

Artist Statement

For me, an exhibition is not an end goal or a final body of work. It is more of a sharing of ongoing experiments in the studio. Some planned, but most unfold as one delves deeper into the picture. It is a never-ending process: this work is a cross-section of paintings being done, of techniques and materials tried - even of directions not taken as of those attempted.

I feel there is so much still left unsaid and undone in my re-creation of the modern, urban existence. It is an ongoing *Karachi kahani*, with colourful, contradictory, seemingly impossible characters and situations. These are forms and settings that give meaning both to my work and to my life.

This body of work not only carries with it my earlier depiction of the alienation and angst of urban life but also showcases a gradual metamorphosis where the characters appear to have freed themselves of their erstwhile dread. Tired of carrying the weight of reality, they have created their own vibrantly coloured, free and fantastical existence. A brave new world of endless possibilities.

Some paintings are experimental and less story-like and more concerned with colour and form – the shapes and shades of bodies and objects. These variations provide new impetus and change the tenor and tone of my practice, generate new ideas and keep my passion to paint alive.

While this exhibition is an event, a time-bound occasion, the work itself is a continuum of ideas deeply rooted in my own life, history and artistic journey.

Acknowledgments:

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