gallery, Lahore
- 2011 Principal's Honour List, National College of Arts, Lahore
- 2010 Merit scholarship, National College of Arts, Lahore
- 2009 Merit scholarship, National College of Arts, Lahore