



I AM THE MIRACLE

Solo Show by **Sumera Jawad**

OPENING ON **Friday 16th, June 2023**

From **05:30 PM** till **08:00 PM**

Curated by **Mariam Hanif Khan**

Curatorial Note

The term "miracle" in Buddhism can refer to extraordinary abilities or powers that can be developed through advanced meditation practice. These abilities are not considered the ultimate goal but are seen as byproducts of spiritual development. The Buddha taught that all sentient beings possess the innate potential to awaken and free themselves from suffering. This awakening is often referred to as realizing one's own Buddha-nature or Buddha-potential. It is not limited to any particular individual but is accessible to anyone who follows the path of mindfulness and tranquility ; to experience profound transformation and liberation.

Sumera Jawad in her solo show, I am the Miracle, explores the notion of liberation and transformation through her own lens as women artist from this region. During her on- going research and field trips at ancient Gandara site Taxila, she finds lack of female figure depiction in both sculpture and relief in comparison to male figure presence; Even though the whole philosophy of Buddhism lies in gender less soul. Whereas, Ironically, Jawad's lifelong art practice solely spun around concerns correlated to women's identity and her existence in South Asian culture. Her earlier practice queried how role of women has been always scrutinized through the patriarchal society and struggle to find her true self.

For her latest works, inspired from Gandhara Art, she has taken the charge of her own power as a woman of 21st century and went hundreds of years back in history to reinvent her own strength through alerting man-god Buddha postures into female figures. She imagines herself as a crafts person of that era and what she could have done to change that fragment of history; where women presence was eluded on basis of inferiority. Her works construct a new paradigm of women empowerment and self-acceptance.

Her solo women drawings in graphite on paper emerge complete and in state of Zen by themselves; interpreting the significance of solitude and true liberation comes from within. On the other hand, she has created relief and sculptural artworks on ancient stones from the Gandhara site with appropriated elements from preexistent artifacts to build new narratives of past and present. The essence of the exhibition is imbued within the voyage of a resilient soul and self-awareness, just like Buddha himself hence I am the Miracle means a being's ability to Survive, Heal and Transend from mundane is a miracle in itself.

Artist Statement

As a female artist, I have always been fascinated with the role of female body in the ancient civilizations. Previous scholarships on women's involvement in Buddhism in the medieval sub-continent assume that women disappeared from the scene by the ninth century. This view may be rooted in our way of seeing (or not seeing) than in the actual historical reality. This view also generates from the analysis of the ruins of Buddhist art we have excavated over the years. My current work is inspired by the visual representation of Buddha in the ancient Buddhist art. My travels to and explorations of the city of Taxila, home to the ancient Buddhist Gandhara Civilization, led me to interrogate the role of women in Buddhism.

Spending my days in the Taxila Museum, I studied the many sculptures, plates and manuscripts, deconstructing Buddha's postures, control of body and the presence of female form in Buddhist art. The scarcity of the representation of women in Buddhist art led me to develop my recent works which re-imagine the role and existence of the female body in this ancient civilization.

My drawings depict female bodies in similar postures to those of Buddha as we know them. Apart from drawing on paper, I have also used the Taxila stone, working with which I imagined myself as a craft-person from the similar era. My sculptures, both in Taxila stone and Schist (medium of sculpture and a significant feature of the architecture in the ancient Gandhara), pay tribute to the excellent craftsmanship of Gandhara Civilization.

Other elements of my work are inspired by the distinct jewelry found from the Taxila ruins. Depicting natural beings such as animals, birds, bugs and worms etc, these pieces were worn on a daily basis as necklaces and rings.

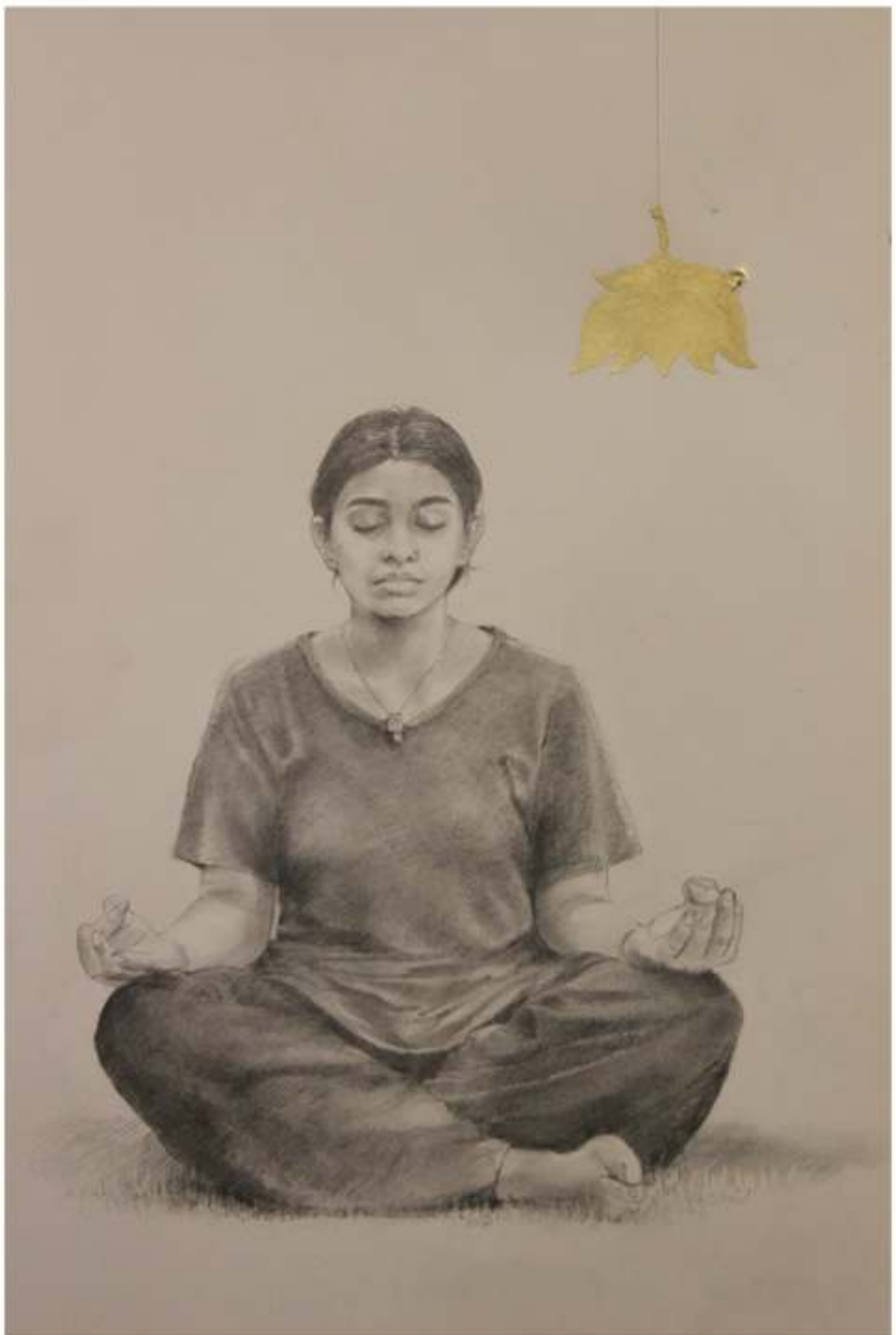
"I am the Miracle", (as exclaimed by Buddha himself) is an ode to the women of Gandhara. Through my drawings and sculptures, I revisit the ancient Gandhara and put forward an imagination of what the existence of a female body could have meant in Buddhist art.

Biography

Dr. Sumera Jawad is a seasoned academician who holds a PhD in Fine Arts(Studio Practice), currently teaching at and serving as the principal at the College Art and Design, University of The Punjab, Lahore. Alongside being a pedagogue, she is also a practicing artist with multiple solo and group shows in Pakistan and abroad to her credit. She is very hands on in studio practice, conducting workshops to share her valuable knowledge with upcoming professionals and students of fine arts. She stays abreast of all concepts by attending residencies and workshops herself, considering herself a lifetime student of the Arts. She is also an art researcher and has written many articles in different research journals of Pakistan and abroad. She has 12 solo exhibitions at Karachi, Islamabad , lahore and three solo shows in England in different galleries on her credit. Apart from that she conducts an artist residency every year with the name of Karbath since 2017. Through her work, Sumera explores the concepts of identity and the Self, using the female form as her preferred medium.



MAPLE LEAF 3 | 20" X 30" | GRAPHITE AND GOLD LEAF ON PAPER | 2023



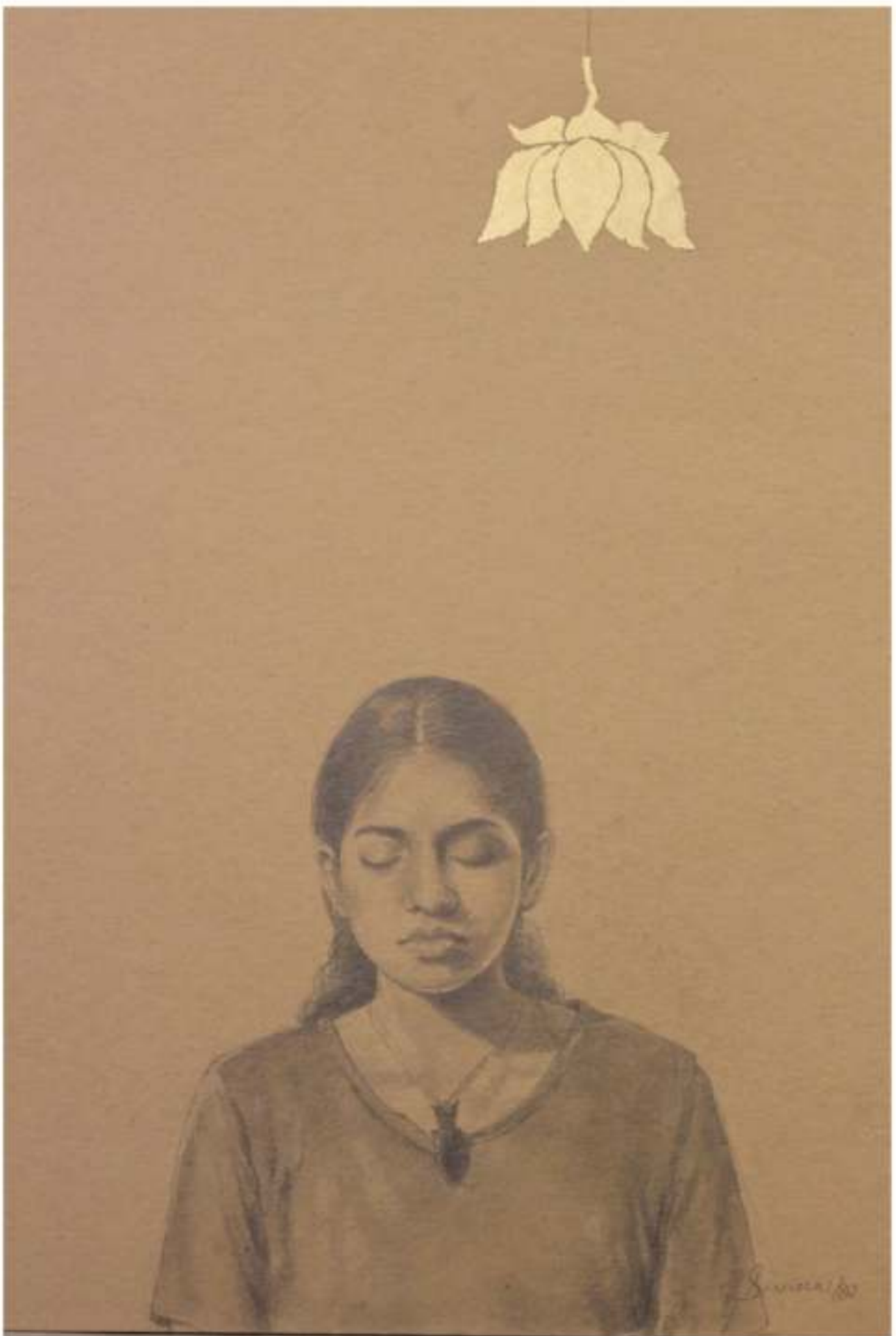
MAPLE LEAF 2 | 20" X 30" | GRAPHITE AND GOLD LEAF ON PAPER | 2023



I AM THE MIRACLE | 24" X 30" | GRAPHITE AND GOLD LEAF
ON HANDMADE PAPER | 2023



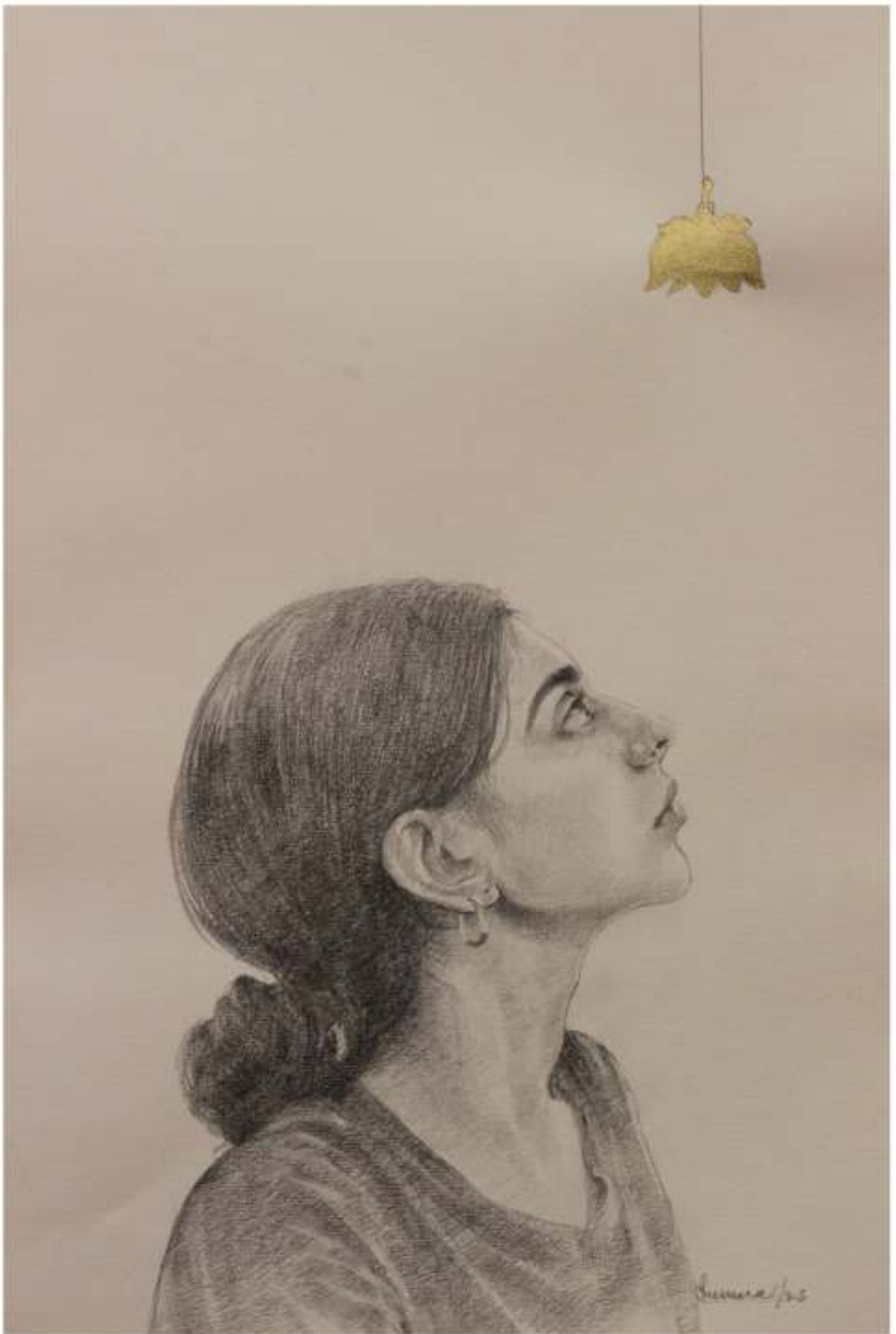
MAPLE LEAF | 20" X 30" | GRAPHITE AND GOLD ON PAPER | 2023



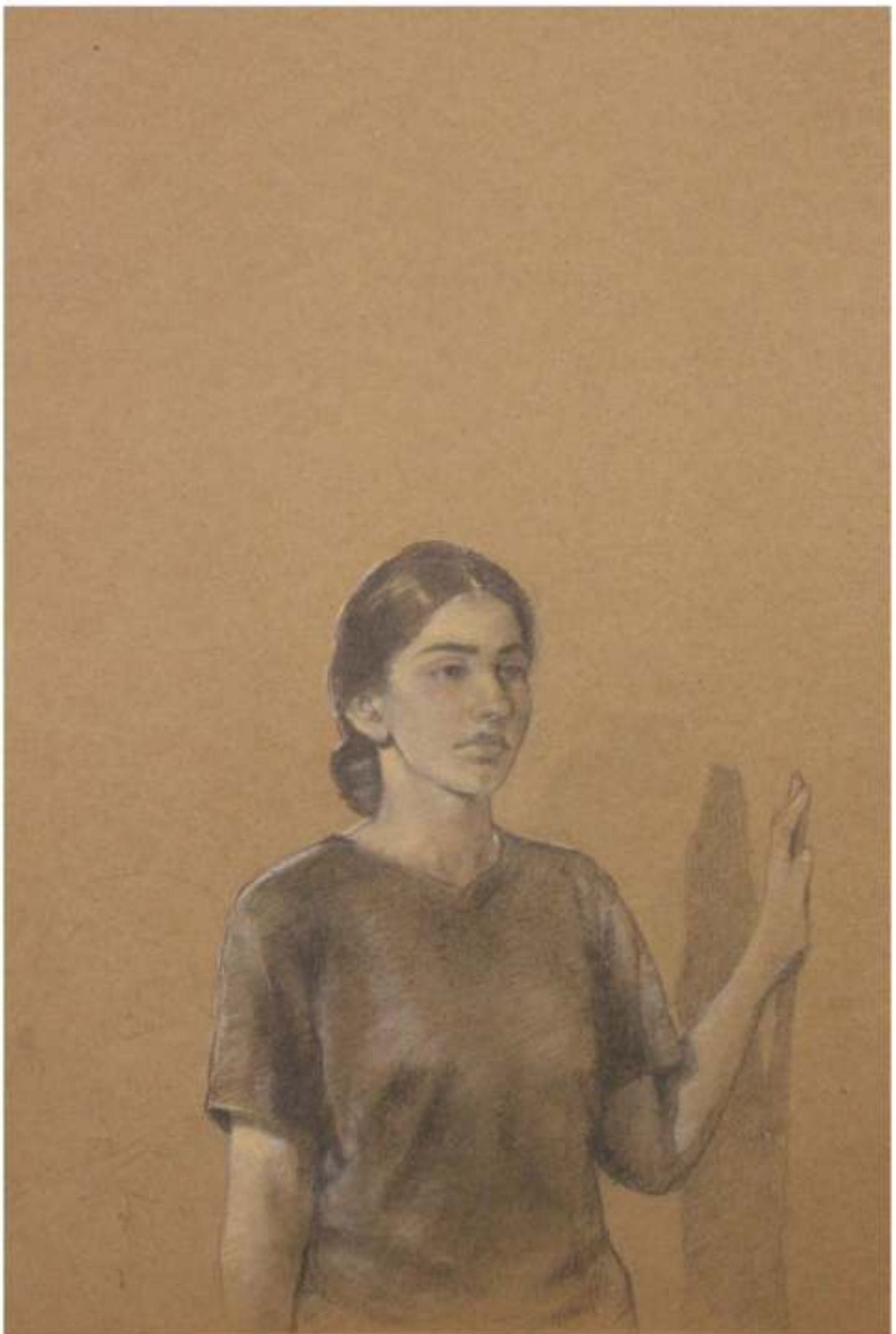
LOTUS | 20" X 30" | GRAPHITE AND GOLD LEAF ON BOXBOARD | 2023



THE MIRACLE 2 | 20" X 30" | GRAPHITE AND GOLD ON PAPER | 2023



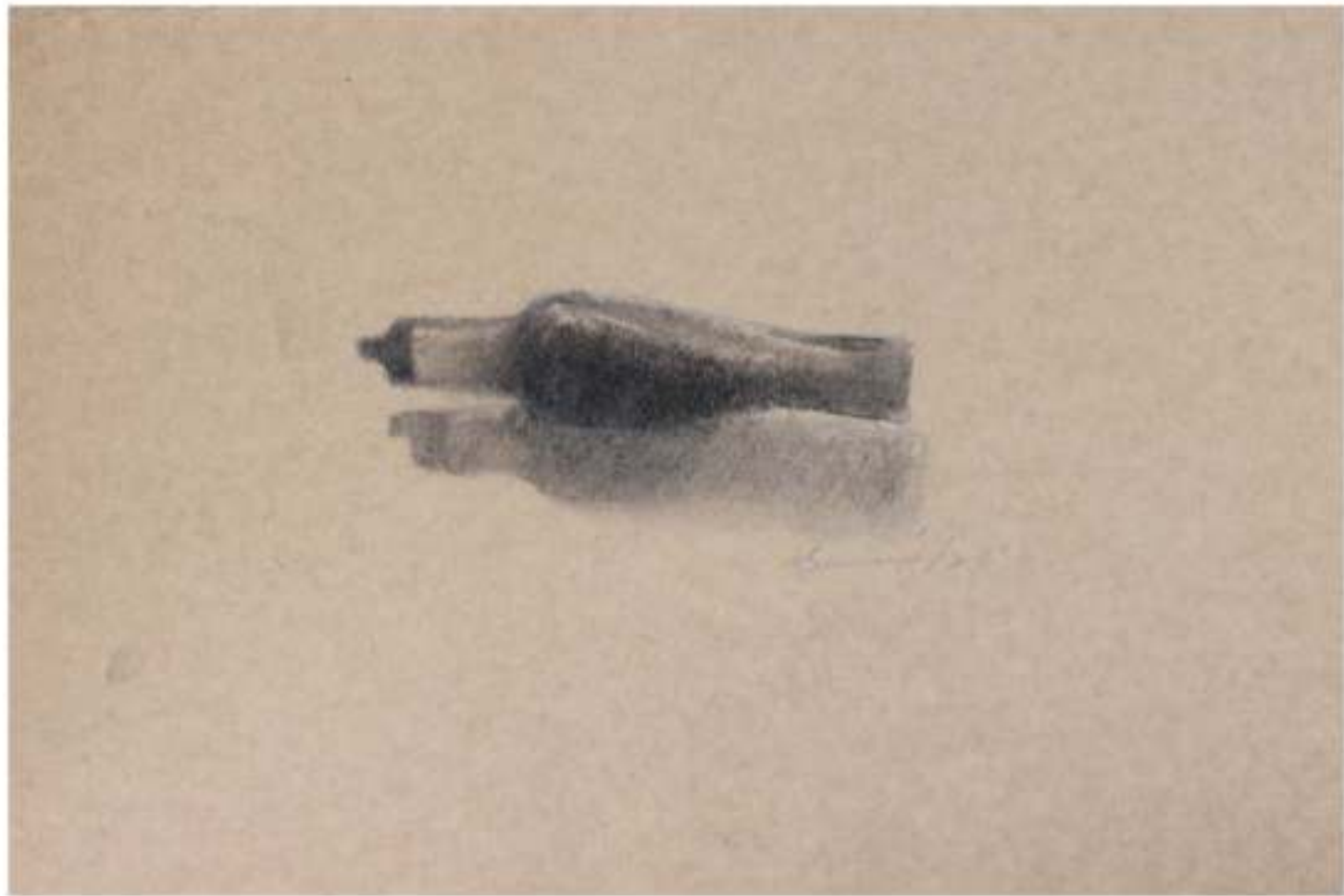
LOTUS 2 | 12" X 18" | GRAPHITE AND GOLD LEAF ON PAPER | 2023



WAITING | 10" x 15" | DRAWING ON BOXBOARD | 2023



ABEER | 12" x 18" | DRAWING OF PAPER | 2023



THE CROW | 10" x 15" | CHARCOAL ON BOXBOARD PAPER | 2023



REVISITING GANDHARA III | 10" x 10" | CHARCOAL ON BOXBOARD PAPER | 2023



REVISITING GANDHARA IV | 10" x 16" | CHARCOAL ON BOXBOARD PAPER | 2023



SIDHARTA | 12" X 9" | DRAWING ON BLACK MARBLE STONE | 2023



DREAM | 18" x 7.5" | DRAWING ON GANDHARA STONE | 2023



YASHODHARA | 12" x 10" | DRAWING ON ANCIENT GANDHARA STONE | 2023



REVISITING GANDHARA | 4" X 4" | GRAPHITE DRAWING ON
ANCIENT SCHIST STONE | 2023



THE MIRACLE | 7" X 7" | RELIEF IN ANCIENT SCHIST STONE | 2023



HUMA | 8" X 8" | RELIEF IN YELLOW STONE | 2023



REVISITING GANDHARA I | 5" x 3" | DRAWING ON ANCIENT GANDHARA STONE | 2023



DANCING GIRLS | 7" x 7" | DRAWING ON ANCIENT SCHIST STONE | 2023



JATIKA STORIES | 6" X 6" | RELIEF IN ANCIENT SCHIST STONE | 2023



JATIKA STORIES 2 | 6" X 6" | RELIEF IN ANCIENT SCHIST STONE | 2023



REVISITING GANDHARA II | HEIGHT; 10" | SCULPTURE IN SOAP STONE | 2023

PROF.DR.SUMERA JAWAD | CV

CURRENT DESIGNATION

PRINCIPAL, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF ART & DESIGN,
UNIVERSITY OF THE PUNJAB, ALLAMA IQBAL CAMPUS LAHORE-PAKISTAN

EDUCATION

• PH.D. IN FINE ARTS(STUDIO PRACTICE) RESEARCH CENTRE, COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN, PUNJAB UNIVERSITY, LAHORE, PAKISTAN (2013)

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- GOLD MEDAL, MFA (PAINTING), UNIVERSITY OF THE PUNJAB, LAHORE, PAKISTAN.
- GOLD MEDAL, BFA (PAINTING), UNIVERSITY OF THE PUNJAB, LAHORE, PAKISTAN.
- SCHOLARSHIP OF MERIT FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PUNJAB, LAHORE-PAKISTAN.
- SCHOLARSHIP OF MERIT FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PUNJAB, LAHORE-PAKISTAN.
- YOUNG PAINTERS AWARD – LAHORE ARTS COUNCIL

RESEARCH PROJECT

SHORT FILM "DARYA", ART FEST, ISLAMABAD, 2019

DOCUMENTARY FILM (12 MINUTES) SHOT IN DERAWAR BASTI, CHOLISTAN, PAKISTAN, TITLED

"AESTHETICS OF THE SAND" (2015).

SOLO SHOWS:

1. SOLO SHOW AT ARTSCENEART GALLERIES, TITLED "INSINUATION", KARACHI, 2016
2. AT NOMAD ART GALLERY, TITLED "KOI KUCCHOKAHAY, MANNLAAGA", ISLAMABAD 2010
3. SOLO SHOW AT RUGBY ART GALLERY, TITLED "CARPE DIEM", UK, AUGUST, 2009
4. SOLO SHOW AT CHAMELEON ART GALLERY, UK, JULY, 2009
5. SOLO SHOW AT SOLIHULL ARTS COMPLEX, UK. JUNE, 2009
6. SOLO SHOW ORGANIZED BY PAKISTANI EMBASSY, BIRMINGHAM, UK, AUGUST, 2009
7. SOLO SHOW AT SHAKIR ALI MUSEUM (PNCA) , TITLED 'ISHTAR', LAHORE, PAKISTAN OCT, 2008
8. SOLO SHOW AT NAIRANG ART GALLERY, LAHORE, PAKISTAN, OCT, 2007
9. SOLO SHOW AT MINHAS ART GALLERY, LAHORE, PAKISTAN, JUNE, 2007
10. SOLO SHOW AT PURAF ART GALLERY, RESEARCH CENTER, PUNJAB UNIVERSITY, JANUARY, 2007

MEMBERSHIP OF ACADEMIC AND LEARNED COMMITTEES

- MEMBER, ACADEMIC COUNCIL, THE RAWALPINDI WOMEN UNIVERSITY, RAWALPINDI. 2021 TO 2024.
- CONVENER, BOARD OF STUDIES IN ART & DESIGN, UNIVERSITY OF THE PUNJAB, LAHORE. 2020 TO DATE.
- CONVENER, DDPC IN ART & DESIGN, UNIVERSITY OF THE PUNJAB, LAHORE. 2020 TO DATE.
- MEMBER, ACADEMIC COUNCIL, UNIVERSITY OF THE PUNJAB, LAHORE. 2020 TO DATE.
- MEMBER, BOARD FACULTY OF ARTS & HUMANITIES, UNIVERSITY OF THE PUNJAB, LAHORE. 2020 TO DATE.
- MEMBER, BOARD OF GOVERNORS, LAHORE ARTS COUNCIL, LAHORE. 2020 TO

TO DATE.

- MEMBER, SENATE, UNIVERSITY OF THE PUNJAB, LAHORE. 2020 TO DATE.
- MEMBER, ADMISSION COMMITTEE, UNIVERSITY OF THE PUNJAB, LAHORE. 2020 TO DATE.

PAINTING PROJECTS

- RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION OF PAINTINGS, ALHAMRA, QADDAFI STADIUM, LAHORE.
- A COLLECTION OF PAINTINGS DONE FOR THE DIYAL SINGH RESEARCH FORUM.
- A COLLECTION OF PAINTINGS FOR PC HOTEL, LAHORE
- A COLLECTION OF PAINTINGS FOR CHIEF MINISTER HOUSE, LAHORE
- A COLLECTION OF PAINTINGS FOR COMMISSIONER HOUSE, LAHORE
- NUMEROUS BOOK TITLES AND PORTRAITS

RESEARCH PAPERS (PUBLISHED)

1. DR. SUMERA JAWAD

Co AUTHOR (BEENISH TAHIR, DR. MUHAMMAD ASGHAR)

☒"FROM BABAR TO AURANGZEB: A HISTORICAL REVIEW OF MUGHAL' TEXTILE TENT TRADITION." VOL: 9, ISSUE-1-2021

JOURNAL, INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF SOCIAL SCIENCES.

(Y) ISSN 2309-0081, 2309-0081

2. DR. SUMERA JAWAD

Co AUTHOR (NADEEM ALAM)

☒"AN APPLICATION OF THE THEORY OF DECONSTRUCTION BY DERRIDA ON TAL-ISM-E HOSHRUBA: A FAMOUS PAINTING BY USTAD ALLAH BAKHSH"

JOURNAL OF RESEARCH SOCIETY OF PAKISTAN.

VOL. 58, NO 3 (JULY-SEPT 2021),

(Y) ISSN 0034-5431, 0034-5431

3. DR. SUMERA JAWAD

☒"THE MALANG IN PAKISTAN TODAY"

JOURNAL OF RESEARCH SOCIETY OF PAKISTAN.

VOL. 57, 2020

4. DR. SUMERA JAWAD

☒"THE RECIPROCITY OF GIFT, A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF POTLATCH VS VARTAN-BHANJI "

JOURNAL, THE HISTORIAN GC UNIVERSITY LAHORE

VOL. 6, 2018

5. DR. SUMERA JAWAD

☒" EXPLORING NARRATIVES OF NATURE AND HISTORY FROM BHUTAN THROUGH THE EYES OF AN ARTIST"

JOURNAL, THE SAARC ART SEPTEMBER 2017, ISSUE 4.

6. DR. SUMERA JAWAD

☒"FEMALE IMAGE AND PAKISTANI CINEMA"

JOURNAL, THE HISTORIAN GC UNIVERSITY LAHORE

VOL. 28 NO 2, 2016

1. ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN THAAP PUBLICATIONS, "RISE AND FALL OF CINEMA ON MCLEOD ROAD."

2. ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN THE NATION, SUNDAY PLUS "MAKLI HILLS"

3. ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN "TOURISM" INTERNATIONAL SCENARIO.

4. ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN THE POST, EYE CANDY, SUNDAY MAGAZINE "IMAGE FOR IDENTITY"

5. ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN THE NATION, SUNDAY PLUS "MFA DEGREE SHOW".
6. ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN THE POST, EYE CANDY, "ART ON DISPLAY".
7. ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN THE NATION, SUNDAY PLUS, "MA THESIS"
8. ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN THE FRIDAY TIMES, "ISHQ BY RAHAT MASOOD".

STUDENT SUPERVISED

11 PHD STUDENTS SUPERVISED

40 M.PHIL STUDENTS SUPERVISED

MFA VISUAL ARTS THESIS SUPERVISOR

2013-2015 13 STUDENTS

2015-2017 19 STUDENTS

2017-2019 15 STUDENTS

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, SEMINAR, WORKSHOP.

☒ RISE AND FALL OF CINEMA ON MCLEOD ROAD.

THAAP INTERNATIONAL, LAHORE. 2011

☒ SADEQUAIN.

SHAKIR ALI MUSEUM, PNCA, LAHORE. 2017

☒ WE ARE WALSALL: MANY VOICES EVENT.

AFRICAN LEADERSHIP AND RECONCILIATION

MINISTRIES (ALARM), WEST MIDLANDS, UK. 2009

☒ INFLUENCE OF WESTERN ART ON EASTERN ART: ART SYMPOSIUM AT KUSADASI. TURKEY. 2017

☒ INTERNATIONAL AKCAABAT ART WORKSHOP.

TRABZON, TURKEY AUG 2018

☒ ARTISTS' WORKSHOP, KASADASI.

TURKEY 2017

ORGANIZED SEMINARS/CONFERENCES WORKSHOPS/SYMPOSIA /EXHIBITIONS.

1. ARTIST RESIDENCY "KARBHAT 01" BY DR. SUMERA JAWAD FOR PUCAD, LAHORE. (2018)

2. "ANNA MOLKA AHMED, A PEERLESS PIONEER" BY DR. SUMERA JAWAD AT PUCAD, LAHORE. (2018)

3. "ACKNOWLEDGE HER, EMPOWER HER!" BY DR. SUMERA JAWAD AND ZARMENA ASLAM AT ANNA

MOLKA ART GALLERY, LAHORE. (2018)

4. "MFA THESIS SHOW", PUCAD, LAHORE. (2017)

5. CURATED "HOMAGE TO SHAKIR ALI" AT SHAKIR ALI MUSEUM, LAHORE. (23.12.2016)

6. "ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY" BY SAMI UR RAHMAN AT ANNA MOLKA ART GALLERY, LAHORE. (2015)

7. WORKSHOP "MEMORANDUM OF SULTAN BAHU" LAHORE. (2015)

8. WORKSHOP "SUFISM" ALHAMRA ART CENTRE, LAHORE. (2015)

9. LAUNCH OF THE BOOK "MASJID WAZIR KHAN REDISCOVERD" BY MAMOONA KHAN, LAHORE. (2011)

10. THESIS SHOW OF MA STUDENTS OF PUCAD AT COOPRA ART GALLERY, LAHORE.

11. "A TRIBUTE TO ZUBEDA JAVED", PUCAD, LAHORE. (2011)
12. "A TRIBUTE TO DR. SHAUKAT MEHMOOD 'MAXIM'", LAHORE. (2010)
13. "ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY" BY UMAIR GHANI, LAHORE. (2009)
14. "CONCEPTUAL ART" BY ASIM AKHTAR, LAHORE. (2009)

PARTICIPATED/ATTENDED, SEMINARS/CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS/SYMPOSIA /EXHIBITIONS.

1. "INTERNATIONAL AKCAABAT ART WORKSHOP", TRABZON, TURKEY, AUGUST, 2018.
 2. LAHORE BIENNALE 01, ARTIST PARTICIPATION, LAHORE. (2018)
 3. NATIONAL ARTISTS CONVENTION, ON PANEL, PNCA, ISLAMABAD. FEBRUARY (2018)
 4. "SYNERGY ART GROUP, RESUNSERGISI", GROUP SHOW, BELADOSO, TURKEY. (2017)
 5. ARTISTS' WORKSHOP, KUSADASI, TURKEY. (2017)
 6. REPRESENTING PUCAD AT "CURRICULUM FOR ASSOCIATE DEGREE (EQUIVALENT TO BACHELORS) IN TEXTILE DESIGN" DISCUSSION AT PHEC HEAD OFFICE ON 14.12.2016.
 7. SPEAKER AT "A DAY TO HONOUR PROF. DR. SHAUKAT MAHMOOD" ON 6.5.2011 AT ,UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF ART & DESIGN, UNIVERSITY OF THE PUNJAB, LAHORE.
 8. A 3 DAY WORKSHOP ON "SEMESTER SYSTEM" IN MARCH 2010, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF ART & DESIGN, UNIVERSITY OF THE PUNJAB, LAHORE. PROF. DR. ANIS A. SIDDIQI, HEAD OF ARCHITECTURE DEPARTMENT.
 9. A SEMINAR ON "MLA STYLE" ON 1.1.2009 AT THE RESEARCH CENTRE, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF ART & DESIGN, UNIVERSITY OF THE PUNJAB, LAHORE. DR. SHAHIDA-MANZOOR, COORDINATOR, PH.D. PROGRAMME, RESEARCH CENTRE, UCAD WAS THE SPEAKER.
 10. A SEMINAR ON "SOME FORGOTTEN & ENDANGERED CRAFTS OF SOUTHERN PUNJAB" ON 26TH NOVEMBER, 2008 AT 11.00 A.M. IN THE RESEARCH CENTRE, UNI-
-



ARTSOCH

LOCATION





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