

# BIOGRAPHY

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Nasser Azam (b. 1963, Jhelum, Pakistan) is a London-based British contemporary artist. Azam's reputation was established in the early 1980s, with exhibitions at galleries in Birmingham and the West Midlands, including the Barber Institute of Fine Arts. In 2007, after an extended period living and travelling in Japan, Europe and America, Azam became Artist in-Residence at County Hall Gallery, London, mounting a series of major exhibitions of early and recent work, including the critically acclaimed *Anatomica* in April 2008. It was at this time he began working with sculpture, and in February 2008 a monumental bronze, *The Dance*, was unveiled on London's South Bank. It was followed in July 2012 by the unveiling of *Athena* in the London City Airport; at 12 metres it is the tallest bronze sculpture in the UK. Azam has developed his painting in a series of projects that reflect his interest in extreme working conditions and also painting as a performance, from *Zero Gravity* (Star City, Moscow, 2008), to the freezing ice deserts of Antarctica (2010), where he completed thirteen large paintings. A six-metre tall bronze sculpture, *Evolutionary Loop 517* was unveiled outside the new research centre and library at Aberdeen University in May 2013, a month in which Azam also completed a commission of 25 artworks for Costata, part of the Altamarea Group of restaurants in SoHo, New York. In June 2014, the group acquired 11 works for display at their flagship restaurant Marea in Manhattan, New York. Azam unveiled the official portrait commission of Malala Yousafzai in November 2015 at the Barber Institute of Fine Arts, Birmingham. The portrait is displayed permanently at the University of Birmingham. In 2017, following the tenth anniversary of the first generation iPhone, Azam created a series of artworks titled *Phone Painting*; one of the works is owned by Steven Wozniak, cofounder of Apple. In 2019, London's Saatchi Gallery hosted *Nasser Azam: Saiful Malook*, the artist's most comprehensive solo exhibition to date. Azam's work is included in numerous private and public collections, including the Zabłudowicz Collection and The Sovereign Art Foundation.

## Projects and Exhibitions

- 2019 *Nasser Azam: Saiful Malook*, major solo exhibition at the Saatchi Gallery, London, inspired by pilgrimage to a lake near Kashmir
- 2017 *Phone Painting Project*, marking the tenth anniversary of the first generation iPhone
- 2015/17 *Official portrait of Malala Yousafzai*, unveiled at the Barber Institute of Fine Arts, Birmingham and displayed at the University of Birmingham. Also added to London's National Portrait Gallery's public archive, UK
- 2013/14 Commissions for *Marea and Costata* restaurants, New York City, USA
- 2013 *Evolutionary Loop 517*, six metre tall permanent bronze sculpture outside the New Research Library, University of Aberdeen, UK
- 2012 *Athena*, tallest bronze sculpture in the UK permanently situated outside London City Airport
- 2011 *Zahra Modern Art Foundries*, purchase of the former Morris Singer Foundry, the oldest bronze foundry in the UK

- 2011 *Antarctica*, a dual public display of Antarctica project in the Tokyo Metro and London Underground, UK and Japan
- 2010 *Antarctica*, a performance painting expedition to produce oil paintings responding to different Antarctic landscapes
- 2008 *The Dance*, Park Plaza, permanent bronze sculpture outside the Westminster Bridge Park Plaza, London
- 2008 *Sepian Blue*, Irish National Botanical Garden, permanent bronze sculpture display, Glasnevin, Ireland
- 2008 *Zero Gravity*, a performance painting mission to complete two triptychs while aboard a parabolic aircraft creating weightless conditions, Star City, Moscow, Russia

### **Selected Group Exhibitions**

- 2017 *L'Artists Muses*, Greenpoint, New York City, USA
- 2017 *Timelessness*, Rose & King Galleries, London, UK
- 2016 *Queen Themed*, The Tabernacle, London, UK
- 2016 *Bondage*, Le Chiffre, London, UK
- 2015 *Art Below at The Muse Gallery*, London, UK
- 2015 *Stations of the Cross*, St. Marylebone Parish Church, London, UK
- 2014 *Art of Futebol*, Selfridges, London, UK
- 2013 *Ten Portraits of Margaret Thatcher*, Gallery Different, London, UK
- 2010 *The Sun*, Victoria Halls and Royal Albert Museum, London, UK
- 2010 *The Big Fake*, Camden Arts Centre, London, UK

**Between 2007-2010 Azam was Artist-in-Residence at County Hall Gallery, London having a number of major solo exhibitions including:**

- 2009 *Colour Over Form*, The County Hall Gallery, London, UK
- 2009 *Life in Space*, The County Hall Gallery, London, UK
- 2008 *Azam Painting and Sculpture*, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2008 *Paintings and Bronzes*, County Hall Gallery, London, UK
- 2008 *Anatomica*, The County Hall Gallery, London, UK
- 2007 *Azam Retrospective*, The County Hall Gallery, London, UK

### **Collections**

- Anita and Poju Zabłudowicz Collection, UK
- The Collection of Steven Wozniak, USA
- The Collection of Reita and Vilas Gadkari, UK
- The Collection of Nassar Hussein, Brookland Partners, UK
- Sovereign Arts Foundation, London, UK
- University of Aberdeen, Scotland
- Irish National Botanical Garden, Glasnevin, Ireland
- The Flowers Family Collection, UK
- The Levi Family Collection, France
- The Collection of Del Roe and Trudy McGuinness, UK
- The Collection of Nasser A Ahmad, DA Capital USA
- The Collection of Lord and Lady Slynn of Hadley, UK

The Collection of Ahmass Fakahany, New York, USA  
The Collection of Michael White, New York, USA  
Park Plaza Hotel Group, London, UK  
Elan PLC, Dublin HQ, UK and San Francisco and Boston offices, USA  
News International, The Sun Offices, London, UK  
Numerous works in private collections in the UK, USA & Europe

### **Publications**

- 2020 *Nasser Azam: Projects* (retrospective to accompany solo exhibition)  
2013 *Evolutionary Loop 517*, Nasser Azam  
2012 *Athena*, Nasser Azam  
2011 *Azam – Elan Paintings* (book to accompany collaborative commission)  
2007 *Azam, A Short History of Sensation, Volume I* by John-Paul Stonard, published by Airside Publications

### **Reports**

- 2009 *Contemporary Art Market: The Art Price Annual Report 2008/2009*, Art price Nasser Azam listed 3rd in Top 50 Best Hammer prices for new auctioned artists in 2008. He is the highest listed UK artist in this comparison.

### **Selected Press Articles and Interviews**

- 04 May 2020 Artists Donate Works To Support Women’s Prisoner Magazine  
16 Jun 2019 The News, *Saatchi Gallery Hosts Majestic Saiful Malook Exhibition*  
15 Jun 2019 The News, *Saatchi Gallery Hosts Majestic Lake Saiful Malook Exhibition*  
15 Jun 2019 Geo News, *British Pakistani Artist’s Saiful Malook Exhibition Presented In London’s Saatchi Gallery*  
15 Jun 2019 Daily Times, *Nasser Azam’s Saiful Malook Exhibition Presented In London’s Saatchi Gallery*  
05 Jun 2019 KCW Today, *Nasser Azam: Saiful Malook*  
05 Jun 2019 Asian Culture Vulture, *Nasser Azam – ‘Saiful Malook’ exhibition – love, struggle, sacrifice and attainment through music, poetry and now visual art*  
04 Jun 2019 Art Daily, *New Series Of Abstract And Large-scale Paintings By Nasser Azam On View At The Saatchi Gallery*  
03 Jun 2019 Art & Object, *Retracing The Steps Of A Sufi Poet: An Artist Embraces Extreme Conditions*  
30 May 2019 Homegrown, *An Artist’s Tribute to Kashmir’s Paradise In A Series Of Abstract Paintings*  
23 May 2019 FAD, *Nasser Azam’s Journey to Saiful Malook: Saatchi Gallery Show Opening 30 May*  
23 May 2019 Organ Magazine, *Five Things To Check Out*  
17 May 2019 Asian Image, *Nasser Azam’s ‘Saiful Malook’ at the Saatchi Gallery*  
09 May 2019 Fab UK Magazine, *Nasser Azam: Saiful Malook*  
02 May 2019 Artforum, *Nasser Azam: Saiful Malook*  
02 May 2019 ArtRabbit, *Nasser Azam: Saiful Malook*  
02 May 2019 The Gallery Guide, *Nasser Azam: Saiful Malook*

02 May 2019 Culture24, *Nasser Azam: Saiful Malook*

08 Dec 2015 The Toolbox, *Malala Yousafzai is Proud to be 'a Brummie' at New Portrait Unveiling*

30 Nov 2015 The Guardian, *Portrait of Malala is on a Scale to Match Her Impact*

30 Nov 2015 BBC News, *'Proud Brummie' Malala Yousafzai Portrait Unveiled*

30 Nov 2015 Artinfo, *Nasser Azam on His Monumental Portrait of Malala Yousafzai*

30 Nov 2015 Yahoo Finance India, *photographs of Malala portrait unveiling listed 'Top News Photos of the Day'*

29 Nov 2015 ITV News, *Malala is 'a Proud Brummie' as New Portrait Unveiled in Birmingham*

29 Nov 2015 BT, *Portrait Honouring 'Proud Brummie' Malala Yousafzai Unveiled*

11 Nov 2015 Artnet News, *Barber Institute of Fine Arts to Unveil Official Portrait of Malala Yousafzai*

02 Jul 2014 Wall Street Journal, *Art of Futebol*

02 Jun 2014 Thedailymeal.com (USA) *Altamrea Group Gets Paintings by Famous Artist Nasser Azam*

29 May 2014 Broadwayworld.com (USA), *Altamrea Group Purchases 11 Works by London Artist Nasser Azam*

Aug/Sep 2013 Aishiti Magazine (Lebanon), *Going Mural*

06 Aug 2013 Timeout (USA), *Costata*

07 Jun 2013 Town & Country Magazine (USA), *The Look of Gluttony: An Investment Banker-Turned Artist Provides the Ideal Art for NYC's Newest Hotspot*

27 May 2013 1883 Magazine (UK), *art feature on New York installation*

23 May 2013 The New York Times (UK), *Food Matters: Steakhouse Art That Goes Against the Grain*

27 Apr 2013 Wall Street International (USA), *Evolutionary Loop 517*

23 Apr 2013 BBC News Online (UK), *Margaret Thatcher Art Posters Banned from Tube*

17 Apr 2013 The Independent (UK), *Angelic Iron Lady, Queen Victoria, Cruel Milk Snatcher... Ten portraits of Maggie Thatcher*

06 Jul 2012 The Telegraph (UK), *Tallest Bronze Sculpture in UK Unveiled*

05 Jul 2012 Artdaily.org, *Nasser Azam Unveils Tallest Bronze Sculpture in the UK Outside London City Airport*

05 Jul 2012 BBC (UK), *The Big Picture, Athena*

05 Jul 2012 The Newham Recorder (UK), *Athena Tower Unveiled at London City Airport*

05 Jul 2012 Wharf (UK), *Newham Gets UK's Largest Bronze Sculpture*

07 Feb 2012 The Newham Recorder (UK), *Greek Goddess Set for London City Airport*

26 Jan 2012 Wharf (UK) *City Airport, The Artist and the Greek Goddess*

26 Apr 2011 The Independent (UK), *Two Major Cities Launch Public Art Projects for Underground Commuters*

11 Apr 2011 London Evening Standard (UK), *Commuters Go On Line to Japan*

05 Apr 2011 BBC News London (UK), *Liverpool Street Tube Station Unveils Video Artwork*

28 Mar 2011 Wired Magazine (UK), *Artist Heads to Antarctica to Paint "Outside of His Comfort Zone"*

18 Jan 2011 BBC Online (UK), *Braintree Art Foundry Looks to Middle Eastern Markets*

24 Nov 2010 Daily Express (UK), *Forging a Future for Fabled Foundry*

17 Nov 2010 The Sun (UK), *Artist Recreated Page 3 Art*

16 Jun 2010 London Evening Standard (UK), *Banker Recast as Saviour of Lion Foundry*

15 Jun 2010 The Australian (Australia), *Ex-Merrill Bankers See's Life In Bronze*

15 Jun 2010 The Times (UK), *Morris Singer Foundry Bought by Artist Nasser Azam*

23 Mar 2010 The National Magazine (UAE), *One Artist's Extreme Palette: Nasser Azam*

10 Mar 2010 Art Daily (UK), *Artist Nasser Azam Completes Major Antarctic Performance Painting*

10 Mar 2010 NY Arts (USA), *Nasser Azam's Antarctic Performance*

01 Mar 2010 The Art Newspaper (UK), *In the Frame*

21 Feb 2010 The Sunday Times (UK), *Culture*

17 Feb 2010 BBC Online (UK), *The Big Picture*

16 Feb 2010 City AM (UK), *The Capitalist: Moon Walker*

13 Feb 2010 The Guardian (UK), *My Nine to Five*

25 Jan 2010 Monocle (UK), *Q&A Nasser Azam*

30 Nov 2009 City AM (UK), *Ex-Banker to Launch Art Fund Venture*

15 Sept 2009 Square Mile Magazine (UK), *Seeing the Bigger Picture*

31 Jul 2009 The Daily Telegraph (UK), *Liliane Lijn's Power Game*

30 Jun 2009 Art of England (UK), *Second Life*

29 May 2009 Investment Dealer's Digest (USA), *Second Lives*

06 Mar 2009 Newham Recorder (UK), *2012 Banking on a Top Artist*

13 Feb 2009 Square Mile Magazine (UK), *Nasser Azam Explains it All*

24 Jan 2009 Expres Magazin (Ukraine), *Картини з космосу*

21 Jan 2009 The Guardian (UK), *Weightless Art by Nasser Azam Video footage online*

16 Jan 2009 The Independent (UK), *The Diary: Way Out There*

16 Jan 2009 BBC News (UK), *Arts & Culture: The Big Picture*

15 Jan 2009 Telegraph.co.uk (UK), *Artist Paints Francis Bacon Tribute in Zero Gravity*

14 Jan 2009 The US Daily (USA) Banker turned artist displays zero gravity works

13 Jan 2009 Reuters (USA), *Banker Turned Artist Displays Zero Gravity Works*

13 Jan 2009 Khaleej Times, (Dubai), *Banker Turned Artist Displays Zero Gravity Works*

12 Jan 2009 Art of England (UK), feature on Nasser Azam

09 Jan 2009 City AM (UK), *Zero Gravity*

04 Jan 2009 The Independent on Sunday (UK), *Close-up: Nasser Azam*

18 Nov 2008 The Times City Diary (UK), *Odd, or What?*

17 Nov 2008 BBC News Online (UK), *Zero-G Artwork Sells for £223,000*

08 Oct 2008 The Daily Telegraph (UK), *Azam Exhibits the Colour of Money*

Autumn 2008 Urban Life Magazine (UK), *Azam Exclusive: Artist, Banker, Adventurer*

Autumn 2008 Royal Academy Magazine (UK), *A Weightless Homage to an Artistic Heavyweight*

June 2008 Art of England (UK), profile of the artist

11 Jul 2008 Moskovskiy Komsomolets (Russian newspaper)

08 Jul 2008 Reuters (USA), *Artist Goes Zero Gravity Painting*

08 Jul 2008 Khaleej Times, (Dubai) *London – A Group of British Artists Will Take*

### *a Giant Leap for Art*

- 07 Jul 2008 The Press Association (Russia), *'Vomit comet' Flies Over Moscow*
- 07 Jul 2008 China Daily (China), *British Artist Tries Hand at Masterpieces in Zero Gravity*
- 07 Jul 2008 USA Today (USA), *British Artist Creates Zero Gravity Art in 'Vomit Comet' Over Moscow*
- 07 Jul 2008 BBC News Online (UK), *Painter Prepares for Art in Space*
- 17 May 2008 The Independent (UK), portrait of the artist
- 01 May 2008 City AM (UK), *The Salvador Dali of Merrill Lynch*
- 22 Apr 2008 The Times (UK), *Polymath or what?*
- 27 Feb 2008 Guardian Unlimited (UK), *Which Artists are Lords of the Dance, blog*
- 22 Feb 2008 Gulf News (UAE), *Azam's Vision*

### TV and Radio

- 19 Jan 2016 CBC Radio (Canada), *Q with Shadrach Kabango: Painter Nasser Azam on Enduring Extremes for Art*, broadcast on radio
- 18 Dec 2015 BBC World Service, *Outlook: Interview with Nasser Azam*, broadcast on radio
- 29 Nov 2015 BBC West Midlands, *Arshia Riaz's Interview with Nasser Azam*, broadcast on radio
- 28 Aug 2012 BBC Radio London, *Robert Elms Profile of Nasser Azam*
- 02 Aug 2012 BBC Radio London, *Robert Elms Show: Interview with Nasser Azam*
- March 2011 NHK Japan, *Nasser Azam Profile*
- 03 July 2010 BBC News 24 (UK), *Artist Relaunches Morris Singer Foundry*, broadcast on television
- 16 Jun 2010 Radio Essex, *Morris Singer Art Foundry Brought Back From the Brink*, broadcast on radio
- 08 Mar 2010 ITN (UK), *London Tonight News: Antarctica Interview*, broadcast on television
- 24 Feb 2010 BBC World Service (UK), *The Strand Interview from Antarctica*, broadcast on radio
- 17 Feb 2010 ITN (UK), *London Tonight News: Pre Antarctica Interview*, broadcast on television
- 07 Jan 2010 BBC Asian Network (UK), Interview broadcast on radio
- 20 Jan 2009 BBC Asian Network (UK), Interview broadcast on radio
- 17 Jan 2009 BBC London Radio (UK), Interview broadcast on radio
- 03 Sep 2008 RTE Radio 1 (IRL), *The Arts Show Interview*, broadcast on radio
- 14 Jul 2008 BBC Radio 4 (UK), *Today Programme Interview*, broadcast on radio
- 12 Jul 2008 BBC World Service (UK), *The Ticket Interview*, broadcast on radio
- 08 Jul 2008 NTV News Service (Russia), Interview, broadcast on television
- 08 Jul 2008 BBC Belfast (UK), *Arts Extra: Interview*, broadcast on radio
- 07 Jul 2008 Zero gravity footage from flight was broadcast internationally including Fox News (USA), BBC 24 (UK), NMTV (HK) and various European TV channels
- 21 Feb 2008 British Satellite News, distributed to 500 channels worldwide (UK) *Dance Sculpture Revealed to All*
- 21 Feb 2008 Los Angeles Times (USA), *Sculpture by British Artist Nasser Azam Radio & Television Broadcasts*
- 19 Jan 2008 British Satellite News, distributed to 500 channels worldwide (UK) *Back to Business For Artist*

08 Jan 2008 GEO TV, Interview distributed internationally  
23 Mar 1983 BBC documentary (UK)

### **Public Appearances**

10 Nov 2010 *Warwick Business School, Creativity & Innovation*, Speakers included Prof Mark Taylor, Dean, WBS, Prof Chris Bilton and David Kester, CEO Design Council

20 Oct 2009 *Warwick Business School, Future Thinking Foundation Forum discussion*, Speakers include Sir John Cox, Prof Jonathan Bale, Prof Nick Crafts.

12 Oct 2009 *Kings Place Debate as part of the Inside Out Festival 2009*, London, Art What's it good for? Chaired by Michael Portillo. Other panelists: A.C. Grayling, Julia Peyton-Jones, Ben Lewis, Larry Elliott.

28 Jul 2008 *Institute of Contemporary Art*, London, Liliane Lijn: Power Game