

ZAKIA KHAN

Watercolour Painter / Feminist and Anti-Racist Activist

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artbyzax.com

ARTISTIC PRACTICE

Watercolour Painter (Zax), *independent artistic practice, Stockholm / Umbria* (May 2020 – present)

Watercolour painter of British, Norwegian and Indian heritage, based in Stockholm and part of the year in Umbria, Italy. Her painting starts from nature, often remembered or imagined rather than directly observed, and returns again and again to the same subjects: a bird resting in the hand, birch forests, a coastline at dusk, chasing a feeling or a light rather than accuracy.

- Education: Fine Art and Graphic Design programme, Basis Art School, Stockholm (completed May 2026)
- Workshops with Liz Chaderton, Tom Shepherd, Joseph Zbukvic & Lisa Wang, Hazel Soan, Thomas Schaller and Michael Solovyev, plus regular courses with Björn Bernström, Stefan Gadnell, Susanna Salifou and Marianne Chayet
- Ongoing series: “Imagining Lofoten” (watercolours inspired by her great-grandmother's diary from Skomvær lighthouse, 1896–1900), “Birches”, the installation “Return to the Motherbird” (sculpture, video and sound), and “Dala Birds” in ceramic
- Exhibitions: Galleri Svea, Gamla Stan, Stockholm (2026, group); Spring Exhibition, Basis Art School (2026); Artisti al Monte, Monte Santa Maria Tiberina, Umbria (annual 2023–2026, group); Søndre Sandøy, Hvaler, Norway (2023, group)
- 30+ original watercolours in private collections in Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Germany, Canada, USA, Australia and the UK
- Teaches urban sketching and watercolour painting in Stockholm
- artbyzax.com and [instagram.com/zakiakhan.se](https://www.instagram.com/zakiakhan.se)

ACTIVISM AND GENDER EQUALITY WORK

Interfem, *co-founder; project manager, executive director and finance officer* (co-founded 2006, employed 2007–2018)

Feminist and anti-racist think tank and resource centre. Responsible for project management, funding, bookkeeping, reporting, payroll and membership work, and authored and designed books and information materials. Projects included:

- “Makthandboken”: for young feminists who face sexism and racism in civil-society organisations
- “Rekrytera rätt”: recruitment without discrimination
- “Se och agera mot rasism och sexism i arbetslivet” (Seeing and acting against racism and sexism at work)
- “Din hälsa, dina rättigheter” (Your health, your rights)
- “Blattequeers i film”

Anti-Discrimination Bureau, Uppsala, *development officer* (2016 – 2017)

- Advised and supported people affected by harassment and discrimination
- Trained and informed on discrimination law and active measures

Södertörn University, *case officer, student rights, equal treatment and disciplinary matters* (2020 – 2022)

- Handled disciplinary cases and supported students and staff on student rights and equal treatment
- Advised teaching staff on disciplinary reporting, harassment and discrimination
- Coordinated active measures such as training initiatives and materials

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Södertörn University, *international officer* (2018 – 2020, 2022 – present)

- Secretary of the internationalisation council; officer for international student recruitment; communications officer developing web pages in English and Swedish

Earlier experience 1985–2007 (selected): County Administrative Board of Stockholm, project coordinator (2004–2007); Uppsala University, PhD candidate in business administration (2002–2004); Dalarna University, international officer (2000–2002); Hedemora Municipality, business advisor for women (1998–2000); City of Stockholm / City of Gothenburg, project manager (1995–1998); earlier roles in accounting, sales and tourism (1985–1993).

EDUCATION

- Basis Art School, Stockholm, Fine Art and Graphic Design programme (completed May 2026)
- School of Business, Economics and Law, University of Gothenburg, Master's degree in Business Administration (2001 – 2002)
- School of Business, Economics and Law, University of Gothenburg, BSc in Business Administration (1988 – 1992)

LANGUAGES

- English: Native
- Swedish: Fluent, spoken and written

References available on request