

## Sumayya Vally

Among other notable names in international civilization, Sumayya Vally is recognized as the only architect and is the youngest architect to be commissioned for the internationally renowned architecture program. She has recently worked on initiating and developing Support Structures for Support Structures, a new fellowship program launched at the Serpentine, an initiative that supports and networks artists working at the intersections of arts and ecology, arts and social justice, and arts and the archive. She has honors and masters in architecture from the University of The Witwatersrand while she finished her bachelor's at the University of Pretoria, her lectures and projects have taken her to unique opportunities at biennales and offices around the world where she has built on her work in South Africa. Studying architecture in her native South Africa, Sumayya Vally and her fellow students were regularly told that anything they could imagine had already been done. Each mirror features a different color gradient, which was created using pigments found in dust produced by the mines that surround Johannesburg, South Africa.

Counterpace's founder and principal is Sumayya Vally. Her design, research, and pedagogical work aim to reveal the unseen by finding speculative histories, futures, archaeologies, and design languages to express hybrid identities to reveal the invisible. Her work is often forensic and draws on performance and the overlooked as generative places of history and work. She is currently based in Johannesburg and London and is the youngest architect ever to design the Serpentine Pavilion 2020/2021. Sumayya Vally was also chosen as one of TIME100 Next 2021's most influential innovators. An award that recognizes global voices with the potential to affect the future. Among other notable names in international civilization, Vally is recognized as the only architect and is the youngest architect to be commissioned for the internationally renowned architecture program.

She has recently worked on initiating and developing Support Structures for Support Structures, a new fellowship program launched at the Serpentine, an initiative that supports and networks artists working at the intersections of arts and ecology, arts and social justice, and arts and the archive. Vally is currently serving as the Pelli Distinguished Visiting Lecturer at the Illinois School of Architecture. She has honors and masters in architecture from the University of The Witwatersrand while she finished her bachelor's at the University of Pretoria, her lectures and projects have taken her to unique opportunities at biennales and offices around the world where she has built on her work in South Africa.

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her, the rarefied world of architecture had long ignored the African experience. “There is so much that has been taken away from us or erased or ravaged on the continent,” she says. “In looking at these other ways of being, there is so much design waiting to happen.”

One of sumayya’s projects *Folded Skies* addresses the complex geographies of Johannesburg. *Folded Skies* installation comprises a series of large iridescent mirrors. Each mirror features a different color gradient, which was created using pigments found in dust produced by the mines that surround Johannesburg, South Africa.

*Sunday Rice Ritual* is a limited-edition sculpture designed by Sumayya Vally, Counterspace, that translates the spirit of the *Serpentine Pavilion 2021* into small-scale, domestic objects for gathering. Recognizing the importance of informal gatherings and food sharing in the preservation of cultures, this edition was designed as a single long sharing platter that was split into 20 individual pieces, each one unique and printed in clay before being finished in an off-white matte glaze. The sculptures reference and pay homage to exist and erased places in London that have held communities over time and continue to do so today, echoing the principles on which the *Serpentine Pavilion 2021* was designed.