

CANVAS

GALLERY

## Doubts, Dreams, Desires

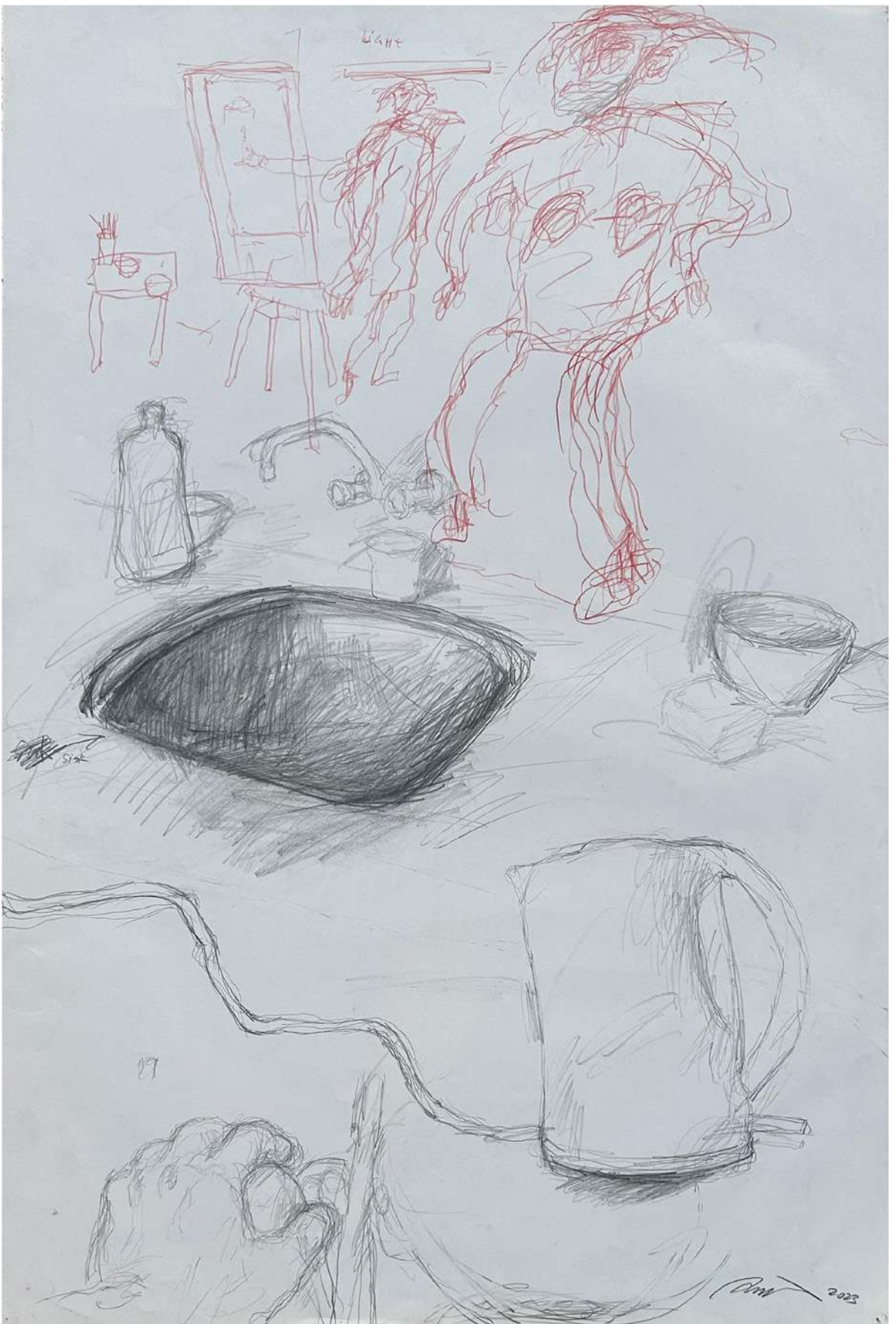
# Quddus Mirza

New Works

12 - 21 December 2023

## Artist Statement

My art is a form of celebrating life and a means to mourn death



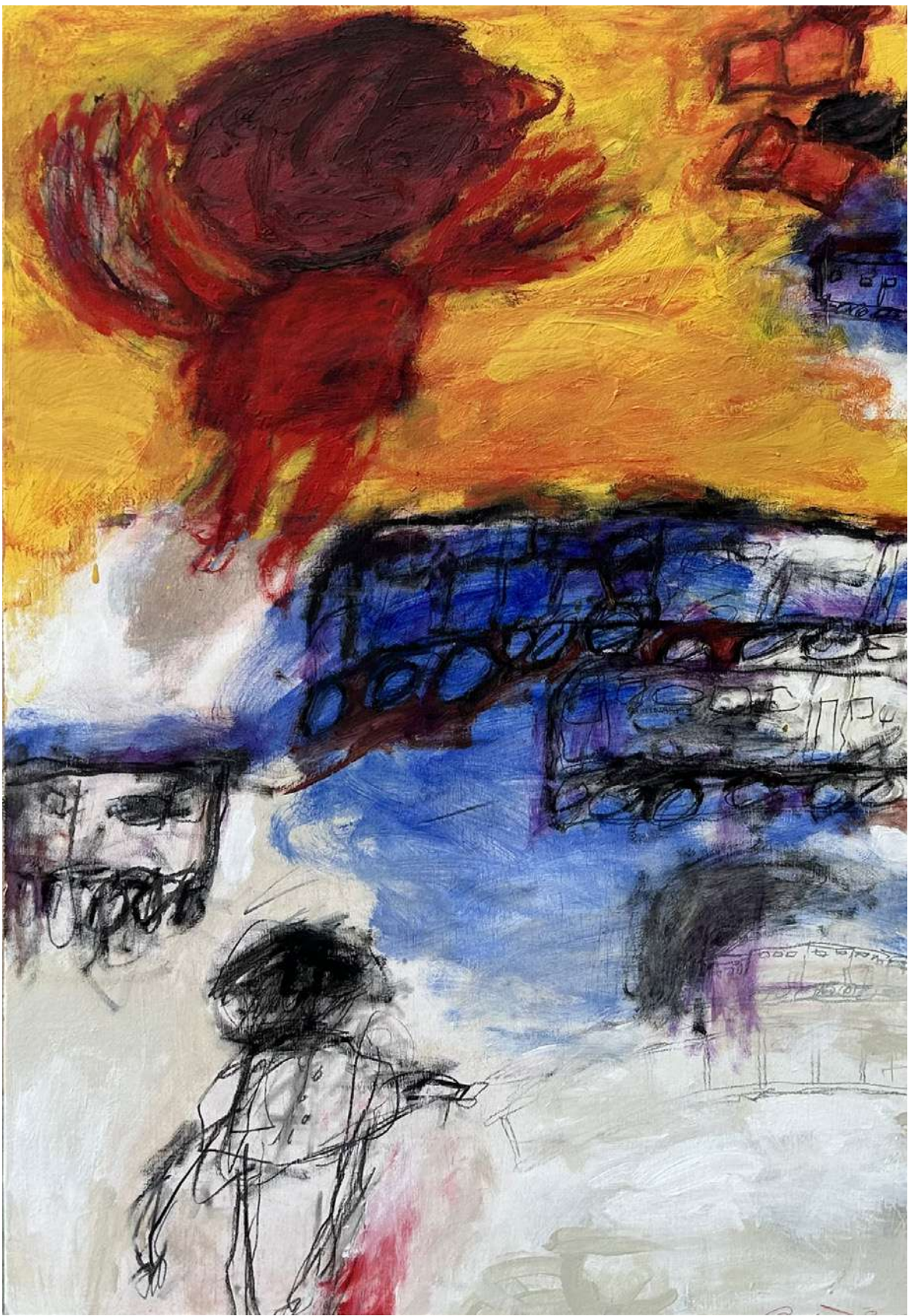
Title: Artist at Work  
Medium: Pencil on paper  
Size: 30 x 20 inches  
Year: 2023





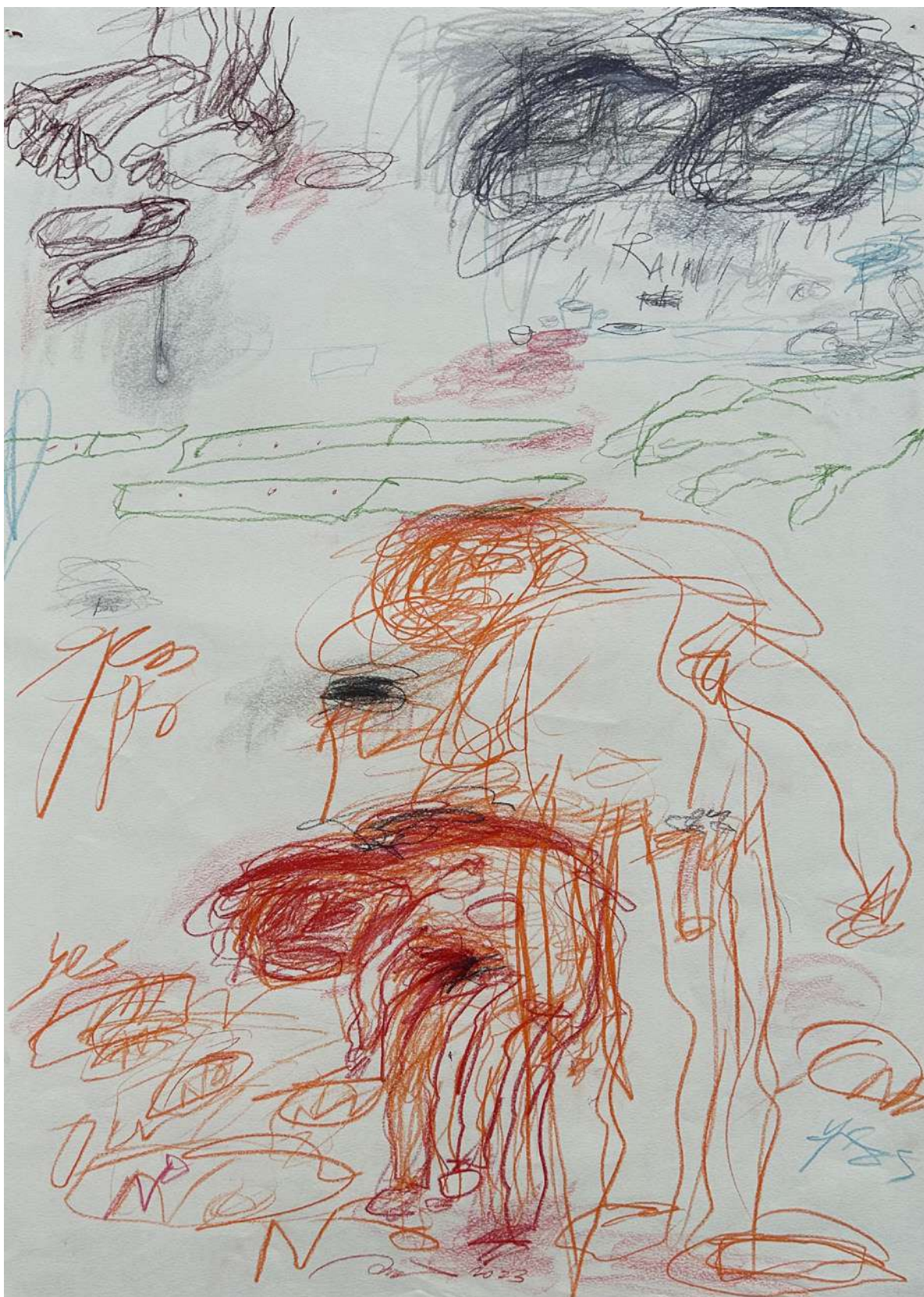
Title: A Family Photograph  
Medium: Oil on paper  
Size: 17 x 16 inches  
Year: 2023





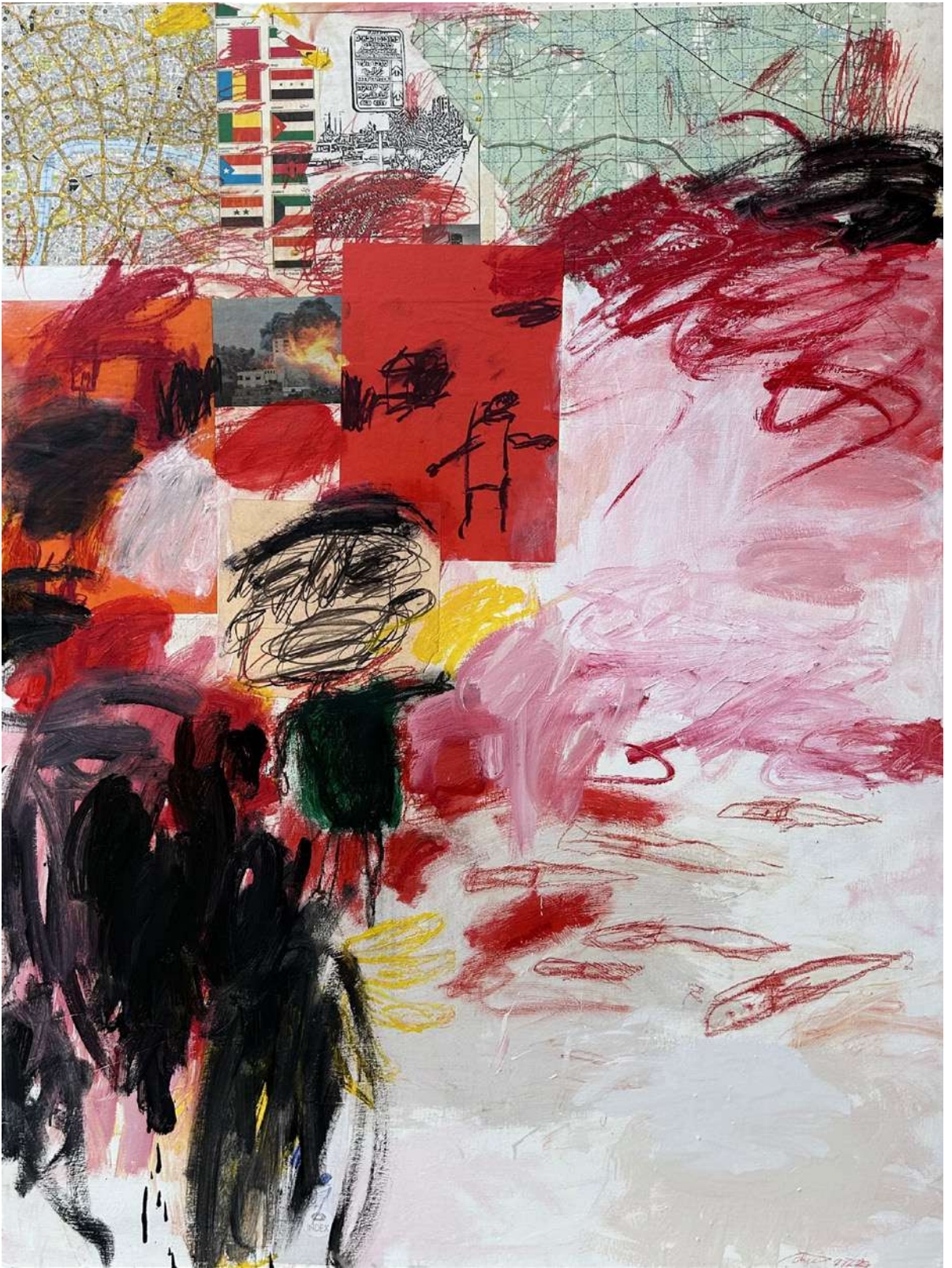
Title: An Angel Flying over the Sloane Square Station  
Medium: Oil on board  
Size: 36 x 24 inches  
Year: 2023





Title: Between Yes and No  
Medium: Pencil on paper  
Size: 25 x 18 inches  
Year: 2023





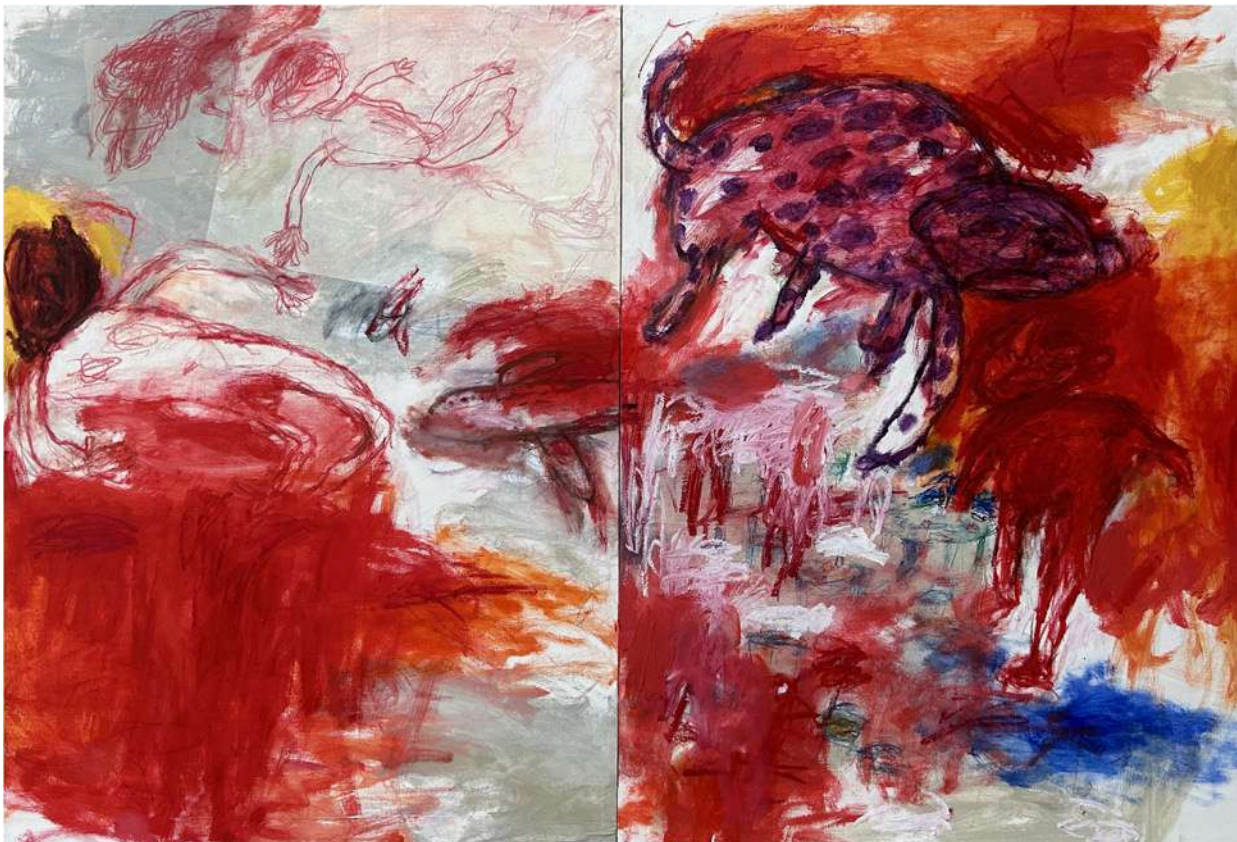
Title: Centre of the World  
Medium: Oil and mixed media on board  
Size: 48 x 36 inches  
Year: 2023





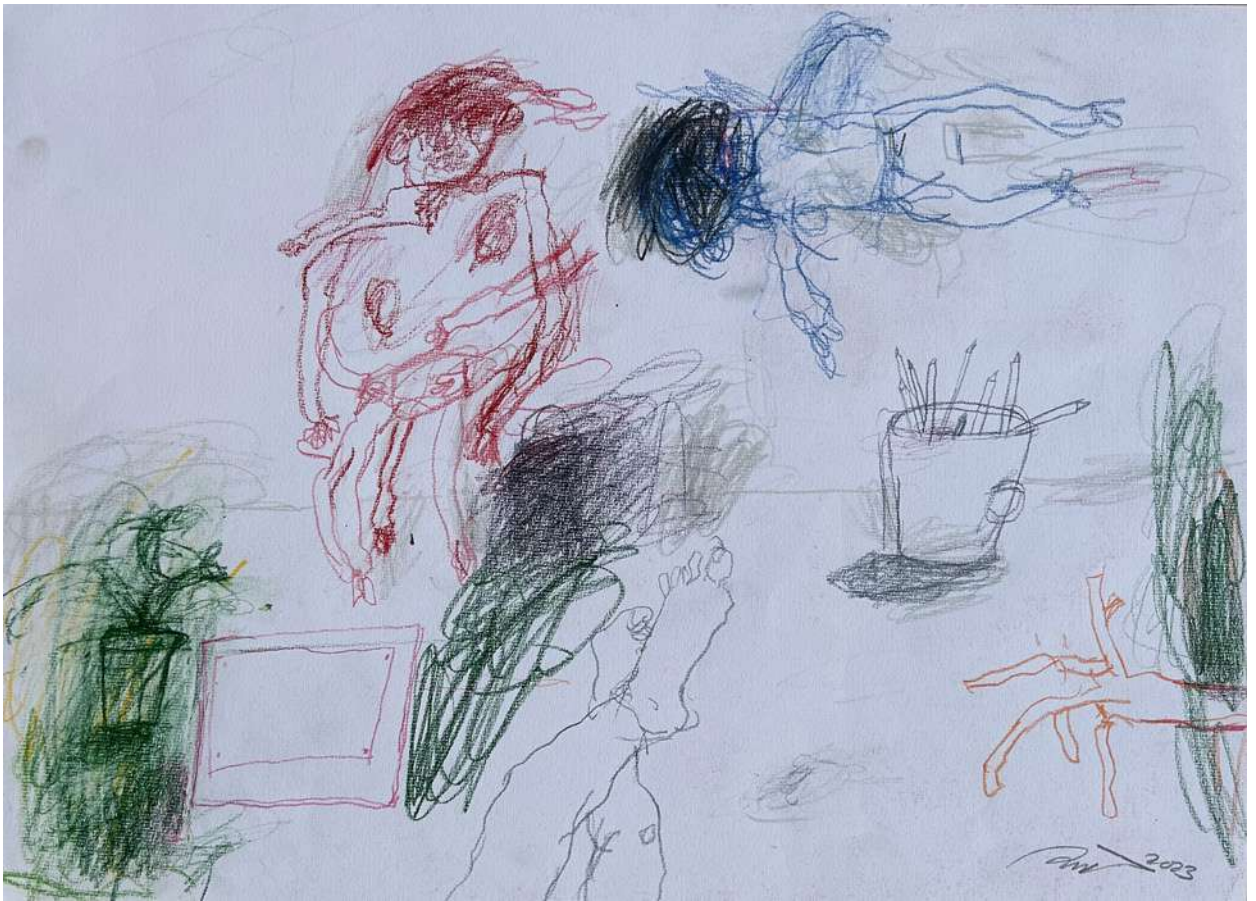
Title: Chronicles of My Time  
Medium: Oil and mixed media on board  
Size: 48 x 36 inches  
Year: 2023





Title: Creation of Adam in a Cafe  
Medium: Oil and mixed media on board  
Size: 48 x 72 inches  
Year: 2023





Title: Drawing the Line  
Medium: Pencil on paper  
Size: 12 x 14 inches  
Year: 2023



Title: Homage of A Colourless Flower

Medium: Pencil on paper

Size: 30 x 20 inches

Year: 2023



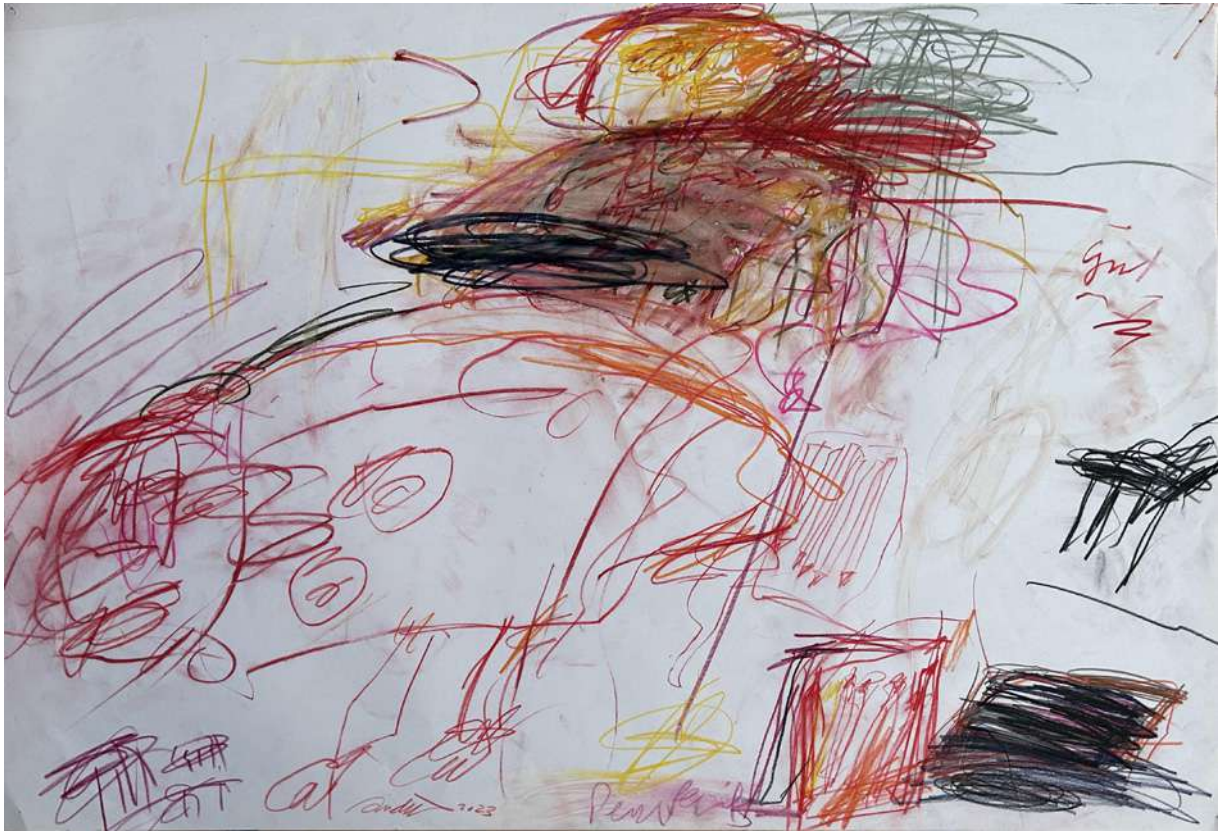


Title: In the Solitude of Studio

Medium: Pencil on paper

Size: 20 x 30 inches

Year: 2023



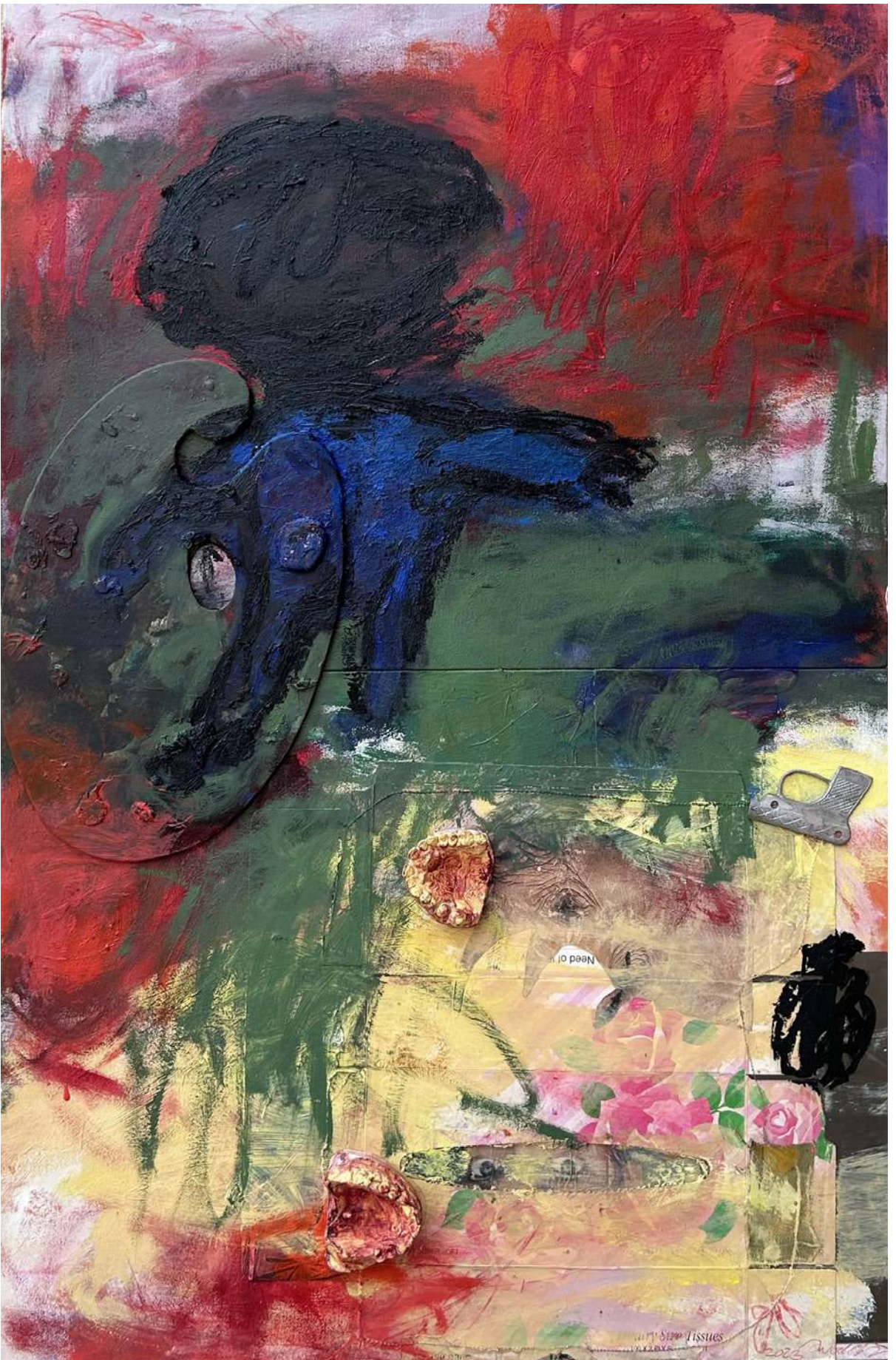
Title: Many Lives of A Pencil

Medium: Pencil on paper

Size: 20 x 30 inches

Year: 2023





Title: Portrait of a Painter in a Chaos  
Medium: Oil and mixed media on canvas  
Size: 36 x 24 inches  
Year: 2023





Title: Soul of a Solitary House  
Medium: Oil and mixed media on board  
Size: 48 x 36 inches  
Year: 2023





Title: The Anatomy of a Moment  
Medium: Oil and mixed media on board  
Size: 48 x 36 inches  
Year: 2023





Title: The Black Car Bleeding  
Medium: Oil and mixed media on board  
Size: 36 x 48 inches  
Year: 2023





Title: The Ghost Rider

Medium: Oil and paper on canvas

Size: 18 x 36 inches

Year: 2022



Title: The Red Landscape

Medium: Oil on paper

Size: 18 x 22 inches

Year: 2023





Title: Under This Blazing Sky  
Medium: Oil and mixed media on board  
Size: 48 x 36 inches  
Year: 2023

## Brief Bio

Quddus Mirza is a painter, art critic and independent curator. He is a Professor at the School of Visual Art and Design, Beaconhouse National University, Lahore. He is the former Head of Fine Arts Department at the National College of Arts Lahore, where he studied BFA, before acquiring MA (Painting) from the Royal College of Art, London in 1991. Quddus Mirza was the first Pakistani who was accepted into the Painting School of the prestigious Royal College of Art, London. On his return to Pakistan, he joined his alma mater and contributed in the field of art education, he has trained several generations of artists in Pakistan.

As a practicing painter, he has shown extensively, in more than 45 important group exhibitions held around the world, and had 16 one-person exhibitions in Pakistan and the UK. He represented Pakistan at the Asian Art Biennale Dhaka. He is known for his distinct painting style, innovative themes, and expressive imagery. His works are part of various important collections including the British Museum, Royal College of Art Collection, the National Art Gallery Islamabad and many private collections in Pakistan, India, UK, USA, Germany, Sweden, Nicaragua, Italy and Spain.

Mirza is also recognized as an art curator and has curated a number of exhibitions; including *Celebrating Art* and *Love* at National Art Gallery, Islamabad; *Exotic Bodies*, based on the miniature paintings from the collection of Victoria and Albert Museum, that was displayed at the Preston Museum in the UK, 2002; and *Beyond Borders: Art from Pakistan* at the National Gallery of Modern Art in Mumbai, India 2005, the largest exhibition of Pakistani art held anywhere outside of Pakistan.

He has been invited to various conferences, seminars, talk shows and literary festivals, in Pakistan, the UK, India, the UAE, Kazakhstan, Turkey and the USA, to read papers, give talk, and participate in discussions on art, culture, particularly on the Pakistani art.

Quddus Mirza is an art critic, with a weekly column appearing in Pakistan's major newspaper, The News, and regular column on art *Letter from Pakistan in Art India* and in the *Depart* (Bangladesh) as well as contributing to other publications like the *Dawn, Herald, The Friday Times, Himal* (Nepal), *Libas, Contemporary* (UK) and *Flash Art* (Italy).

He is the co-author of the book *50 Years of Visual Arts in Pakistan*, and has extensively written essays on Pakistani art in various international catalogues and other publications.

He is the editor of online art magazine *Art Now Pakistan*.



## Education & Training

- 1991 Royal College of Art, London. M. A. painting  
1986 National College of Arts, Lahore. B.F.A

## Distinctions, Honours & Awards

- 2019 Fellow National College of Arts  
1994 Mid-America Art Alliance Fellowship  
1992 Punjab Artists Association Award  
1991 MacLennan Painting Prize (Royal College of Art)

## Professional Experience

- 2022-present Professor, SVAD, Beaconhouse National University, Lahore  
2021-2022 Visiting teacher, SVAD, Beaconhouse National University, Lahore  
1992-2021 Professor/Head of Department of Fine Art, National College of Arts  
2013-present Editor *Art Now Pakistan* (online monthly magazine on art)  
2007-2008 Director/Curator. Zahoor ul Akhlaq Gallery, Lahore

## Residencies, Slide Presentations and Lectures / Papers at seminars

- 2019 *Making Muse in Mohenjo-Daro*. National Art Gallery, Islamabad  
2018 *Homage to Jamil Naqsh*. Jamil Naqsh Museum, Karachi  
2018 *On Shakir Ali*. Shakir Ali Museum Lahore  
2015 *Architecture of Memory*, Closing paper. Lahore Biennale Conference.  
2013 *Art and its Geographical Boundaries*. Alhamra Art Centre, Lahore  
2012 *Curatorial Culture*. Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, Karachi  
2012 *Art and the Conflicts of our Times*, Alhamra Art Centre, Lahore  
2011 *Future of the Past*, Alhamra Art Centre, Lahore  
2010 *Art and its South Asian Identity*, National Art Gallery, Islamabad.  
2008 *Eastern Orientalism*, Soros Centre of Contemporary Art, Almaty  
2008 *Art in 21st Century*, Sindh University, Jamshoro, Sindh  
2008 *Intention and Interpretation*, Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, Karachi  
2007 *Curating Terror and the Terror of Curating*, Delhi Biennale Conference  
2004 *Art and Globalisation*, International Art Critics Conference, Karachi  
2000 *Miniature in the Age of McDonald's*, Pakistan Another Vision, School of Oriental and African Studies, London  
2014-1988 *Artist's Talks*: Foundation of Museum of Modern Art, Karachi; Khoj International Artists Workshop, Modi Nagar, India; Cleveland Institute of Art, Ohio, USA; Rhode Island School of Design, USA; Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey; Rajasthan School of Art, Jaipur, India.

## Solo Exhibitions

- 2021 Canvas Gallery, Karachi  
2019 Canvas Gallery, Karachi  
2015 Canvas Gallery, Karachi  
2013 Canvas Gallery, Karachi  
2010 Canvas Gallery, Karachi  
2008 Canvas Gallery, Karachi  
2001 Canvas Gallery, Karachi  
1995 American Centre, Lahore  
1995 Rohtas Gallery, Islamabad  
1994 Rebecca Hossack Gallery, London  
1992 Mina Renton Gallery, London  
1992 The Academy, Soho, London  
1992 Chawkandi Art, Karachi  
1991 Rohtas Gallery, Islamabad  
1988 Rohtas Gallery, Islamabad  
1987 Nairang Gallery, Lahore

## Important Group Exhibitions

- 2019 *Karachi Biennale 02*, Karachi  
2015 *Private Mythologies*, Satrang Gallery, Islamabad  
2015 *And Nothing but the Truth: Parrhesia II*, Koel Gallery, Karachi  
2013 *Extra-Ordinary*, Canvas Gallery, Karachi  
2013 *Group Exhibition*, Latitude 28 Gallery, New Delhi  
2009 *Going Places*, Canvas Gallery, Karachi  
2002 *Around Miniature*, Canvas Gallery, Karachi  
2001 *Takhti*, Gallerie Sadequain, Karachi  
2000 *Another Vision, Art from Pakistan*, Brunei Gallery, London  
1998 *Khoj Show*, Modi House, India  
1997 *Patterning: Exhibition of Australian and Pakistani Artists*, Gallery NCA  
1997 *Rumours of Spring*, Lionel Wendt Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka  
1995 *Concordances*, Art-Deco Gallery, Avignon, France  
1995 *Asian Art Biennale*, Dhaka, Bangladesh  
1992 *Contemporary Paintings from Pakistan*, Pacific Asia Museum, Los Angeles  
1992 *Crossing the Black Waters*, The South Gallery London, The City Gallery Leicester  
1988 *1st Art Biennale*, Alhamra Art Gallery, Lahore  
1982-97 *National Exhibition*, National Art Gallery, Islamabad

## Collections

British Museum  
Royal College of Art, London  
National Gallery, Islamabad

## Curated Exhibitions

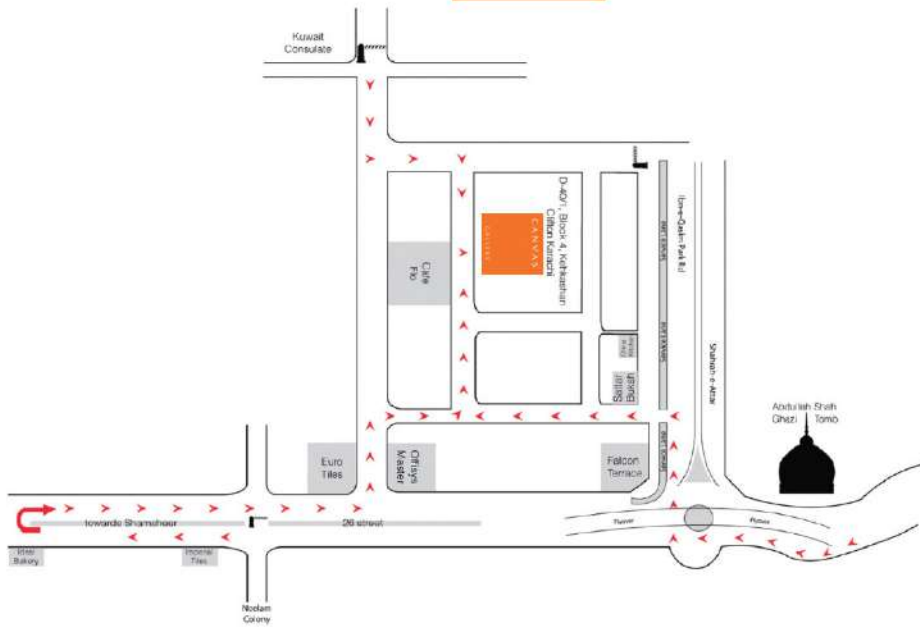
- 2023 *Day After*, Islamabad Literary Festival, Islamabad  
2023 *A Line That Divides*, Canvas Gallery, Karachi  
2022 *For the Love of Life*, Canvas Gallery, Karachi  
2022 *Before the End of Time*, Canvas Gallery, Karachi  
2021 *If You Have Tears*, Canvas Gallery, Karachi  
2021 *Flower of a Blue Flame*, Canvas Gallery, Karachi  
2019 *Space in Time*, Museum Rietberg, Zurich, Switzerland  
2018 *Body Language*, Royaat Gallery, Lahore  
2018 *In the Beginning was the Word*, O Art Space, Lahore  
2014 *Here and Now*, Lahore Art Gallery, Lahore  
2012 *In Praise of Red*, Royaat Gallery, Lahore  
2012 *Celebrating Art: 30 Years of Rohtas*, National Art Gallery, Islamabad  
2008 *Conversation 1* Elementa Gallery, Dubai  
2007 *Destination Asia* Almaty, Kazakhstan  
2007 *Take Away; Artists on Food*, Zahoor ul Akhlaq Gallery, Lahore  
2007 *Love*, National Art Gallery, Islamabad  
2007 *Trade Union' Artists: Portraits of Other Artists*, Zahoor ul Akhlaq Gallery, Lahore  
2006 *Flights of Fancy*, Royaat Gallery, Lahore  
2005 *One to One: 58 Years, 58 Artists, 58 Works*, Alhamra Art Gallery, Lahore  
2005 *Beyond Borders: Art of Pakistan*. National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai, India  
2002 *Exotic Bodies*: Exhibition of miniature paintings from Victoria and Albert Museum's collection. Harris Museum, Preston, UK

## Essays, Articles, Publications

- 2023 *Languages of Ambreen Butt (Essay)*, 'What Comes to My Lips' Ambreen Butt monograph. Black Press, London  
2022 *Migrant Mythologies (Essay)*, Osman Youfeszada monograph. V & A Museum, UK  
2020 *Death, Migration and the Maiden (Essay)*, 'Adeela Suleman: Not Everyone's Heaven', Skira, Milan, Italy  
2015 *In Praise of Losses (Essay)*, 'The Eye Still Seeks: Pakistani Contemporary Art', Penguin India  
2013 *Miniature, Monster and Modernism (Essay)*, Influx: 'Contemporary Art in Asia', Sage Publication, India  
2013 *"Most People are Other People"* (Essay), 'Labyrinth of Reflections', Mohatta Palace Museum, Karachi  
2010 *Art in the Age of I. T.* (Essay), 'Resembele, Reassemble', Devi Art Foundation, New Delhi, India  
2010 *Surprising Site/Side (Essay)*, 'The Rising Tide', Mohatta Palace Museum, Karachi  
2009 *Currents in Currency (Essay)*, 'Mazaar, Bazaar', Oxford University Press, Karachi, Pakistan  
2009 *Exile at Home: Pakistani Art in Global Age (Essay)*, 'Hanging Fire', Asia Society NYC/ Yale University Press, USA  
2009 *The Unusual Suspect (Essay)*, 'Shilpa Gupta' (Monograph), Prestel Books, UK  
2008 *Occident and Accidents (Essay)*, 'Destination Asia', Soros Centre of Contemporary Art, Almaty, Kazakhstan  
2008 *In Praise of His Hands (Essay)*, 'Born of Fire: Salahuddin Mian', Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, Karachi  
2006 *Body: Now You See it, Now You Don't (Essay)*, 'Artists' Voices: Body', Oxford University Press, Karachi  
2005 *The Muse of Moving Image in the South Asian Art (Essay)*, 'Zeitsprunge Raumfolgen', Institut fur Auslandbeziehungen, Berlin  
1998 Co-author, the book, *50 Year of Visual Arts in Pakistan*. Pakistan National Council of the Arts, Islamabad

- 1998-present *The News on Sunday*. Regular Art Critic with a weekly column.  
2000-present *Art India*. Regular Contributor with the column Letter from Pakistan  
1999-present Articles published in journals, *Flash Art, Depart, Contemporary, Art Asia Pacific, Libas, Visage* and various international catalogues

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