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**Lecture: Solace in Clay**

Ahmed Umar, Visual Artist, Sudan/Norway

**ABSTRACT**

Ahmed Umar (born 1988) is a multidisciplinary artist who lives and works in Oslo, Norway. Umar's practice is broad and personal.

Umar uses stories as a foundation for the works, selecting whatever materials are best suited to tell a given story. His artistic practice is mainly based on self-portraits that blend autobiographical aspects of identity, personal experiences and ancestral connections to the Black Pharaohs of the ancient kingdom of Kush, The Nubian empire in Sudan.

His conservative upbringing in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, and Sudan, and the existence outside of social and cultural norms played a role in his being, yet his art. Umar uses his art in his pursuit of solace and healing, yet discussing the silencing, demonizing and compromising of queer lives in both the Sudanese and international context.

In this talk, Umar presents his experience with ceramics which he used for narrating several stories about major emotional and political events in his life.