

NASSER AZAM



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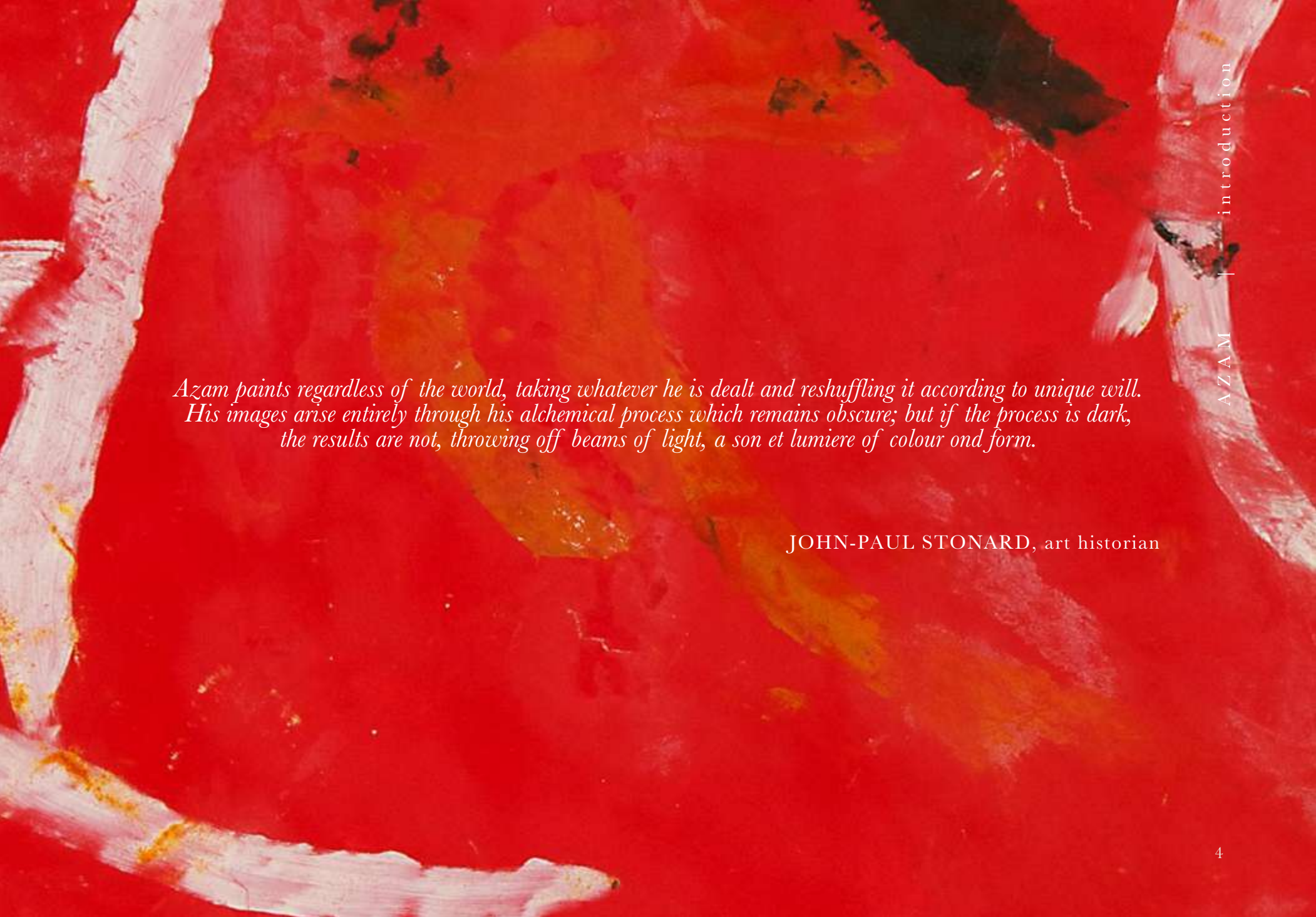
Nasser Azam (b. 1963, Jhelum, Pakistan) is a London-based British artist.

Azam's reputation was established in the 1980s, with exhibitions in Birmingham and the West Midlands, including the Barber Institute of Fine Arts. His paintings incorporate abstract and photographic imagery, and are often made in-situ, including a series made at Star City in Moscow (2008), and in the ice deserts of Antarctica (2010).

He has made a number of large-scale bronze works, including *Athena* in the London City Airport; at 12 metres it is the tallest bronze sculpture in the UK. In 2013, a six metre high bronze sculpture, *Evolutionary Loop 517*, was unveiled outside the new research centre and library at Aberdeen University.

Azam unveiled the official portrait commission of Malala Yousafzai in November 2015 at the Barber Institute of Fine Arts, Birmingham, UK. 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*; the works are included in notable collections, including the Collection of Steven Wozniak, co-founder of Apple with Steve Jobs. In 2019, London's prestigious 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, the Altamarea Group of Restaurants, and The Sovereign Art Foundation.

An abstract painting featuring a vibrant red background. Large, expressive brushstrokes in white and yellow are scattered across the canvas, creating a sense of movement and depth. The white strokes are thick and textured, while the yellow strokes are more fluid and integrated into the red. The overall composition is dynamic and layered.

Azam paints regardless of the world, taking whatever he is dealt and reshuffling it according to unique will. His images arise entirely through his alchemical process which remains obscure; but if the process is dark, the results are not, throwing off beams of light, a son et lumiere of colour and form.

JOHN-PAUL STONARD, art historian



Nasser Azam: Saiful Malook

Saatchi Gallery, London
2019

Azam's largest and most comprehensive solo exhibition to date, hosted by the London's prestigious Saatchi Gallery, follows the artist's pilgrimage to lake Saiful Malook, a secluded paradise near the mountains of Kashmir.



Lake Saiful Malook was made famous by the Sufi saint and poet Mian Muhammad Bakhsh (1830-1907) in his poem of the same name, which inspired Azam to visit the lake in August 2018. The exhibited paintings follow the thematic journey of the poem, interweaving ideas of enlightenment, struggle and sacrifice with the artist's life and work as an artist.



A Z A M

Saiful Malook at Saatchi Gallery





Phone Painting Series 2017

Nasser Azam has created a stunning series of works titled **PHONE PAINTING**, taking first generation iPhones from 2007, and transforming them into beguiling works of art.

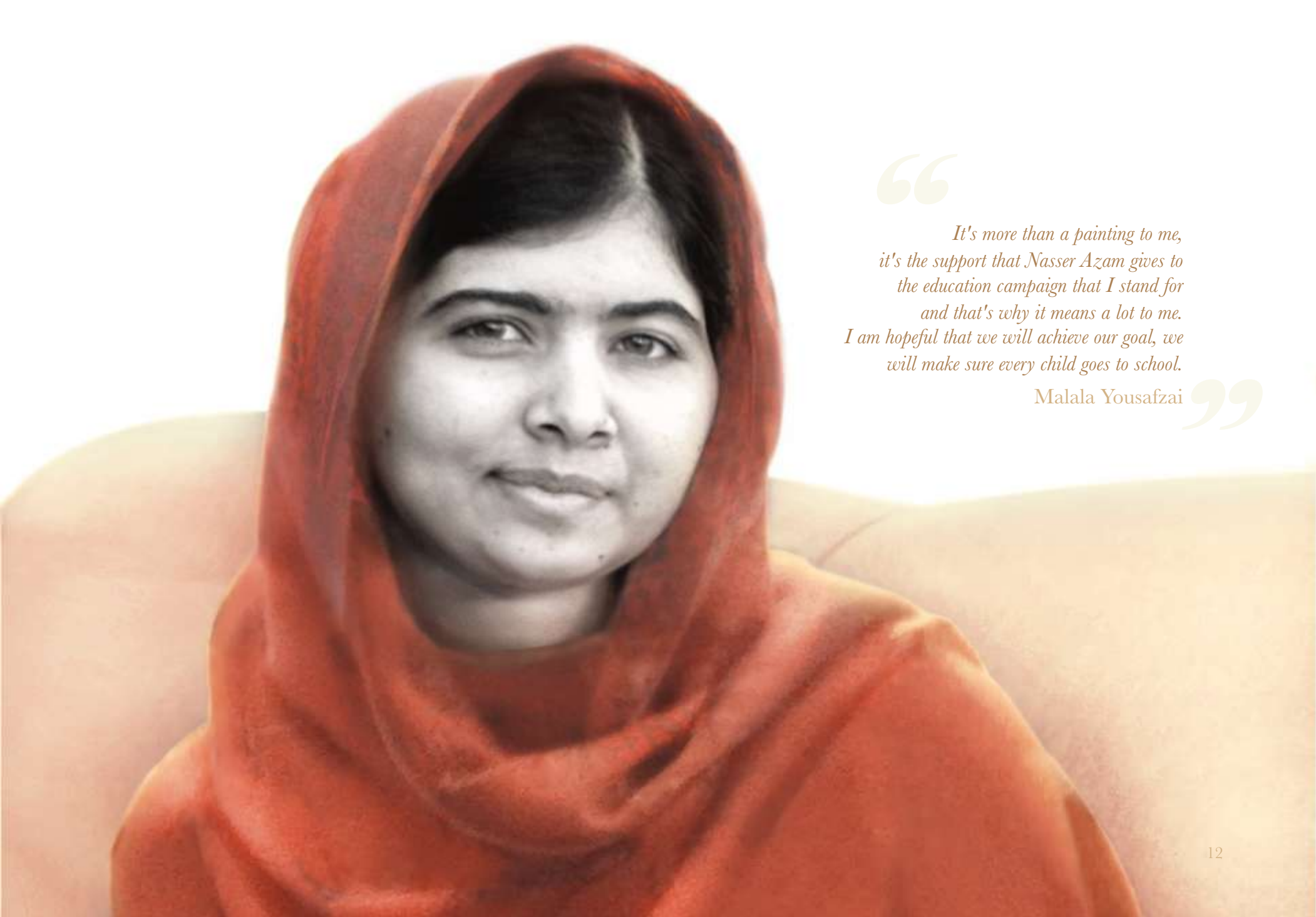


Sarin | 26 cm x 20 x 3.5 cm | oil on first generation iPhone



Official portrait of Malala Yousafzai 2015

In 2015, Nasser Azam painted the official portrait of Malala Yousafzai, an activist for female education and the youngest-ever Nobel Prize laureate. Standing three metres high, the portrait indicates the enormous impact Yousafzai has had on the world.



“

*It's more than a painting to me,
it's the support that Nasser Azam gives to
the education campaign that I stand for
and that's why it means a lot to me.
I am hopeful that we will achieve our goal, we
will make sure every child goes to school.*

Malala Yousafzai

”



The painting was donated to the University of Birmingham, digitally displayed at the new state-of-the-art library in Birmingham's city centre and added to London's National Portrait Gallery's public archive.



Nasser Azam with Malala Yousafzai, during the portrait unveiling at The Barber Institute of Fine Arts, Birmingham



Chef Michael White Collaboration 2013/14

In May 2013, Azam completed a commission of 25 art works for Costata, part of the Altamarea Group of restaurants in SoHo, New York.

In 2014 the Group acquired 12 works for display throughout its flagship restaurant Marea in Manhattan, New York.



MZAM | Chef Michael White Collaboration



AZAM | Chef Michael White Collaboration



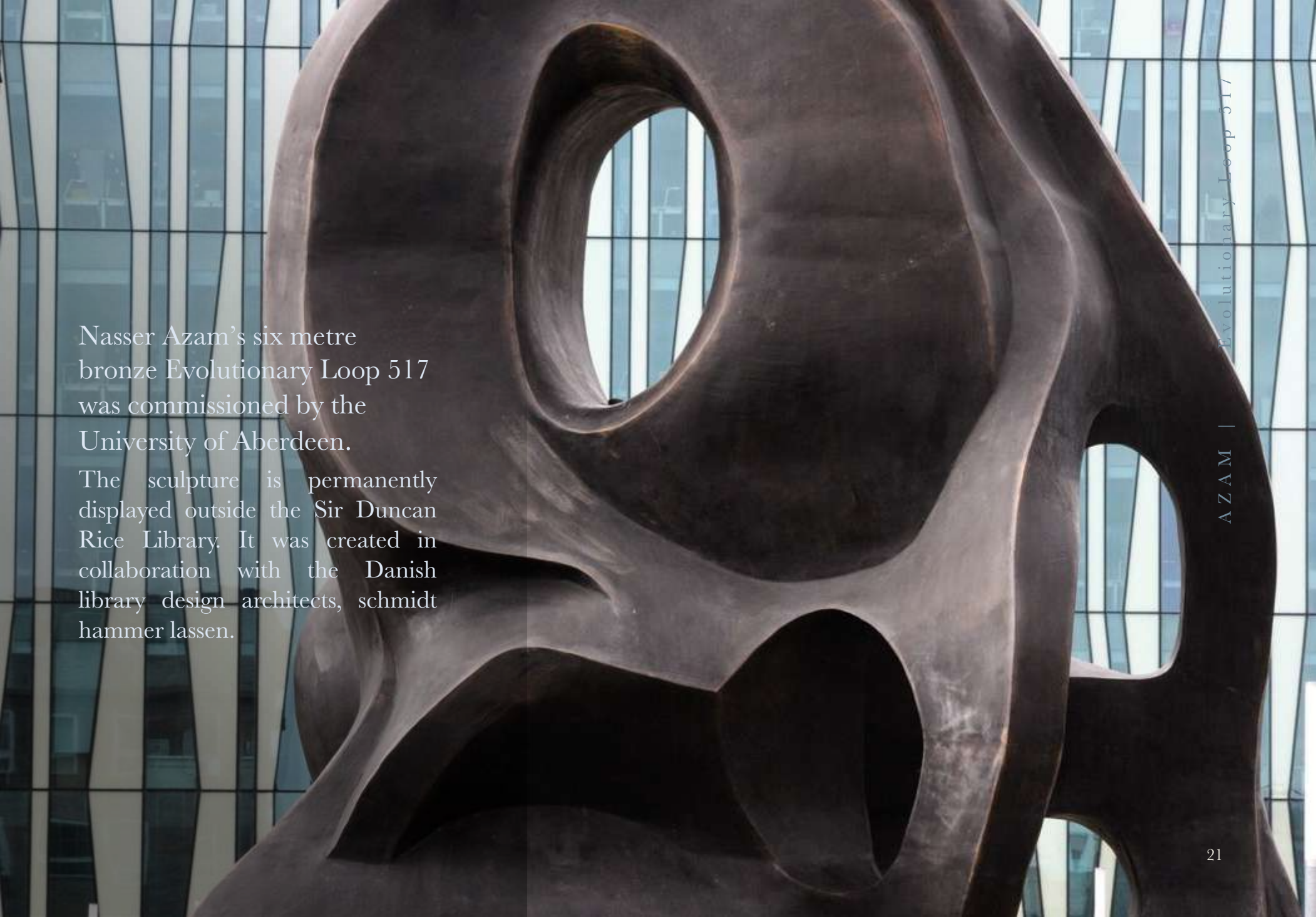
After Carolyn: Green | 2011 | 195 cm x 165 cm | oil on canvas



Poppy | 2011 | 195 cm x 165 cm | oil on canvas

Evolutionary
Loop 517
2013





Nasser Azam's six metre bronze Evolutionary Loop 517 was commissioned by the University of Aberdeen.

The sculpture is permanently displayed outside the Sir Duncan Rice Library. It was created in collaboration with the Danish library design architects, schmidt hammer lassen.

Athena 2012

At just over twelve metres high,
Athena is the tallest bronze sculpture
in the United Kingdom.







The sculpture was unveiled on 5 July 2012 on the Connaught Bridge Road, Silvertown, London Borough of Newham. Sir Robin Wales, Mayor of Newham, described the project as “a symbol of the incredible regeneration happening in the borough (...) with Newham swiftly becoming an exciting new cultural destination in the heart of the east end”.



The
Dance
2008

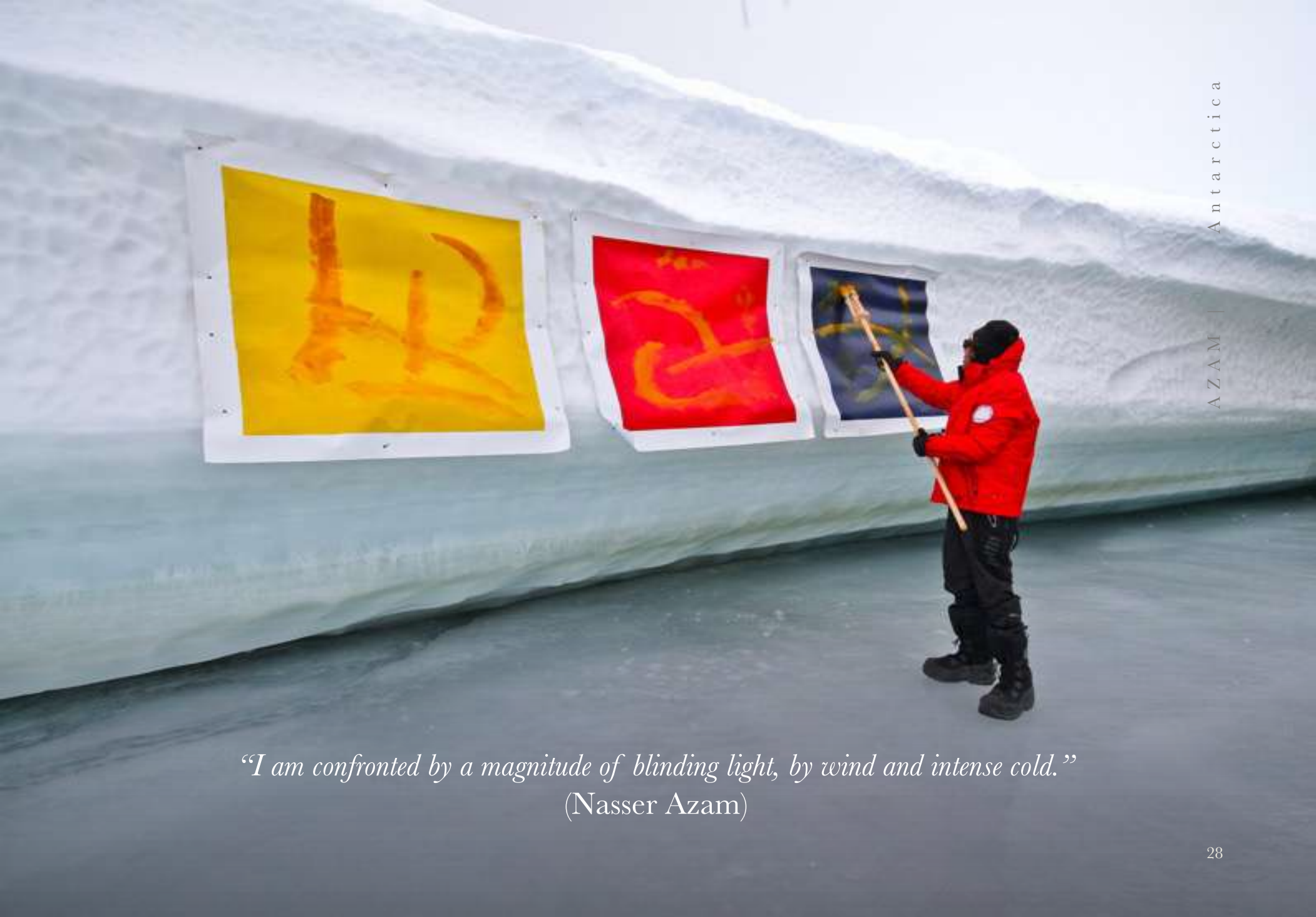
The monumental bronze is permanently located on London's South Bank.



Antarctica 2010

In February 2010 Azam conducted an artistic expedition to Antarctica, where he produced 13 large abstract oil paintings responding to different Antarctic landscapes, including ice lakes, ice caves, glaciers and ice deserts.





“I am confronted by a magnitude of blinding light, by wind and intense cold.”
(Nasser Azam)

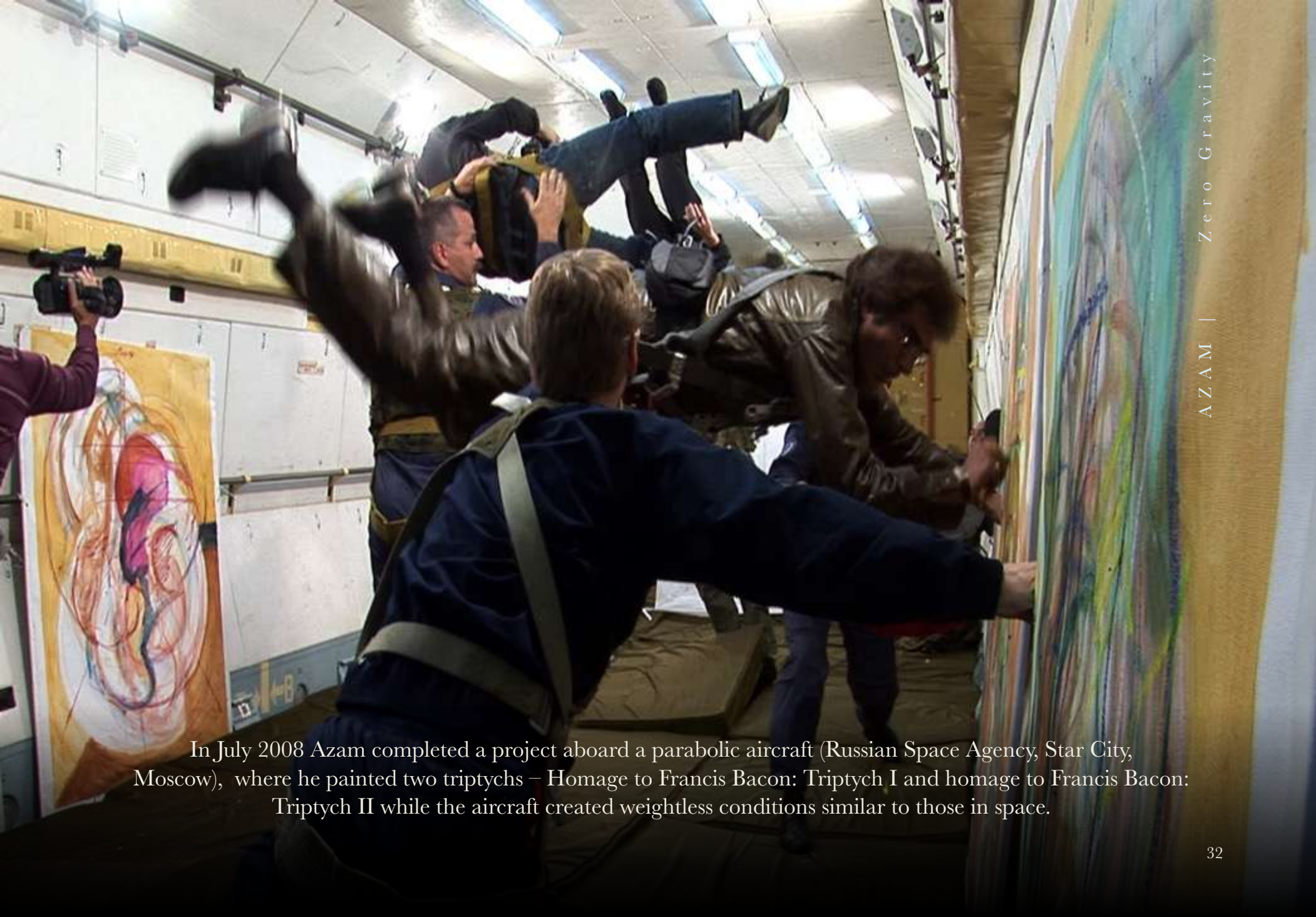




Ice Desert III | 2010 | 300 cm x 300 cm | oil on canvas

Zero
Gravity
2008





In July 2008 Azam completed a project aboard a parabolic aircraft (Russian Space Agency, Star City, Moscow), where he painted two triptychs – Homage to Francis Bacon: Triptych I and homage to Francis Bacon: Triptych II while the aircraft created weightless conditions similar to those in space.



Homage to Francis Bacon: Triptych I sold for over USD 330,000 at Phillips de Pury New York in 2008.

Biography

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

high 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 art works 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, UK. 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, co-founder of Apple. In 2019, London's prestigious 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 Zabudowicz Collection and The Sovereign Art Foundation.





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