

## **Personal Statement of Position**

Sergey Melnikoff (MFF)

I affirm that this artwork is created from fragments of artillery shells and mortar rounds collected in Ukraine. In the night of 19 December 2025, my studio in Odesa sustained significant damage as a result of a Russian Shahed drone strike. This work therefore arises directly from my lived experience of war and its consequences.

*Allah al-Akbar* is conceived by me as an act of reverence and humility before the Almighty, expressed through the language of contemporary art.

Through this work, metal once intended for destruction is transformed into *dhikr* — a remembrance of the greatness of Allah. The material traces of war are transfigured into a sacred utterance, affirming the supremacy of the Divine over violence and devastation.

The sacred words *Allah al-Akbar* are rendered in Arabic calligraphy and gilded with pure 999.9 gold. For me, gold symbolises eternity, purity of intention, and the light of Divine guidance.

The base of the artwork is constructed from metal derived from cut casings of 30-calibre automatic cannon ammunition. Forged metal plates radiate from the centre in seven rays, with seven elements signifying completeness and divine order within the Islamic tradition.

The sacred inscription is enclosed within a double frame one metre in diameter, assembled from fragments of munitions and finished in nickel and pure gold. This work is not an ornament.

It is an intention (*niyyah*),  
a gesture of profound respect towards Islam,  
and a testimony that even from the ashes of war, praise to Allah may be raised.

The artwork will be presented at a charitable auction. All proceeds will be used exclusively for humanitarian purposes. I formally renounce any personal financial remuneration for the creation of this work.