



ARTSOCH
CONTEMPORARY

Presents

Transcending Traditions-2023

INCOLLABORATION WITH
SHAUKAT KHANAM FOUNDATION

583 Park Avenue New York, NY 10065
Opening on 3rd November - 7 PM

Curated by Marian Hanif Khan



Exhibition Note

Art can be both rooted in history and a catalyst for change in a culture. It connects people with the same culture to their past and collective history. Art highlights hurdles in today's time and yet dares to coexist with traditions. Throughout mankind art has been the strongest tool of communication, documentation and reflection of a society.

The Indo-Pak region is rich with historic and cultural diversity encompassing world class artisans and exquisite crafts handed from generation to generation. The artists will be requested to incorporate those traditional aspects into their contemporary art practices with relevance to today's prevalent issues. The exhibition will bring forth art work from outstanding artists, both established and emerging from all over Pakistan.

Mariam Hanif Khan & Somia Naveed
Co-founder Artsoch Contemporary

ABID ASLAM

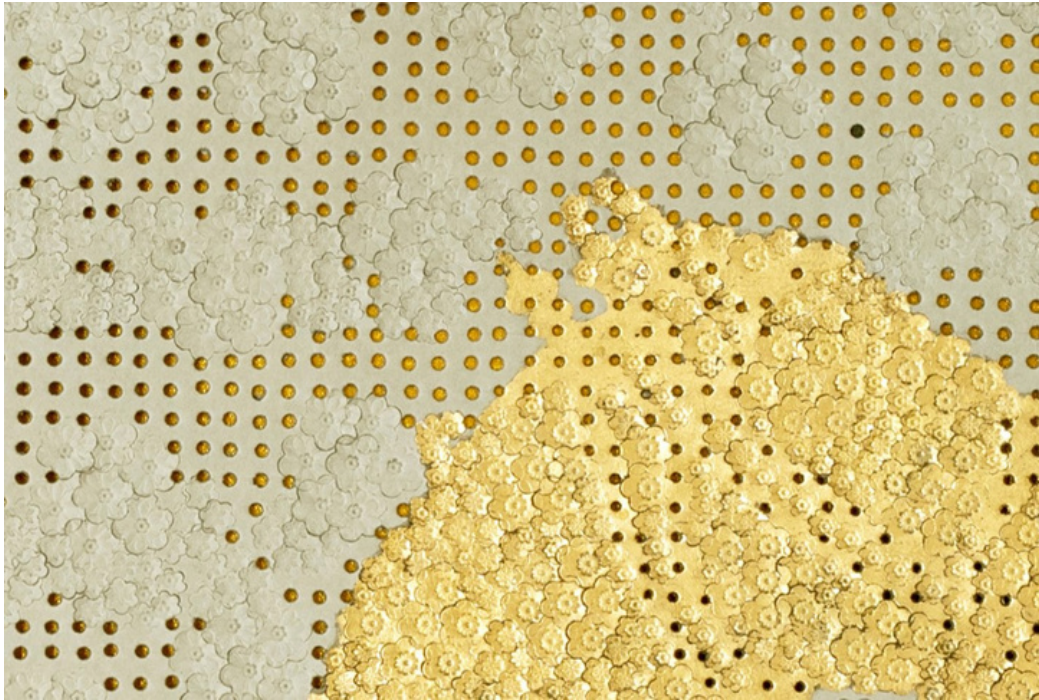
Biography and Work Statement

Born in 1985 in Lahore, Pakistan, Abid Aslam studied at the Hunerkada College of Visual and Performing Arts, Lahore. He focused his attention towards miniature painting and photography which led to the purification of his own visual and conceptual terminology. Aslam also served as a lecturer at Hunerkada College till 2014. His passion for art convinced him to pursue a master's program in Visual Arts from the National College of Arts, Lahore in 2017 to develop a strong and independent point of view and a mature grasp of critical debate on contemporary art.

Aslam's first solo show was titled "Coding Labels" in 2013 at Canvas Gallery, Karachi. He proved himself through various group shows like Incubator, Milestone, Open Field, Summer Scape, Variations along the Grid, Silsila, We Love Pakistan, Witness to History, Human Within Us, Solitude, Resurgence, Scripted Serenity, Grey Matters, and many more. He received a Special Award from the Artist's Association of Punjab, Lahore in 2016 and the Arjumand Painting Award in 2015, Islamabad. Aslam has also made his work worth watching by participating in the India Art Fair 2017 under Anant Art Gallery, Delhi, India. He has participated in multiple shows Internationally and Nationally



Abid Aslam | The Puppeteers | 29 inches diameter x 14.5 inches radius | Diptych |
Punching, gold and silver leaf on wasli | 2021.



Details of the artwork above

Amna Waqas

Biography and Work Statement

Amna was born in 1992 in Lahore Pakistan. She has her MFA in fine arts (painting) degree from Punjab University College of Art and Design in 2019. She learned fresco painting in 2016 from the National College of Art, Lahore, and ceramic product design in 2015 from the National College of Art Lahore. She also learned drawing from GCU in 2013. She was a part of the artist practice program in 2018 from PNCA. She was a member of an Artist Residency in Dubai in 2019. She has participated in multiple group shows nationally. She uses images to create either an extended version of reality or an extended version of dreams, fantasies, and myths. This atmosphere of her painting is about the subjective feelings of one's life, and their multiple layers represent a never-ending space and resilience that life presents to everyone as a playing field. Her surrealist art features realistic objects and forms juxtaposed unrealistically or impossibly.



Untitled | 48 x 60 inches | Oil on Canvas.

Ammar Faiz

Biography and Work Statement

Ammar Faiz lives and works in Lahore. He is a visual artist who experiments with various mediums of experiential expression including film and audio documentation, drawings, multi-faceted installations, and collages. He is particularly interested in exploring anthropological themes underlying inter-generational cultural practices that evoke feelings of shared meanings and a judgment-free passage. He draws inspiration from narratives that connect, compare, and correlate people beyond any societal label.

Taking inspiration from the Greek anecdote of the Trojan Horse, the artist reworked a historical account and connected it to his childhood memories of toys that change form and attributes based on materials available within varying geographical and cultural settings. The same horse, if carved out of wood, rocks a child's world towards imaginary battlefields; in different circumstances, it is fabricated out of paper and rags enabling transportation to fancied exotic worlds.

Such cultural overlaps make one think that while human beings tend to be more bent on dissimilarities in geo-political perspectives, human existence: people's struggle, gains, and losses, is woven into interconnected identities and similar social realities.

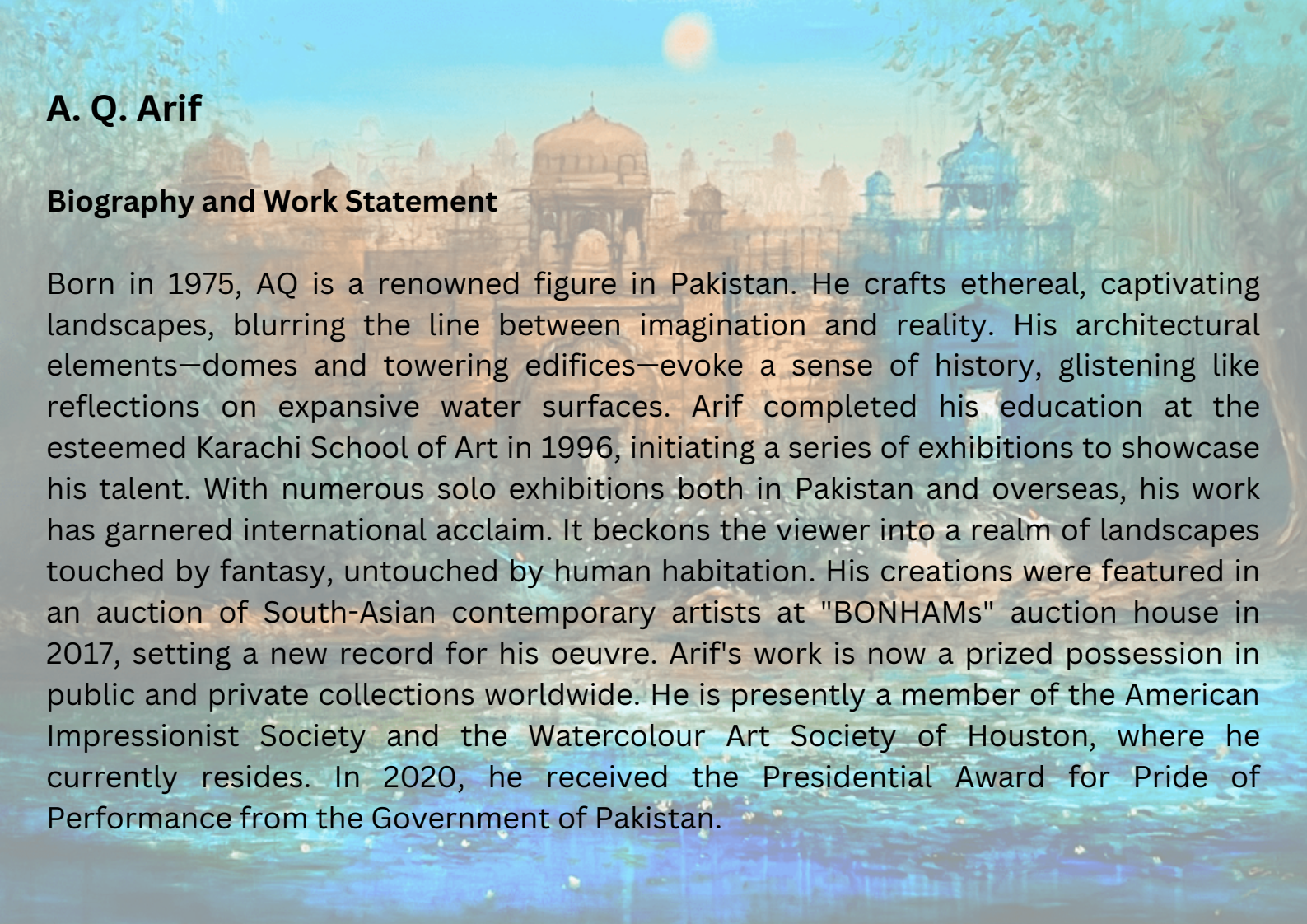
Currently, Ammar is a permanent faculty member at his alma mater. He lives and works in Lahore.



Misunderstood II | 48 x 60 inches | Collage (Archival paper, acrylic paints and Indian ink on paper).



Details of the artwork above



A. Q. Arif

Biography and Work Statement

Born in 1975, AQ is a renowned figure in Pakistan. He crafts ethereal, captivating landscapes, blurring the line between imagination and reality. His architectural elements—domes and towering edifices—evoke a sense of history, glistening like reflections on expansive water surfaces. Arif completed his education at the esteemed Karachi School of Art in 1996, initiating a series of exhibitions to showcase his talent. With numerous solo exhibitions both in Pakistan and overseas, his work has garnered international acclaim. It beckons the viewer into a realm of landscapes touched by fantasy, untouched by human habitation. His creations were featured in an auction of South-Asian contemporary artists at "BONHAMS" auction house in 2017, setting a new record for his oeuvre. Arif's work is now a prized possession in public and private collections worldwide. He is presently a member of the American Impressionist Society and the Watercolour Art Society of Houston, where he currently resides. In 2020, he received the Presidential Award for Pride of Performance from the Government of Pakistan.



All the flowers have bloomed | 24 x 36 inches | Oil on canvas.



Peaceful moments of the heart | 25 x 42 inches | Oil on canvas.

Muhammad Atif Khan

Biography and Work Statement

Lives and works in Lahore, Pakistan

Muhammad Atif Khan graduated with Distinction in 1997 in Fine Art from the National College of Arts, Lahore, Pakistan. He has had an illustrious career spanning 25 years with a plethora of international awards, residencies, and workshops.

In 1988 he was awarded the 'UNESCO-ASHBURG Bursary for Artists', and was appointed Artist in Residence at the Darat-Al-Funun in Amman, Jordan. He received the 'Commonwealth Arts & Crafts Award' in 2007.

Atif Khan was an Artist in Residence at the Swansea Print Workshop in Wales (2005-06), London Print Studio in England (2008) and Glasgow Print Studio in Scotland (2008). He has shown his work in several prestigious museums; 'The Bradford Museum' in the UK, 'The Aga Khan Museum' in Toronto, Canada, 'The Sharjah Art Museum' in UAE, and 'Islamic Museum of Australia' in Melbourne, Australia. He has also participated in art workshops in Bangladesh, India, Jordan, and UK. He has had 23 Solo shows in Pakistan, the UK, Jordan, Switzerland, and India.

In 2022, he was appointed co-curator of the Asian Art Biennale, Bangladesh which is the oldest and largest art biennale in Asia. In 2015, he won the Lahore Biennale Foundation's Open Call competition; 'Intersections' and developed a large-scale, site-specific installation 'City within a City' at the Chowk Istanbul of Mall Road in Lahore, Pakistan. Atif Khan won the ADA Award; in 2020-21 in the category of Digital Arts and the Nigaah Art Award; in 2023 in the category of Printmaking.

Alongside his independent art practice, Muhammad Atif Khan serves as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Fine Art at his alma mater, National College of Arts in Lahore.



Mind | 21 inches Diameter | Archival Inkjet on Hahnemühle paper.

Brishna Amin Khan

Biography and Work Statement

Brishna Amin Khan is a Lahore-based artist. She completed her degree in visual arts from NCA in 2019 with a major in miniature painting and a minor in Calligraphy and Performance art. During the summers Khan spent time in her Murree apartment where she experienced the true beauty of nature in all its glory. This inspired her to create images that capture their essence through serene landscapes. A place where nature flourishes in bliss and bids the viewer to take delight in every tree, every flower, every cloud, and every blade of grass.

In a way nature does not exist in its true form as it is constantly molded by humans so the final result from which we take inspiration, is an altered form of nature. It is interesting to think that in current times this aesthetic appreciation we have for nature may not be true as we have altered nature to fit into our aesthetic.

As Aristotle believed that art can represent nature in all its glory and Goethe states that man's ideas and nature are equally important when it comes to the creative process of making art as each is a reflection of the other. It's within the relationship of the two where true beauty lies.



On Such A Night As This | 27 x 21 Inches
Gouache on Wasli



Details of the artwork above

Umna Laraib

Biography and Work Statement

Umna Laraib is a Visual Artist, from Rohri, a small town in Sindh, Pakistan. Umna earned her Bachelors in Visual Arts with Distinction from the National College of Arts, Lahore. She majored in Miniature Painting and also took Art Writing, Performance Art, and Calligraphy as minor subjects. After her graduation, she exhibited her works at O Art Space Lahore, Gallery 6 Islamabad, Khamsa Art, ArtSoch Contemporary Lahore, Ejaz Art Gallery Lahore, Gallery Full Circle Karachi, VM Art Gallery Karachi, Satrang Gallery Islamabad, Alhamra Arts Council Lahore and E- exhibitions and is consistently creating new works for upcoming Art exhibits. Along with her Art practice, Umna has also curated some Art exhibitions in the previous few years. She did an internship at Canvas Gallery Karachi and also assisted senior Artists and designers. She is currently living and working in Lahore.



Untitled | 18.5 x 13.5 inches | Gouache on Wasli.

Isra Noman

Biography and Work Statement

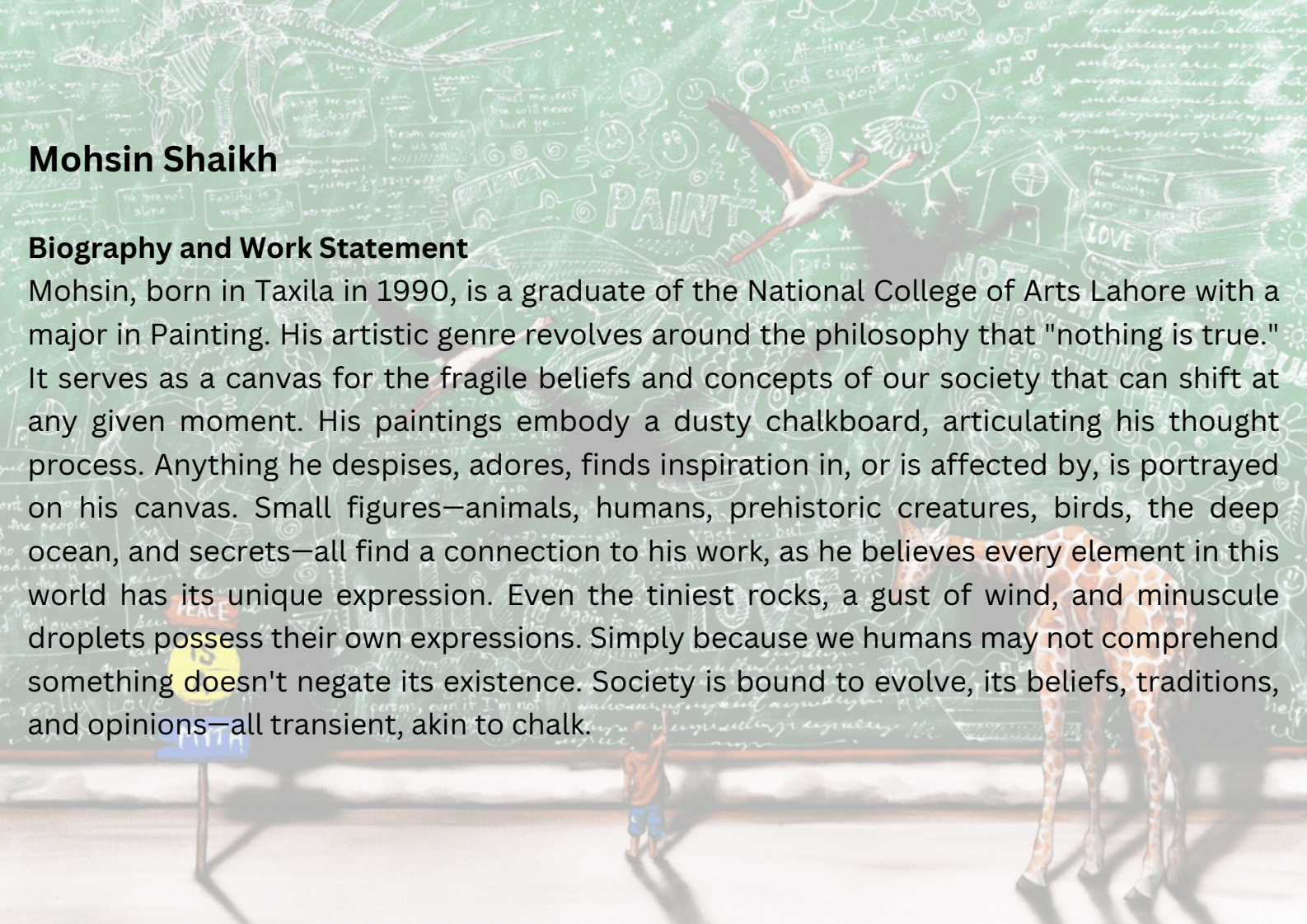
Isra Noman is a visual artist, currently working and living in Lahore. She graduated from the University College of Art and Design, Punjab University in 2019.

Through the delicate dance of lines, she strives to capture the essence of simplicity and depth within her artwork. As an artist who works primarily with line art, she finds solace in the elegance and purity of this minimalist form of expression. Lines possess a remarkable power to convey emotions, tell stories, and invoke introspection. With each stroke of her pen, she aims to create a visual language that transcends the boundaries of words, allowing viewers to explore their interpretations and forge a personal connection with her art.

In her exploration of line art, she seeks to distill complex subjects into their fundamental elements, stripping away the excess and leaving only the essential. Through this process, she hopes to reveal the underlying beauty and intricate connections that exist within our world, both seen and unseen.



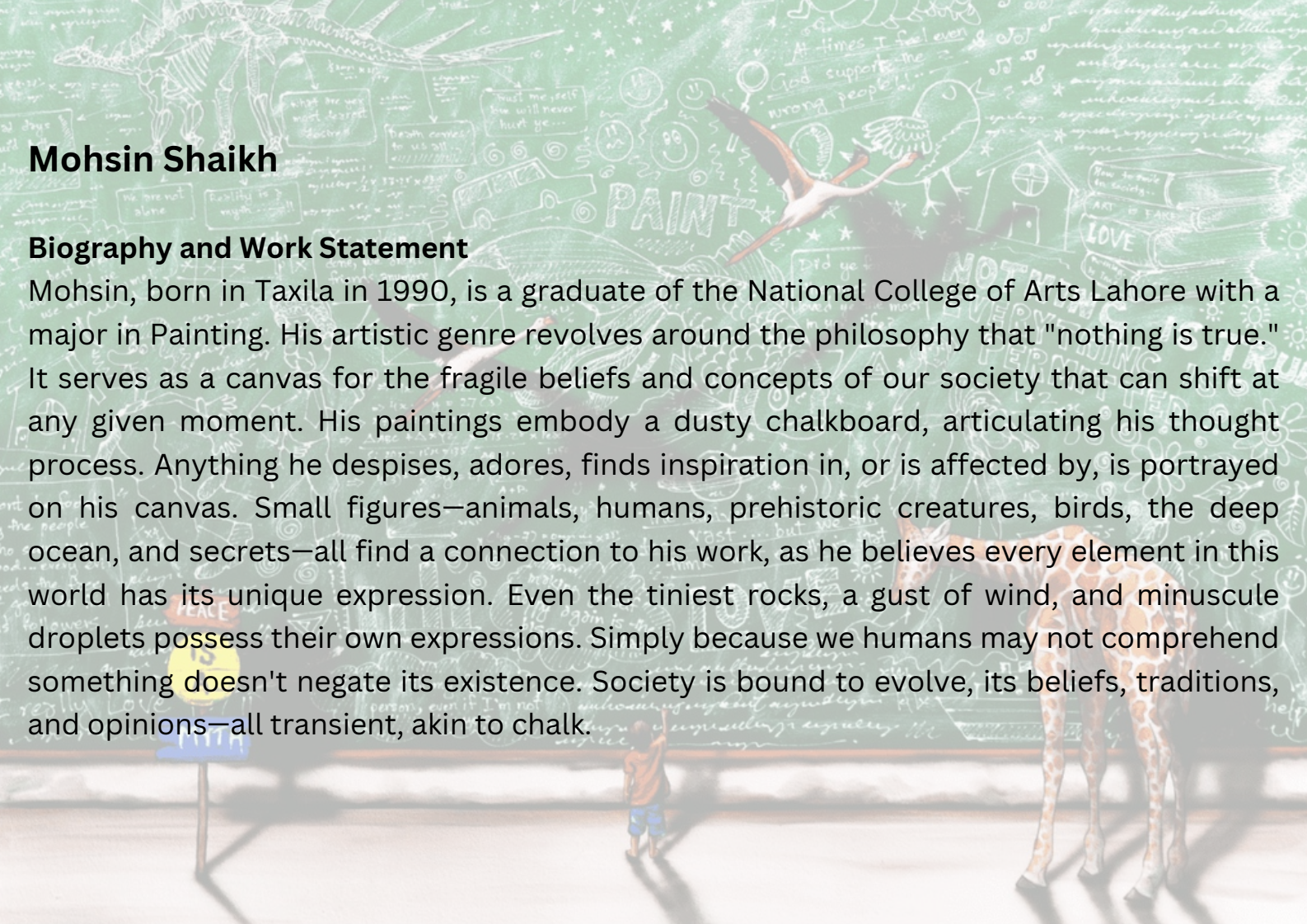
Untitled | 18 x 18 inches | Ink on canvas



Mohsin Shaikh

Biography and Work Statement

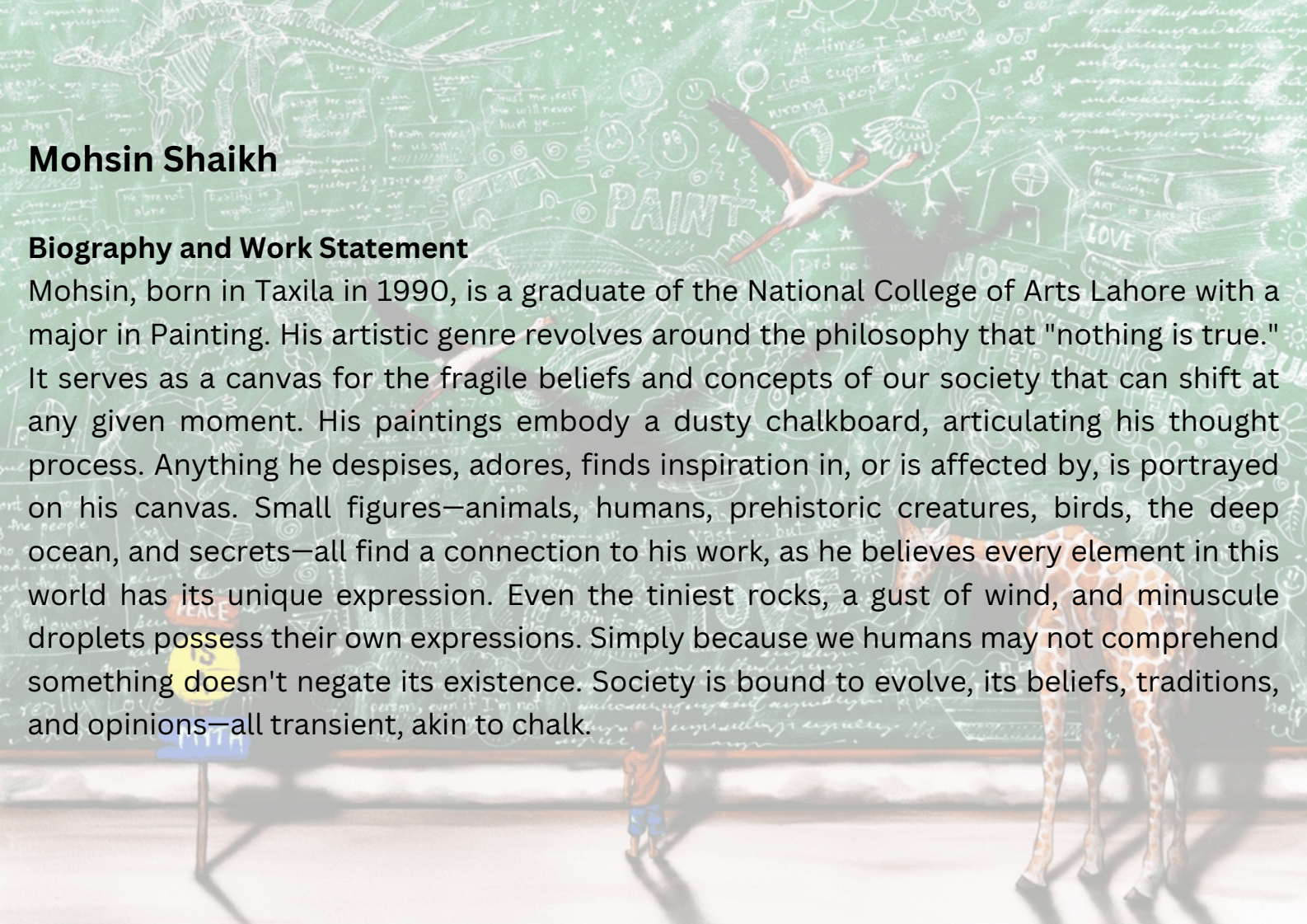
Mohsin, born in Taxila in 1990, is a graduate of the National College of Arts Lahore with a major in Painting. His artistic genre revolves around the philosophy that "nothing is true." It serves as a canvas for the fragile beliefs and concepts of our society that can shift at any given moment. His paintings embody a dusty chalkboard, articulating his thought process. Anything he despises, adores, finds inspiration in, or is affected by, is portrayed on his canvas. Small figures—animals, humans, prehistoric creatures, birds, the deep ocean, and secrets—all find a connection to his work, as he believes every element in this world has its unique expression. Even the tiniest rocks, a gust of wind, and minuscule droplets possess their own expressions. Simply because we humans may not comprehend something doesn't negate its existence. Society is bound to evolve, its beliefs, traditions, and opinions—all transient, akin to chalk.



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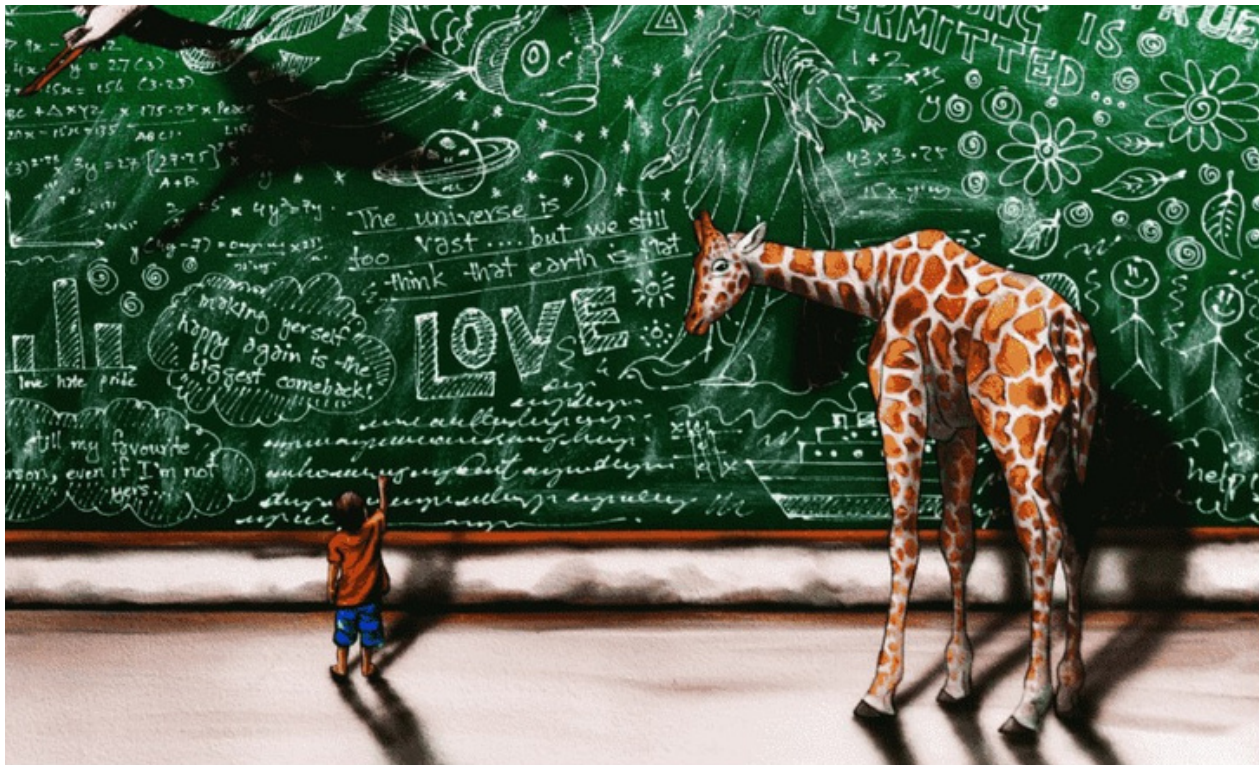
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Peace of Myth | 24 x 19 inches | Oil on Canvas.



Details of the artwork above

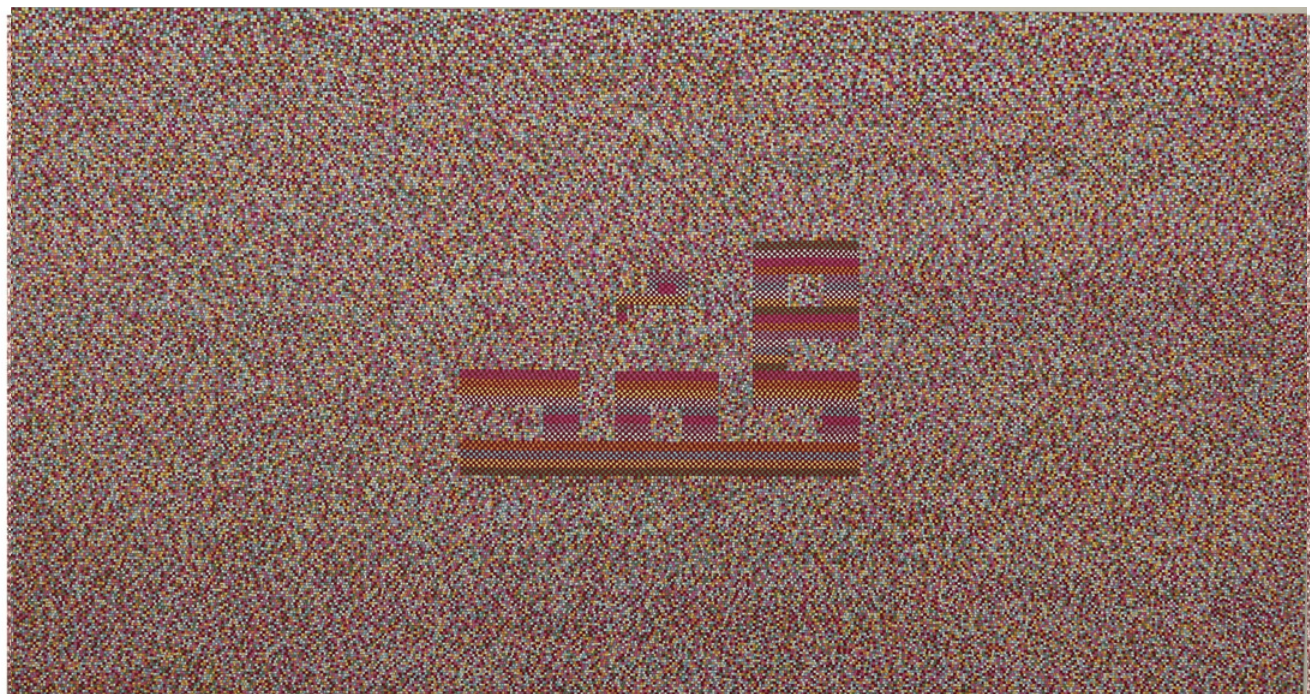
Muhammad Abrar

Biography and Work Statement

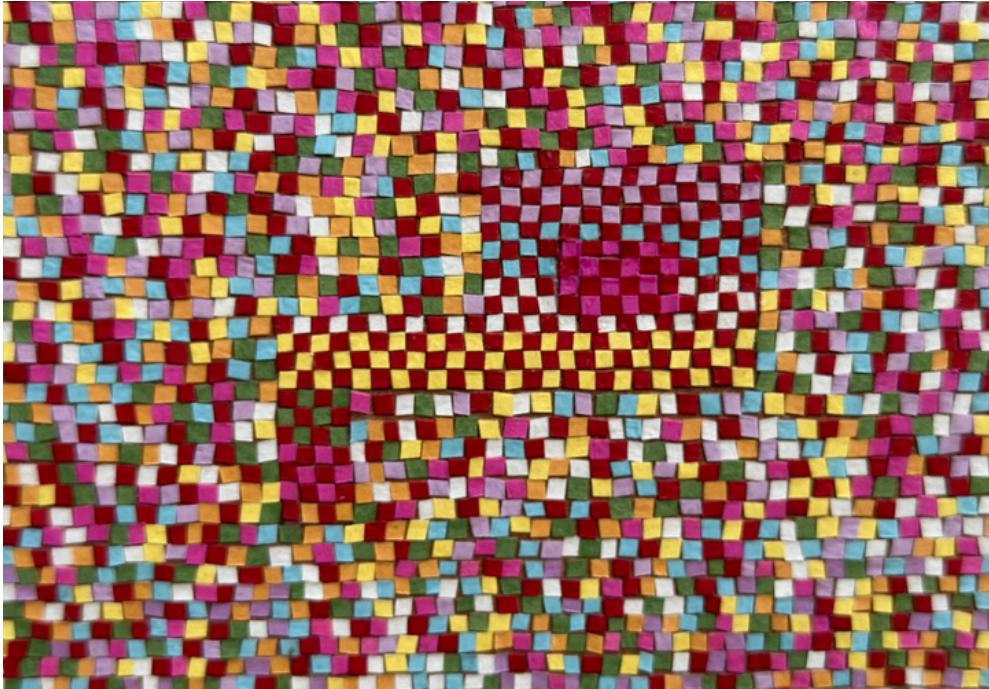
Muhammad Abrar is a visual artist and educationist based in Lahore, Pakistan. He holds a BFA degree from NCA (National College of Arts) Lahore, where he was awarded Honors for his efforts in 2014.

Abrar works in mosaics, printmaking, painting, and performance art. In his art practice, he deals with the idea of logocentrism within the tradition of Islam. He also tries to explore and strengthen the elements of co-existence between tradition and modernity. His work has been exhibited in numerous galleries nationally and internationally. He was also awarded the 11th 'Young Artist' award at Alhamra Art Council, Lahore in 2015. Muhammad Abrar has displayed his works at Artsoch Contemporary, Lahore; Madina Art Centre, Madina; O Art Space, Lahore; Art Chowk, Karachi; Zahoor ul Ikhlq, Lahore; Gandhara Art Space, Karachi; Rangrez Art Gallery, Lahore; Gallery 7, Karachi; Ejaz Art Gallery, Lahore; Alhambra Art Council, Lahore and National College of Arts, Lahore.

Alongside maintaining a diverse art practice, Abrar has been working on various projects to develop contemporary ideas of art education in different institutions. He has taught at the National College of Arts and the Lahore College for Women University in the fine arts department. His selected works are part of the permanent collection of the Madina Art Centre, Madina, and Ambiance Boutique Art Hotel Karachi.



Untitled | 27 x 51 inches | Paper on MDF board.



Details of the above artwork

Muhammad Ibrahim

Biography and Work Statement

Born in 1972 in Quetta, Balochistan, he completed his Bachelor's in Fine Arts at the University of Balochistan. Since graduating, he has dedicated his time to teaching painting and calligraphy, considering it an integral part of his artistic journey. Ibrahim's canvas, often adorned with acrylic hues, portrays the vivid shades of autumn and spring. He described the meticulous process of juxtaposing phrases and words from the Holy Quran, noting that it took him considerable time to manifest his envisioned outcome. Drawing from the natural world around him, he enriches his calligraphic landscapes with layers of overlapping Arabic texts sourced from the Holy Quran.



Horizon | 24 x 24 inches | Oil on Canvas.

RAMSHA RUBBANI

Biography and Work Statement

Ramsha Rubbani (b.1994) graduated from the College of Art and Design, Punjab University, Lahore, Pakistan in 2016 by pursuing a degree in Graphic Design to develop new design strategies and possibilities in digital media. Her passion for arts and exploration of new mediums followed her to seek a master's program in Master of Art and Design Studies from Beaconhouse National University, Lahore, Pakistan in 2019 with an ambition to create a strong and independent point of view on contemporary art.

Concerned with alternate-able perceptions of space through a variety of lines and forms, she presents

a visual that appears as a dialogue of simple organic and geometric forms when viewed from a distance. However, on closer observation, the work reveals to the viewer its intricacies.



Where flowers once bloomed I | 13 x 16 inches | Ink on archival paper



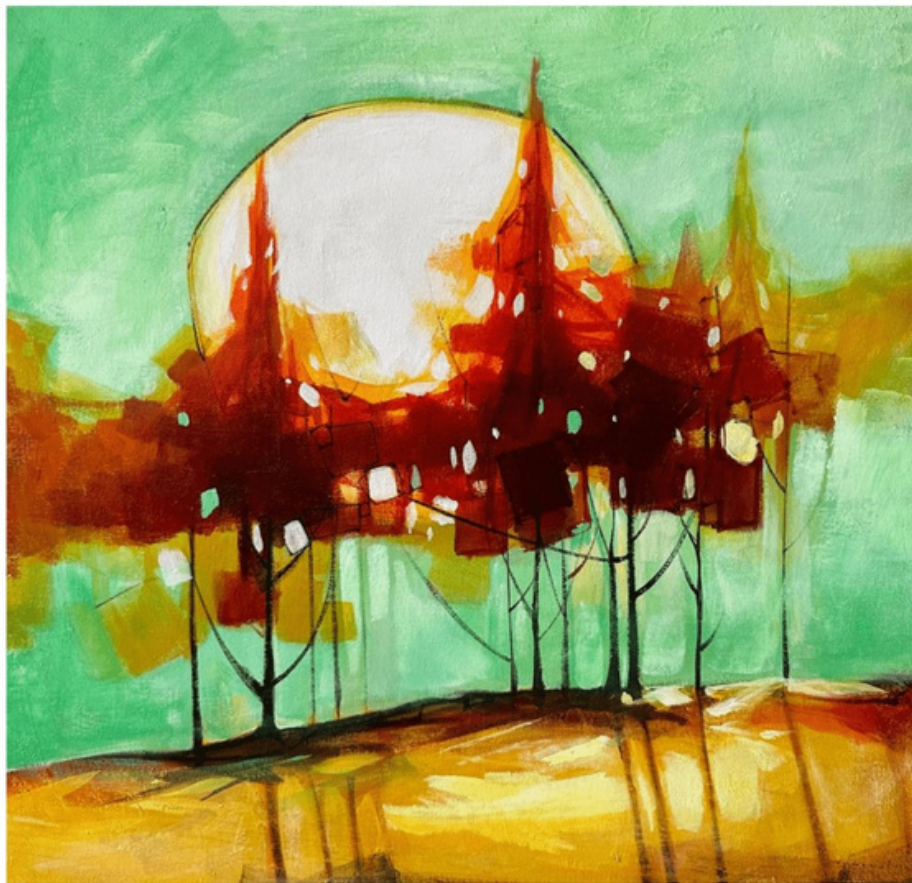
Salman Farooqi

Biography and Work Statement

Salman Farooqi, born in 1976 in Karachi, Pakistan, graduated with distinction from the Karachi School of Art and has been a prominent artist for over a decade. He honed his craft under the guidance of Eqbal Mehdi. While recognized for his experimentation with realism and modernism, his current focus lies in impressionism within the realm of landscapes. This particular body of work has garnered him increasing acclaim and recognition both in Pakistan and abroad.



The Boatside | 24 x 36 inches | Oil on Canvas



The Green Hue | 24 x 24 inches | Oil on Canvas

Sana Zaidi

Biography and Work Statement

Sana Zaidi graduated from the National College of Arts in 2017 with honors in miniature painting. She interned with the foundation Art Divvy and Discovering New Artists. She is currently teaching miniature painting at the National College of Arts. She has had several exhibitions at leading art galleries in Pakistan. Her work was also part of the 9th National Exhibition of Pakistan and exhibited at the Shakir Ali Museum as a donation for Cancer patients and at Alhamra Art Council in collaboration with Ghar Par to empower the women of Pakistan. Her work was exhibited at Chateau Descologne, France as an intercultural dialogue.

The poetry of her late grandfather influenced her to write a poem which became part of her paintings. The connection which is created through these rhythmic lines of poems is depicted in her artwork. Her work is an illusion of conversations between us which emphasize the power of love and poetry and how it uplifts the heart.

مظہر چلے گئے اور شمع جلا گئے
سفر کا ہر ایک راز وہ مجھ کو بتا گئے
وہ ہنر جو عطا ہوا ان کو الفاظ میں
وہ ہنر خدا نے دیا اب میرے ہاتھ میں
یہ سفر بھی وہی اور رات بھی وہی
پر جاگنے والا وہ ہے کہ نہیں
یہ سفر بہت کٹھن ہے سامان نہیں
پر ثناء اس سفر میں تنہا تو نہیں



We all are not the same boat
32 x 22 inches | Pen, gouache, origami on wasli.



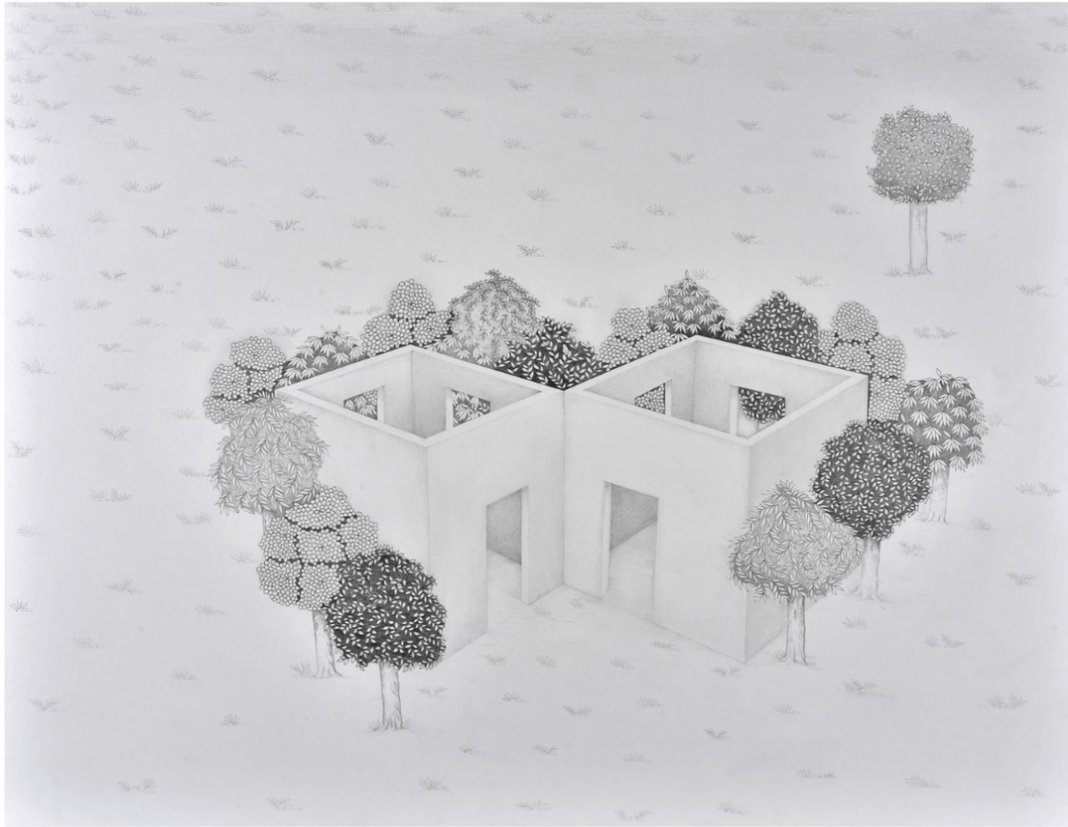
Detaills of the above artwork

Shahid Hassan Boni

Biography and Work Statement

Shahid Hassan Boni graduated from the National College of Arts Lahore in Miniature painting with a distinction in 2021. His work is an exploration of his own experiences and depicts his relationship with displacement. He spent his early days in the mountains close to nature and was exposed to a rural, communal lifestyle in contrast to his post-schooling days, which he spent in the chaos of big cities. This exposure made him scrutinize human behavior; it subsequently made him curious about human psychology, philosophy, and more specifically the impact of the environment on human nature and behavior.

His paintings embrace elements from Persian and Mughal miniature paintings. The compositions in his work are thoughtfully painted as he reflects upon his evolving psychological state. In some paintings, the figure is in action, while in the rest of the paintings; the figure may be seen observing, floating, or even simply existing in space. Architectural spaces are symbolic of emptiness and isolation in his paintings. These empty spaces, surrounded with dense foliage, which may be seen through interconnecting windows, represent the connection of the outer with the inner self. Through his work, he is trying to question whether he is connected to the world or if the connection is merely an illusion. Very thin layers of color are applied over meticulously rendered graphite drawings, giving the paintings a hazy feel. The absence of a figure in the paintings characterizes a sense of desolation and stillness.



Neighbours | 20 x 30 inches | Graphite on Wasli Paper.

Shiblee Muneer

Biography and Work Statement

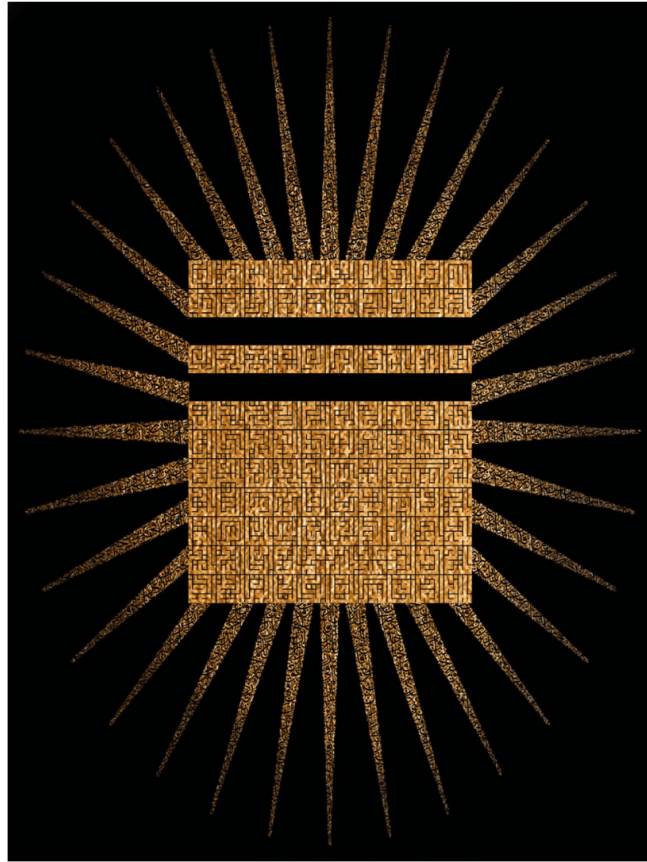
This is called a "contemporary Tughra". Normally this sign arranges through particular information regarding its honor and need. but in this case, I produced it under the aesthetic of labor which is serve throughout the

process in order to produce it. Just like an Indian idolatry sculpture. Where a craftsman sacrifices all his labor of love just to produce a standard of visual beauty where can people inspire and relate themselves. In this work I tried to present my all energies to establish an idea of Tughra which can set as a sign or an idea of beauty for its viewer with the help of basic Arabic alphabets in repetitive manner. Artist statement for the

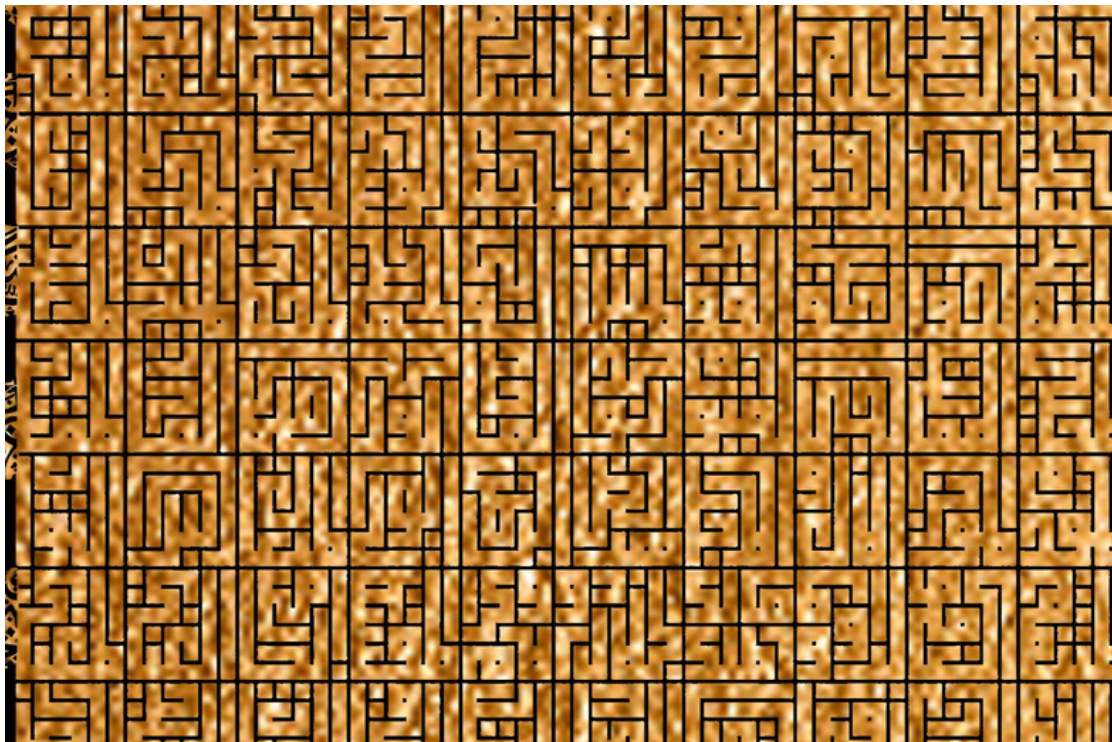
Shiblee Muneer was born in Jhang the capital of the state of Punjab Pakistan in a family of artists, in which miniature painting has been practiced for centuries.

Muneer also academic degrees from the Naqsh School of Arts and Beaconhouse National University. In addition to being a practicing artist. Muneer lectures at the Institute of Visual Arts & Design of the Lahore College for Women University (LCWU), curated exhibitions and pursues Ms leading to Ph.D in studio practice at the University of Punjab. Finally, Muneer trains children in miniature painting so that they carry on the family tradition into the future.

Muneer considers himself a guardian of miniature painting tradition but he also finds Inspiration in postmodernism philosophy and new techniques: computer graphics, digitally-manipulated images, hyper-realistic painting and collage. His experiments with enriching strict canons of miniature painting with contemporary techniques to convey 21-century messages are so brilliant that they gained him a place on the list of Asia's 10 Most Inspiring Visual Artists according to the Top 10 of Asta magazine in 2014.



99 Names of Allah Pak | 30 x 40 inches
Gold leaf on black coated paper glazed with transparent resin.



Details of the artwork above

SIDRA LIAQAT

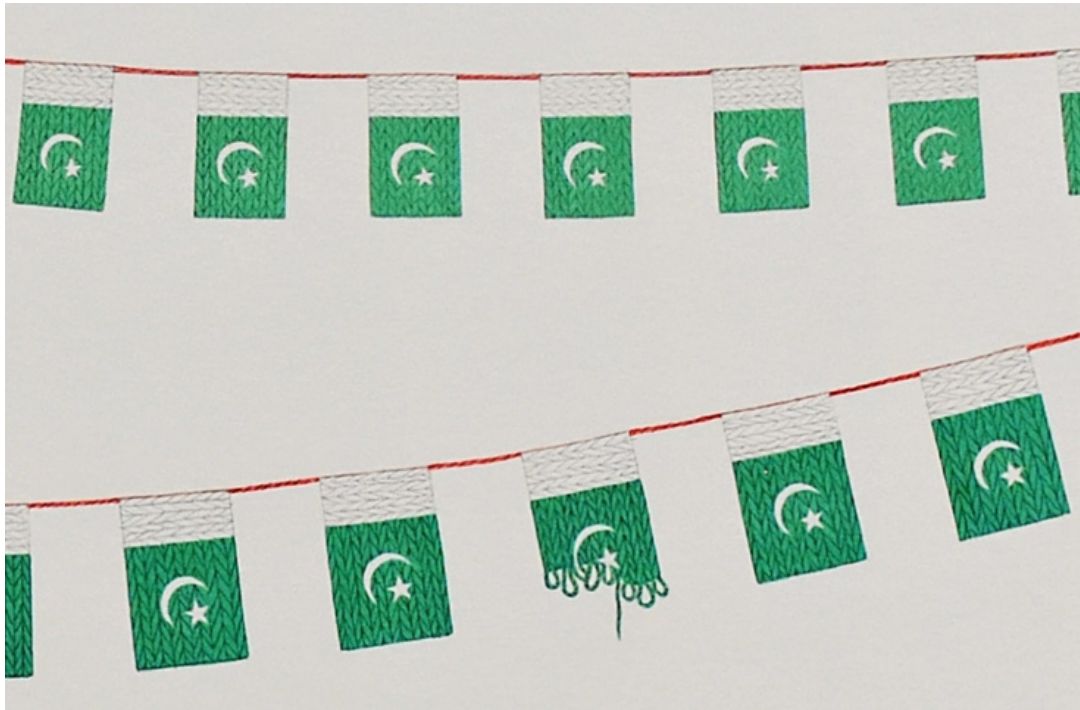
Biography and Work Statement

Sidra Liaqat, based in Lahore, is an educator, visual artist, and research scholar. She received her BFA and MS in Fine Arts scoring gold medals in both the degrees from Lahore College for Women University in 2011 and 2014 respectively. She is serving as an Assistant Professor of Visual Arts at the Institute of Design & Visual Arts, LCWU. Currently, she is enrolled in PhD Fine Arts in the same institute. Additionally, she is a visual practitioner with having major interest in miniature painting; with various group exhibitions, an artist residency, and an international solo exhibition to her credit. Her portfolio has been published in HEC recognized journal Visual Communication Quarterly by Taylor & Francis. She is honored to have won several awards at the national level.

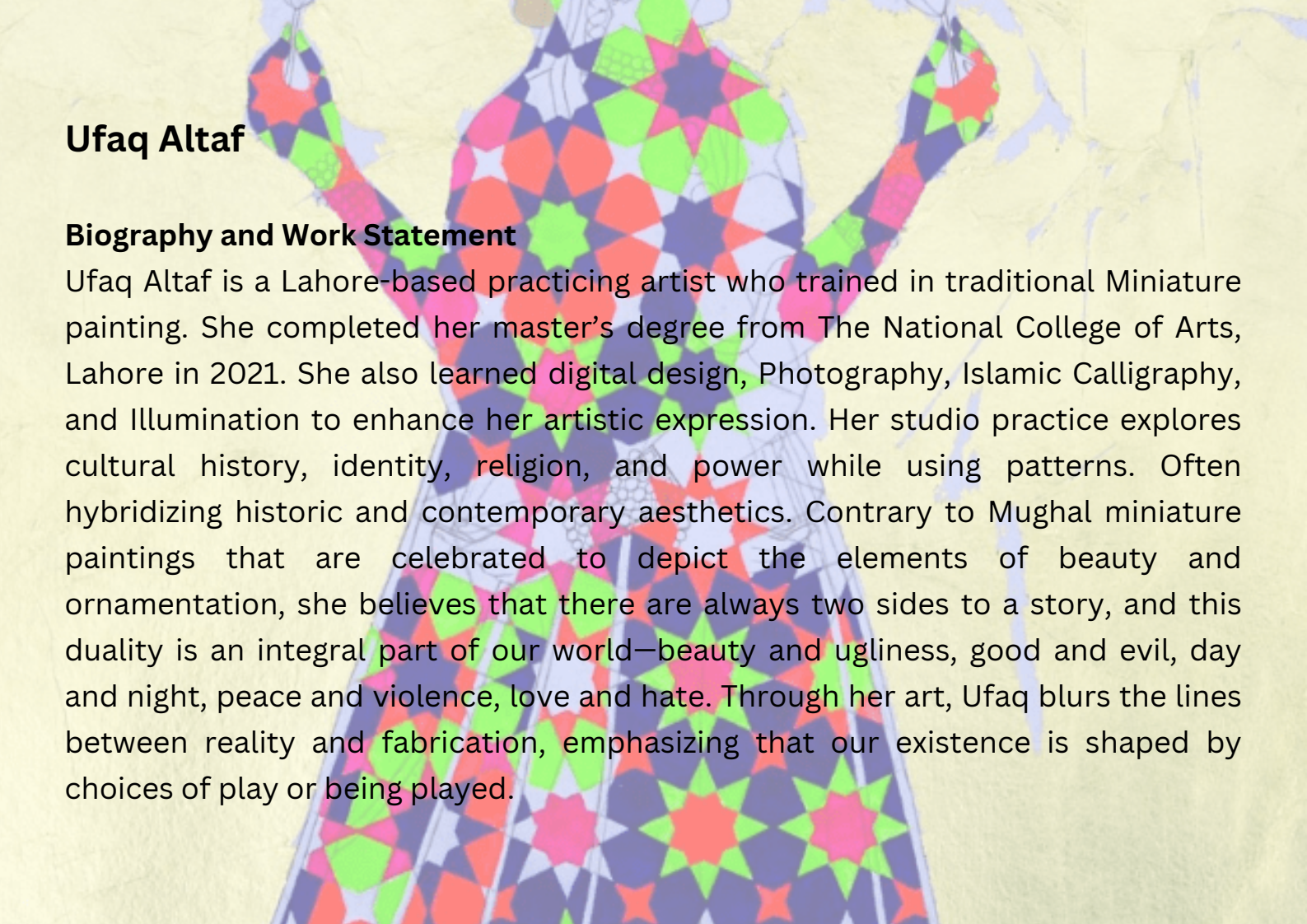
The nation and its individuals have an intricate connection which often has a fragile nature, as represented through the delicacy of the painted knitted flags. Her artwork depicts the inherent value of unity, showcasing the strength and harmony that arise when people come together under the banner of a shared identity. The use of Pakistan's flags underscores the theme of national unity and pride, celebrating the rich national heritage. However, careful nurturing is always required to prevent the bond between the individuals and the nation from unraveling. The work reflects on the importance of fostering connections, appreciating the strength in unity, and recognizing the responsibility we hold in preserving these ties.



Ties that Unite-I | 18.3 x 25.8 inches | Gouache and pencil on wasli.



Details of the artwork above



Ufaq Altaf

Biography and Work Statement

Ufaq Altaf is a Lahore-based practicing artist who trained in traditional Miniature painting. She completed her master's degree from The National College of Arts, Lahore in 2021. She also learned digital design, Photography, Islamic Calligraphy, and Illumination to enhance her artistic expression. Her studio practice explores cultural history, identity, religion, and power while using patterns. Often hybridizing historic and contemporary aesthetics. Contrary to Mughal miniature paintings that are celebrated to depict the elements of beauty and ornamentation, she believes that there are always two sides to a story, and this duality is an integral part of our world—beauty and ugliness, good and evil, day and night, peace and violence, love and hate. Through her art, Ufaq blurs the lines between reality and fabrication, emphasizing that our existence is shaped by choices of play or being played.



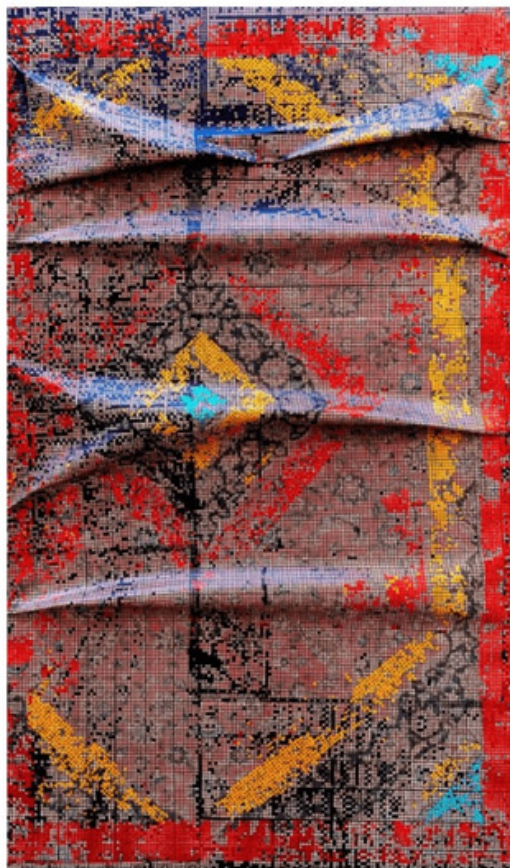
Hum dekhein gey | Gold leaf and gouache on wasli paper | 12 x 16 inches

Yaseen Khan

Biography and Work Statement

Yaseen Khan, is a visual artist currently based in Lahore, Pakistan. He completed his BFA from the National College of Arts, Lahore in 2019 where he was awarded a Distinction. From the very beginning, showcasing immense talent and an avid interest in art he was driven to pursue a career in it. Khan has showcased his artworks Nationally and Internationally.

His work is the outcome of his experiences, travels, and relationships I have built over the years. Growing up in both Sindh and Khyber Pakhtun Khwah(KPK) and now living in Punjab I can absorb the vast cultural landscapes they have to have to offer. From a very young age, I worked as a mechanic and also decorated trucks with Chamak Patti (a medium used to decorate trucks in Pakistan). Through this medium, I was able to study aesthetics and cultural nuances between various regions and styles that a normal inhabitant may not be able to differentiate. I learned the skills from various Ustads over the years and converted the skill into an art practice. His abstract patterns, lines, colors, and imagery of objects breed from adoration and respect for manual work as an artist, mechanic, and craftsman. His practice triggers in me questions regarding various art forms that exist around us and helps me to use a very common and understandable language of expression to create art while being relevant and embedded in the traditions and history of Pakistan.



Red, yellow, blue and black on carpet | 36 x 60 inches
Linkjet print,oil paint, acrylic and chammak patti on canvas.



Details of the artwork above

Zulfiqar Zulfi

Biography and Work Statement

Zulfi is a Design graduate from the National College of Arts, Lahore in 1989. He is a realistic painter of landscapes and is known for his use of light in Punjab countryside scenery paintings. He was born in 1963 and had his early education at Dera Ghazi Khan and then left the town at a very early age. Zulfi paints scenes from the Punjab, especially Dera Ghazi Khan who is still alive in the deep-down recesses of his unconscious. He has several solo and group shows to his credit and his paintings are in major collections home and abroad. He has also participated in several group exhibitions in Pakistan and abroad. He painter of the landscape genre with two decades of painting to his credit. In Zulfi's paintings, it appears we are all observers. Often standing on the threshold of light. Almost grisaille in his approach to the media, he is a master of chiaroscuro, mornings are cloaked with mist, the tall trees dramatic, leafless silhouettes.

The artist is the recipient of the President's Pride of Performance Award 2010. His work features prominently in the following permanent collections: Governor House, Punjab Assembly, Administrative Staff College, National Institute of Public Administration, American Consulate, Lahore; Governor House, NathiaGali; National Art Gallery, Islamabad; President House, Turkey.



The First Light | 24 x 30 inches | Oil on Canvas



ARTSOCH

LOCATION





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