Abdullah M.I. Syed's interdisciplinary art practice champions the power of storytelling from a cross-cultural perspective. Speaking to present-day conditions, Syed's Pakistani heritage, diverse artistic research interests, and the influences of his everyday experiences – *lived outside and inside a diasporic space* – all coalesce to create art forms of poetic resistance. He refers to this as manzoom muzahamat, which subverts dominant power structures for social change. Working at the intersection of drawing, sculpture, video, textile, photography and performance, Syed highlights the economics of shared histories, identity, vulnerability and resilience. While examining what he sees as the inseparable yet often antagonistic entanglements of nation, religion and capitalism, Syed employs traditional craft with contemporary technique to celebrate a cross-cultural dialogue as he grapples his own sense of place.

In a career spanning more than two decades, including receiving a PhD in Art, Media, and Design (2015) from the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Syed has exhibited in solo exhibitions including most recently: *Common Threads Run Deep*, Gallery Sally Dan-Cuthbert, Sydney (2021); *Light upon Light*, Aicon Contemporary, New York (2021); and *Unframing Sight: Transparency and Reflections*, Penrith Regional Gallery (2021). Syed has exhibited both nationally and internationally in important group exhibitions including Melbourne Design Fair, Melbourne (2023) *The National: New Australian Art*, AGNSW, Sydney (2021); a performance at the Asian Society Museum, New York, USA (2017); FF Bell Lightbox, Toronto, Canada (2015), Pataka Art + Museum, *Porirua* City, New Zealand (2012); Devi Art Foundation, Gurgaon, New Delhi, India (2010); and the Mohatta Palace Museum, Karachi, Pakistan (2010).

Syed's work is found in important Australian and International private and museum collections, including the Australian Embassy, Washington D.C. USA and, a large body of work in the collection of the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Australia.