

MiND gAMes

An Insight to Cultural Dualism



Solo Works By
Qinza Najm

Curated By
MARIAM HANIF KHAN

Curatorial Note

Perhaps the most concise summary of enlightenment would be: transcending dualism . Dualism is the conceptual division of the world into categories .Human perception is by nature a dualistic phenomenon which makes the quest for enlightenment an uphill struggle, to say the least! -

Douglas Hofstadter

The exhibition “Mind Games”encompasses various facets of Cultural Dualism one finds in everyday interactions. The Inter-Disciplinary artist Qinsa Najm is interested what lies between opposites ; mind and body, matter and spirit, being and thought . Academically trained as a psychologist, her core research has always overlapped and investigated human behaviours and their capacity to adapt. Living between distinctive cultures led her to open new paradigms of dialogue and duality one encounters in gender roles, power and control and re-inventing traditions.

Through her current body of work she questions the various nuances of social norms and individual transformation in challenging times. She uses the metaphor of a zipper - an apparel accessory to conceal or expose an entry point to highlight various allegories of modern times. To be concise her current practice invites us to experience an encounter between East and West, and between technology and craftsmanship.



Biography

Qinsa Najm is a NYC based Pakistani-American artist, born and raised in Lahore. She has been academically trained from Bath University England and at the The Art Students League of New York under the mentorship of renowned artist Larry Poons.

Qinsa has widely exhibited both Nationally and Internationally. Her works have been exhibited at prestigious institutions like Queens Museum, (NY) 2017, Christie's (Dubai) 2012, Art|Basel (Miami, FL) 2016, Museum of the Moving Image (NY) 2017, Spring/Break Art Show (NYC) 2021, Karachi Biennale (Karachi) 2019, A.I.R. Gallery (NY) 2019, National Museum of China in (Beijing) 2019, Frost Art Museum (Miami) 2021, and The Wolfson Museum (Miami) 2021 among others. She has been invited to be a part of critical artist residencies like Mass Moca (North Adams) 2020, Fountainhead (Miami) 2020, Worldco (Sofia, Bulgaria) 2017. Her work is nominated for the esteemed Rema Hort Foundation. She is currently a part of a prestigious fellowship at Bronx Museum, NYC 2021-22.

Qinsa's work has been featured in Artnet News, the Huffington Post, the NY Daily News, International Business Week, BuzzFeed, Bazar, Herald and has made the cover of the distinguished Public Art Dialogue Journal 2021.

Artist Statement

Qinza Najm works is an amalgamation of her physical and mental journey between shifting cultures and personal growth . She is interested in mind and body connection and the narratives they bring together in the space between traditions and modernity .

The recent body of works is inspired by her childhood time spent at her grandmother's home in Sargodha, interacting with the peeri (a traditional stool) in her kitchen, where she were used to spend most of her summer vacation learning about traditions and culture of this region through her Nani's stories; an old chess board on which she were used to play chess with her dad as a young girl, and a glitched zipper on a shirt her mom stitched for me as a kid. All these elements hold a great visual allegories in her mind . After being away for decades from her homeland, she was able to see them from an outsider's perspective and developed an urge to re-interpret it into new connotations.

As a trained psychologist, she have used diverse forms of creative expression - paintings, installations, sound, and other mediums - to create awareness and dialogue so the audience can re-create their own personal narratives with the work they experience.



Queen's Fluid Play | 6x4 feet | oil on canvas



King's Fluid Play | 6x4 feet | oil on canvas



Power Play | 7x5 feet | oil on canvas | 2021-22



Four-Play | 7x5 feet| oil on canvas | 2021-22



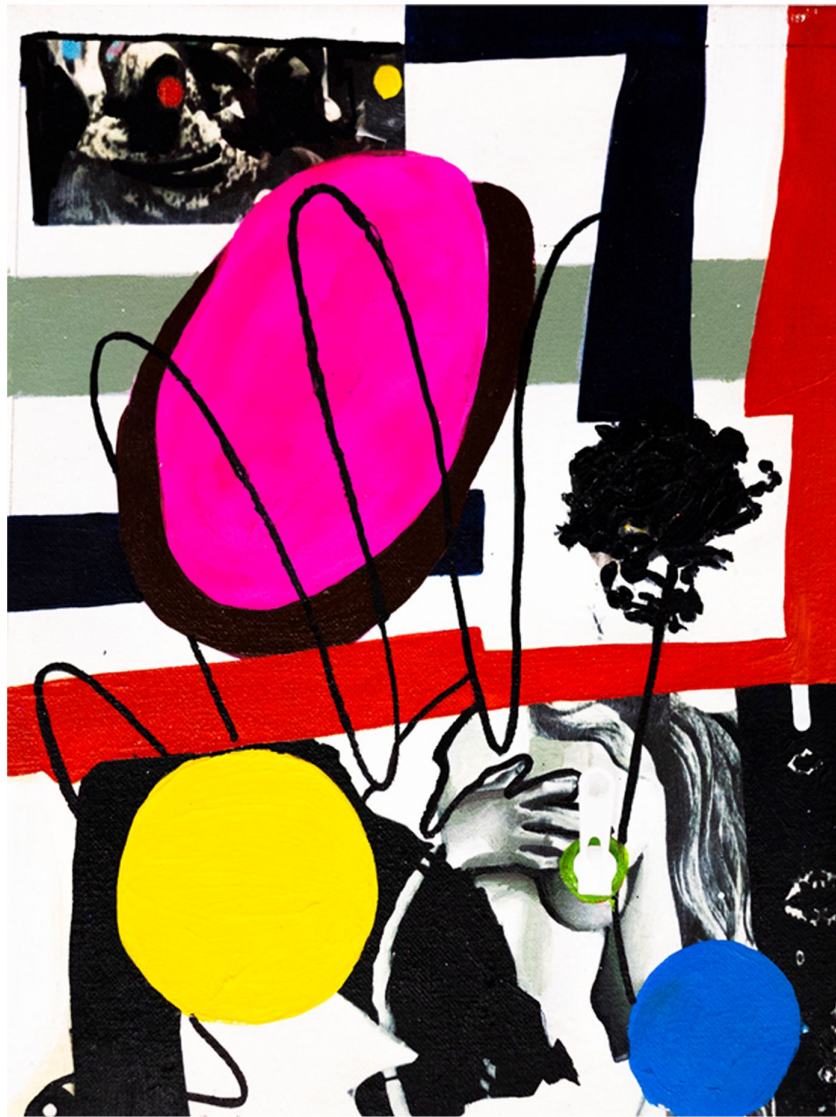
Letting Go # 1 | 6x4 feet | oil on canvas | 2021



Letting Go # 1 | 6x4 feet | oil on canvas | 2021



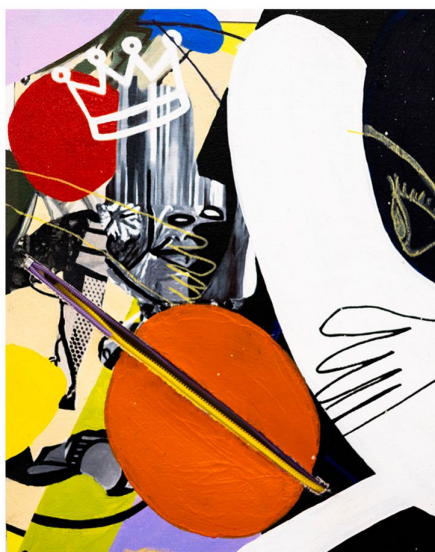
Love at play | 36X24 inch | oil on canvas | 2021



Let's Play | 8.5x11 inch | mixed medium on canvas. | 2021



Let's Play | 8.5x11 inch (each) | mixed medium on canvas.| 2021



Let's Play | 8.5x11 inch (each) | mixed medium on canvas.| 2021



Pink and Blue Game | 6x3 inch (each) | oil on canvas | 2021

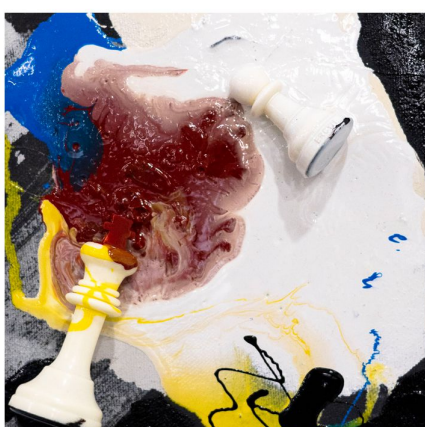
10x7 inch



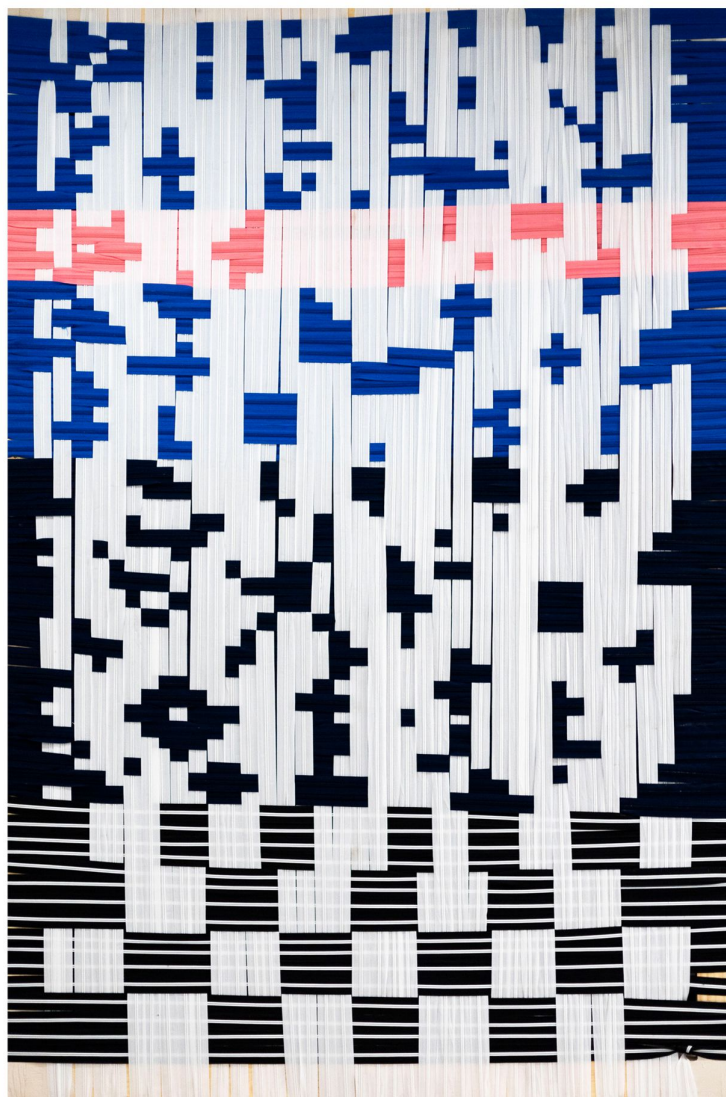
NFT: a fad | 8x8 inch (each) | oil on canvas | 2022



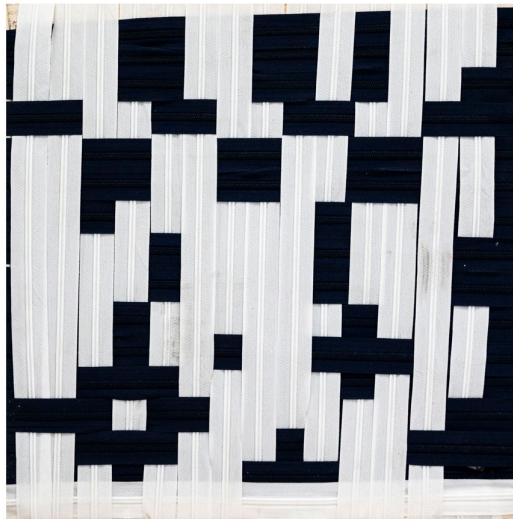
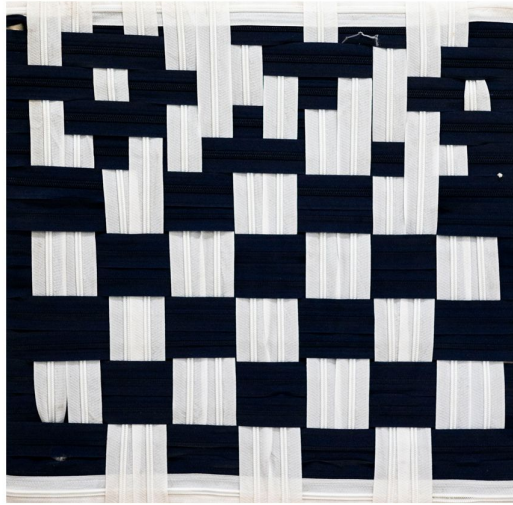
NFT: a fad | 6x6 inch | oil on canvas | 2022



Strategic play | 8x8 inch (each) | oil on canvas | 2022



Fragmented traditions | 6x4 feet | zippers and wood | 2022



NFT a fad,| 2x2 feet | zipper and wood | 2021



Re-inventing Past | 2x2 feet| zipper, wood, acrylic and oil | 2021



Re-inventing Past | 2x2 feet| zipper, wood, acrylic and oil | 2021 (with Wheels)



Social Gambit | 36x24 inch | oil on canvas | 2021



Political Gambit | 7x5 feet | acrylic and oil on canvas



Strip it | 36x24 inch | oil on canvas



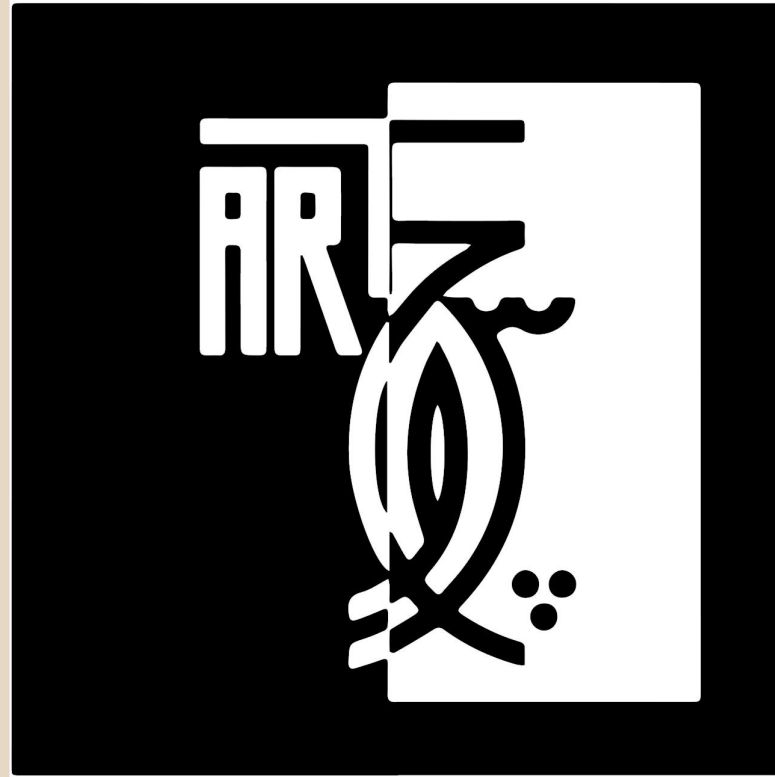
Zip it | 36x24 inch | oil on canvas



ARTSOCH

LOCATION





23 MM Alam Road, Gulberg III | www.artsoch.com | +92 317 5111195