Natasha Malik
Bio



Natasha Malik (b. 1988, Pakistan) is a multidisciplinary artist and curator who lives and works in Islamabad. She received her BFA from the National College of Arts, Lahore (2012), and her MFA from the Slade School of Fine Art, London (2015). Through a dialogue between traditional Indo-Persian and contemporary modes of making, Malik constructs autobiographically inspired, uncanny landscapes centred on a female protagonist. Human figures merge with botanical and animal forms, mirrored selves confront one another across past and present, and the boundaries between the physical, spiritual and psychological become porous. Psychic ruptures and visceral responses to trauma, absurdity, isolation and mortality are embodied in the female form, understood as a site of transformation and becoming.

Malik has exhibited internationally. In 2025 she presented in the duo exhibition *The Daughters That Dreamed* at Mandy Zhang Art, London. She participated in the Lahore Biennale 2020 as a member of the Pak-Khawateen Painting Club, received a Special Commendation from the Dentons Art Prize, London (2016), and was nominated for the Sovereign Asian Art Prize (2018). In 2025 she was artist-in-residence at the Villa Lena Foundation, Tuscany.

As a curator, Malik is interested in engaging audiences in Pakistan with contemporary art outside traditional art spaces. Through *The Creative Process*, a platform she founded, she curated *Of Other Spaces* (2017) and co-curated *River in an ocean* (Lahore Biennale 2018 collateral event) and *Unmaking History* (2019). In 2023 she curated *The Unforgotten Moon: Liberating Art from Guantánamo Bay* at the Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, Karachi.

Alongside her practice, she contributes to critical discourse on art and education. In 2021 she co-edited, with Abdullah Qureshi, the peer-reviewed journal Research in Arts and Education for its issue *The Creative Process: Critical Perspectives on Art, Research, and Education from Pakistan and Beyond.* She is also the creator of Artscape, a satirical board game about the art world, acquired by the Harvard University Fine Arts Library in 2024. Her first international solo exhibition opens with Mandy Zhang Art in November 2026.

Natasha Malik
CV

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-Ul-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-Ul-Akhlaq Gallery, NCA, Lahore

Transformation, Zahoor-Ul-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