



ARTSOCH
CONTEMPORARY

presents

OXYTOCIN

Group Show Of Contemporary Artists From Pakistan

The Show Will Be Inaugurated By

MS. IRENA GANCHEVA

AMBASSADOR, EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

OPENING ON **Friday, 15th December**

till

Sunday, 17th December 2023

**VENUE: House 9, Street 17, F6/2
ISLAMABAD**

EXHIBITION NOTE

The exhibition "Oxytocin" immerses visitors in an exploration of the intricate relationship between the hormone oxytocin and the art-making process. It delves into how oxytocin, known as the "Love/Bonding hormone," shapes the emotional landscape for both artists and viewers, contributing to the essence of creative expression.

The artistic journey is a deeply personal endeavor, and this show invites attendees to uncover the neurobiological dimensions of this process. Oxytocin, playing a role in social bonding, emotional connection, and stress modulation, silently collaborates in the artist's studio. Each showcased canvas, sculpture, and installation reflects the nuanced dance between neurochemistry and artistic inspiration.

Artists are invited to create two artworks in their signature style, exploring the tranquil atmosphere that contributes to stress reduction in the artistic process. A calm state fosters a more uninhibited exploration of ideas, enhancing the environment for artistic expression.

The exhibition aims to engage with the social dynamics embedded in collaborative works on display, considering oxytocin's role in social bonding. It influences the artist's relationship with their creation and the collaborative efforts and interactions within the art-making process.

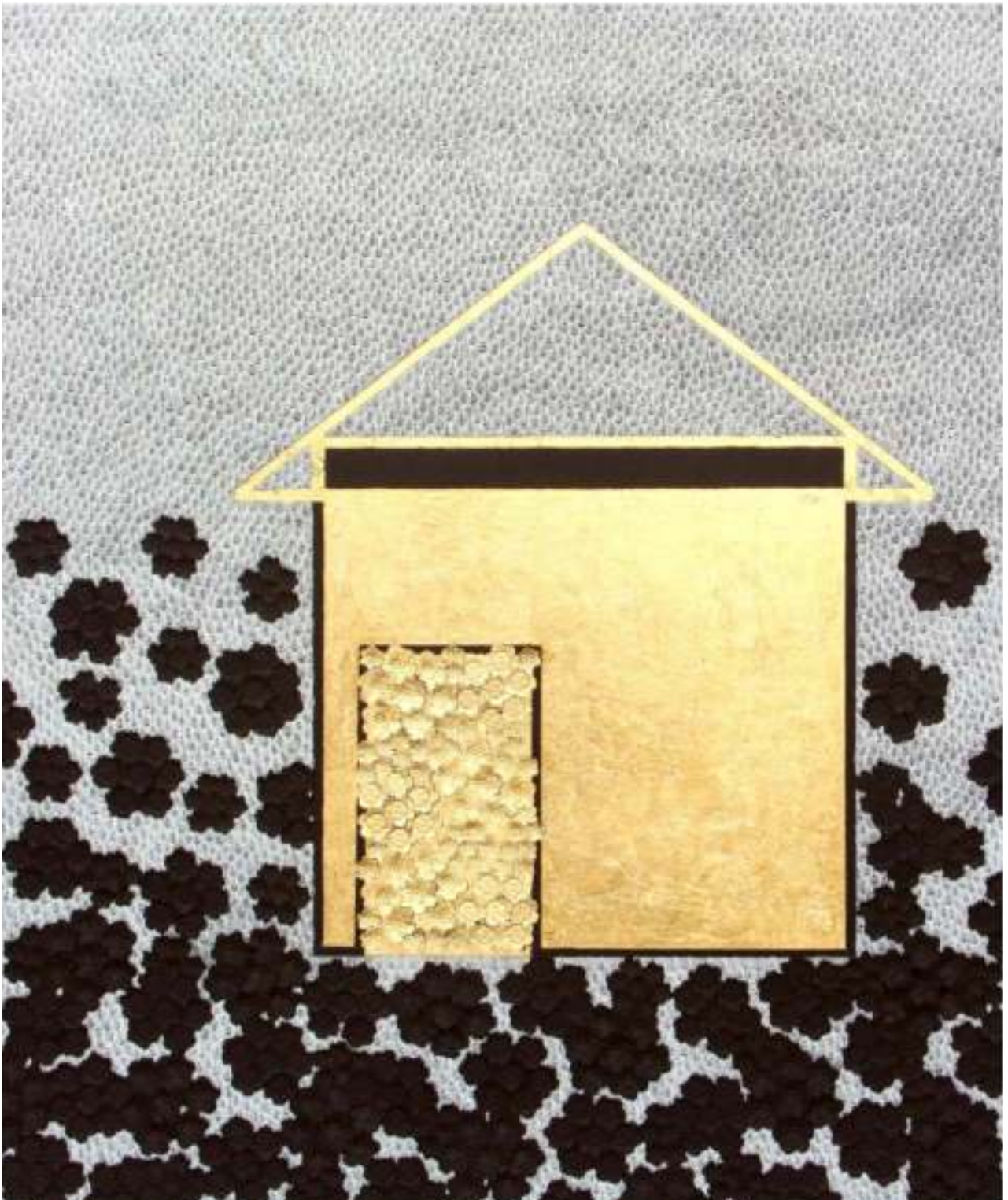
Mariam Hanif Khan & Somia Naveed
Co-Founders ArtSoch Contemporary

Abid Aslam

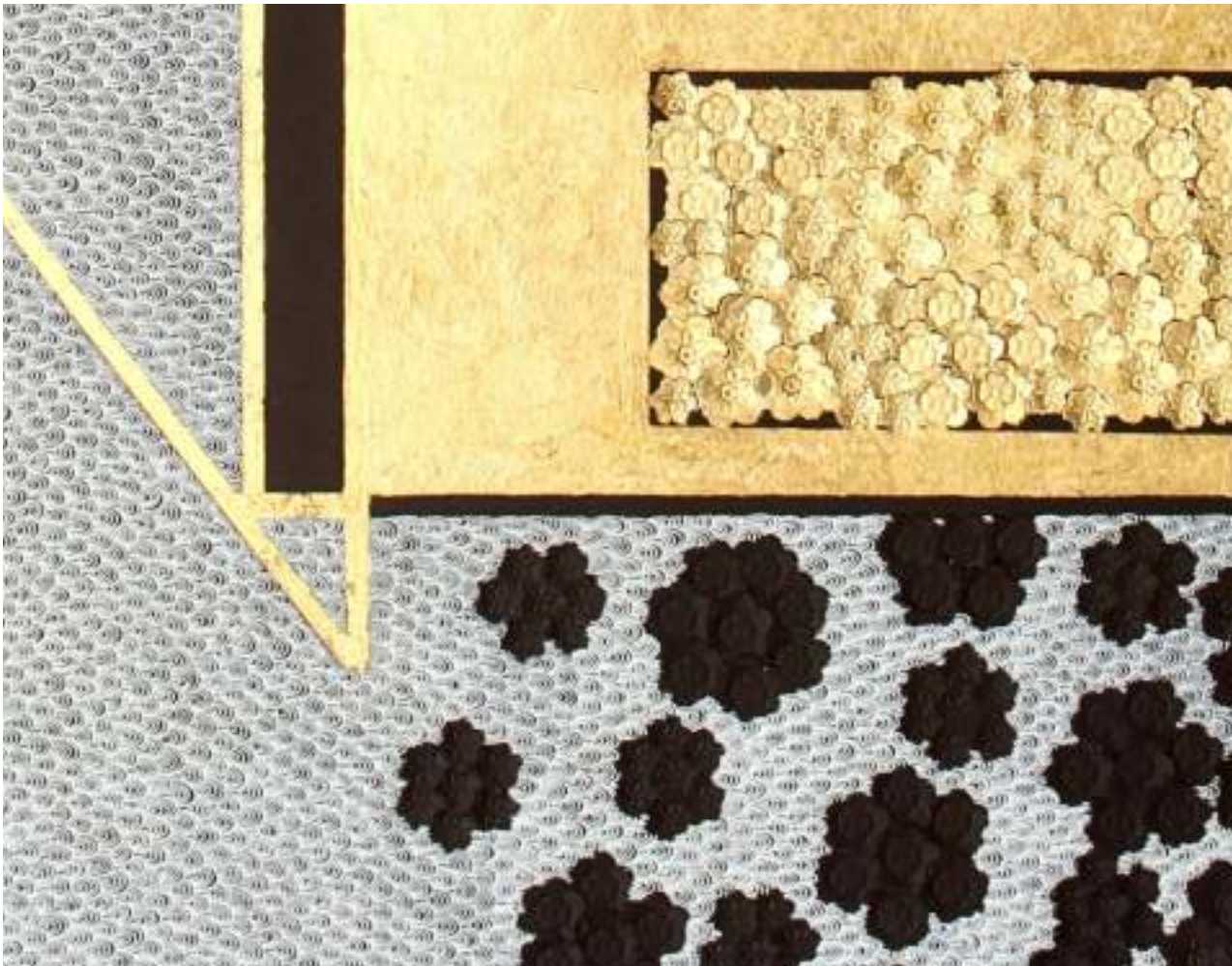
Biography and Work Statement

Abid Aslam, born in Lahore in 1986, is a Pakistani artist known for his innovative approach to contemporary art. Specializing in miniature painting and photography, he earned recognition through solo shows like "Coding Labels" (2013) and "Sitaron se Aage" (2018). Aslam, a lecturer at Hunerkada College until 2014, pursued a master's in Visual Arts from the National College of Arts, Lahore (2017).

His work, embracing engraving techniques, reflects an intimate process, emphasizing intricate details for visual pleasure. Aslam has participated in numerous group exhibitions, receiving accolades such as the Special Award from Artist's Association of Punjab (2016) and the Arjumand Painting Award (2015). Notable recent shows include "Of Land and Skies" (2019) and "The Look" (2021). He recently attended a residency at Can Serrat, Barcelona, and continues to contribute to the evolving Pakistani art scene. Abid Aslam currently resides and works in Lahore.



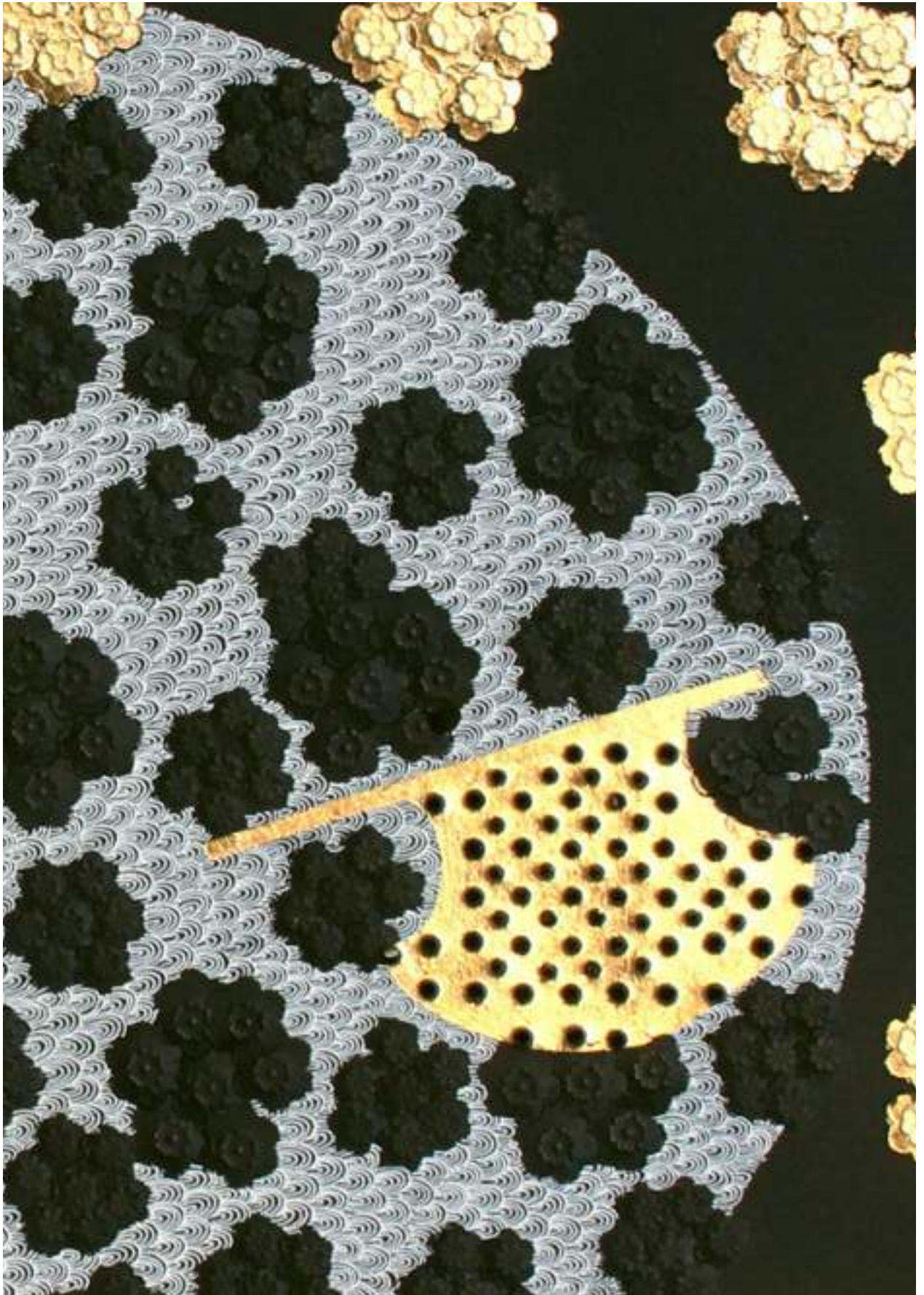
Draw A House | Punching, Gel Pen And Gold Leaf On Wasli | 20 x 24 Inches



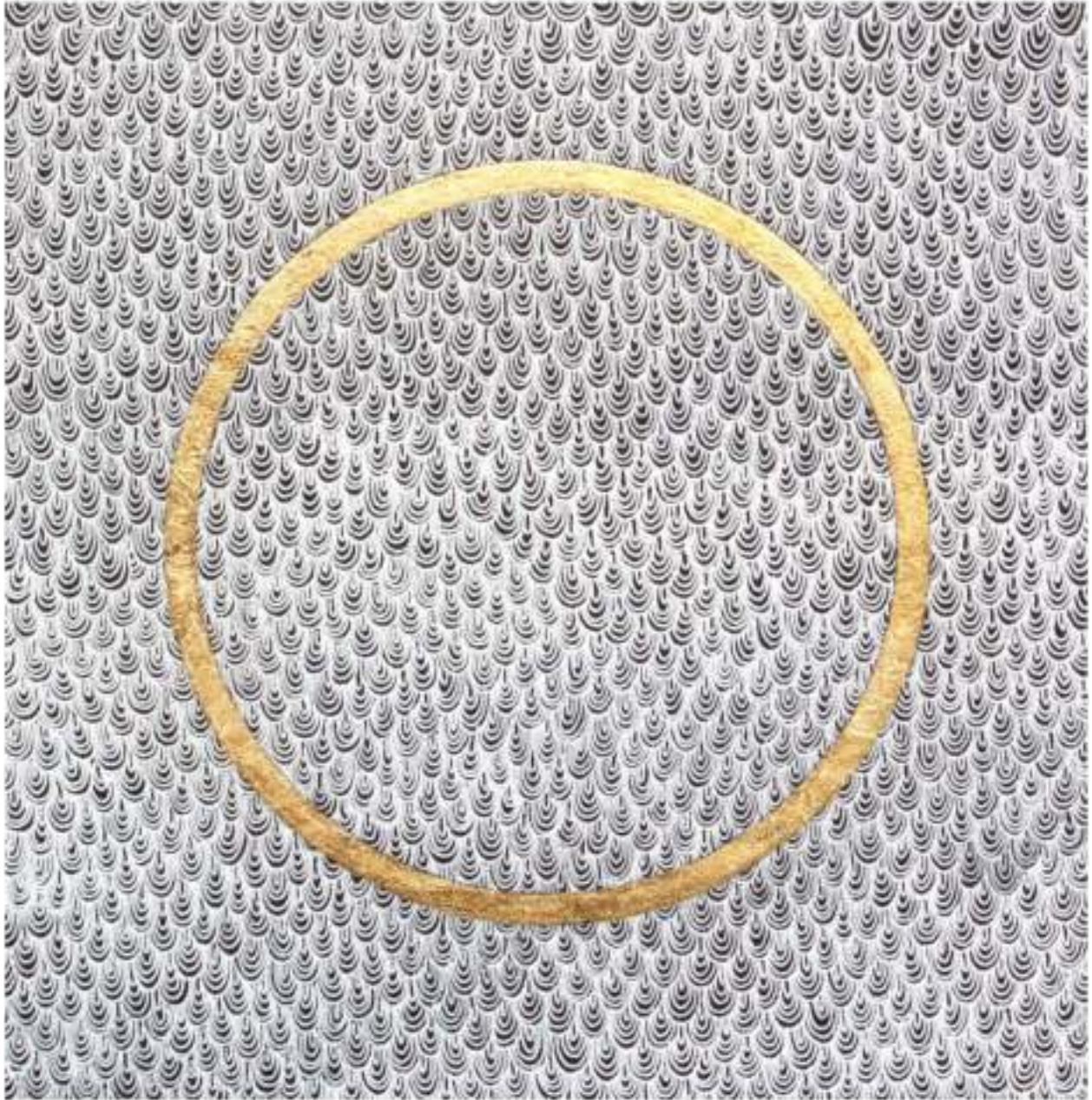
Artwork Detail



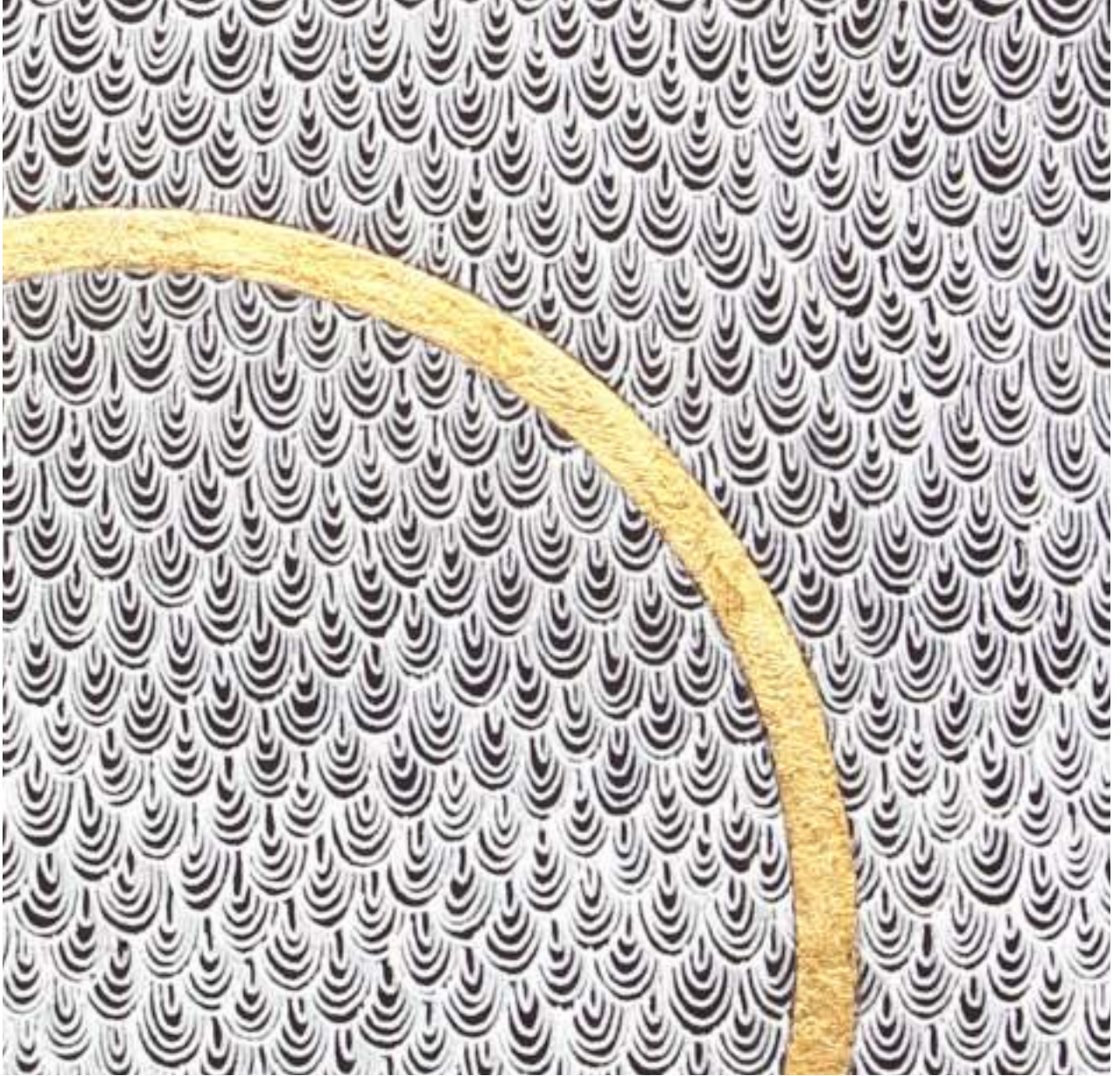
Love Birds II | Punching, Gel Pen And Gold Leaf On Wasli | (24.5 x 36) Inches Overall,
(24.5 x 18) Inches Each (Diptych)



Artwork Detail



Draw A Circle | Gel Pen And Gold Leaf On Wasli | 7 x 7 Inches



Artwork Detail



On Repeat | Haptex Synthetic Leather | 36 x 60 Inches

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 | Oil on Canvas | 48 x 60 Inches



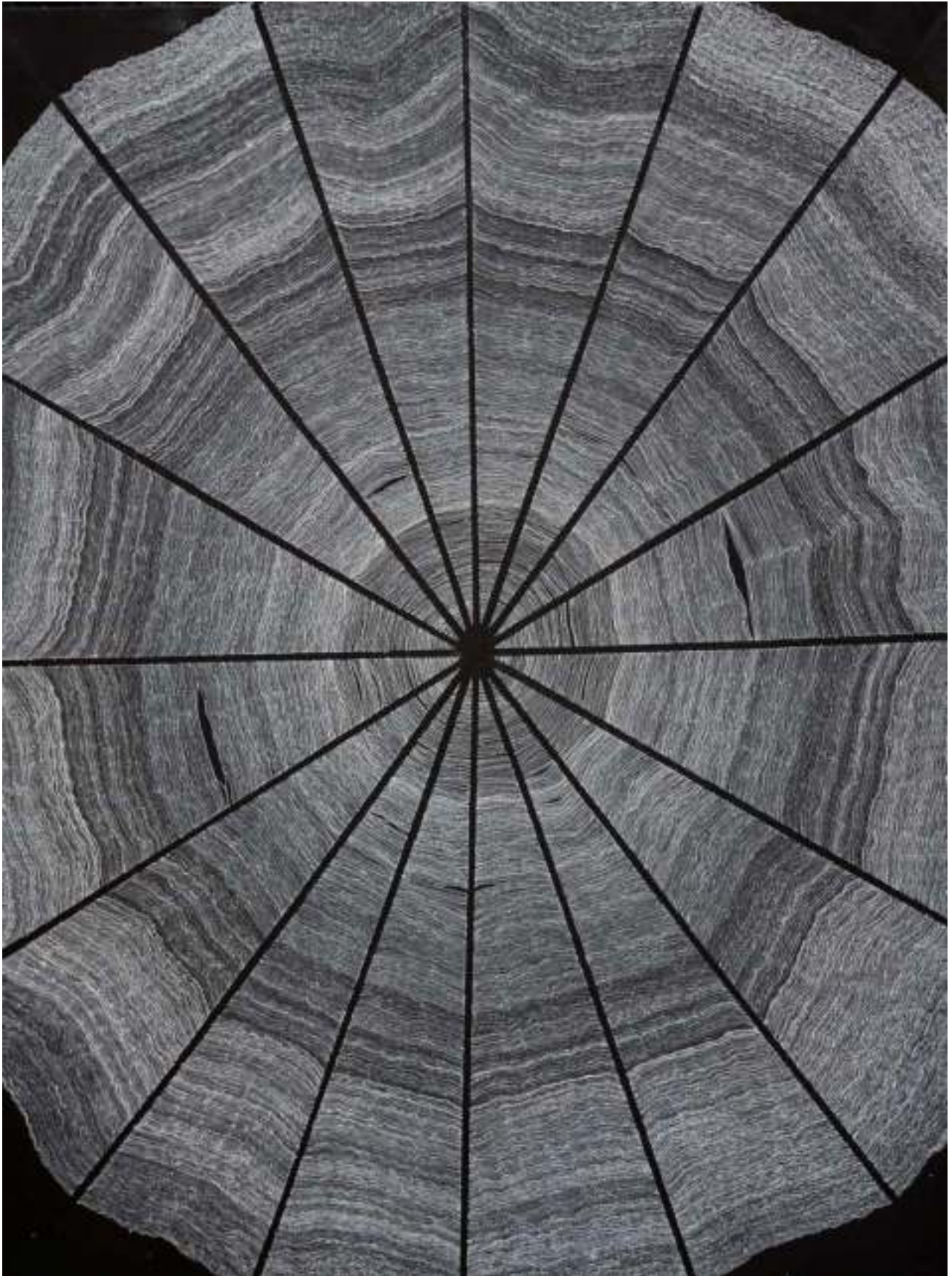
Untitled | Oil on Canvas | 24 x 36 Inches

Ammara Rafique

Biography and Work Statement

Ammara Rafique, a Lahore-based visual artist, earned her MFA in Visual Arts in 2022. Specializing in abstract miniature drawings, she showcased her work internationally, including exhibitions in Baku, Azerbaijan, and Art Soch Contemporary. Rafique participated in online art exhibitions and various group shows, receiving recognition in awards like Arjumand and Anna Molka.

Her art, currently exhibited in Islamabad and Lahore, reflects her philosophy of nature's interconnectedness and life's transformations. Using a decaying pen on paper, she captures lines that symbolize calmness and peace. White signifies serenity, while black represents sophistication, firmness, and emotion, defying stereotypes associated with darkness. Rafique, also a visiting faculty at GCU Fine Arts Department, explores the profound truths in both nature and contemporary complexities.



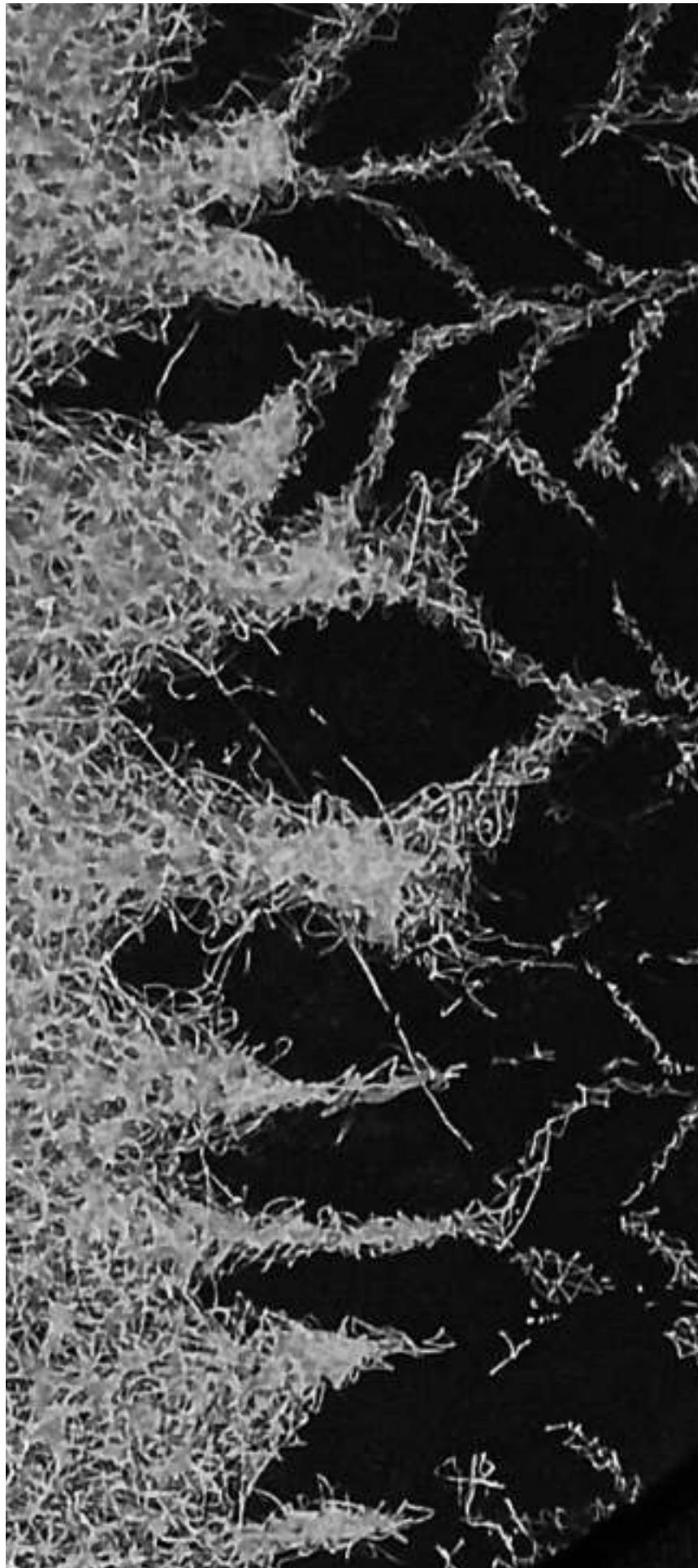
Transcendent Threads | White Permanent Ink On Paper | 24 x 36 Inches



Artwork Detail



Entwine | White Permanent Ink On Paper | 15 x 35 Inches



Artwork Detail

Awais Naqvi

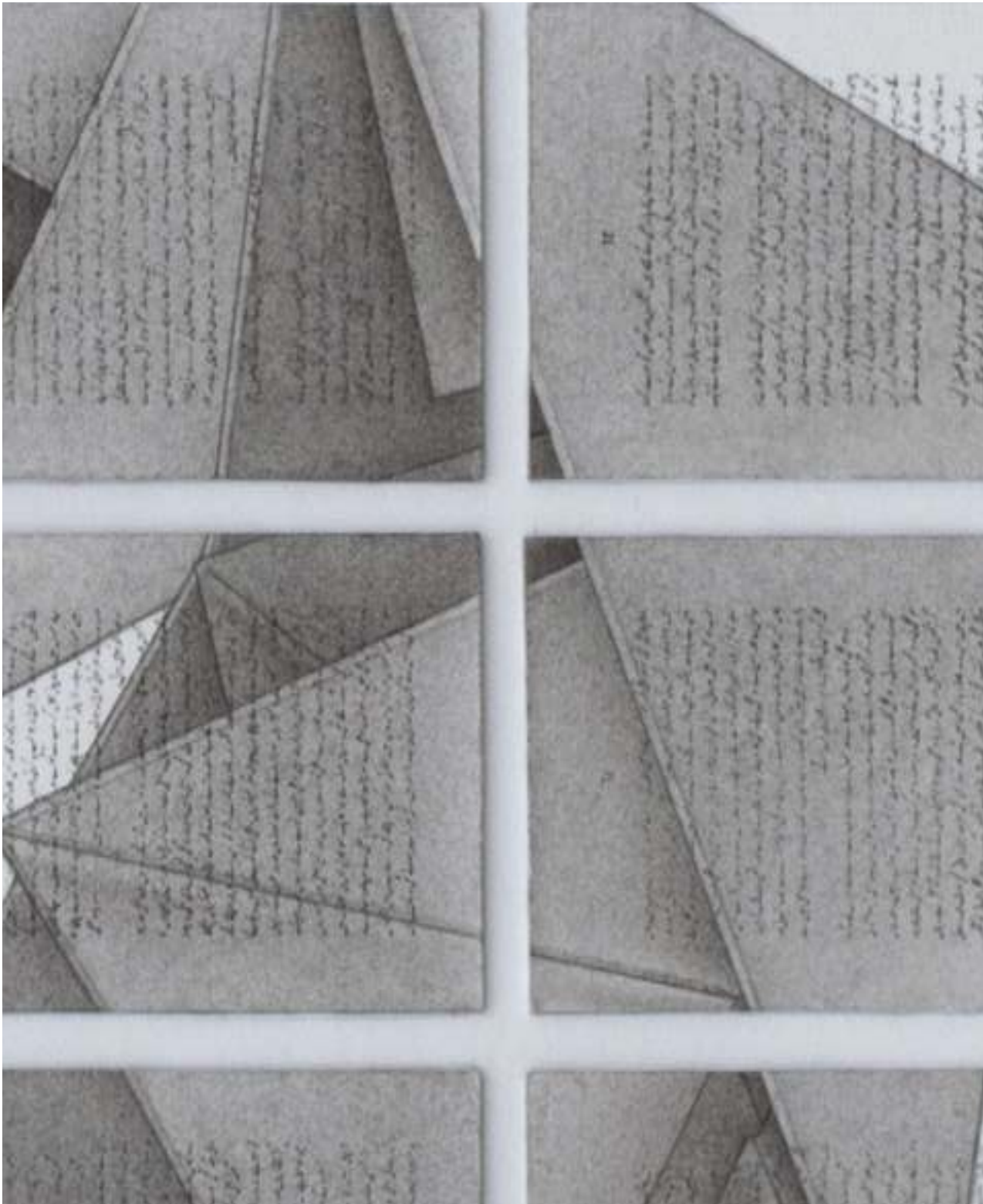
Biography and Work Statement

Awais Naqvi, born in Lahore, Pakistan, lives and works there. He earned a BFA degree from the College of Art and Design, University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan, in 2013, and an MFA in 2017. Over the past years, Awais has been active in Visual Arts, participating in group shows like KARBATHIANS 2020 at Alhamra Art Gallery and the Islamabad Art Festival 2019. He was part of Karbath 02 artist residency in 2019 and MotM Winter Residency in 2021, winning prizes in art competitions, including the Young Artist Award at the 13th Annual Young Artist Exhibition in 2017.

In his work, "Paper Boat," Awais symbolically represents the connection between humanity and rivers. Rivers, considered the spine of life, flow through different lands, cultures, and people, reflecting the history of humanity. Despite the partition of the Indian Subcontinent, rivers continue to traverse borders, echoing the enduring connection between places and people.



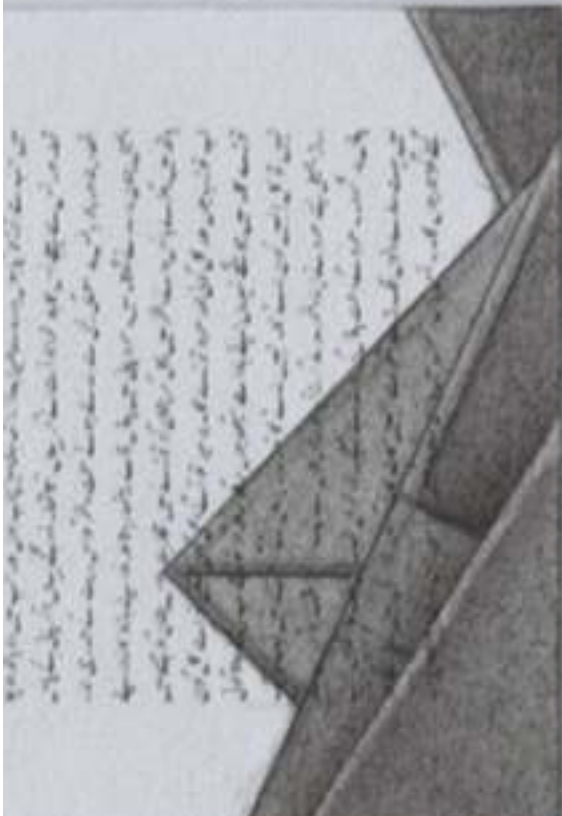
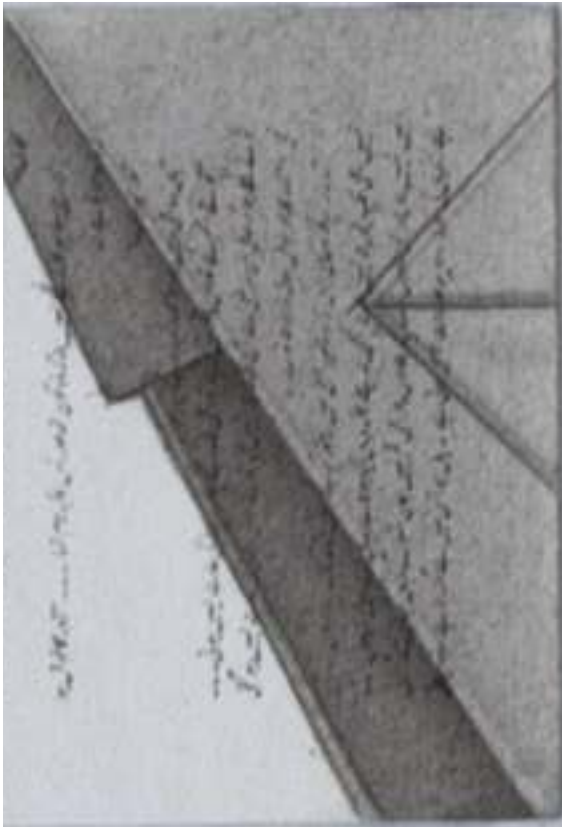
“Untitled” Confluence Series | Ink & Paper Transfer on Vasli | 16.4 x 19.4 Inches



Artwork Detail



“Untitled” Confluence Series | Ink & Paper Transfer on Vasli | 13.1 x 19.4 Inches



Artwork Detail

Aqeel Solangi

Biography and Work Statement

Aqeel Solangi, born in Ranipur, Sindh, is an accomplished artist and educator. A graduate with honors from the National College of Arts, Lahore, he holds two Master's degrees in Visual Art and Fine Art from Bath Spa University, UK. Currently an Associate Professor at the National College of Arts, Rawalpindi, he heads the Painting and Sculpture departments.

Solangi's work has been internationally recognized, and he received the Charles Wallace Pakistan Trust Visiting Artist Fellowship for the Prince's School of Traditional Arts, London, in 2006. His paintings were part of the 2013 Pakistani Artists' workshop in China, and a major survey of his work was exhibited at Chawkandi Art in 2019. Aqeel Solangi lives and works in Rawalpindi.

One of his notable series, "Aik Tha Raja... and Aik Thi Rani...," depicts two string puppets handled from above on a constructed stage-like background. The titles are inspired by a famous Urdu nursery rhyme. Solangi's fascination with the amalgamation of folklore and folk theater is evident, drawing from his experience as a puppeteer. The paintings reflect the emergence of puppets under a spotlight filled with periwinkle flowers, resonating with his rich background in puppet performances at various cultural venues.



Aik Tha Raja | Acrylic on Canvas | 20 x 27.7 Inches



Aik Thi Rani | Acrylic on Canvas | 20 x 27.7 Inches

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.



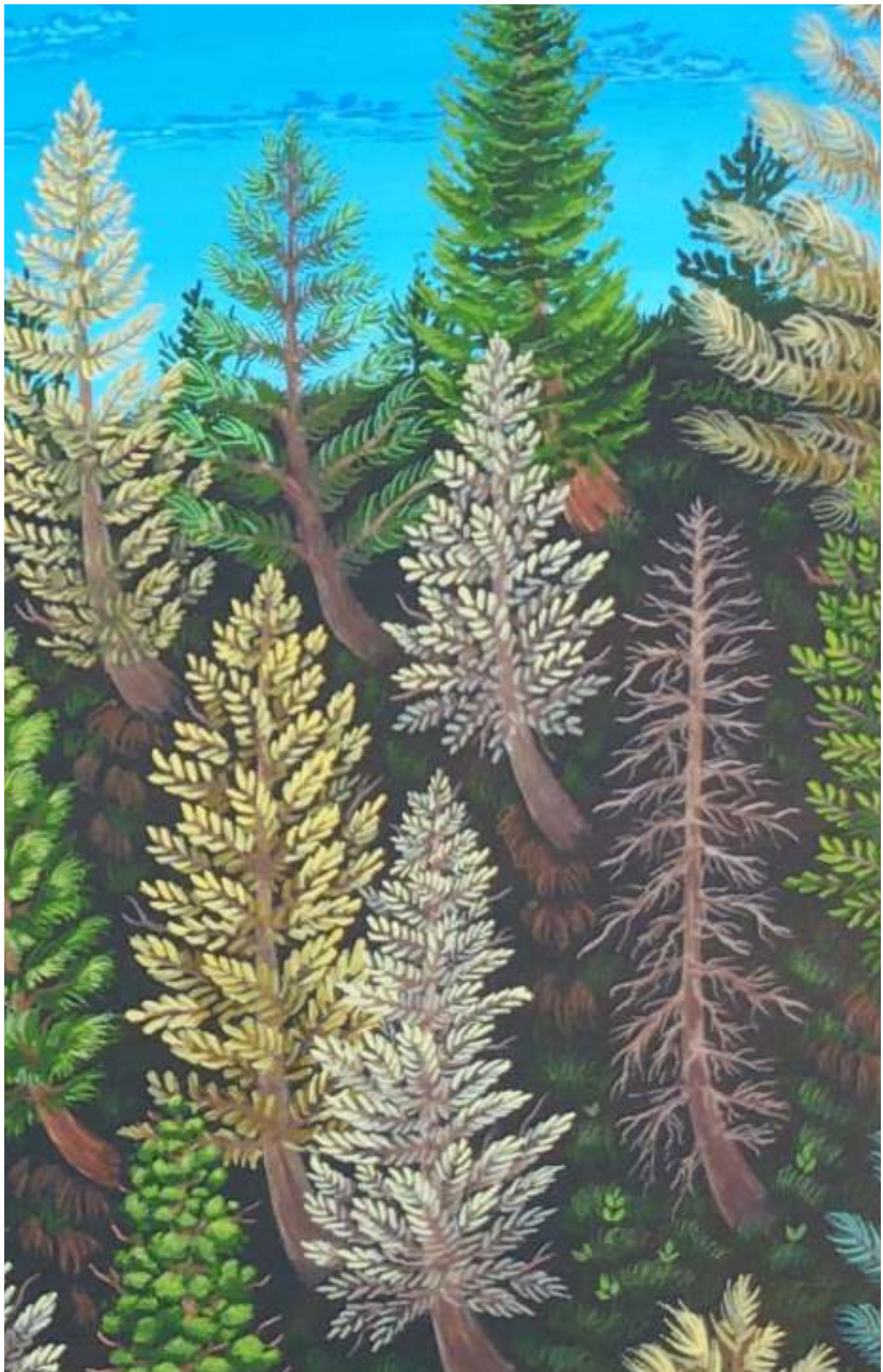
On Such A Night As This | Gouache On Wasli | 27 x 21 Inches



Artwork Detail



After Twilight | Gouache On Wasli | 21 x 14 Inches



Artwork Detail

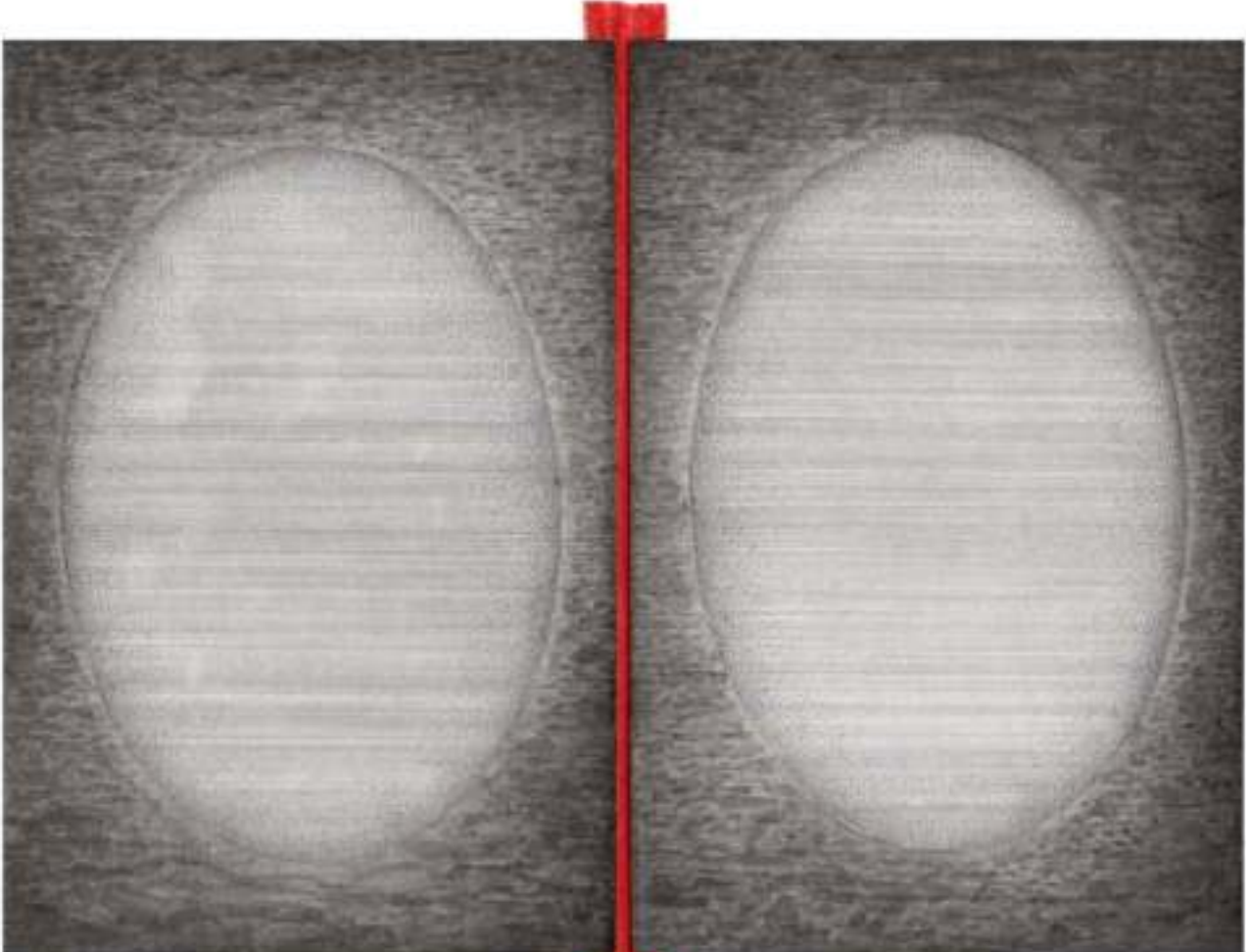
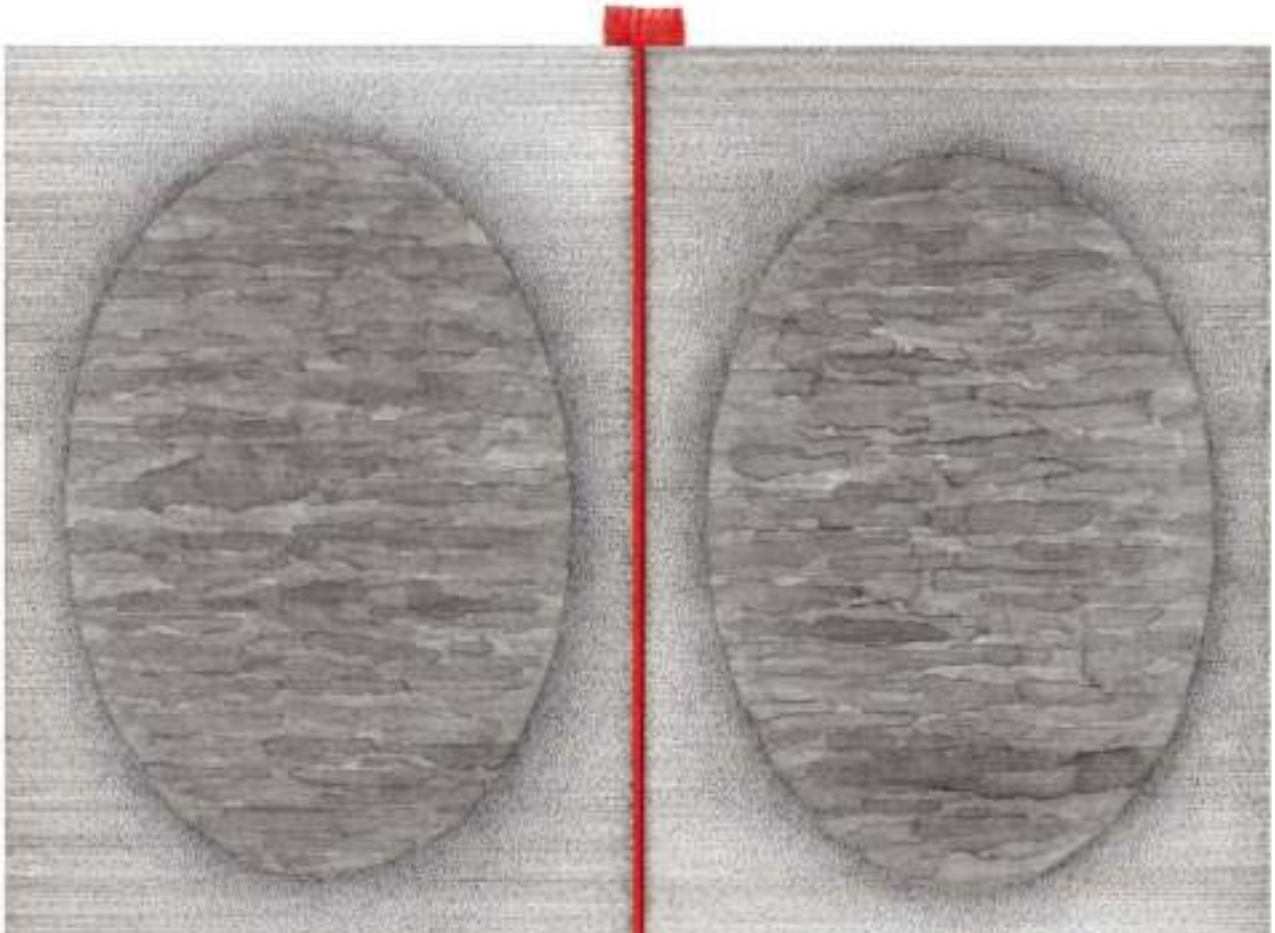
Farrukh Addnan

Biography and Work Statement

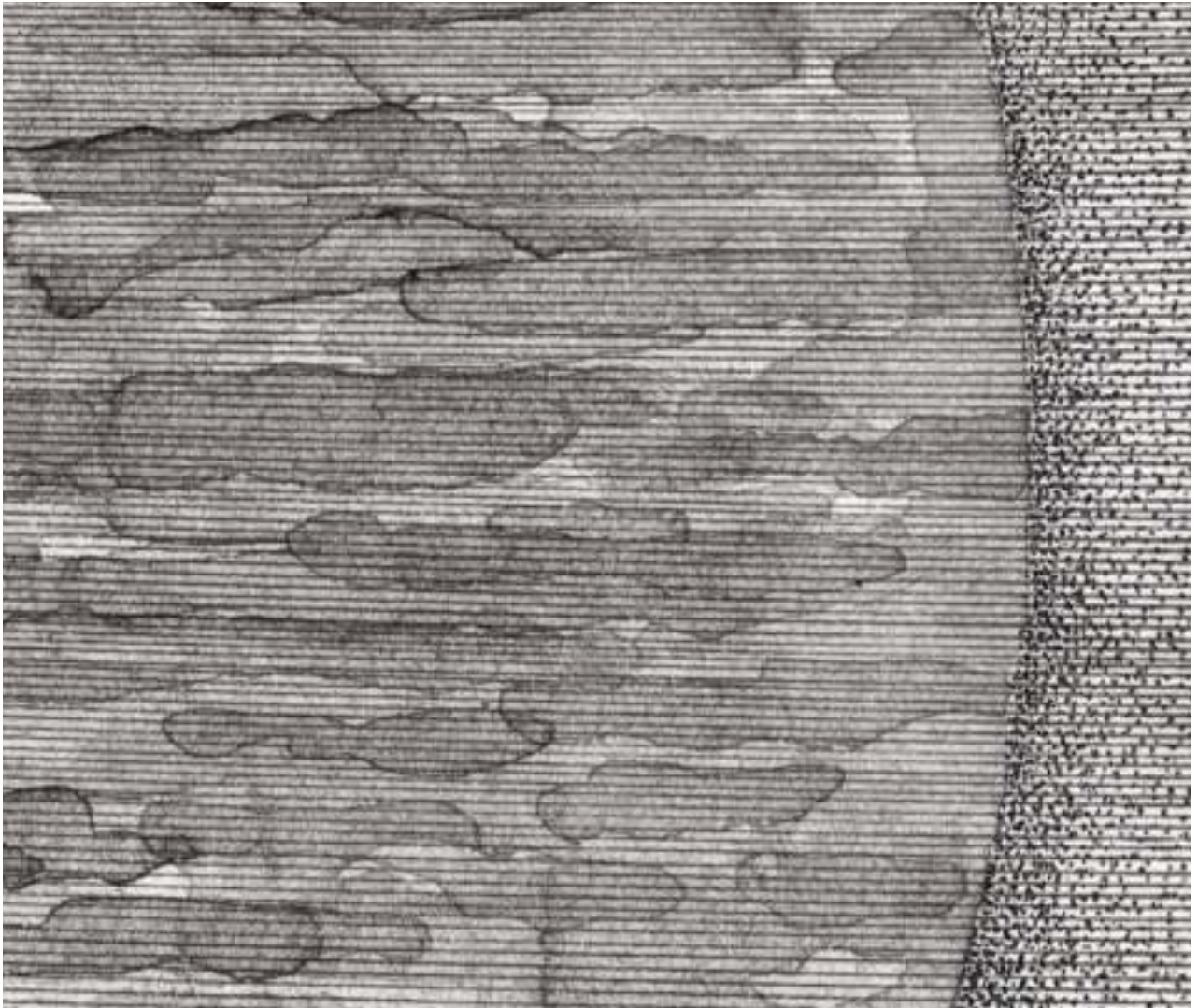
Farrukh Addnan, a visual artist from Lahore, explores the ancient history of his hometown, Tulamba, through drawing and photography. His work focuses on the patterns in the ruins dating back to the 2nd century B.C. As a drawing and design teacher at the National College of Arts, Addnan intertwines his teaching career with his artistic journey. Awarded The Arts Family (TAF) X Sotheby's Institute Mentorship Program 2023, he has garnered recognition, including shortlisting for The Arts Family (TAF) London Art Award-South Asia 2023.

Addnan's art, showcased globally, delves into ancestral connections and archaeology, crafting narratives through memory and cultural heritage. His studio practice involves exploring personal memories, collective history, and cultural depictions, using symbols and patterns to convey the multi-layered nature of these aspects. Guided by psycho-geography, his work infuses a spiritual element, emphasizing the historical significance of spaces in Tulamba.

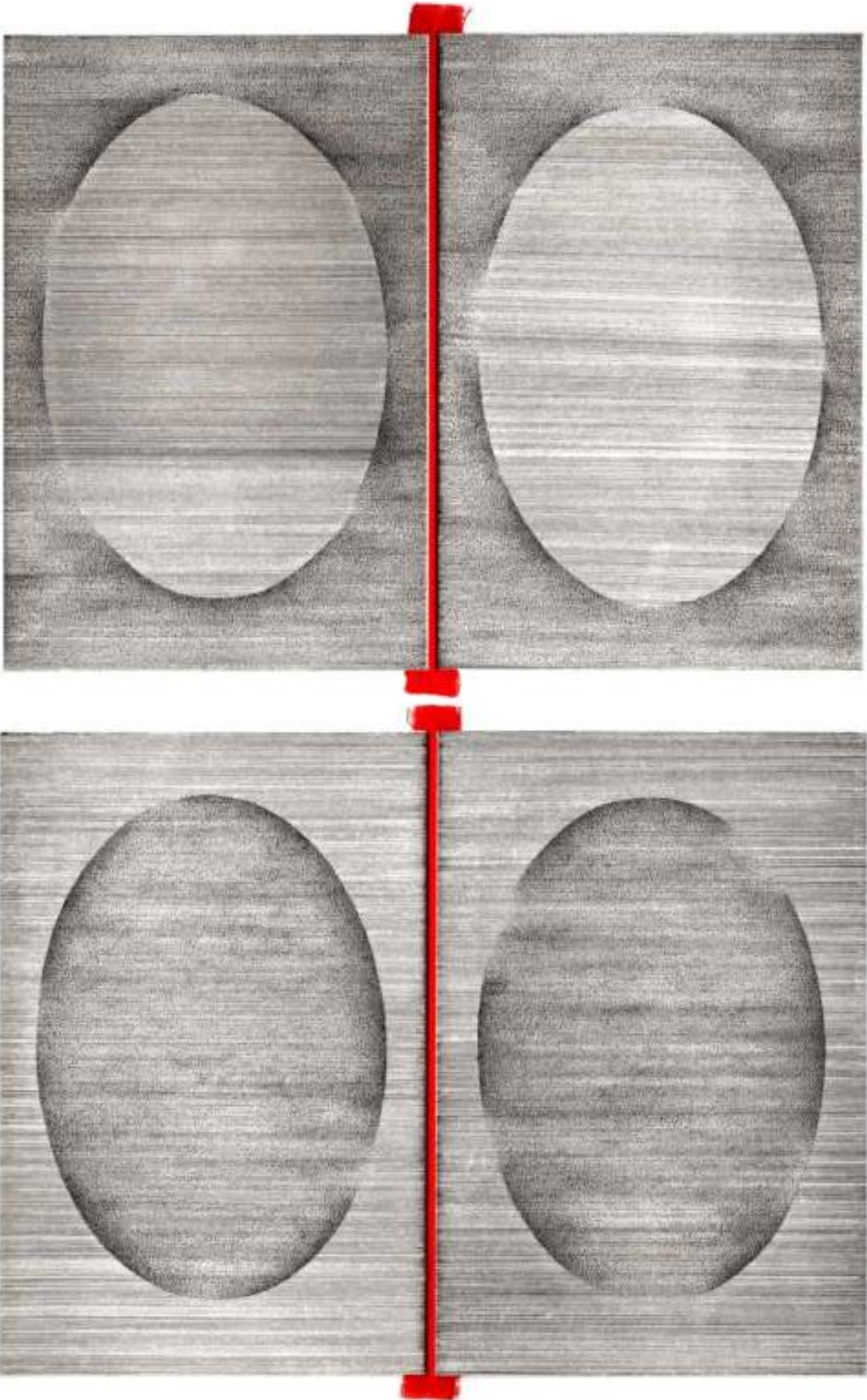
Through his art, Addnan aims to create a visual language that uncovers the past, sparking contemplation on the interplay between memory, space, and symbols, fostering dialogue on the significance of context and shaping our understanding of the world.



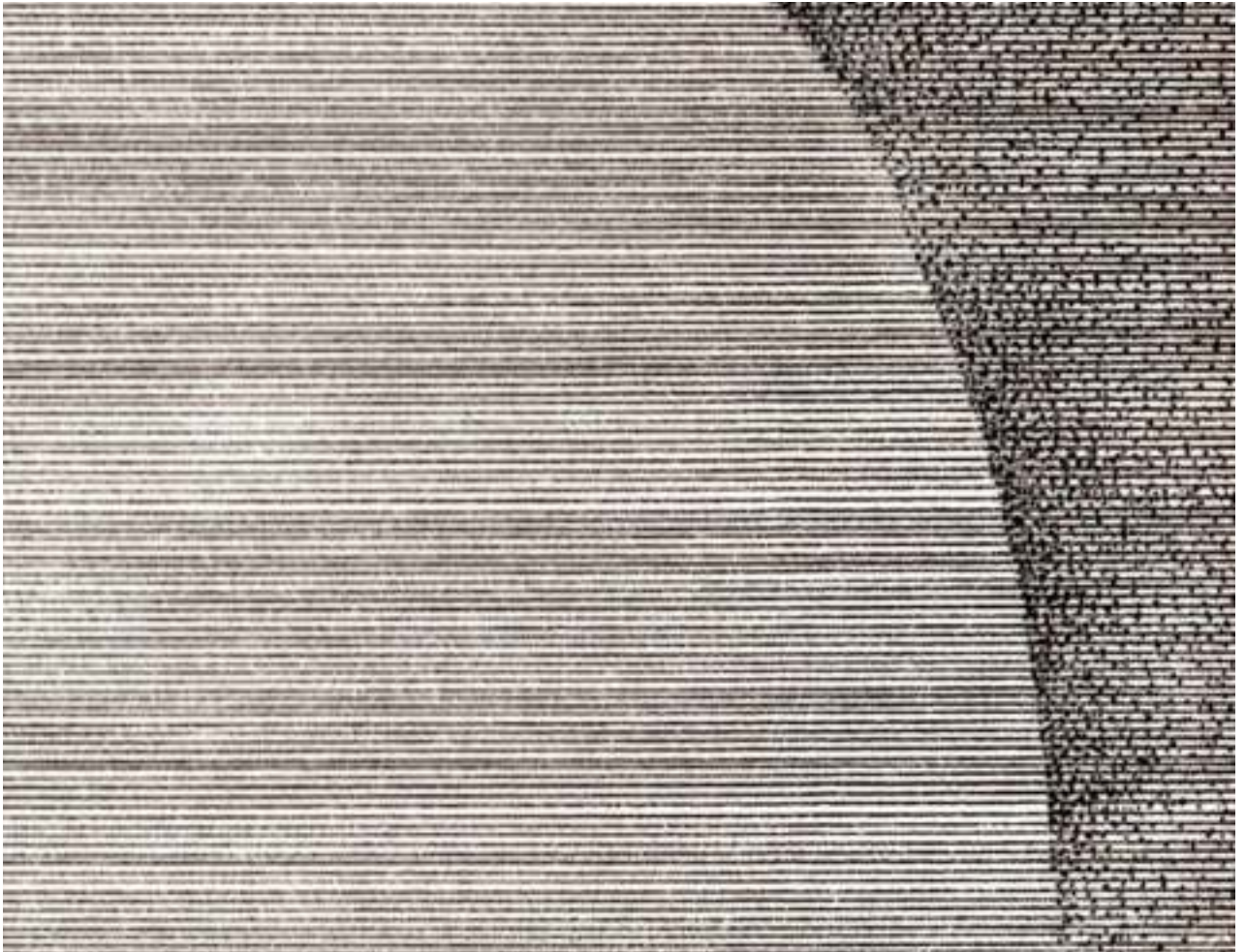
Reliquiae I-II | Pen And Inkwash And Cotton Fabric On Wasli | 6.5 x 8.25 Inches (Each)



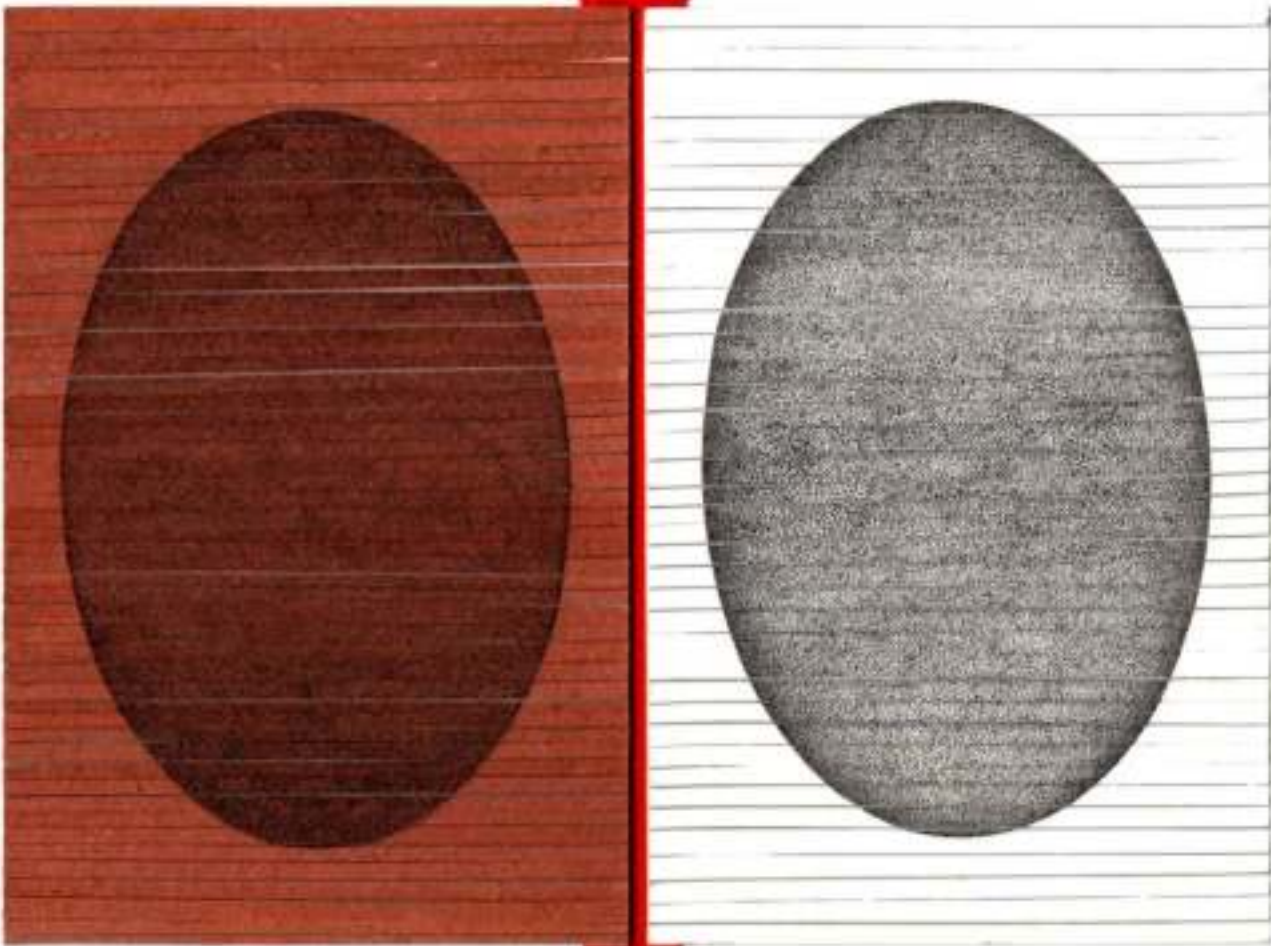
Artwork Detail



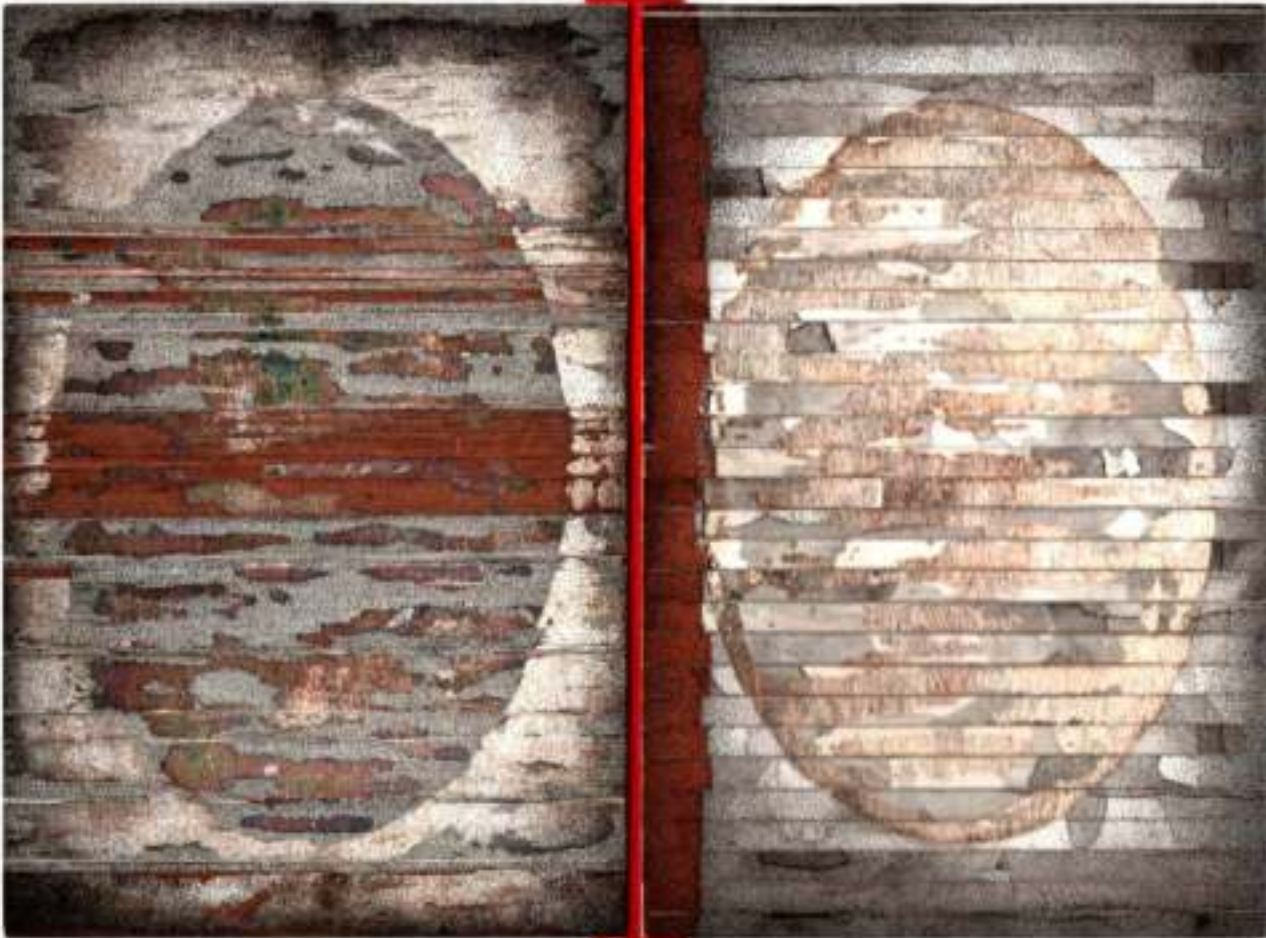
Reliquiae III-IV | Pen And Ink And Cotton Fabric On Wasli | 6.5 x 8.25 Inches (Each)



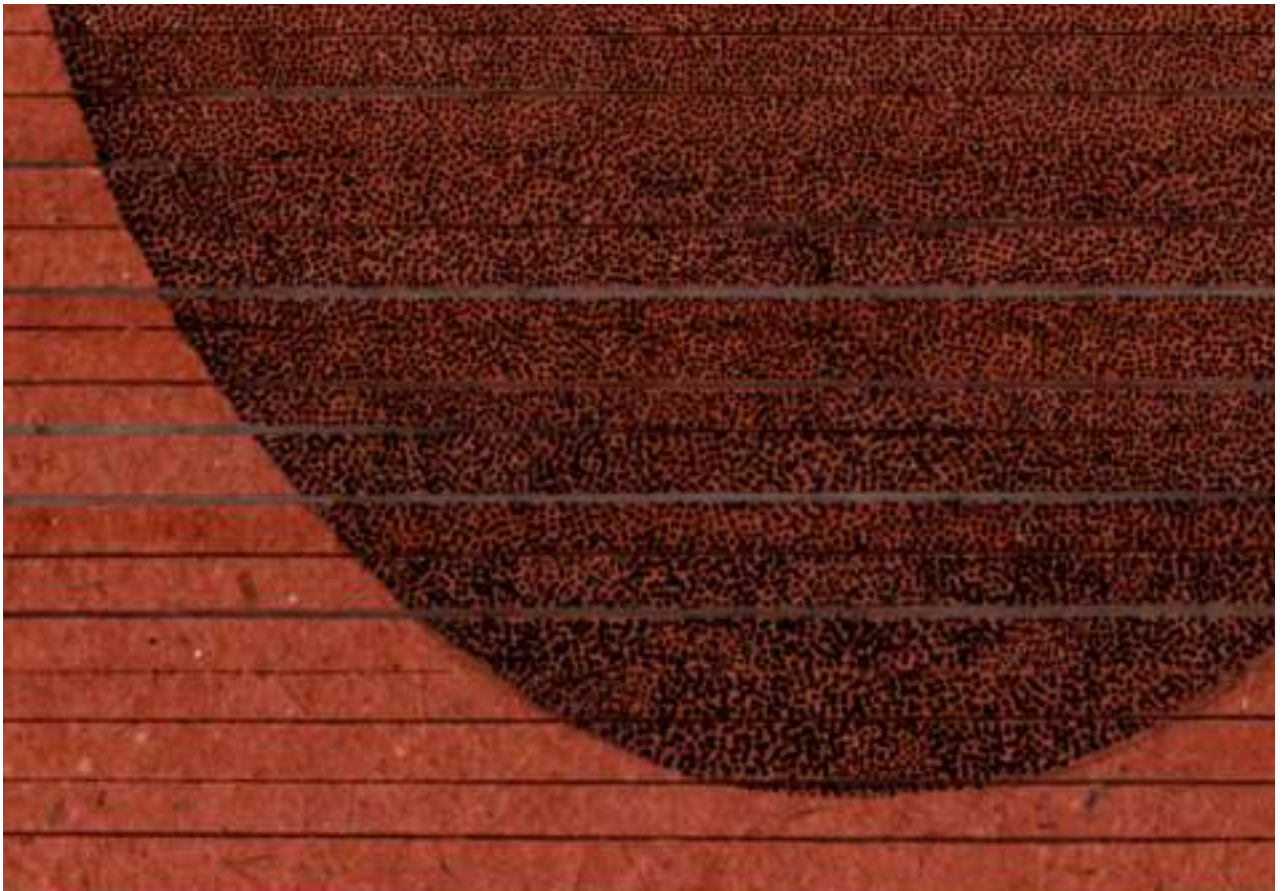
Artwork Detail



Remnant | Pen And Ink And Cotton Fabric On Wasli | 6.5 x 8.25 Inches



Writing In Remains | Pen, Inkwash, Oxidized Silver Leaf, Cotton Fabric On Wasli | 6.5 x 8.2 Inches



Artwork Detail

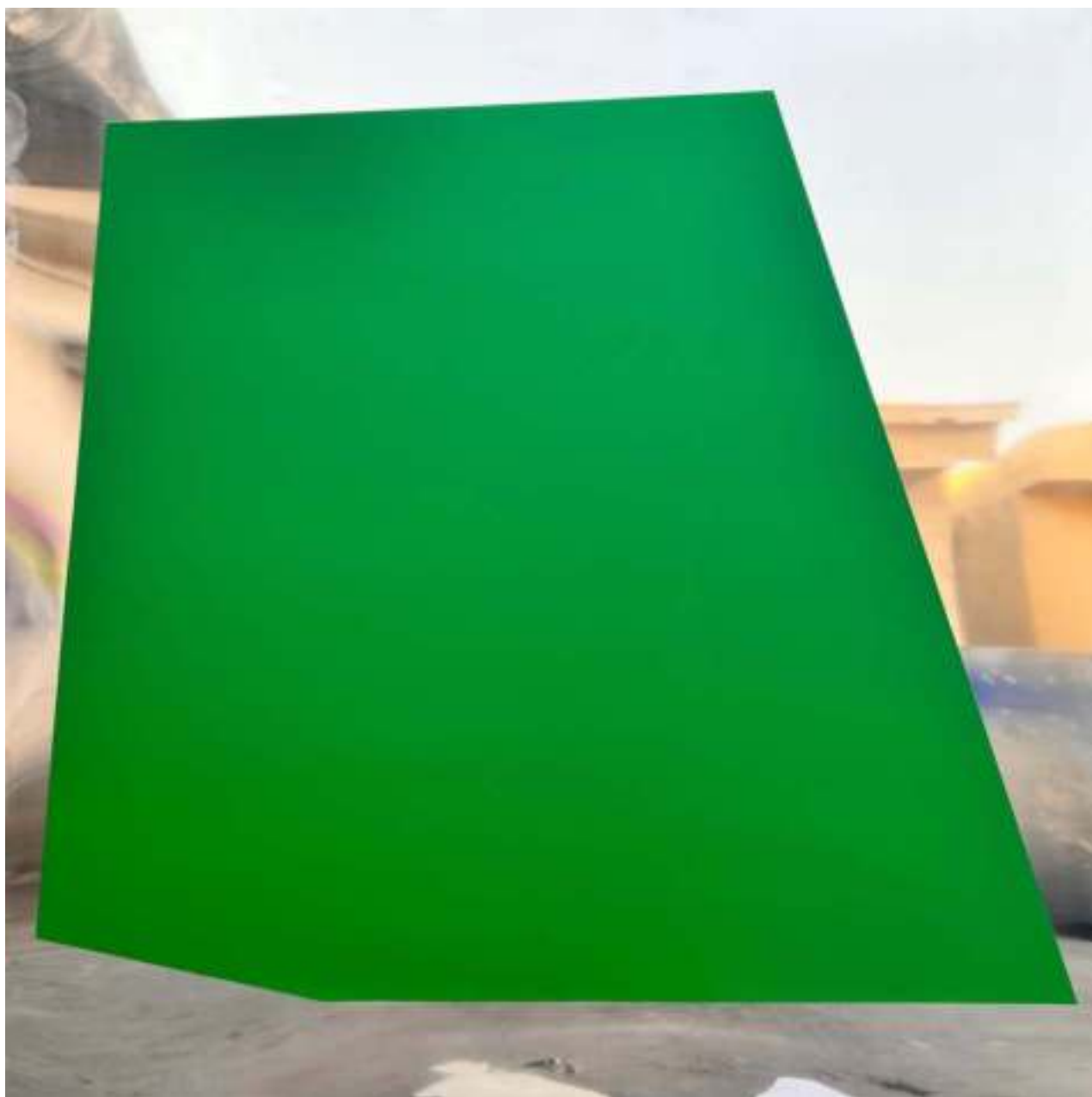
Fawad Jafri

Biography and Work Statement

Fawad Jafri, a Fine Arts graduate from the National College of Arts, Lahore in 2019, has actively participated in exhibitions both nationally and internationally, including venues such as Canvas Gallery in Karachi, Dastaangoi in Islamabad, and the Embassy of Netherlands. Notably, he contributed to the Lahore Biennale in February 2020 at Mr. Imran Qureshi's Gallery for the 'Rich Tapestry.' His first solo exhibition took place at Pakistan Art Forum, Lahore, in February 2023.

Jafri draws inspiration from his background in graphic design, honed within his family. Starting with the fundamental skill of drawing straight lines, he has evolved his artistic practice to explore shapes and colors on canvas through lines. His recent work focuses on reinventing our relationship with the line, emphasizing expressions through composition. Influenced by his father's Arabic calligraphy, Jafri considers the line as a primary tool for image-making since his graduation.

Having grown up in an artisan's environment, Jafri blurs the line between art and design, creating aesthetically compelling forms and shapes with lines that captivate viewers. His studio in Lahore serves as the space where he dedicates himself full-time to his artistic practice.



Morden Ancestor | Acrylics On Plastic Canvas Pasted On Stainless Steel | 48 x 48 Inches



Untitled | Acrylics on Canvas | 60 x 42 Inches



Artwork Detail

Hifza Khan

Biography and Work Statement

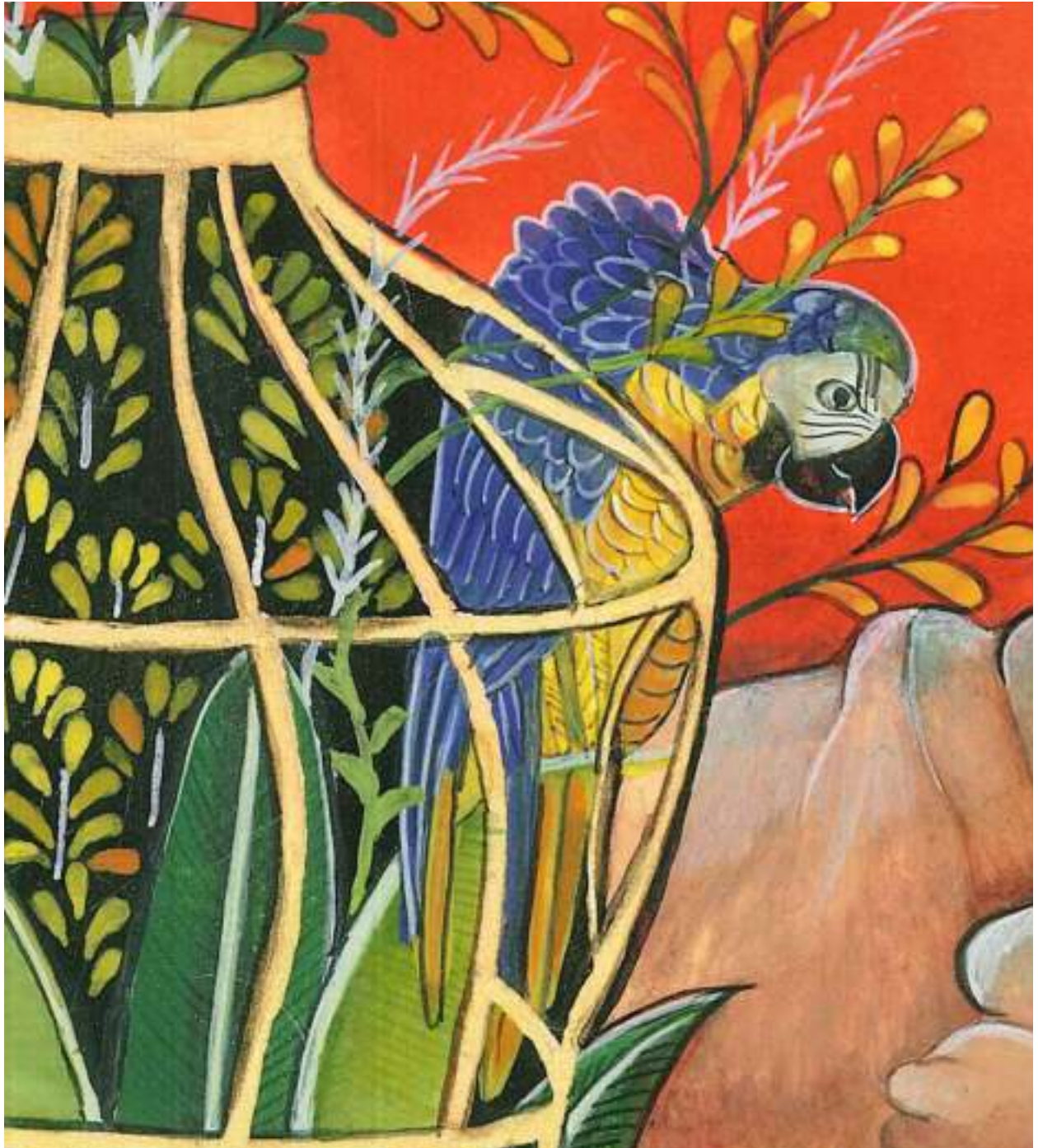
Hifza Khan, a visual artist and art educator from Rawalpindi, completed her BFA with honors in Miniature Painting from the National College of Arts, Lahore, in 2012. Currently a Visiting Faculty at National College of Arts Rawalpindi, she has showcased her work in various group shows across Lahore, Islamabad, and Karachi. With experience in book illustration and titles, her select exhibitions include "Breaking the Mould," "Common Dimensions," "Recollection," "Revelation," and "Climate Chronicles."

Aside from her academic roles, Hifza has worked as an art instructor at Lahore Grammar School Paragon Campus and as a Senior Art teacher at Beaconhouse School System Islamabad. She has undertaken private projects and completed a calligraphy commission for the Imam Bargah Hali Road, Lahore, in 2020. Some of her artworks are housed in the permanent collection of Ambiance Boutique Art Hotel Karachi.

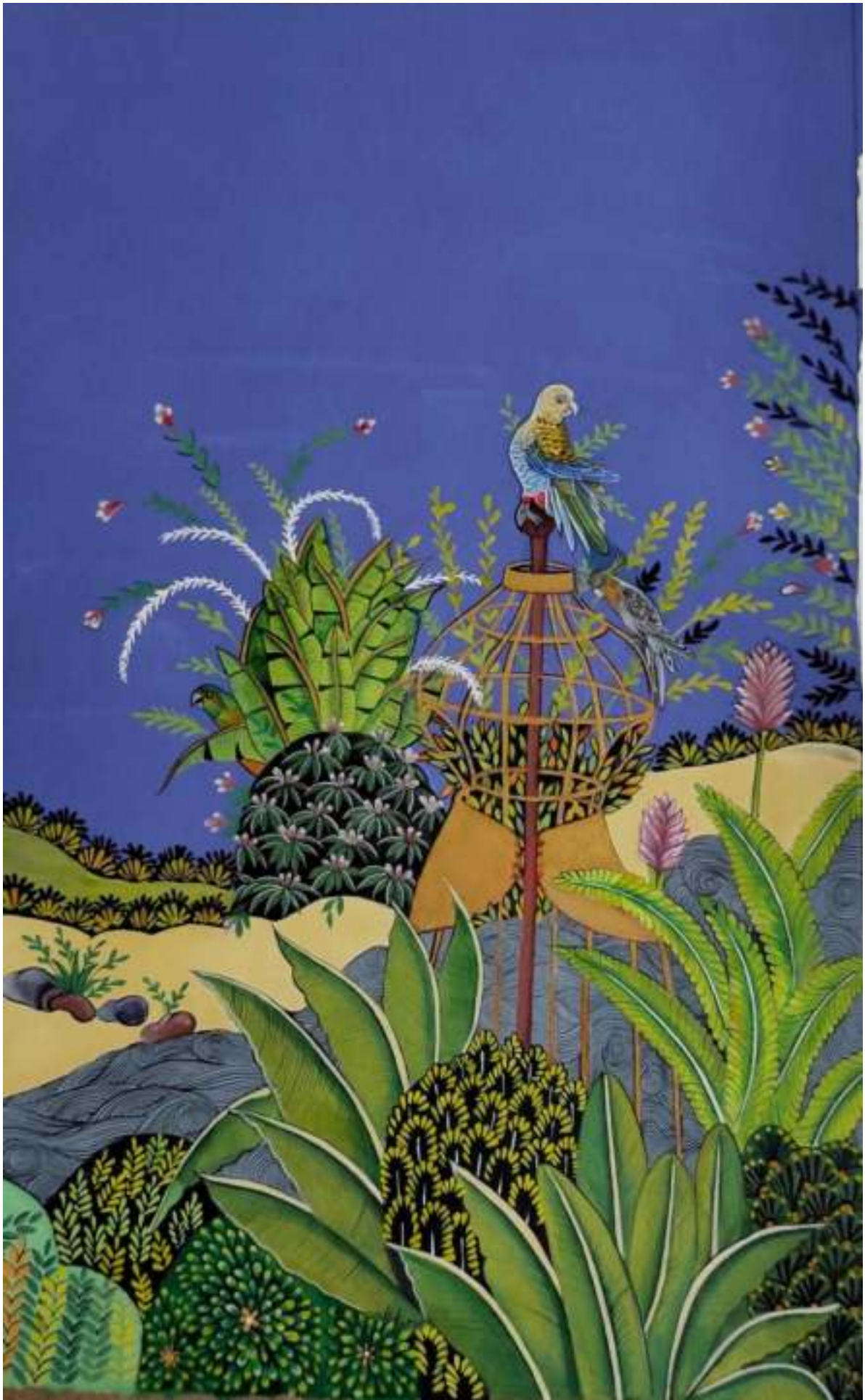
Hifza's artistic focus centers on feminine emotions, empowerment, and their existence in the world. Her imaginative realms draw inspiration from nature, using imagery to convey displacement and relocation. Recently, she incorporates pomegranate as a symbol of purity and fertility in her work. Nature serves as a source of emotional expression, allowing her to understand herself and reflect on the purpose of being. Her art is characterized by a marriage of painting style, inspiration from nature, and a reflection of the brighter side of life. The compositions emphasize emotional healing and the mystery of creation.



Across The Red Sky | Pure Pigment On Wasli Paper | 10 x 10 Inches



Artwork Detail



I Am | Pure Pigment On Wasli Paper | 13.2 x 20.7 Inches



Artwork Detail



Womanhood | Pure Pigment On Wasli Paper | 13.2 x 20.7 Inches



Artwork Detail

Hassnain Awais

Biography and Work Statement

Hassnain Awais, a Lahore-based visual artist, earned his BFA in Visual Arts from the National College of Arts in 2005, specializing in printmaking. Notably, he received honors for his achievements. While primarily a printmaker, he predominantly works in mixed media oil paintings. Hassnain has showcased his art in various local and international galleries, including those in Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, New York, and Dubai.

Having taught in the printmaking department at the National College of Arts and Punjab University's Department of Art & Design, Hassnain is currently a freelance artist. He manages Studio Hassnain, an independent printmaking studio providing facilities for fellow printmakers, and runs Gadrang Designs, a fashion photography and art direction studio.

In his artist statement, Hassnain reflects on the enduring value of archival records and the emotional connection people develop with personalized paper, letters, and envelopes. His work explores the strange bond with archival papers, acknowledging society's gradual shift away from them. The elements in his art symbolize different societal norms, presenting visual poetry that invites interpretation of diverse stories and life lessons.



That Glow From With In | Mixed Medium with printmaking | 23.5 x 16 Inches



A Journey | Mixed Medium with printmaking | 31.5 x 22 Inches



I Am My Own Royalty | Mixed Medium with printmaking | 24 x 16 Inches



A New Window | Mixed Medium with printmaking | 36 x 24 Inches

Imran Ahmed Khan

Biography and Work Statement

Imran Ahmed draws inspiration from the ancient seated, bird-faced mother goddesses of Mehrgarh, reaching back 7000 years. His recent works, featuring harmoniously balanced colors and forms, merge the sensual with the sacred, human with animal, action with inaction. In his wooden sculptures, he seamlessly merges contours, transcending binaries. Imran's sculpting virtuosity extends to canvas, where he shapes figures and their surroundings, offering meditative spaces to rediscover ancient moments of reverence, innocence, and gratitude.

The canvases explore life forms cultivated from artifacts, food systems, and human creations across history. Imran juxtaposes materials and forms, catalyzing imaginations that draw from the past while pointing towards yet-unfolded futures. In a world of commodified deities, his works invite appreciation for primal instincts and the cohabitation of art in various spaces, from temples to streets, bridging hieroglyphs and graffiti.



Exist On Arrival | Acrylic On Canvas| 45 x 33 Inches



Artwork Detail



Only Memory In The Memory | Acrylic On Canvas| 67 x 38 Inches



Artwork Detail

Kiran Waseem Raza

Biography and Work Statement

Miss Waseem, an honours graduate in Painting from the National College of Arts, Lahore, draws inspiration from the concept of motion in both physical and metaphysical realms, a consistent theme in her studio practice. Having been part of group shows in Lahore and Karachi, including venues like "O Art Space," "Taseer Art Gallery," and "Canvas Gallery," she brings diversity to her artistic journey.

Besides her visual art practice, she is a vocalist, finding inspiration in music for her studio work. Currently residing and working in Lahore, she serves as a faculty member of Visual Art at Lahore Grammar School (LGS) Landmark Lahore.

Miss Waseem's art revolves around the interplay of memory and imagination in travel. Using reflective aluminum sheets and layers of paint, she creates motion, capturing the hazy quality of memories during travel. Her paintings depict familiar nightscapes, exploring the poetic tension between attachment and detachment. She focuses on the impermanence of human journeys, highlighting the struggle between past and future, which fades away the present moment.



Evanescent | Oils And Aluminium Sheet | 36 x 30 Inches



Gone Tomorrow | Oils And Aluminium Sheet | 24 x 48 Inches

Muhammad Abrar

Biography and Work Statement

Muhammad Abrar, a visual artist and educator based in Lahore, Pakistan, holds a BFA degree from NCA (National College of Arts) Lahore, with Honors awarded in 2014. Proficient in mosaics, printmaking, painting, and performance art, Abrar explores logocentrism in Islamic tradition, striving to harmonize elements of co-existence between tradition and modernity. His works have graced national and international galleries, earning him the 11th 'Young Artist' award at Alhamra Art Council, Lahore in 2015. Abrar's diverse art practice aligns with contemporary art education, and he has contributed to projects in various institutions, teaching at the National College of Arts and the Lahore College for Women University. His selected works are part of the permanent collection of the Madina Art Centre and Ambiance Boutique Art Hotel Karachi.

Engaged in his art practice, Muhammad Abrar seeks clarity, compassion, and contentment, navigating a universal language embedded in the originality of all things. The colors, geometrical patterns, rhythms, and linguistic elements in his works reflect on the notions of divinity and connectivity.

As a visual artist, his aim is to craft a visual experience representing the logo-centric notion of the divine within Islam's tradition. The challenge posed by the invisibility of the divine urges the human imagination to transcend the sensory realm and delve into the beauty of revelation and language. His focus is to address this beauty through various implications.



The City Of Colors | Paper On MDF Board | 27 x 51 Inches



Artwork Detail



Artwork Detail

Misha Sheikh

Biography and Work Statement

Misha Sheikh (b. 1999) is an emerging artist based in Lahore, Pakistan. She obtained her Bachelors in Fine Arts (Honors) from the National College of Arts, Lahore in 2023 and specializes in Miniature painting. She uses an interdisciplinary approach in her image-making; the influences in her work vary from traditional Mughal miniature visual vocabulary to graphic compositions. The repeating traditional, stylized, painting technique in her work is known as 'Gadd Rang', roughly translating to colorful painting. Sheikh has exhibited her work in the National College of Arts, Alhamra Art Center, O Art Space, NumaishGah and Dominion Gallery, Lahore and Artcade and Artescape Gallery, Islamabad, Pakistan.

In attempts to explore her obstructed relationship with nature and a growing sense of curiosity about its peripheral existence, Misha uses opaque water colors as a medium to familiarize herself with it now. Her investigation and current concern circles around the ethnographic documentation of the elements of nature that form daily urban interactions, especially in busy cities. The stark contrast between the presence of color and form of the flora fauna with the whiteness of the paper, she delves into the disconnect with the mundane and what familiarity means to her. Misha's treatment of this imagery with paint is influenced by Company painting, as well as, encyclopedias and stickers.



Consequences | Gouache On Wasli | 15.5 x 11 Inches



Homebound | Gouache On Wasli | 19 x 12 Inches

Qinza Najm

Biography and Work Statement

Qinza Najm, a Pakistani-American artist based in New York City and Lahore, explores the political dimensions of the body's physical presence through paintings, sculptures, installations, and performances. Her art delves into contemporary narratives using everyday objects, such as bullet casings and items linked to healing and trauma, collected from NYC, Lahore, and Miami.

Trained at Bath University in England and mentored by Larry Poons at the Art Students League of New York, Najm has exhibited globally for over a decade. She has collaborated with prestigious institutions such as Queens Museum (NY), Christie's Art (Dubai), Art|Basel (Miami, FL), and the Museum of the Moving Image (NY). Participating in various artist residencies, including Mass MoCA, she was recently selected for the Bronx Museum NYC Fellowship with an upcoming 2024 show.

Najm's work transforms everyday materials into immersive experiences, addressing social issues and cultural traumas to challenge norms and explore the intricate relationship between the human body, identity, and power. With features in publications like ArtNet News, Hyperallergic, and Huffington Post, she aims to foster empathy and understanding, urging viewers to reconsider their connection with the world around them.



Arrival: Longing For Belonging Ka Safar | Oil On Metal Handle | 44.4 X 32.4 Inches



Artwork Detail



Hum Dekhenge | Oil On Metal With Metal Handle | 55.2 x 45.6 Inches



Artwork Detail

Raja Changez Sultan

Biography and Work Statement

Changez was Born in his family's ancestral village of Shakarparian. He attended Lawrence College, Ghora Gali before earning a full scholarship to Shrewsbury School in England. He then went on to study at Trinity College and Columbia University.

Raja Changez Sultan produces landscape and portrait paintings in both oil and charcoal and has published several books of poetry. He has held over 70 exhibitions in Austria, England, Switzerland, Oman, and Pakistan, with the most notable ones at the Winter Palace in Vienna (1992) and Cadogan Contemporary in London (1991).

From your name can we surmise
You've flown here from Paradise
A land that is chockfull of plenty
Where no one's beak
Ever goes empty?
Or do you dwell with us on earth
Blending in for what it is worth
Into our world to do your thing
Sing in the rain
Or go dancing?
Your contours are so beautiful
Your reasoning is irrefutable
But in looks you are so unreal
Is that too a part
Of the deal?
Mesmerising to behold
You enthral young and the old
A vision ethereal to apprise
Us all of angels with
Heavenly eyes!



Birds Of Paradise | Oils On Canvas | 42 x 48 Inches



Birds Of Paradise | Oils On Canvas | 42 x 48 Inches



Birds Of Paradise | Oils On Canvas | 54 x 60 Inches

Raza Ur Rehman

Biography and Work Statement

Raza Ur Rehman, a visual artist based in Lahore, Pakistan, completed his BFA from the Punjab University College of Art and Design in 2004, followed by an MFA from the same institution in 2015. He reinterprets concepts of South Asian regions, religions, cultures, and more through various mediums. Raza is currently an Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Fine Arts at the Government College Women University Sialkot.

In the depths of the human psyche, the fear of death shadows like a primal specter. Raza's artwork delves into this theme, portraying a lone man in a desolate landscape, a vulture in the sky symbolizing the intertwined nature of life and death. It's a poignant reminder of life's fragility and the delicate balance between existence and fate. Raza's artistic vision reflects his understanding of human nature, divine justice, and the transformative power of the human soul, inviting contemplation on eternal themes of life, death, uncertainty, and the human experience in the context of divine order. The progression mirrors the separation of everything from singular reality, akin to Dante's journey symbolizing the soul's quest for spiritual enlightenment and union with the divine. An armless man beneath an apple tree symbolizes the resilience of the human spirit, showcasing that even in adversity, the beauty of creation and the potential for new beginnings persist.



The Bed Of Roses | Terracotta And Clay | 16 Inches Diameter



Journey Through The Veiled Realm | Terracotta And Clay | 16 Inches Diameter



The Horse Angel | Terracotta And Clay | 18 x 13.2 Inches



Transcendental Sherenade | Brass And Clay | 24 x 19.2 Inches

Romessa Khan

Biography and Work Statement

Romessa Khan, a Lahore-based Visual Artist, graduated in Fine Arts from the National College of Arts, specializing in printmaking. She holds a Master's in Visual Arts (2014) and received an artist residential grant from the Rockefeller Brothers fund in New York during her postgraduate studies. As a visiting faculty member at the National College of Arts, she explores the intricacies of evolution and devolution in human life through her art.

Romessa drawings, titled "Of Dust and Stars," delve into the transformative legacy of ruins, bridging the void between the living and the dead. Using a rapido drafting pen, she captures gradual change, fragmentation, and improvisation, creating a semi-abstract language. The title reflects the universality of evolution within the divine proportion.

Her international exposure includes collaborations with Indian artists and exhibitions in Canada, America, London, Dubai, and Singapore. Currently practicing in Lahore, Khan continues to simplify the complexities of existence through her detailed and analytical drawings, using household objects that connect with collective history and experience.



The Tea Party | Ink And Water Color On Sheet | 26 x 27 Inches



Artwork Detail



Dreamscape | Ink And Water Color On Sheet | 29.1 x 21.1 Inches



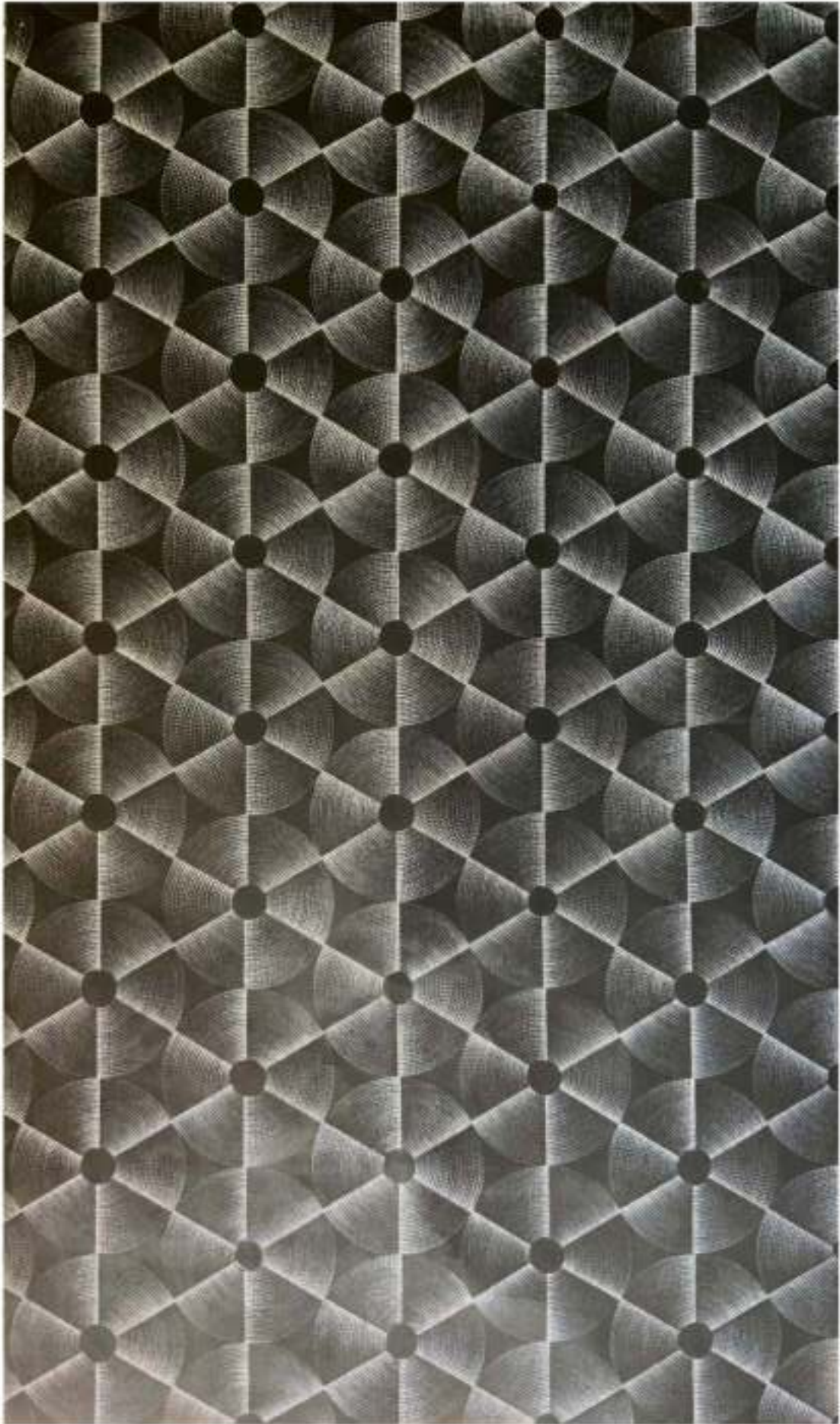
Artwork Detail

Shaukat Ali Khokher

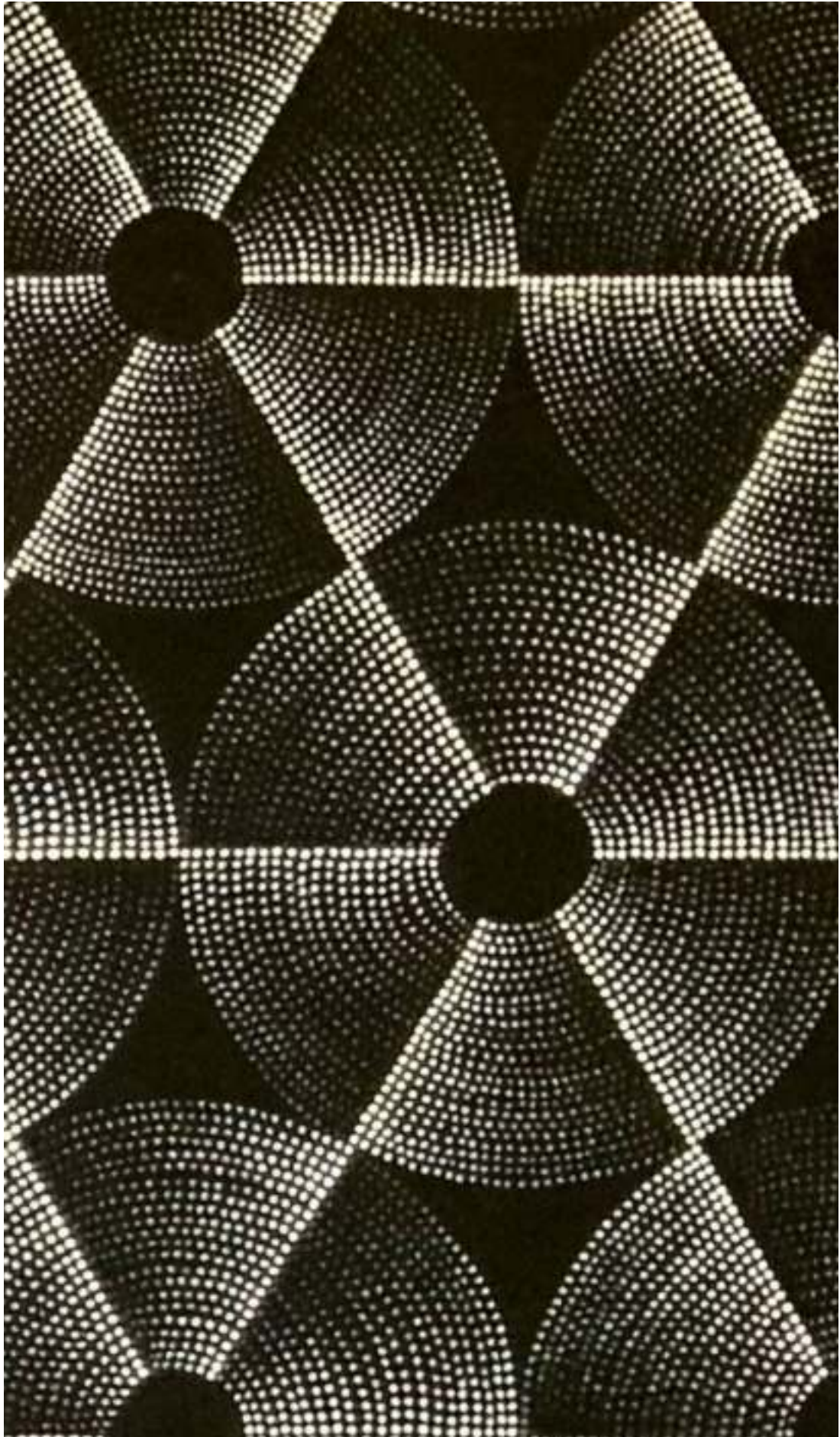
Biography and Work Statement

Shaukat Ali Khokhar was born in 1970 in the village of Mithodero near Larkana, Sindh Pakistan. He received his early education from his native town and later enrolled in the MA (hons) in Visual Art at National College of Art in Lahore, where his work evolved towards minimalism. With a comprehensive theoretical base, he created his paintings using dots. Shaukat currently resides in Jamshoro and serving as Head of Department at Center of excellence Art and Design MUTE, Jamshoro, Sindh.

The dot plays an essential element in an artwork – Shaukat has been always a great admirer of philosophy behind ‘dot’ and the visual possibilities of its repetition in process of image making. He uses dots to create various patterns on his thought process hence the practice becomes a monologue, woven by feelings and emotions. These monologues are formed with myriad dots that invite the viewers to lose themselves in the visuals, travel their own way, with varied options, to experience and interpret.



Untitled | Acrylic On Canvas | 60 x 98 Inches



Artwork Detail



Untitled | Acrylic On Canvas | 55 x 104 Inches

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.

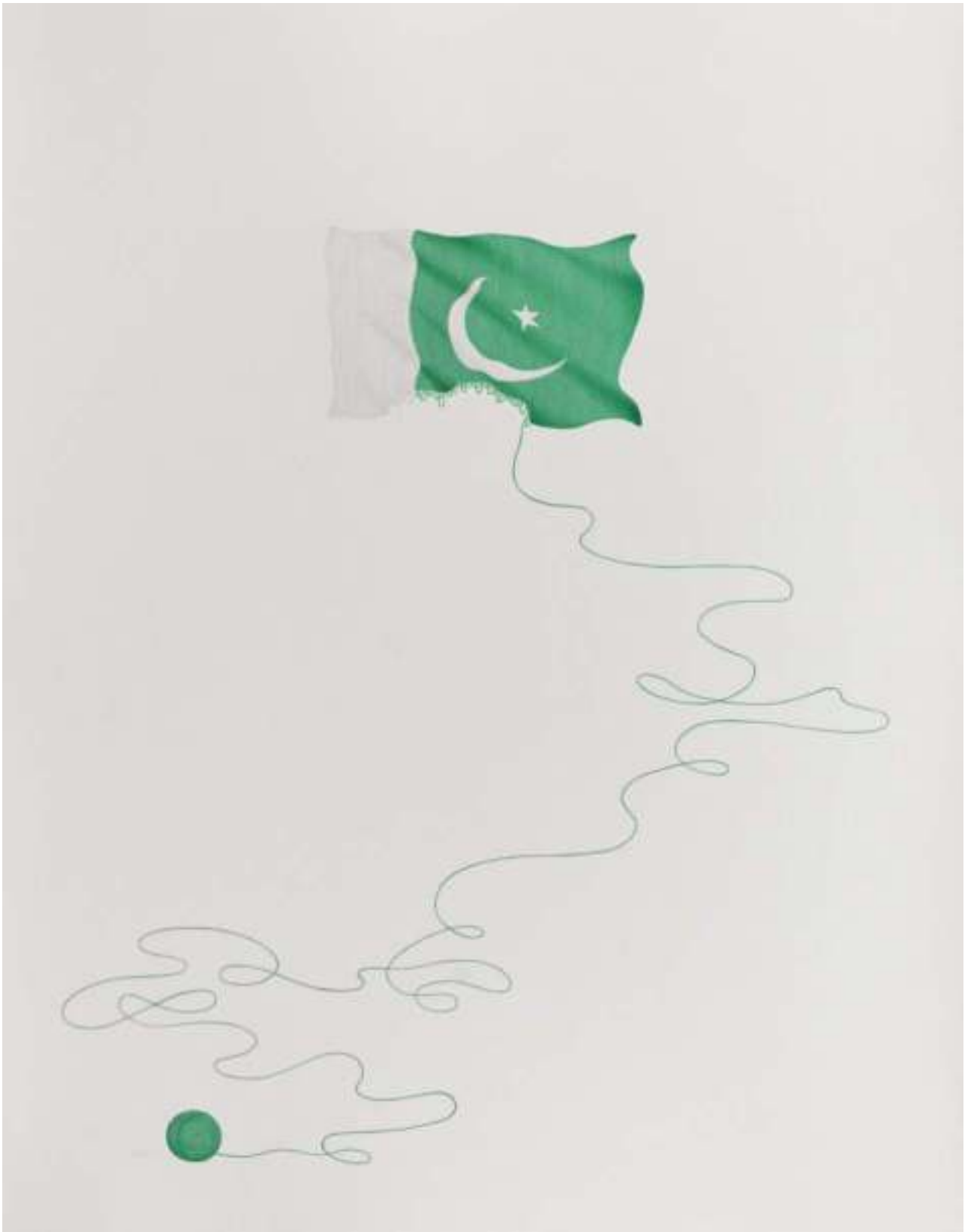
The nation and its individuals have an intricate connection which often has a fragile nature, as represented through the delicacy of the painted knitted flags. Her artwork depicts the inherent value of unity, showcasing the strength and harmony that arise when people come together under the banner of 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



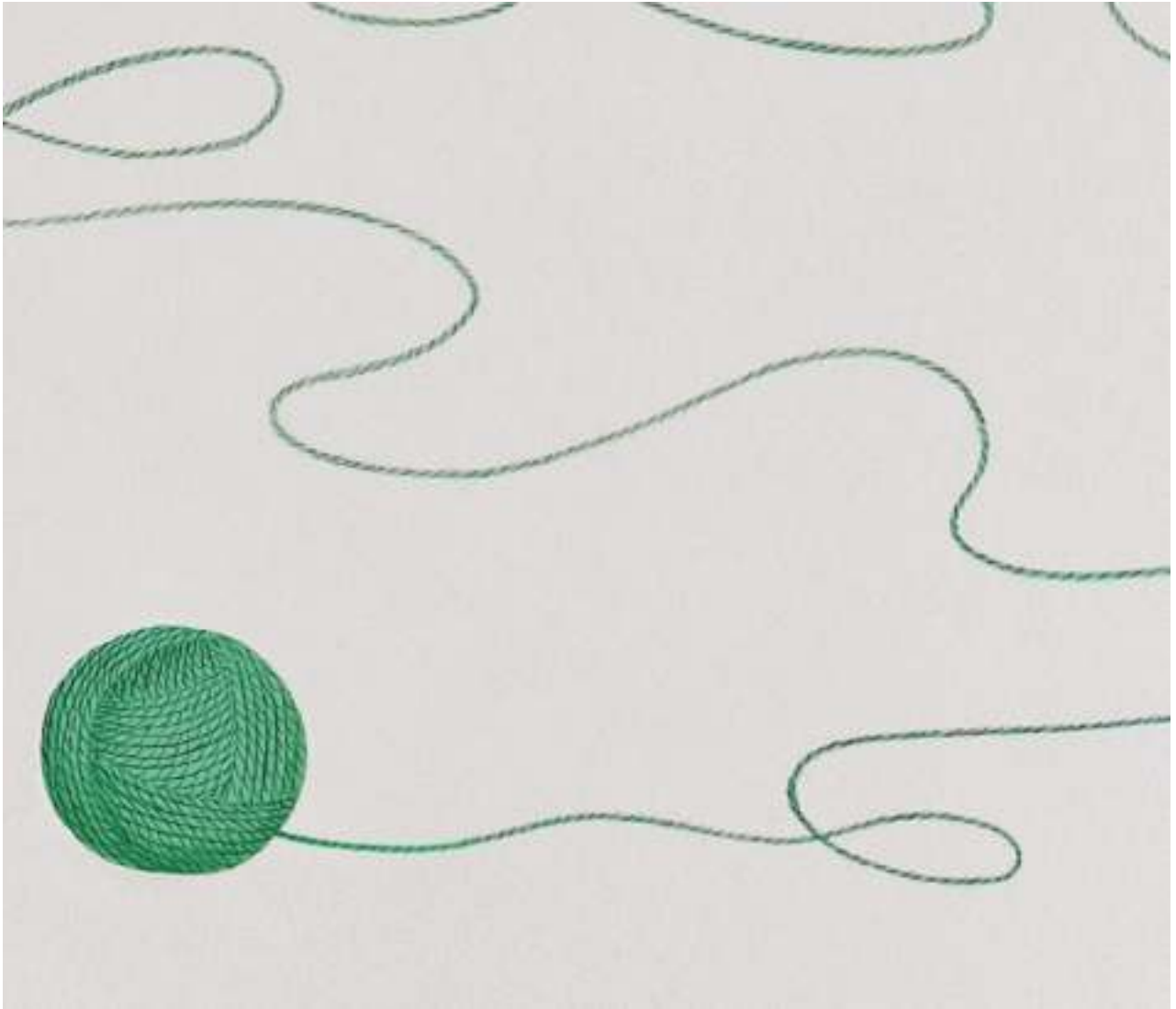
Ties That Unite-II | Gouache, Pencil, And Thread On Paper And Wasli | 46.4 x 65.6 cm



Artwork Detail



Ties That Unite-III | Gouache And Pencil On Wasli | 68 x 52.6 cm



Artwork Detail

Saba Haroon

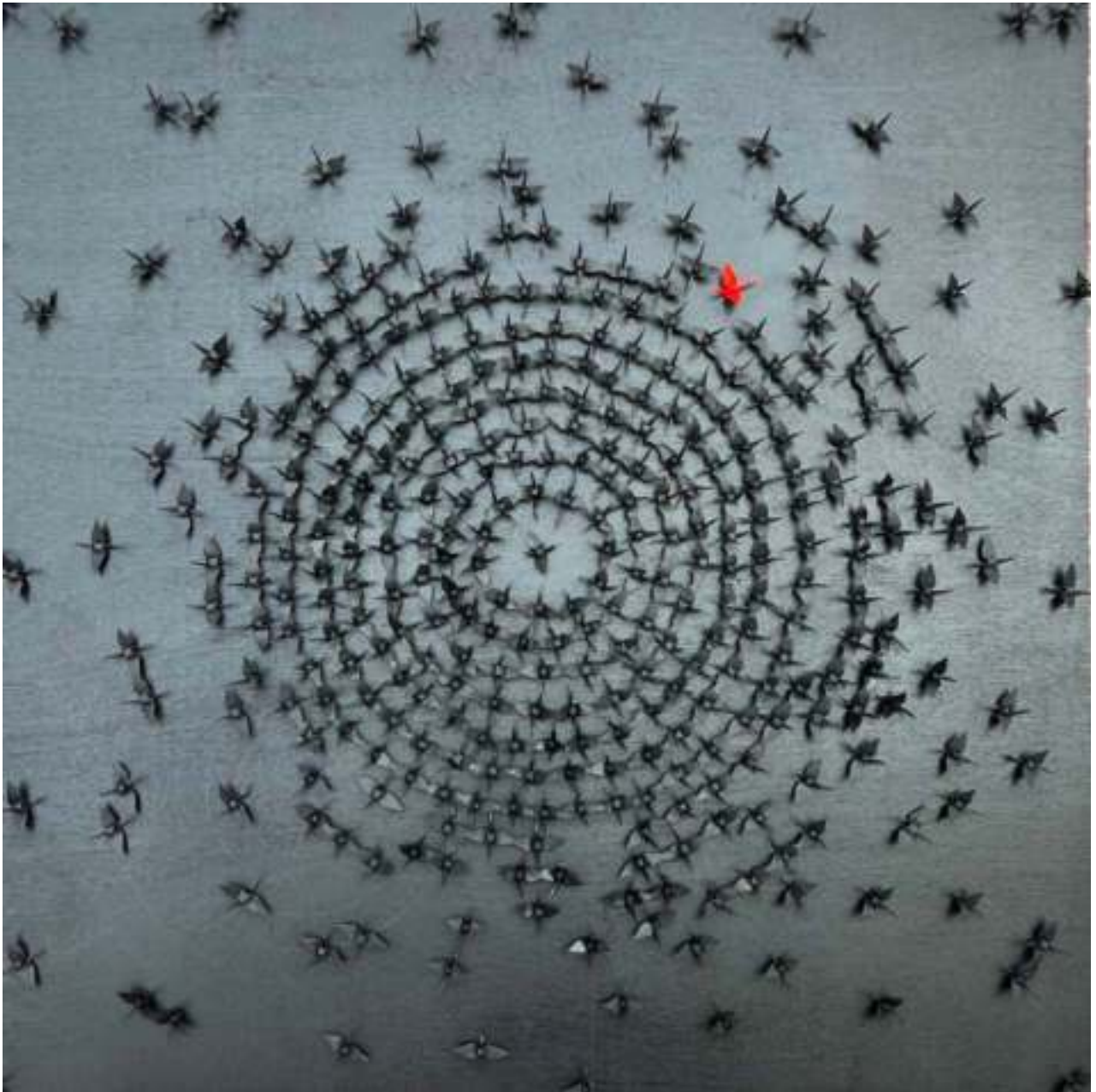
Biography and Work Statement

Born and raised in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, surrounded by monuments and iconic landmarks, the individual found inspiration in the rich cultural heritage. Moving to Pakistan, a passion for art emerged, offering a platform for learning and self-expression. Holding a Master's degree in Fine Arts from the University of Punjab (2007-2009) and another in interior designing from the National College of Arts (2010-2012), the artist values mentors who encourage out-of-the-box thinking.

Throughout her artistic journey, Saba found inspiration in mentors like Sir Saeed Akhtar, Sir Imran Qureshi, Sir Ali Azmat, and Sir Mughees Riaz, who encouraged her to think creatively and challenge her artistic boundaries. Her thesis, transformed into one of her initial exhibitions, delved into personal struggles and invaluable life lessons, creating a platform for self-expression.

In her artworks, Saba explores the resilience and hope embodied by origami cranes, capturing the transformative journey from blocked vision to clear sight. Additionally, her paintings emphasize the multifaceted roles women play, portraying their struggles and the empowering process of overcoming obstacles.

Quoting, "Once all the struggle is grasped, miracles are possible," Saba Haroon's artistic narrative echoes the strength found within oneself. Her message goes beyond standing for the success of other women, urging insistence on it.



Wabi Sabi | Acrylic And Paper On Board | 36 x 36 Inches



Artwork Detail



Hope Entwined II | Oil On Canvas | 12 X 24 Inches



Artwork Detail

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.

مظھر 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
ہے 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



Untitled | Gouache, Origami, Ink On Wasli | 25 x 21 Inches



Artwork Detail

Saqiba Suleman

Biography and Work Statement

Saqiba Suleman was born in 1984 and raised in Hasilpur, Punjab. She completed her master's degree in Fine Arts from College of Art & Design, Punjab University in 2005 and earned a gold medal. She had 4 solo shows and numerous group shows in Pakistan, Dubai, London. Her work has been published in numerous national and international magazines (Harper's Bazaar India, Verve Magazine India). Her painting has graced the cover of an award-winning author Anurada D. Rajukar's book "AMERICAN BETIYA" published by Penguin Books USA.

Her work is mostly oil and acrylic on canvas and her signature work consists of figurative poses with strong floral visual effects.

The journey of life is of self-discovery and fulfilling one's life purpose within an Indigenous framework. Everybody goes through different phases of their life. These phases often overlap and its elements connect with and relate to one another. It is not uncommon for a person to enter or exit one of these phases at a completely different time. Every stage of life has its own form of power, and we're always sort of terrified as to whether we can make the jump to the next form of power.

Every stage of life comes with unique challenges and rewards. The journey you are on comes from setting up the other phases of life, and you won't know what the fullness of it will be until you are already on it.



One For Sorrow Two For Joy | Oil And Acrylic On Canvas | 30 x 48 Inches



Artwork Detail



Joy | Oil And Acrylic On Canvas | 18 x 28 Inches

Shazia Jaffery

Biography and Work Statement

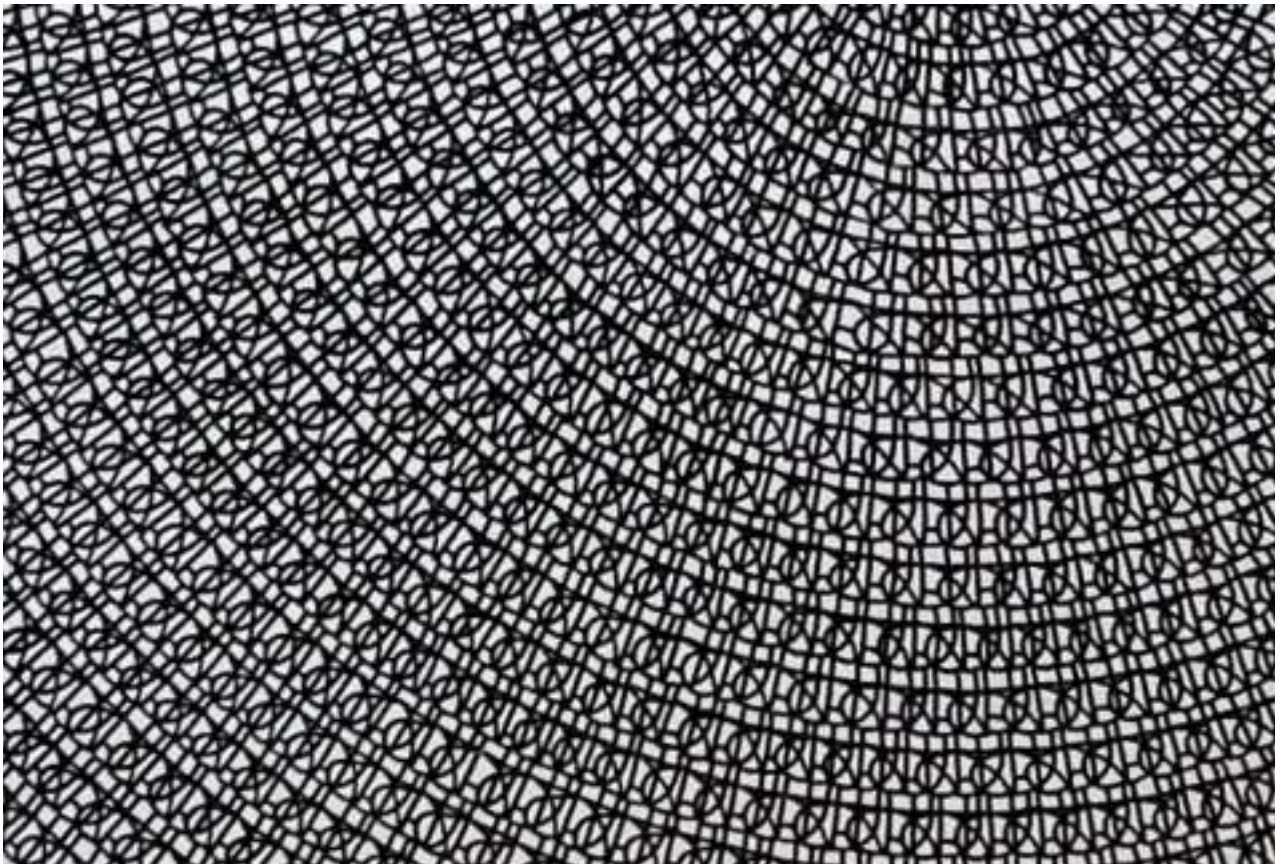
Shazia Jaffery, a Pakistani artist born in Sukkur, Sindh, paints a vivid tapestry reflecting her life experiences and innermost thoughts. Her art aims to be meaningful, evocative, and speaks to life's beauty and complexities. Jaffery utilizes writing as a powerful tool to explore her inner world and express emotions, weaving words into patterns that tell stories.

Exploring the intersection of language and art, her pieces incorporate words and phrases from conversations, books, and poetry. Rooted in spiritual connection, Jaffery considers writing Allah's name in her paintings a sacred act of devotion, creating a vessel for divine grace and connecting with the spiritual realm. The repetition of Allah's name in a circular form symbolizes love, devotion, and unity among believers, expressing profound peace and connection.

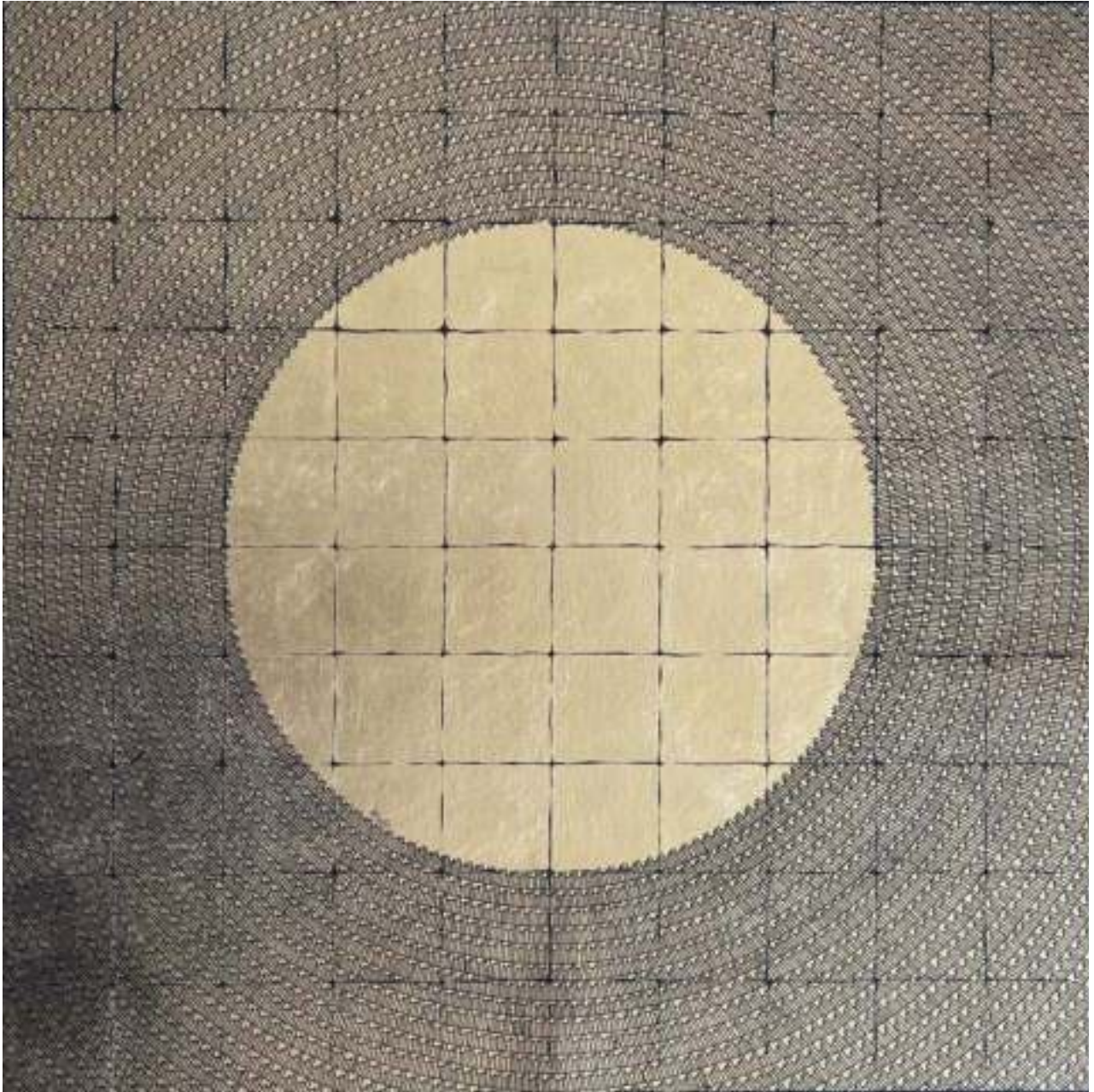
A graduate from the Karachi School of Arts, Jaffery pursued a master's degree from the University of Karachi. Based in Dubai, she actively contributes to the arts scene, working with Abu Dhabi Art and Dubai Art, conducting workshops, and teaching arts. Over the past decade, her artwork has been exhibited globally, earning recognition such as the UAE Golden Visa, allowing her to reside and work in the UAE for an extended period. Private collectors and public spaces, including the University of Wollongong campus in Dubai, feature her captivating artwork.



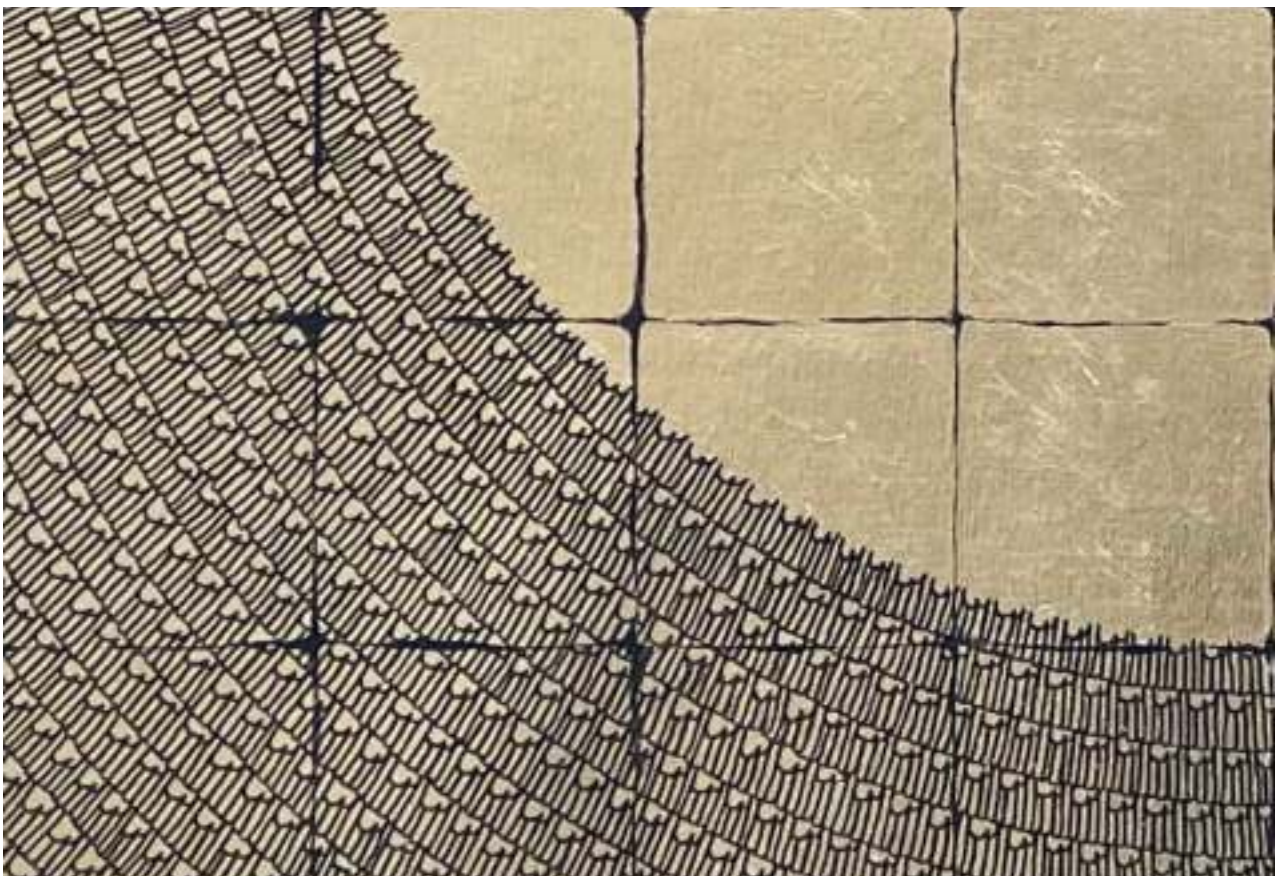
Zikr 1 | Acrylic On Canvas | 70 x 70 cm



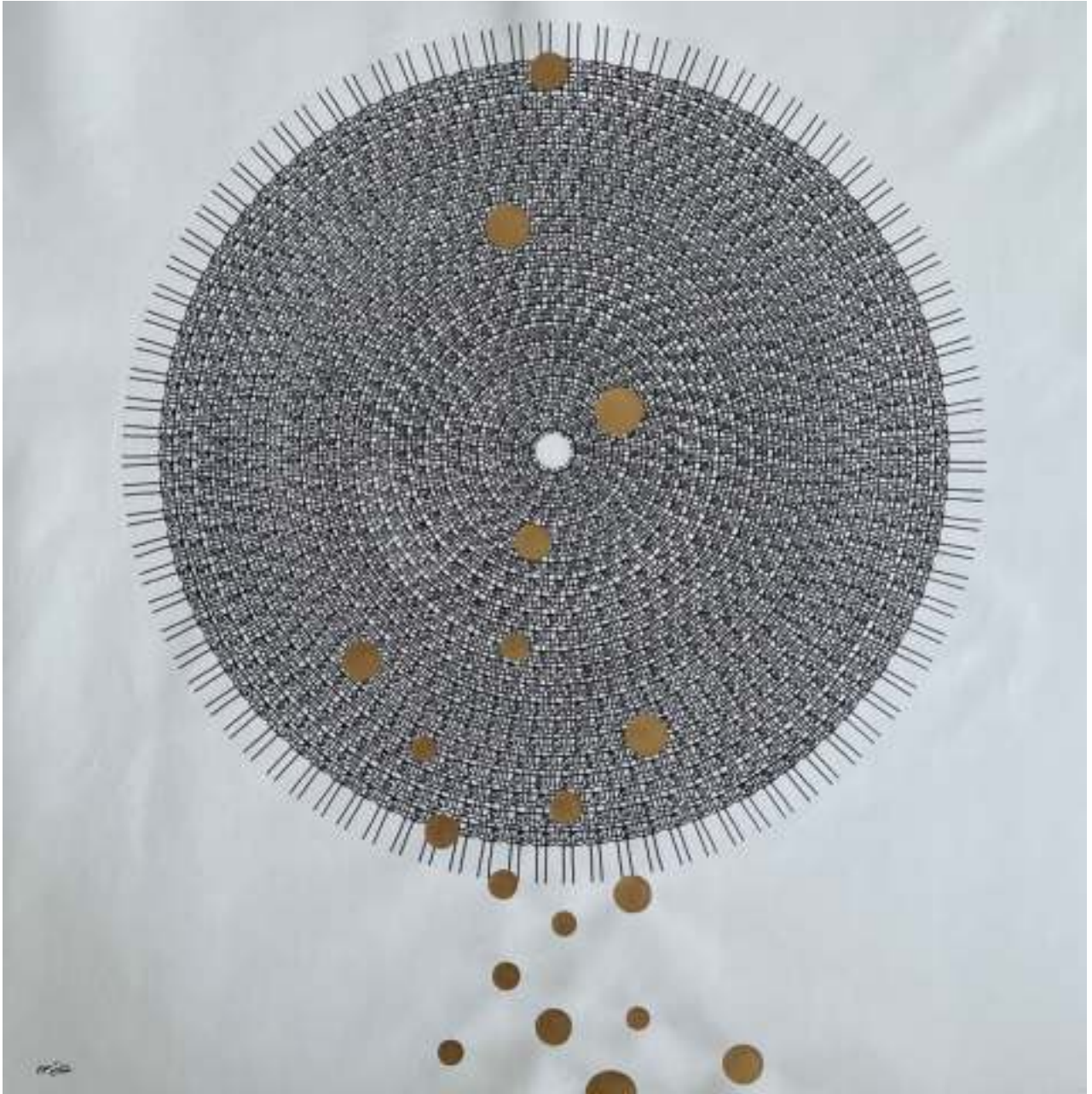
Artwork Detail



Zikr 2 | Acrylic And Gold Leaf On Canvas | 70 x 70 cm



Artwork Detail



Zikr 3 | Acrylic On Canvas | 70 x 70 cm

Talia Noor

Biography and Work Statement

Talia Noor, born in Islamabad, Pakistan, is a practicing artist with a 3-year DAE in Fashion Designing from the Government Polytechnic Institute for Women, Islamabad. She achieved Distinction in Fine Arts from the National College of Arts in 2022.

Currently, Talia is immersed in working with the historical miniature design called "Shamsa," created around 1645. In Islamic art, a Shamsa is an intricately decorated rosette or medallion utilized in various contexts, including manuscripts, carpets, ornamental metalwork, and architectural decoration. Drawing inspiration from the Shamsa, Talia expresses versatile ideas in her work, showcasing arabesque and its root designs, ideas, and innovation. She has undertaken the challenge of recreating and capturing it in its former glory, modifying it in different materials, as evident in her chosen Mughal figures, which are evolving into collage work.



Untitled | Gold Leaf And Pen On Wasli | 30 x 30 Inches



Box Of Words | Gold Leaf And Mix Medium | 25 x 48 Inches



Up to the Sky | Gold Leaf And Mix Medium | 21 x 27 Inches



Artwork Detail

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.



Phulan De Rang Kaale | Gold And Gouache On Wasli | 12 x 16 Inches



Hum Dekhenge | Gold Leaf And Gouache On Wasli | 12 x 16 Inches

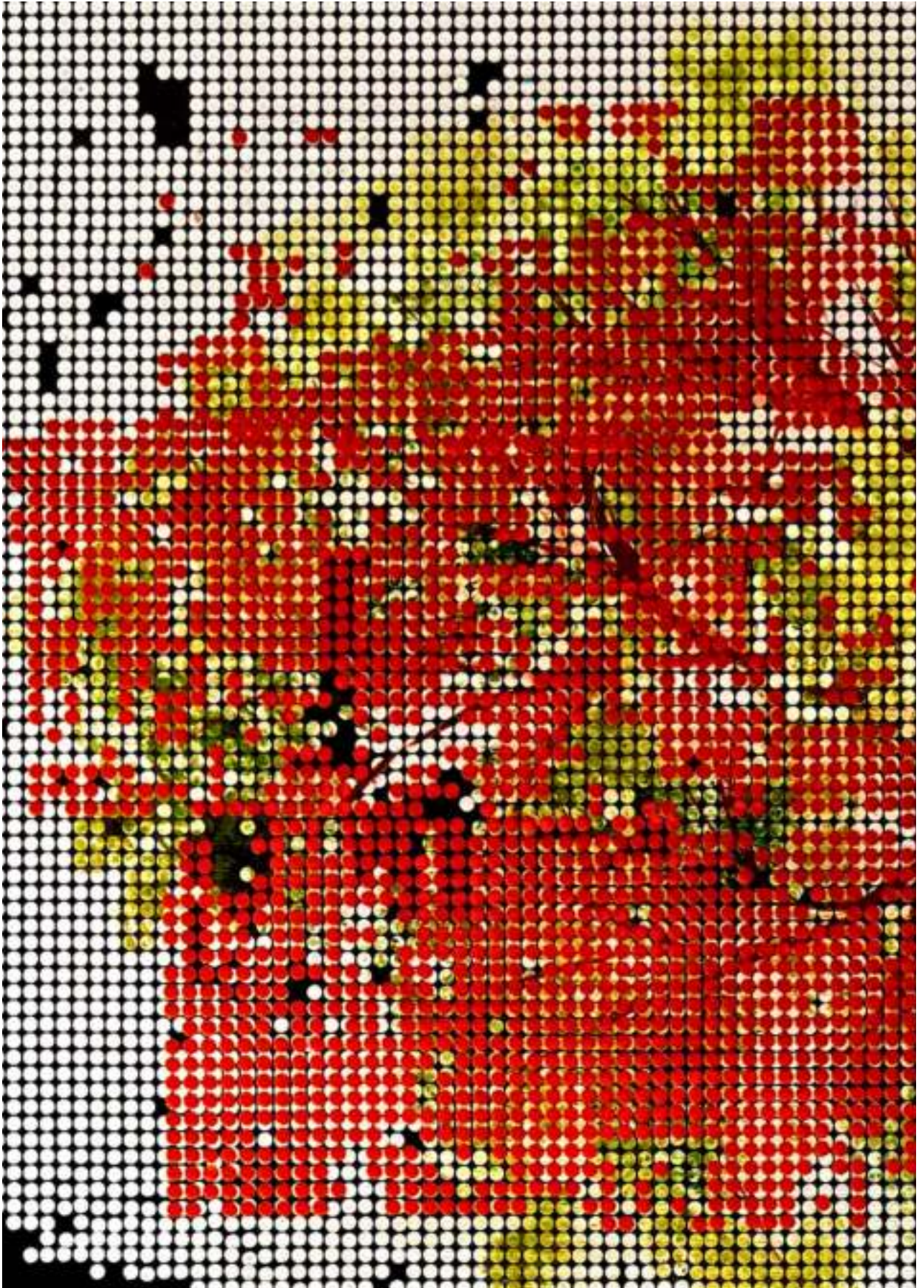
Yaseen Khan

Biography and Work Statement

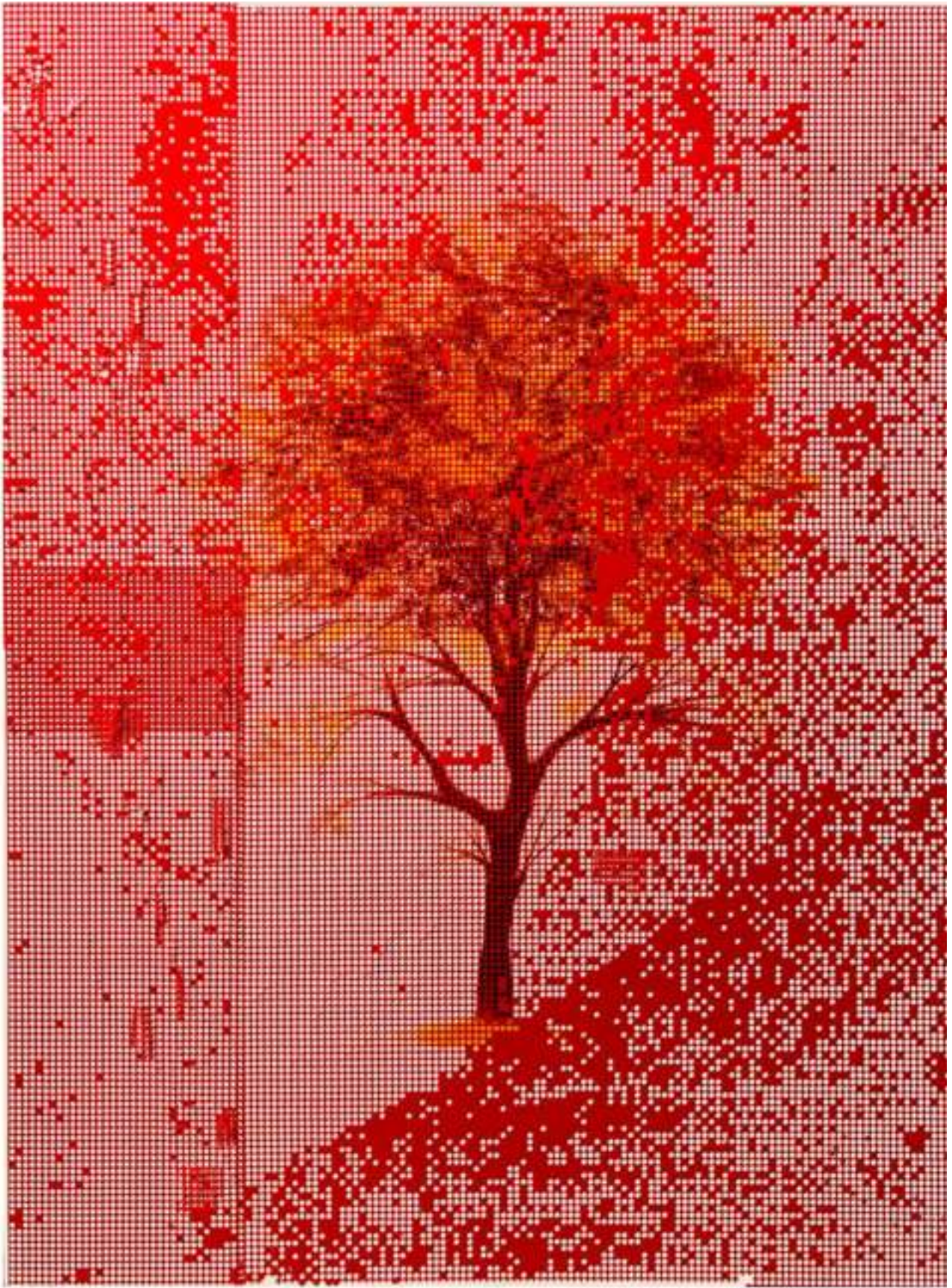
Yaseen Khan, is a visual artist currently based in Lahore, Pakistan. He completed his BFA from the National College of Arts, Lahore in 2019 where he was awarded a Distinction. From the very beginning, showcasing immense talent and an avid interest in art he was driven to pursue a career in it. Khan has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



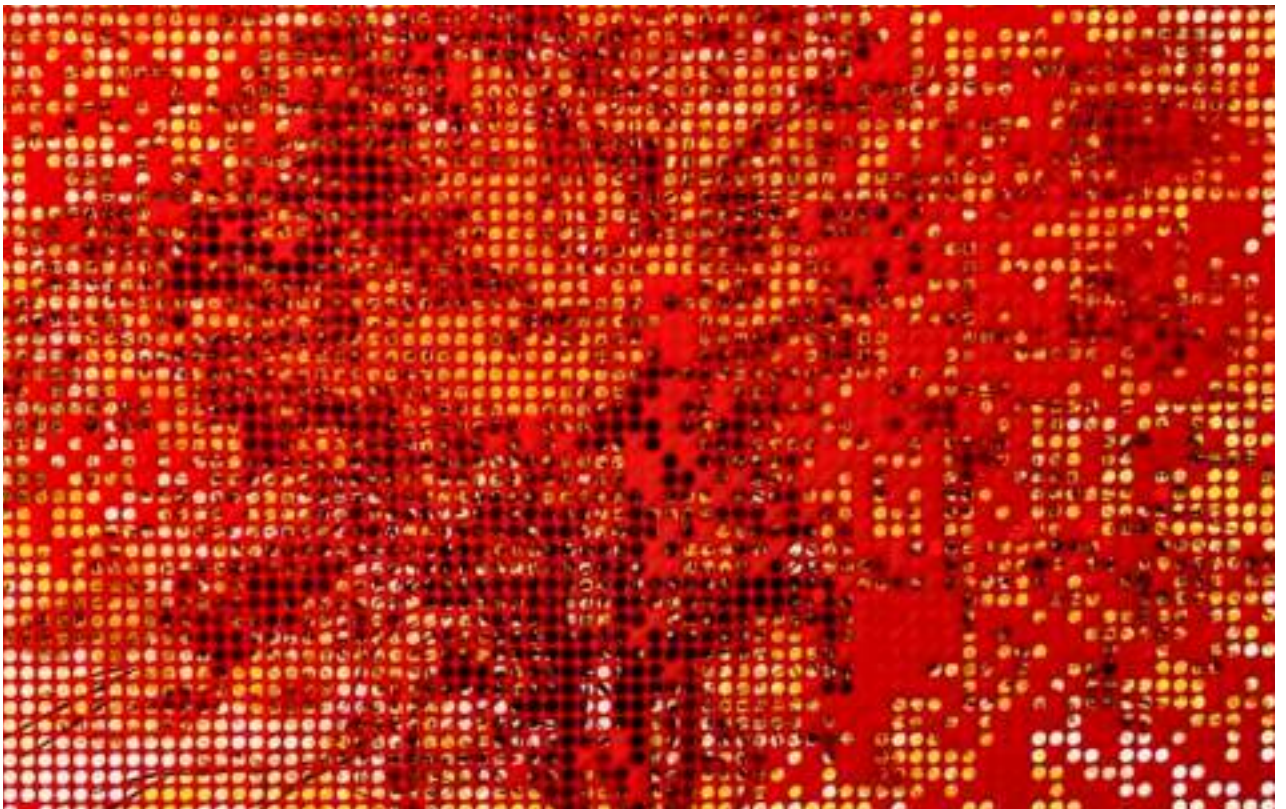
Glitch | Oil Paint, Acrylic And Chammak Patti On Canvas | 24 x 36 Inches



Artwork Detail



Red on White | Oil Paint, Acrylic And Chammak Patti On Canvas | 30 x 41 Inches



Artwork Detail

Zamania Aslam

Biography and Work Statement

Zamania Aslam, with a decades-spanning artistic practice, has explored sexuality and desire through various materials and mediums. Completing her Masters in Fine Arts from the University of Punjab, she initially used painting to address women's empowerment in her surroundings. Early works focused on lustful images of the female body, highlighting sexuality and pleasure. Zamania later delved into abstraction and surrealism, creating non-linear narratives that expose the process of construction and deconstruction.

Currently, Zamania serves as an Assistant Professor at Comsats University Islamabad (Lahore Campus) in the Department of Art and Design. Her artwork revolves around gender narratives in aesthetics, media, history, and personal experiences. She is fascinated by the anthropology of eastern customs and histories, exploring how they coexist or conflict with modern lifestyles and feminist goals. Her art modernizes women's identities within fine arts, addressing conceit, consumerism, sex, identity, the gaze, and the spectacle.

Moving fluidly between different media, such as installation and painting, Zamania aims to convey how cultural practices often conflict with women's parity. Her work celebrates transformations by centering the artistic process, presenting loose, non-linear narratives that undergo several iterations in different media. Simultaneously, research informs her visual explorations, positioning her within an art historical and historical context. Emphasizing translation, Zamania is conscious of the (un)translatability of languages, recognizing that viewers construct their meanings through their experiences.



Carnality | Oil On Canvas | 36 x 36 Inches



Head, Heart, Body | Oil On Canvas | 42 x 42 Inches



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LOCATION





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