



The Path To Other Paths

Solo Show by **Ufaq Ehsan**

The Show will be Inaugurated by
Prof. Salima Hashmi

Poetry Inspired by **Alia Zafar**

Recitation by **Shafaq Lashari**

The show will be on
display till **10th** of May

Curated by
Mariam Hanif Khan

Exhibition Note:

In her captivating journey as a visual artist, Ufaq Ehsan defies the constraints of adversity, drawing profound inspiration from the realms of spirituality and motherhood. Her canvas becomes a sacred space where her innermost self finds expression, each stroke a testament to the dialogue between artist and creation.

For Ufaq , paintings transcend mere imagery; they embody life itself, serving as companions that evolve with each brushstroke. With reverence, she navigates her artistic voyage, nurturing a symbiotic relationship with her creations, whether as newfound friends, ancient souls, or reflections of her own existence. The serendipitous encounter with Alia Zafar, a poet and art historian, sparked a transformative chapter in Ufaq's artistic odyssey. Enchanted by Zafar's poetic resonance—a delicate interplay of depth, fragility, and substance—Ufaq embarked on a poignant series inspired by her profound verses.

In the alchemy of color, texture, and symbolism, Ufaq Eshan channels the essence of Zafar's poetry, weaving a tapestry of femininity and resilience. Through her brush, she pays homage to womanhood's indomitable spirit, echoing the phoenix's ascent from ashes—a testament to the tender yet unyielding heart of every woman.

The exhibition “Path to other Paths ” is more than a showcase of artistry; it's a testament to the transformative power of human connection, where poetry finds its visual counterpart, and the soul finds solace in the language of colors. Join us in celebrating the enduring bond between words and images, her solo collection invites you to immerse yourself in a world where art transcends boundaries and speaks to the depths of the human experience.

Mariam Hanif Khan & Somia Naveed
Co-Founders ArtSoch

Alia Zafar is the author of “The Magnificent Heritage of Punjab” (restoration project of Princes Bamba’s collection). In her groundbreaking work She had impressively presented details of a restoration project taken up with the joint efforts of BOP and Hungarian Government in a unique and eloquent style of her own. Her work is authentic in its dimension and a great effort with absolute and authentic details. Alia Zafar has a singular passion to dig down and hunt the treasures of accurate information about art, culture, folklore, history, music, philosophy and literature.

She has been writing poetry starting with her travels in Japan and utilizing the form of Haiku . Subsequently she has experimented with multiple techniques and thematically writes about connectivity and a dysfunctional present which surrounds us all. Her works are visual as we tread on the path of the words she picks like pebbles on a pathway. She makes the reader move with her , meandering in to rooms and wonders and deeper and deeper in to the pureness of our being, sometimes to the darker yet important corners of the mind where lie hidden myriads of movements and stillness. She resided in London yet is fully local in her passion for art, history and culture, she travels between the two worlds through her work and her passion for connections which are human at all times.

The present collaboration stems from a beautifully ethereal and mystic connection and the depiction of works by ufaq Ehsan are the start of a journey around the re birth of the person like a phoenix and the beauty of self awareness and pride embedded in the poetry and mirrored in the works. The very essence of being a woman, and a resilient, proud emblem bearer of what women can achieve is the essence of this exhibition.

Alia Zafar has studied in Pakistan and abroad. She has a Masters in English Literature as well as an MBA and multiple progressive associations with various universities. She is also a social entrepreneur and a speaker on STEM and transformation. She is currently working on her next two books around history and art and compilation of her latest poetry.

Ufaq Ehsan is a 1996 graduate of National College of Arts. She is also the recipient of Sadequain Pride of Performance award. She worked at the NCA Archives for a year as faculty of NCA. She is the only Pakistani artist featured in Himmellblau Art Compass 2016 published by Art Domain Whois Publishers, Germany. She is the only Pakistani artist to receive the certificate of excellence for her work by Palm Art Award of Art Domain group, Germany – Cycle 2016. She served as Honorary Art Consultant at Fountain House Lahore. She has worked as Art Teacher for Differently Abled Children at Image Institute and American School of International Academics (ASIA). She is currently working as Permanent Member of Burn and Child Care Organization (BACCO).

She worked as Volunteer organizer for some of the first major festivals held in history of modern Lahore which include first iconic Canal Mela during Freedom Festival 1994, she has also done numerous workshops for children on art related activities including one for the differently abled children at Flah Foundation for Draw Disability. She has given lectures on Spirituality and Healing through Art at institutes like Hast O Neest, Fatima Memorial Hospital, Dabistan-e-Iqbal, and at Literature Week at Forman Christian College. She is also Member of Punjab Young Artist Association. She has exhibited her work at National Galleries like Nomad Art Gallery, Canvas Art Gallery, Hamail Art Gallery, Muse Art Gallery, Xhinua Art Gallery, Colours Art Gallery, Al Hamra Art Gallery, Expressions Art Gallery, Ejaz Art Gallery, Saeed Akhtar Studio, and Mocca Art Gallery.

Solo Exhibition at Ejaz Art Gallery 2003, Exhibition of the Alumni Association National College of Arts 2007. Participant of numerous exhibitions held by Punjab Young Artists Association. Participant Group Show on 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence, Nomad Gallery Islamabad 2010 and 2011 and Solo Exhibition at Saeed Akhtar Studio 2016, Lahore Biennale – O1 a Collateral event held at Ejaz Gallery 2018.

Artist Statement

My painting journey as a Visual Artist was a journey of defiance against all odds. Spirituality and motherhood gave roots to my work which was also a journey of my inner being. For me my paintings are like living beings and I while working on them interact with them as if they are a new friend, or an old soul or just myself experiencing life. They are not just paintings for me, but a way of life and a constant loving caring and understanding companion.

I met a friend Alia Zafar who the way she talked and expressed felt less like a person and more like a living painting, deep, fragile, and a woman of substance. She is a poet and an art historian and when I listened to her first poem, I fell in love with her expression so sensitive and ethereal so there and then I decided to do a series inspired by her work.

Her words in poetry spoke to me like a long-lost friend familiar to the deepest recesses of my heart. So, over a year inspired and my mind saturated and colored by her words I painted my heart out. It's her poetry in form of colors, mark making, imagery and symbols. A tribute to womanhood. A tribute to all women who against all odds rise from the ashes like a phoenix. Soft at heart with a soul and resilience of a warrior

Let's weave a new blanket
With fire and light .
Made of warm winters ,
Interspersed with colours of spring
And all things bright .

Let us start the journey
With myriad colours of the night.
Holding sunshine and snow ,
And watch stars in sight
As they rest in our eyes .



Of Colors Red and Bright | 24 x 30 inches | Mix Media and Silver leaf on Canvas

So in a dark or a lit room,
or a ground that is dry or wet,
may be a mountain which speaks to me
or an ocean trying to hold my hand

The stars at times may try. and flicker
sending signals of love and passion,

There may be the circle of earth
abating and slowing down so
i stop my circles.

And despite it all going my way
and despite its being so fun
Despite the universe going around me
I still can not make it the right time
to stop and sit and cry my heart out



I am Purity | 24 x 30 inches | Mix Media and Silver leaf on Canvas

There on the tomb of green,
where yellow meets blue,
and matter dissolves into
pale nothingness -
My hand keeps static
the bound book of myth
that I may be.

Here on the outer side of life,
The greys and browns mix
and water down the ideas
of a stray long list-
The list of the living,
the gist of the dead,
all wrapped up in a soft yellow egg,
that turns out to be the outer view
of a long lost book that I used to be



The Sohni mingles with Heer | 24 x 30 inches | Mix Media and Silver leaf on Canvas

The Pathbreakers

I had never thought of
clearing the streets for others to tread
but as i started my journey
and saw the small pebbles
and large boulders
and I knew that i could move the pebbles
and could give a push to the boulders,
to go down the valley and rest out of the way,
I started clearing that road.

Many eons and miles ahead
while I pave the way
I see gathered around me
a beautiful halo of love
joining others with me on this journey -

As we move we clear the path
for others to widen
for others to follow
and for others to think of ways
to make new paths
So all can tread with comfort
and hold each other
with love on this road.

My journey may end but the journey continues
And I can say that I have been part of it
with head held high because
we clear the path for others to tread.



The Beautiful Halo of Love | 24 x 30 inches | Mix Media and Gold Leaf on Canvas

Autumn is for beginnings
A new day ,
with lost leaves-
And rotten fruit lying lifeless on the ground .

Of Colors red and bright ,
And the scent of burning leaves -
Where fog and mist abound

Autumn brings life ,
Eternity -
Stretched like nights in dreams
With merging of seasons all.



To The Wild Peeks Burning | 24 x 30 inches | Mix Media and Gold Leaf on Canvas

Pain is telling you something
It talks to you
in the most direct way-
Listen to the pain
Don't shy away from it,
Listen to its screams
Absorb it and let yourself be swamped by the pain.

It's a deal breaker
A diversion on the road,
A steam leading to an ocean,
A path to other paths
Which you never knew existed.

Listen to the pain
As it whispers in your ear
To move, to start , to stop
To turn and grab that heart
To change and transform.

Pain is light to illuminate
Your way ahead
It's the reason for growth
And a reason for revelation.

Live in pain , embrace
And open up
And the wound is from where
The light will thus enter.



Where Words Fail | 24 x 30 inches | Mix Media and Gold leaf on Canvas

Where words fail
Come and meet me,
Where colors pale
Come and greet me.

Come hold my hand
And fix my yearnings ,
We both walk out
To the wild peaks burning.



Fire Burnt Twice | 36 x 36 inches | Mix Media on Canvas

Note to self

You are the quiet-
The silence
Walking barefoot in
Corridors,
Lined with memories of
Holding hands.

You are the chaos
The turbulent sea
Wave upon wave of
Emotions
Held back.

You are the calm
Before the storm
Silence after a bell
The one which rings for an
hour
In a high and mighty tower.

You are the silence and the
noise
Brick and the sand
Water and ice

Fire burnt twice
Yes
You are that
And more.

You are the anchor
And the sea
The boat and the
Albatross
Tied around this neck
For ages and ages

-yes
You are that and
The infinity of sound
Touched by the light
Of another awakening
On another day.



Made of Warm Winters | 30 x 40 inches | Mix Media on Canvas

I am purity

Beauty

The universe swirls around me

I am the power and the beauty of the universe coming together

All move and turn to me

As they admire and are in awe of mineness

The being - the story of life starts and ends with me

The thought of life and here after travels with me

The concept of cuacuases and the creation of energy

The movement and the energy

Defined by me

This is my world

My universe

My being



You are the Calm, before the Storm | 36 x 36 inches | Mix Media on Canvas

The color red

It defines me
Over centuries
The puddle created
Because Helen had to be possessed.

It defines me
Over eons
till death drew us apart
Till death did do us apart or together

It defines me
Over boundaries
The sohni mingles with heer
And merges on the wings of Ophelia

It defines me
Over taboos
The past bleeds into present
Till all colors merge into the red



Walking Barefoot in Corridors | 48 x 60 inches | Mix Media and Gold leaf on Canvas



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LOCATION





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