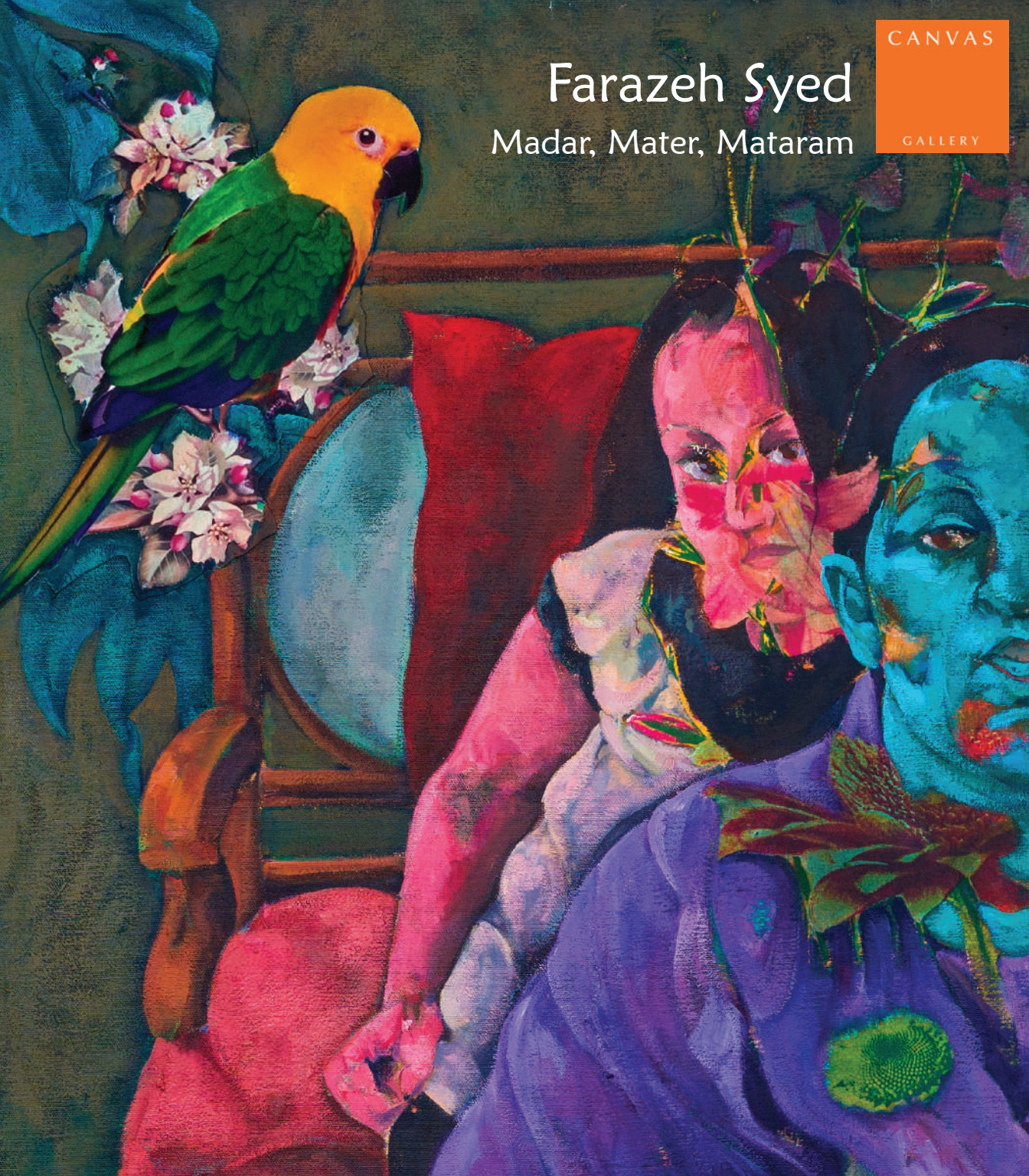


CANVAS

# Farazeh Syed

Madar, Mater, Mataram

GALLERY



6 - 15 February 2024

## Artist Statement

Situated within the context of South Asian feminism and art historical portrayals of women, my practice centers on the female body and observations of gender and their sociocultural and political manifestations. As a child, I grew up in a home surrounded by orchards, the lush flora and fauna serving as the sanctuary I now surround my women in. Combining the female body with motifs from nature, I celebrate the dynamism, strength and resilience of womanhood and the abundance and generative power of the female body. Through my practice I touch upon broader themes of gendered expectations while asserting women as empowered individuals with agency over their sexuality. Deeply rooted in my own history, culture and subjective experience, I create visual narratives that are autobiographical, yet universal.

I am also fascinated by the historical process with its accumulative overlapping narratives and erasure. I use acrylics because they allow me to construct images in layers of opaque and translucent paint, adding depth and interactions within a palimpsest. I strive to preserve the making as a record of layers with visible under drawings, overlapping and intersecting lines, and traces of my process.

Drawing is a subjective language for me, its directness speaks to the innate impulse to make a mark and render shape. It occupies the liminal space between looking and rendering, where the surface becomes the meeting point of the external world—in the form of an object or stimulus—and the internal world—in the form of the unseen; a vision, a memory, an imagining. I allow the process of making to be spontaneous and organic which involves challenges, problem solving and risk taking—it is the chance occurrences, the accidental marks, the unexpected stroke of the brush, even the sudden arrival of a subject, that I find most rewarding.



Title: Her Heart Was a Secret Garden  
Medium: Fabric collage, acrylics and charcoal on canvas  
Size: 120 x 72 inches  
Year: 2023



Title: Madar, Mater, Mataram

Medium: Fabric collage, acrylics and charcoal on canvas

Size: 60 x 48 inches

Year: 2023



Title: But I Was Always a Storm  
Medium: Fabric collage, acrylics and charcoal on canvas  
Size: 36 x 48 inches  
Year: 2023



Title: The Most Dangerous Animal is a Woman Smiling  
Medium: Fabric collage, acrylics and charcoal on canvas  
Size: 36 x 48 inches  
Year: 2023



Title: Of Blue Leaves and Red Poppies  
Medium: Fabric collage, acrylics and charcoal on canvas  
Size: 36 x 48 inches  
Year: 2023





Title: Is it the Colour of My Skin?

Medium: Fabric collage, acrylics and charcoal on canvas

Size: 36 x 48 inches

Year: 2023



Title: The Unholy Trinity  
Medium: Fabric collage, acrylics and charcoal on canvas  
Size: 45 x 38 inches  
Year: 2023



Title: The Red Lines of My Palm  
Medium: Fabric collage, acrylics and charcoal on canvas  
Size: 48 x 60 inches  
Year: 2023



Title: The Genie is not in the Bottle

Medium: Graphite on wasli

Size: 28 x 22 inches

Year: 2023



Title: My Body is Not an Ornament

Medium: Graphite on wasli

Size: 28 x 22 inches

Year: 2023



Title: Can You Hear My Roar?

Medium: Graphite on wasli

Size: 28 x 22 inches

Year: 2023



Title: The English Chair  
Medium: Graphite on wasli  
Size: 22 x 28 inches  
Year: 2023



Title: What Matters is What You See  
Medium: Graphite on wasli  
Size: 22 x 28 inches  
Year: 2023





Title: Of Red Bangles  
Medium: Graphite on wasli  
Size: 28 x 22 inches  
Year: 2023



Title: Portrait of a Woman I  
Medium: Graphite on wasli  
Size: 22 x 28 inches  
Year: 2023



Title: Portrait of a Woman II  
Medium: Graphite on wasli  
Size: 22 x 28 inches  
Year: 2023

## Profile

Farazeh Syed (b. 1971) is a multi-disciplinary visual artist working across the mediums of painting, printmaking, mixed media and textile art. Her personal history and experience as a woman inform her art practice, that challenges the art historical narrative surrounding women and their bodies and prescribed notions of gender and sexuality. After completing two years of the foundation program at National College of Arts, Farazeh went on to acquire a diploma in print making at Gandhara Art College, Islamabad. Inspired by the *Ustad-Shagird* relationship, she trained with renowned painter Iqbal Hussain for over fifteen years, where she learnt painting and an acute understanding of the human form, subsequently, refining her own visual and conceptual vocabulary. Syed also attended Continuing Education courses in painting and drawing at Parsons and Art Students League, New York. She has been involved in art teaching through formal studio classes, lectures, critiques and talks.

Farazeh received her MA (Hons.) in Visual Arts from National College of Arts, where she has also served as Associate Professor, Fine Arts (Visiting Faculty), and her MA in Education (Gold Medal) from Beaconhouse National University, where she has taught *Academic Writing and Critical Reading*. Farazeh has been trained in South Asian Classical vocal music and has performed on several platforms. Her connection with music lends her work rhythms and a certain lyricism that can be experienced as subtle sensations. As a Research Associate at *Sanjan Nagar Institute of Art and Philosophy*, Syed has researched extensively on Classical music, written academic papers and lectured on *South Asian Classical Music* and *Cultural history* at National College of Arts, Musicology Department.

Farazeh has exhibited her work extensively in prominent international shows and local galleries and her work is in the collection of eminent national and international collectors. She has attended several art residencies and was awarded merit grant for artists' residency at The Vermont Studio Centre, USA in 2020 and nominated for the 2021 Sovereign Asian Art Prize. Her work has been featured in several international and local art and literary journals.



CANVAS  
GALLERY



D-40/I, 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](#)
- [canvas.gallery](#)
- [CanvasGallery](#)