



ARTSOCH
CONTEMPORARY

Presents

The Enigma Within

Unraveling the Mysteries of Life, Death, and the Human Psyche

Solo Show by **Raza ur Rehman**

20th - 27th October 2023

Curated by Mariam Hanif Khan



Exhibition Note:

Raza's work is deeply rooted in the philosophy of Pain and Suffering, predominantly inspired from an epic poem, "The Divine Comedy" by Dante Alighieri, an Italian poet who lived in the 13th and 14th centuries. In Dante's vision, suffering and pain are manifestations of divine justice. He believed that individuals are rewarded or punished in the afterlife based on their earthly actions and moral choices. Those who have sinned and turned away from God's grace are condemned to suffer in Hell, while those who have repented and sought forgiveness have the chance to progress through Purgatory and eventually reach Heaven. The "Purgatorio" section of the poem is dedicated to the souls who are on a journey of purification and penance, seeking to cleanse themselves of their sins and ultimately attain salvation. Here, suffering is seen as a means of spiritual growth and a path to reconciliation with God.

While viewing Raza's work one feels a strong uncanny string of thoughts, emotions and human fragility. He has been working on this body of work for the last two years. The medium is clay which is baked, also known as Terra cotta, an ancient technique used to make pottery, bricks and clay seals. He has also incorporated brass in his work to bring an element of drama. Raza's choice of subject, medium and technique compliment each other in a trio; a rare combination to witness. Artwork from his solo presentation is exceptional compilation of immense command over technique and his genuine connection with his work process.



Raza Ur Rehman

Biography

Raza Ur Rehman, is a visual artist currently based in Lahore, Pakistan. He completed his BFA from the Punjab University College of Art and Design, Lahore in 2004. Raza then went on to pursue and complete his MFA from the Punjab University College of Art and Design, Lahore in 2015. Through his art practice Raza reinterprets the existing concepts of regions, religions, cultures, politics, histories and traditions of South Asia, by using diverse mediums like drawing, painting, sculpture, installation and photography. His artwork is housed within the permanent collection of the Ambiance Boutique Art Hotels. Raza is currently teaching as an Associate Professor and Head of Department of Fine Arts in the Government College Women University Sialkot, Sialkot. Previously he had been teaching for one and half years at the Women University Swabi, Swabi as an Assistant Professor and Head of Department of Fine Arts, further back he spent Five and half years teaching as a Lecturer in Punjab University College of Art and Design, Lahore. Raza also maintains his own art studio in Sialkot where he invites senior artists and art students for art talks, seminars, workshops and concept development sessions.

Artist Statement

In the quiet corners of the human psyche, the fear of death lurks like a shadow. An ever-present specter that dances on the fingers of our consciousness. It is a primal fear, as old as time itself, etched into the very essence of our existence. A lone man, lost in the vast expanse of a desolate landscape, his heart pounding in his chest, not from the fear of a vulture hovers against the canvas of the sky. Its sharp beak and keen eyes are a cruel reminder that in this world, life and death are inextricably intertwined. The world watches, as if it were a grand spectacle, indifferent to the plight of the man below. People go about their daily lives, unaware of the symbolic dance of time, monitoring and controlling existence itself. In this moment, it becomes evident that life is fragile balance, a delicate thread held between the fingers of fate. It's a grim reminder that time is the ultimate arbiter, the one force that monitors and controls life both before and after death. The theme reflects the artist's deep understanding of human nature, his vision of divine justice, and his belief in the transformative power of the human the human soul while inviting beholders to contemplate the eternal themes of life, death, uncertainty and the human experience in the context of divine order. The progression reflects the separation of everything from the singular reality, as Dante's journey symbolizes the soul's quest for spiritual enlightenment and union with divine. An armless man, with a gentle smile gracing his face, stands beneath a towering apple tree. At his feet lies a fallen apple, its pristine skin marred by the earth's touch. With a simple gesture, this man becomes a living embodiment of the creation story, a testament to their resilience of the human spirit. Through his presence, he reminds us that event in the face of adversity, the beauty of creation and the potential for new beginnings persist, casting a timeless spell that captivates all who witness this poignant tableau.



Spiritual Transformation 24 x 7 inches Terracotta and clay





Transcendental Sherenade | 2 x 1.6 ft | Brass and clay



Whispers of Morality | 4.5 x 6 inches | Terracotta and clay



In the Quite Corners | 15 x 7 inches | Brass and clay



Dichotomy of Life 8 x 4.5 inches Terracotta and clay



The Game of Thrones | 9 x 7 inches | Terracotta and clay





Yearning for Unknown | 10 x 9 inches | Terracotta and clay





Illusion of Time |29 x 13 inches | Brass and clay





Souls Odyssey | 7 x 3, 4 x 2.5 inches | Brass and clay





Fragile Balance | 12 x 7 inches | Brass and clay





Threads of Destiny | 10 x 4.5 inches | Terracotta and clay



The Alchemy of Existence | 14 x 8 | inches Terracotta and clay



The Horse Angel | 1.5 x 1.1 ft | Terracotta and clay



Boundaries of Existence | 1.5 x 1.2 Ft | Terracotta and clay



Dance of Time | 12 x 5 inches | Terracotta and clay



Cosmic Dance | 1.6 x 1.5 ft | Brass and clay



Journey through the Veiled Realm | 15 x 4.5 inches | Terracotta and clay



The Bed of Roses | 16 inches diameter | Terracotta and clay



The Bed of Roses | 24 inches diameter | Terracotta and clay | Full Installation View



Full View Installation Image





Full View Installation Image



Full View Installation Image



Full View Installation Image



Fallen Angels | 4x4, 3x3, 4x5 Inches | Brass and clay







The Flying Angels | 3 x 3 inches each | Terracotta and clay





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LOCATION





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