



CANVAS

GALLERY

Moeen Faruqi  
CONTINUUM

25th April - 4th May 2023

## 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.

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Acknowledgments:

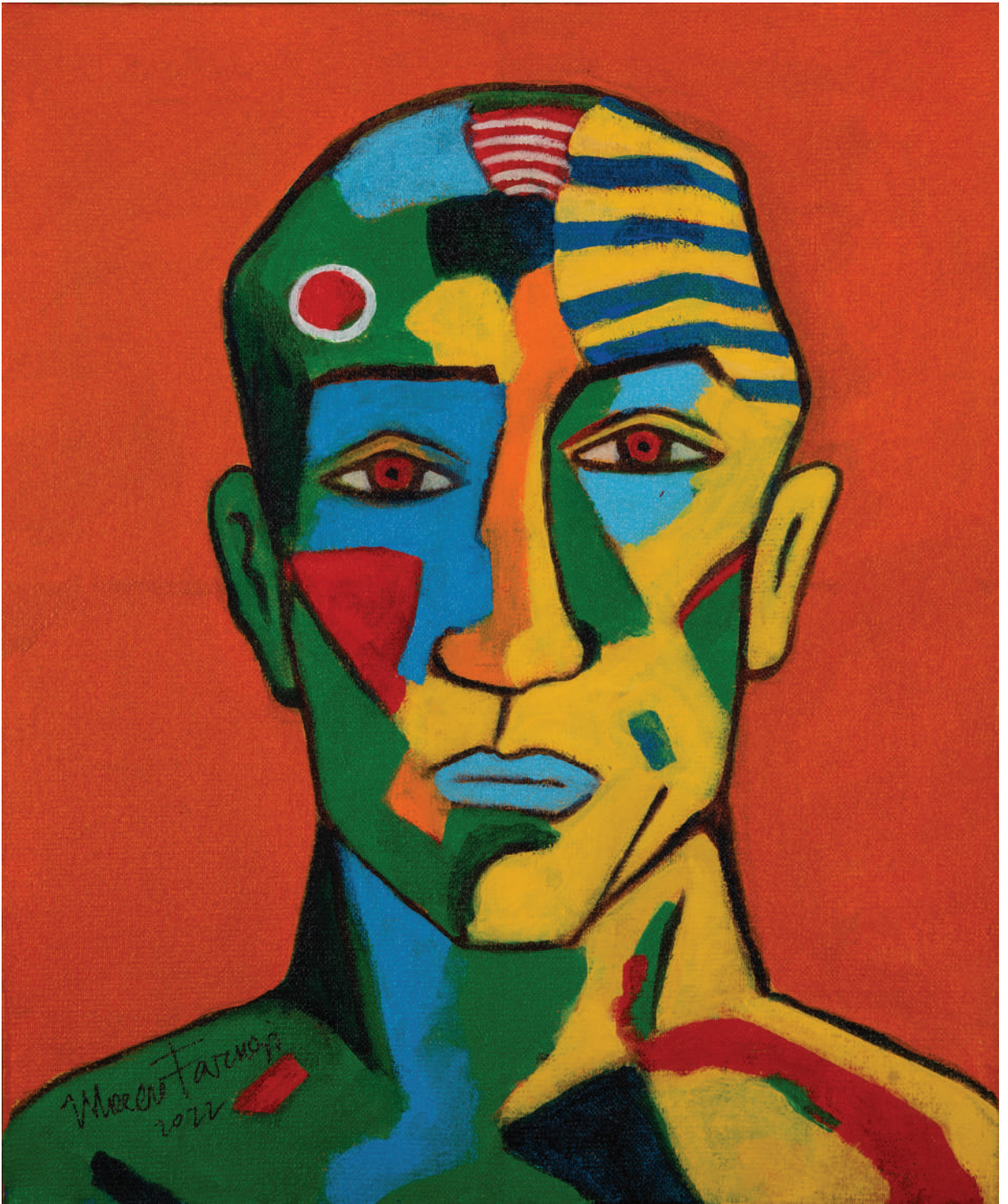
My sincere thanks to my family for putting up with my time away from home and office. My special gratitude to Mariyah Mazari for her invaluable advice and help. Thanks to Sameera Raja, and to all the people at Canvas Gallery.





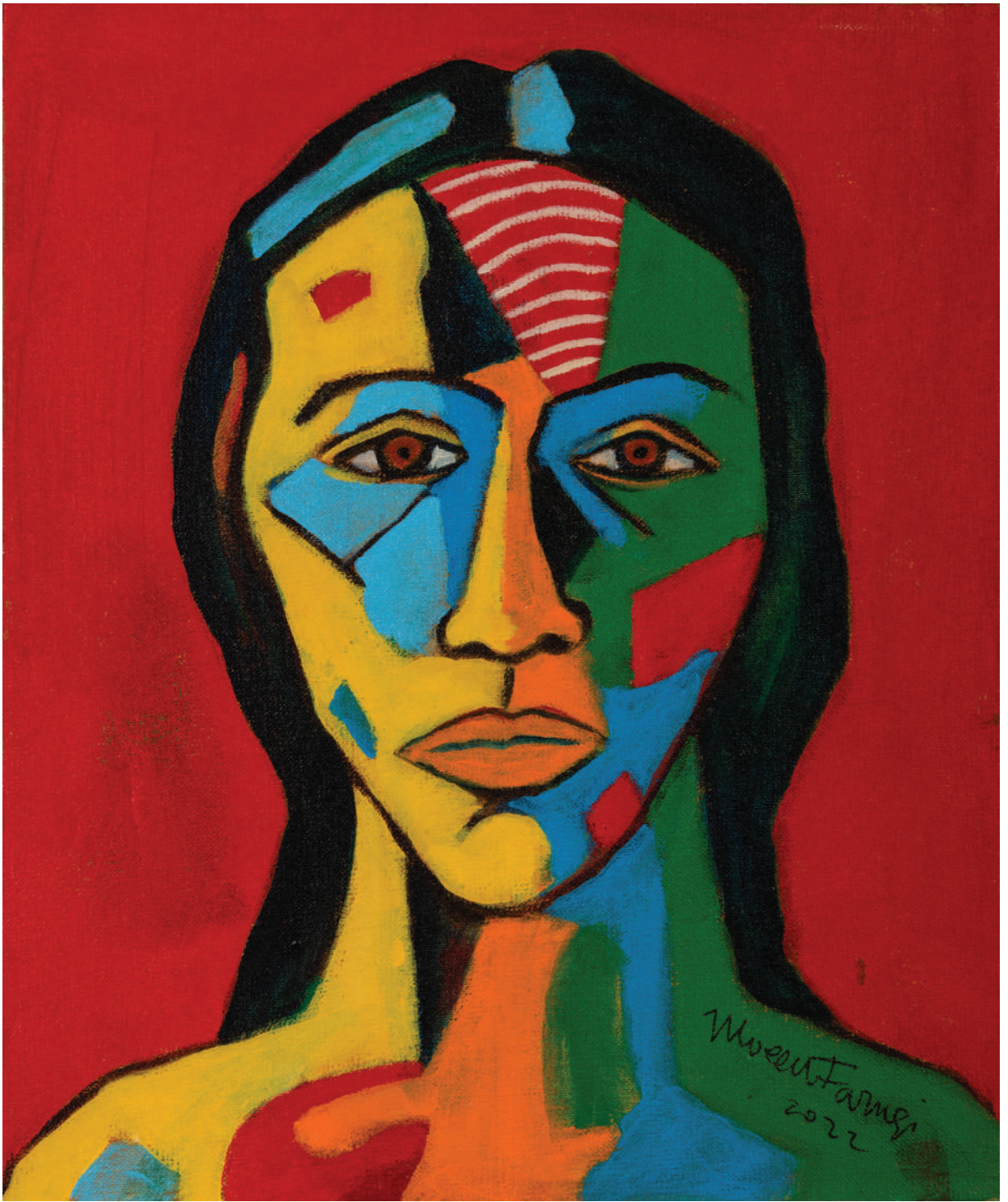
Title: Adam I  
Medium: Oil on Canvas  
Size: 16 x 20 Inches  
Year: 2020





Title: Adam II  
Medium: Acrylics on Canvas  
Size: 10 x 12 Inches  
Year: 2022





Title: Eve  
Medium: Acrylics on Canvas  
Size: 10 x 12 Inches  
Year: 2022





Title: Face  
Medium: Acrylics on Canvas  
Size: 36 x 42 Inches  
Year: 2023





Title: Reformed Man  
Medium: Acrylics on Canvas  
Size: 24 x 30 Inches  
Year: 2022



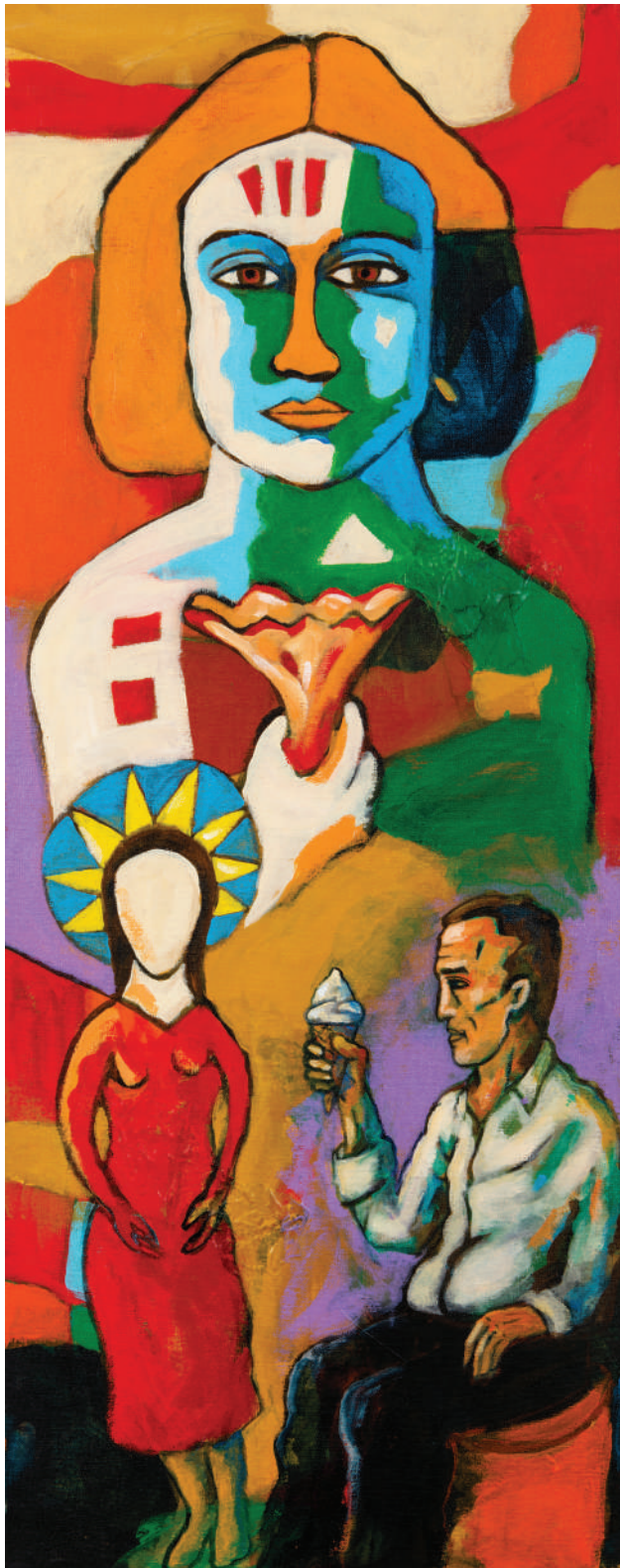
Title: Red Figures  
Medium: Acrylics on Canvas  
Size: 12 x 14 Inches  
Year: 2023



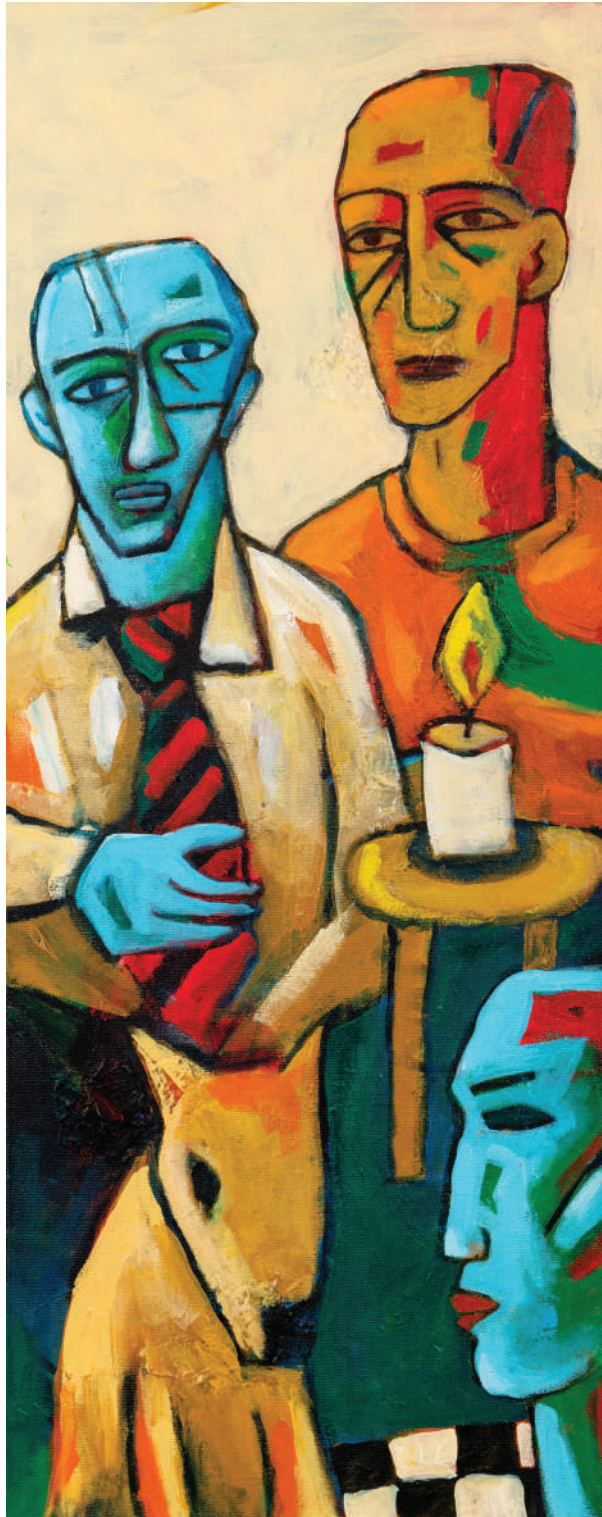


Title: Just a Few Steps to Paradise  
Medium: Acrylics on Canvas  
Size: 12 x 30 Inches  
Year: 2023





Title: The Goddess of Ice Cream  
Medium: Acrylic on Canvas  
Size: 12 x 30 Inches  
Year: 2023



Title: Citizens of The Inner World  
Medium: Acrylics on Canvas  
Size: 12 x 30 Inches  
Year: 2023





Title: Karachi Kahani V (Triptych)  
Medium: Acrylics on Canvas  
Size: 30 x 48 Inches  
Year: 2023



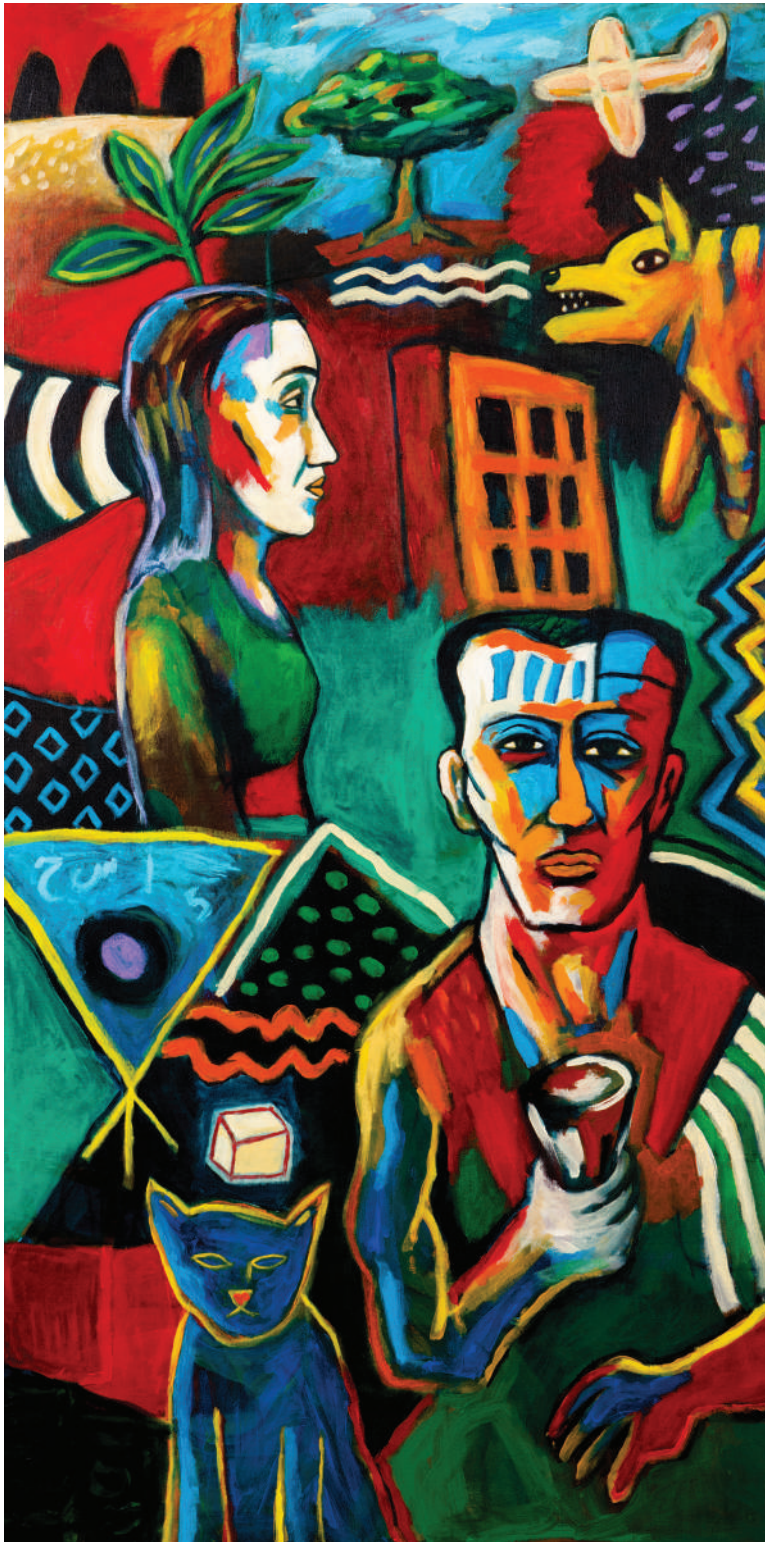


Title: Karachi Kahani VI  
Medium: Acrylics on Canvas  
Size: 30 x 36 Inches  
Year: 2023



Title: Two Figures  
Medium: Acrylics on Canvas  
Size: 24 x 30 Inches  
Year: 2022





Title: My Life as a Dreamer  
Medium: Acrylics on Canvas  
Size: 24 x 48 Inches  
Year: 2022





Title: Strangers by My Side  
Medium: Oil on Canvas  
Size: 36 x 42 Inches  
Year: 2020



Title: Estranged Family  
Medium: Acrylics on Canvas  
Size: 36 x 36 Inches  
Year: 2022





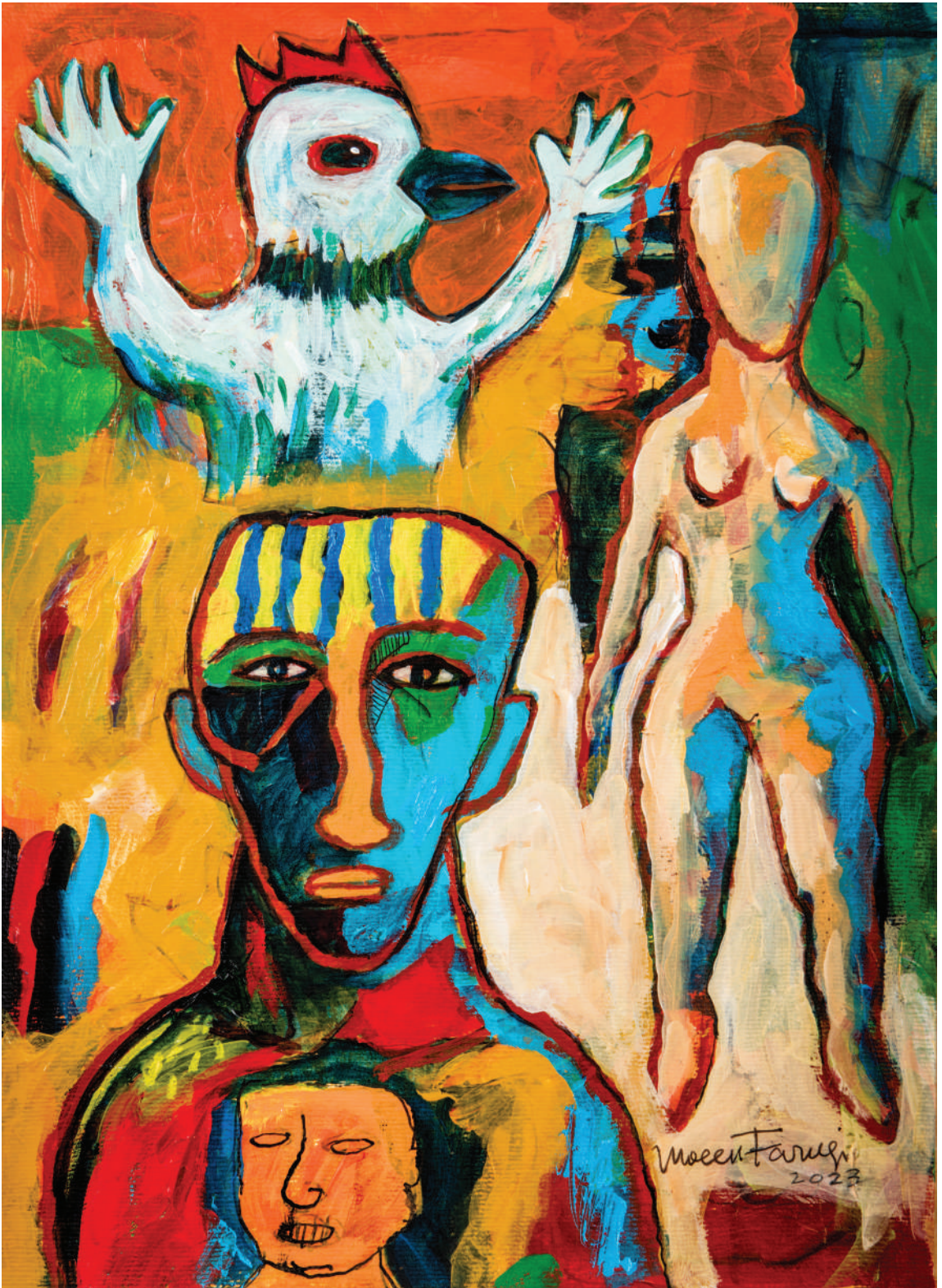
Title: Daytime Visions  
Medium: Acrylics on 300g Canson Paper  
Size: 12 x 16 Inches  
Year: 2023





Title: I Never Said I Loved You  
Medium: Acrylics on 300g Canson Paper  
Size: 12 x 16 Inches  
Year: 2023





Title: Morning Memories  
Medium: Acrylics on 300g Canson Paper  
Size: 12 x 16 Inches  
Year: 2023





Title: Wild Things I Love  
Medium: Acrylics on 300g Canson Paper  
Size: 12 x 16 Inches  
Year: 2023





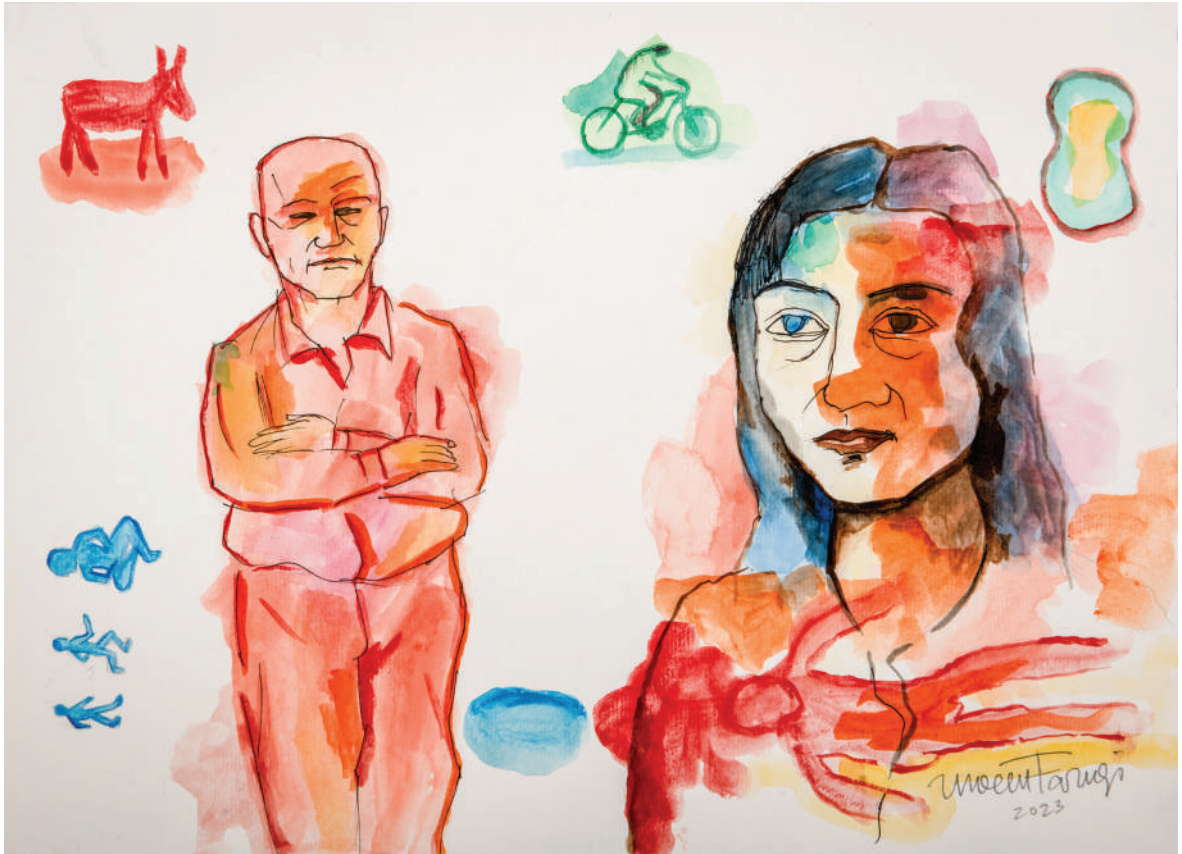
Title: The One Who Taught me Color  
Medium: Acrylics on 300g Canson Paper  
Size: 12 x 16 Inches  
Year: 2023





Title: Encounter  
Medium: Acrylic on 300g Canson  
Size: 12 x 17 Inches  
Year: 2023





Title: Where is Max?  
Medium: Acrylics, Ink, Watercolor on 300g Canson  
Size: 12 x 17 Inches  
Year: 2023



Title: Shareek e Hayat  
Medium: Acrylics, Ink, Watercolor on 300g Canson  
Size: 12 x 17 Inches  
Year: 2023





Title: Love Songs from Macondo  
Medium: Ink on Paper  
Size: 9 x 12 Inches  
Year: 2023





Title: Fables from the Drawing Room  
Medium: Ink on Paper  
Size: 9 x 12 Inches  
Year: 2023





Title: My Personal World  
Medium: Ink on Paper  
Size: 9 x 12 Inches  
Year: 2023





Title: Karachi Kahani  
Medium: Ink on 300g Canson paper  
Size: 19 x 21 Inches  
Year: 2022



## Profile

Moeen Faruqi is an artist and writer living in Karachi. His paintings have been exhibited widely within Pakistan and internationally in Canada, Italy, Singapore, Bangladesh, the UK and India. His upcoming show is at Canvas Gallery in Karachi. His poems have been published in various literary journals in Pakistan and abroad.

Primarily narrative in nature, his work speaks through characters that stare out at the viewer, as if pleading for relief from distorted relationships and artificial interactions. Men, women, and even animals enact an absurdist theatre that attempts to engage and elicit a response – perhaps of self-recognition – from the viewer. His latest work includes the Large Face series: bright, vivid and oversized portraits that affirm the uniqueness of each individual, in an atmosphere where fashion produces an ironic and disturbing homogeneity.

## Education

- 1992 M.Ed. University of Wales UK
- 1981 B.S California State University, USA

## Solo Exhibitions

- 2019 Koel Gallery, Karachi
- 2016 Canvas Gallery, Karachi
- 2014 Khaas Gallery, Islamabad
- 2013 Canvas Gallery, Karachi
- 2011 Khaas Gallery, Islamabad
- 2011 Utterly Art Gallery, Singapore
- 2009 Canvas Gallery, Karachi
- 2008 Rohtas II, Lahore
- 2006 Canvas Gallery, Karachi
- 2005 Khaas Gallery, Islamabad
- 2004 Zenaini Gallery, Karachi
- 2003 Croweaters Gallery, Lahore
- 2002 Chawkandi Gallery, Karachi
- 2000 Gallery Pangloss, Pisa, Italy
- 1999 The Art Gallery, Islamabad
- 1998 Indus Gallery, Karachi
- 1997 Chawkandi Gallery, Karachi
- 1995 Indus Gallery, Karachi
- 1993 Indus Gallery Karachi

## Selected Group Shows (Pakistan)

- 2018 Imago Mundi: Lines in the Sand, contemporary Art from Pakistan.
- 2010 Out of the Box, Printmaking exhibition, Indus Valley School of Art, Karachi
- 2007 National Art Exhibition, National Art Gallery, Islamabad
- 2000 Canvas Gallery, Karachi
- 1999 The Millennium Show, Arts Council of Pakistan
- 1999 Urban Voices, Sheraton Art Festival
- 1996 Artists from Karachi, Hunerkada, Islamabad
- 1995 National Art Exhibition, Alhamra Arts Centre, Lahore
- 1995 PNCA Show, Islamabad
- 1994 Zahoor-ul-Akhlaq Gallery, Lahore

## Selected Group Shows (International)

- 2017 Printmaking show, Siddhartha Art Gallery, Kathmandu, Nepal
- 2013 Bonhams Fundraising Art Auction for Pakistan Rising
- 2012 ArTCF, Contemporary Pakistani Art, London
- 2012 The Galleria, London
- 2011 ARTrium @ MICA, Singapore
- 2009 Gallery II, Bradford University, UK
- 2008 Unicorn Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- 2007 Indus Strokes, Mumbai, India
- 2001 The Art Gallery of Peel, Brampton, Canada
- 2001 Lakeshore Arts, Toronto, Canada
- 1997 Asian Art Biennale, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- 1991 6th Asian Watercolour Exhibition, Nagoya, Japan

## Curatorial Work

- 2000 KaraArt 2000, Contemporary Art, Alliance Francaise, Karachi
- 1994 Artists from Karachi, National College of Art, Lahore
- 1990 Visual Arts Karachi, Shakir Ali Museum, Lahore

## Arts Residency and Workshops

- 2006 Vasl 2nd International Artists Workshop, Gadani, Pakistan
- 2010 Printmaking workshop with Michael Kempson, Indus Valley School of Art & Architecture

## Poetry

His poems have been published in various literary journals in Pakistan and abroad, including Poetry from Pakistan: An Anthology (Karachi, 1997), Dragonfly in the Sun: An Anthology of Pakistani Literature (Karachi, 1997), and The Poetry of Men's Lives, (USA, 2004). His poems have also appeared in The Aleph Review (Pk.), Orbis, The Rialto (UK), Rattle (USA), Cyphers (Ire.), and in Vallum (Canada).

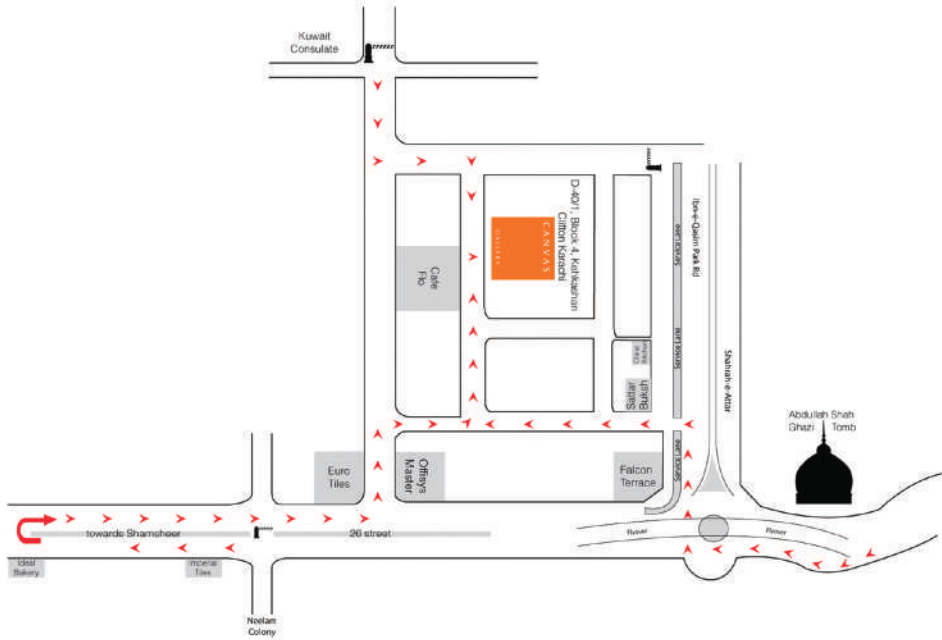
## Bibliography

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- Ali, Salwat, Journeys of the Spirit: Pakistan Art in the New Millennium (2008) FOMMA
- A Perspective of Contemporary Paintings, Prints and Sculptures in Pakistan, (2006) VM Art Gallery, Karachi.
- Ali, S. Amjad, Painters of Pakistan (1995) National Book Foundation, Karachi
- Mulji, H and Mundrawala, A., Pakistan: 50 Years -An Art Retrospective (1998), CD-Rom, ABN Amro Bank, Karachi



CANVAS

GALLERY



D-40/1, Block 4, Kehkashan, Clifton, Karachi 75600 Pakistan  
P: +92 21 3586 1523

 [canvasgallery2014@gmail.com](mailto:canvasgallery2014@gmail.com)  [www.canvasgallery.net](http://www.canvasgallery.net)

 [canvasgallerykhi](https://www.instagram.com/canvasgallerykhi)  [canvas.gallery.karachi](https://www.facebook.com/canvas.gallery.karachi)  [CanvasGallery](https://twitter.com/CanvasGallery)