



ARTSOCH
CONTEMPORARY

PRESENTS

BEYOND NARRATIVE

'Understanding Abstractionism to its Core'

OPENS ON **Thursday, 16 Sept, 2021**
FROM **5:30 pm till 8:00 pm**

ASIM AMJAD - ASIYA BAJWA - SADIA FAROOQ

Curated by **Mariam Hanif Khan**

YOU ARE REQUESTED TO FOLLOW COVID-19 SOPS

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Curatorial Note

The exhibition Beyond Narrative is an ode to the genre of abstract art and its understanding in general public. In the Pakistani art scene, themes of abstractionism are still overlooked and are more commonly treated as a background to perhaps a more representational visual. Despite this, to me it's the most progressive style of painting till date. Abstractionism talks about basic human emotions and experience, which are universal in language. It allows one to be free of all constraints and narratives of what and how to make. It focuses more on instinct and possibilities of experimentation and the three selected artists are immensely talented and have been working in this genre for many years.

Asim Amjad's oil paintings are full of drama, dialogue and are confrontational in nature coming from deep voids of melancholy and chaos. The work further explores uncanny themes such as emotional vulnerability. His experience working as an independent therapist at mental asylum adds an element of empathy for others. His personality is full of expression with colossal pain for humanity and injustice. He also writes poetry and often uses it as a verbal tool to describe his paintings.

Asiya Bajwa, on the other hand, in her practice explores probabilities of abstractionism while using various mix media techniques and philosophy behind color therapy as muse to

her creation. Her paintings hold a unique aura, soothing to the eyes with a calming effect on the mood. She uses pastel tones, child like doodles, scratches, patchwork, needlework and emblematic shapes to develop an innovative and exquisite visual language to depict her expressions in the most subtle way possible.

Whereas, Sadia Farooq's work narrates happy times and mindfulness. Amorphous forms and symbols in her painting are both sacred and mundane at the same time. The use of sand and wood scrapes, as a main medium for painting, is reminiscent of the time she spent with these materials at a beach in Karachi. Her training as a miniature painter allowed her to amalgamate two styles of painting, abstract from far but on closer inspection the technique of gold-leaf gilding and the grainy texture of sand. The work reminds us of the material and rendered surface 'Purdakht' - similar to miniature paintings.

Beyond Narrative is the first step towards understanding abstract art and artists working in the Pakistani art fraternity. ArtSoch Contemporary looks forward to initiating activities encompassing the genre of Abstract art for our viewers.

Mariam Hanif
Curator and Co-founder of ArtSoch

Sadia Farooq

Born and raised in Karachi, Sadia was primarily trained in Miniature painting at the National College of Arts, Lahore and graduated in 2000. After completing her MA (Hons.) in Visual Arts at NCA in 2014, she got selected for the Charles Wallace Trust Fellowship to study for a term at the Prince's School of Traditional Arts, London where she received a Post Graduate Diploma in Traditional Arts. An Academic for the past 20 years having taught at NCA for seven years, she is a lecturer of History of Art and Architecture and Cultural studies at Comsats University, Lahore since 2008.

Sadia experiments with various mediums, amalgamating new techniques and traditional methods. Her work mainly encompasses the themes of self-exploration through meditative repetition of text, geometric and biomorphic forms having buoyancy and juxtaposition of shapes. Her work is a Fusion of Refinement and Experimentation through studying the relationship between perception, the immaterial form, and spatial and sensorial effect. Her recent body of work originated from everyday gloominess and monotony of Covid 19 days, when she started experimenting with natural

materials like sand and wood shavings, taking a deviation from her general practice which is intricate and repetitive in nature.

The imagery relates intrinsically to the material explored that is Sand mainly; thus, an Ode to the Beach; where she spent happy times with her family. The pleasant sensation of the sinking earth from her feet with every new wave crashing against the shoreline, gentle tickling of the seaweed and writing in the sand had always remained her desired reminiscences amongst others. The process of painting with these materials took her back to the magical sensory experience of rejuvenating the simple pleasures of life in these testing times.



By the Sea Shore - 01 | Mixed Media on Canvas | 50 x 38 inches



Khud Kalami - 01 | Mixed Media on Canvas | 54 x 48 inches



Writing In The Sand | Mixed Media on Canvas | 50 x 38 inches



Khud Kalami - 01 | Mixed Media on Canvas | 43 x 52 inches

Asim Amjad

Born (1970) and raised in Lahore, Asim Amjad is a Visual Artist,

Poet and Psychologist by profession. He attained his M.Sc. Psychology from Punjab University in Art Therapy and Psycho Drama. He is certified in Fine Arts from Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA), Lahore Arts Council (LAC) and Artists Association of Punjab (AAP). Since his early years of art education, he has been an active and vocal member of community and taught under legendary artist of his time.

Asim has an extensive range of experience, working in field of Research, Human Psychology and Performance Arts. He is the pioneer of Psychodrama therapy in Pakistan and till date has conducted multiple workshops on this subject for awareness and to benefit society. Beside these achievements, Asim has been vigorously showing his art nationally and internationally and has exhibited his work in India, Italy, UK and USA with two solos' in his career.

To explain his current abstract series, he has shared one his own poem to explain his

profounder concerns:

*" I am dancing with my beloved raped society
and its golden locks of fears are unfold now....*

*I am decorating the melodious utterance of its
rotten flesh*

Can you smell it?

*Can you dance with its hidden impressions
As foot prints are already faded*

Oh; can you?

*I am living with my beloved and hoping it's the
true marriage of two "erotic" lovers"*



Untitled | Mixed Media on Canvas | 33 x 33 inches



Untitled | Mixed Media on Canvas | 44.3 x 38.8 inches



Untitled | Mixed Media on Canvas | 44 x 38.9 inches



Untitled | Mixed Media on Canvas | 37.5 x 31.2 inches



Untitled (3 painting series) | Mixed Media on Canvas | 20 x 20



Untitled | Mixed Media on Canvas | 33 x 33 inches

Asiya Bajwa

Asiya is a Visual Artist based and raised in Lahore. From a very young age she was inclined towards art and crafts; later she obtained her Masters in Fine Arts from Lahore College for Women. After getting academically trained in Drawing and Painting, she realized it was not challenging enough to her current practice. So, after completing her Masters in 1999, she shifted her work from realistic to complete abstraction. Gradually, her interest in cartoon drawing and home crafts found way into her world of abstract art. Paint, thread, fabric and wood, all became her medium of expression. For the past seven years her work has been collected by collectors from all over the world. She believes her art should help people feel gratitude and find positivity and tranquility in everyday life, no matter how rough it gets.

Her current body of work is experimental in nature and explores various themes of abstraction. Her painting process is led by intuition and emotions as basic tool of inspiration. She uses earthy, pale and pastel color tones to bring serenity and calmness to the viewer. Through form, textures and layering of paint

she utters the impression left from small experiences like seeing clouds in the sky, stationary in shops, fresh tubes of paints, aroma of flowers, view of rain drops falling on car window, and sometimes even by counting blessings in life.



Elements of Design | Mixed Media on Canvas | 32 x 24 x 2.5 inches



Joy in Light | Mixed Media on Canvas | 31.5 x 24 inches



Wires | Mixed Media on Canvas | 48 x 24 x 0.7 inches



Not Even Gaming | Mixed Media on Canvas | 42 x 36 inches



Purple Outline | Mixed Media on Canvas | 32 x 24 x 1.5 inches



Garden | Mixed Media on Canvas | 30 x 36 inches



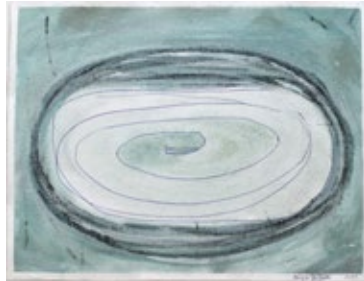
Silent Valley



Personal Blogging



Yellow Circles



Collard Green



Labyrinth



Nature on Trial



Pink Lines

*Thank you to our esteemed artists,
guests and ArtSoch family for making
our exhibition: Beyond Narrative, a
fabulous show !*



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BEYOND NARRATIVE | 16th September | Lahore | 2021