

Ayan Aziz-Mammadova

b. 1986, Azerbaijan

"An artist must remain in constant search of their true self, evolving through life's experiences. I never return to what I've already done in my work, preferring both my art and myself to reflect the present moment".

Ayan Aziz-Mammadova is a London-based artist working across painting and mixed media, exploring the intersection of texture, self-expression, and perspective. Her engagement with visual storytelling emerged in childhood. Having developed a strong foundation in visual arts early on, her approach reflects the influence of her father, Arif Aziz, the People's Artist of Azerbaijan, whose celebrated multidisciplinary practice formed the artist's understanding of expressive freedom.

Abstraction lies at the core of Ayan's visual code. Beyond color dynamics, she integrates a mixed-media approach, combining acrylic, pastels, and various materials to create painterly illusions that engage and challenge perception.

As a woman artist, she embraces the mastery of feminine presence in contemporary narratives, uncovering a more nuanced and personal understanding of womanhood. Her paintings celebrate the multifaceted nature of femininity, highlighting its transformative energy. Embracing spontaneity and impulse, her work counters fixed methodologies in favor of intuitive discovery. A defining element of her practice is the integration of color and symbolism. Notably, the artist's *Evil Eye* series examines the symbolism of protection and perception. In this series, Ayan employs intricate textures and rich tones, alongside tactile manipulations in the paint, transforming the canvas surface into a dynamic interplay of form and the mystique of ancient amulets.

The artist's works are held in both private and public collections worldwide, as she continues to explore new mediums, materials, and techniques. Ayan began exhibiting her pieces both locally and internationally while still a student. Over the years, she has drawn inspiration from Jackson Pollock's philosophy, underscoring that painting is an act of self-discovery, where the artist's identity is inherently reflected in their work.

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For Ayan, artistic practice is an ongoing exploration – an extension of self, where palette and composition evoke sensory insights. She believes that interpretation is subjective; her role as an artist is to express her essence, while the audience is free to perceive her work through their own experiences.

Alongside her studio practice, Ayan is committed to arts education, teaching at the Academy of Arts. For her, mentorship is both a responsibility and a continuous source of inspiration, as she guides emerging artists to develop their own visual language.

EDUCATION

- 2018 Ph.D. in Art Criticism
- 2009 - 2011 MA degree at Azerbaijan State Academy of Fine Arts
- 2004 - 2008 BA degree at Azerbaijan State University of Culture and Arts

EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 Wunder Kammern Gallery, Milan, Italy
- 2023 "Flux Review", 10th Edition / London, UK
- 2023 CICA Museum, Gimpo, Korea
- 2023 "Breath" / CICA Museum, Gimpo, Korea
- 2023 "One Hundred Shades of the Century" / Tokyo Art Fair, Tokyo, Japan
- 2022 "Interlude" / Galeria AZUR, Berlin, Germany
- 2022 Nice Art EXPO, Nice, France
- 2022 "Love in Multiple Forms" / Agora Gallery, Chelsea, New York, USA
- 2021 Florence Biennale, Florence, Italy

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- 2018 Nur Gallery, Baku, Azerbaijan
- 2018 "Ag Sheher" / Baku, Azerbaijan
- 2015 IV International Art Exhibition, Gabala, Azerbaijan
- 2014 "'Vera' Art Festival" / Lisbon, Portugal
- 2014 "Symphony of colors" / 1969 Gallery, Baku, Azerbaijan
- 2014 "The Art of Humanity" / Treviso, Luciano Benetton Collection
- 2013 "Lights of Baku" / 1969 Gallery, Baku, Azerbaijan
- 2013 "Portraits' Melody" 3rd International Art Exhibition / Gabala, Azerbaijan
- 2012 "Land of Fire" / University of Leeds Exhibition Hall, Great Britain
- 2011 "Female divinity" / QGallery, Baku, Azerbaijan
- 2010 "Silk Road" / Baku, Azerbaijan
- 2010 "Silk Road" / Seoul, Korea
- 2010 Marmara University, Istanbul, Turkiye
- 2010 "Eastern Art Fair" / Brussels, Belgium
- 2010 Baku-Jazz Center of Germany, Baku, Azerbaijan
- 2009 "Deutschland, das Land..." / Baku, Azerbaijan
- 2009 "Days of Azerbaijan in Turkey" / Istanbul, Turkiye
- 2009 "Azerbaijan-Turkey" / Baku, Azerbaijan
- 2009 "America through the eyes of the artist" / Baku, Azerbaijan
- 2009 "Youth of Azerbaijan" / Baku, Azerbaijan
- 2009 "Photo Design" / Baku, Azerbaijan
- 2007 "Novruz Holiday" / Baku, Azerbaijan
- 2007 "International Women's Day" / Baku, Azerbaijan

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2007 "Day of the Youth" / Baku, Azerbaijan

2006 "Abilities of Youth" / Baku, Azerbaijan

Museums and Collections

Housed within private collections.