

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



Title: Madar, Mater, Mataram

Medium: Fabric collage, acrylics and charcoal on canvas

Size: 60 x 48 inches



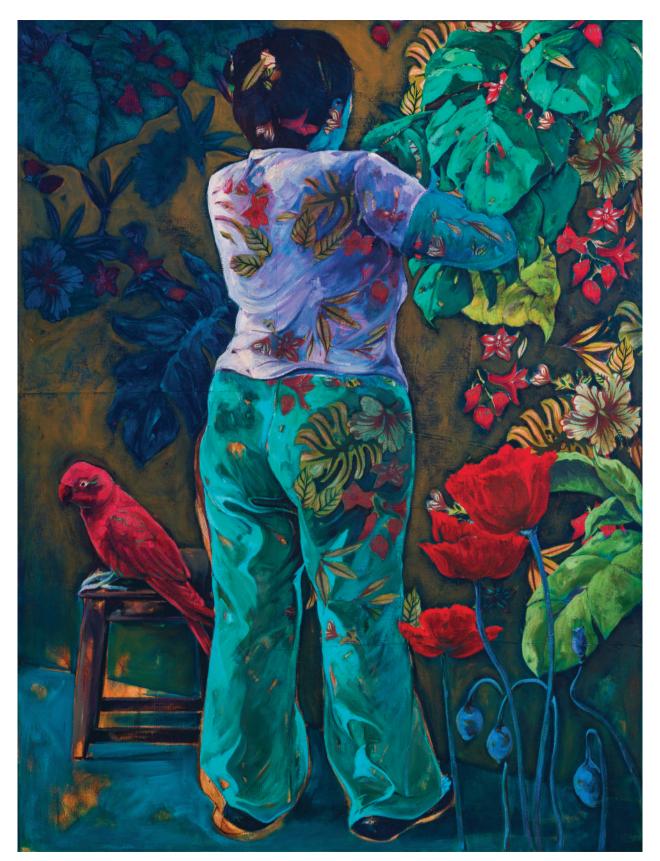
Title: But I Was Always a Storm Medium: Fabric collage, acrylics and charcoal on canvas

Size: 36 x 48 inches



Title: The Most Dangerous Animal is a Woman Smiling Medium: Fabric collage, acrylics and charcoal on canvas

Size: 36 x 48 inches



Title: Of Blue Leaves and Red Poppies Medium: Fabric collage, acrylics and charcoal on canvas

Size: 36 x 48 inches



Title: Is it the Colour of My Skin?

Medium: Fabric collage, acrylics and charcoal on canvas

Size: 36 x 48 inches



Title: The Unholy Trinity

Medium: Fabric collage, acrylics and charcoal on canvas

Size: 45 x 38 inches



Title: The Red Lines of My Palm

Medium: Fabric collage, acrylics and charcoal on canvas

Size: 48 x 60 inches



Title: The Genie is not in the Bottle

Medium: Graphite on wasli

Size: 28 x 22 inches



Title: My Body is Not an Ornament

Medium: Graphite on wasli

Size: 28 x 22 inches



Title: Can You Hear My Roar? Medium: Graphite on wasli

Size: 28 x 22 inches



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



Title: What Matters is What You See

Medium: Graphite on wasli Size: 22 x 28 inches



Title: Of Red Bangles

Medium: Graphite on wasli

Size: 28 x 22 inches



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



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

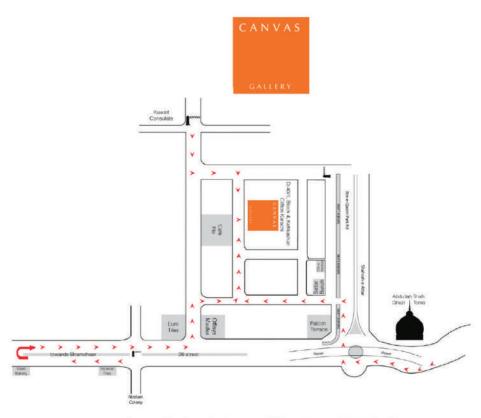
Profile

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.

Education 2014-15 Masters (Hons.) in Visual Arts, National College of Arts, Lahore, Pakistan. (Passed with Honors). 2004-05 Masters in Education, Beacon House National University, Lahore, Pakistan. (Passed with Honors, Gold Medal). Figure Drawing/Oil Painting, Parsons School of Design, New York. 1997 Figure Painting, Art Students League, New York. 1997 1996-11 Drawing/Painting Apprentice, Iqbal Hussain, Lahore, Pakistan. Diploma, Print Making, Gandhara Art School, Islamabad, Pakistan. 1994-95 1993 Bachelor in English Literature, Lahore Grammar College, Lahore, Pakistan. (Passed with Distinction). 1991-92 Fine Arts Foundation Course, National College of Arts, Lahore, Pakistan. Solo Shows 2021 My Body Remembers, Sanat Gallery, Karachi. The Skin We Are In, O Art Space, Lahore. 2018 2017 Re-imagining the Imagined, (Catalogue/Publication); Sanat Gallery, Karachi. Sar-e-Rah, Alhamra Art Gallery, Lahore, 2012 Portraits of Punjab, Unicorn Gallery, Karachi. 2012 Faces of Life, Alhamra Art Gallery, Lahore. 2010 1997 A Show of Etchings & Drawings: Farazeh Syed, Young Professionals Association of Pakistan, New York. Two Person Shows Life in a Play, Farazeh Syed & Minaa Mohsin, Satrang Gallery, Islamabad. 2021 2019 There is No Them, (Catalogue); Sanat Gallery, Karachi. International Shows 2023 Before Meets After, Curator, Ambereen Karamat; The Upside Space. Singapore. 2022 Of Forests & Oceans: Celebrating Our Togetherness, Twelve Gates Arts, Philadelphia, USA. 2021 Artdom II, Artdom Project, A collaboration between women artists from Pakistan & Norway; Sweden, Norway, & Pakistan. Aabarzanaan, Darulaman Palace, Kabul, Afghanistan. 2021 Talk to Me, An Exhibition of Malaysian, Indonesian & Pakistani Artists; A 2021 collaboration between O Art Space, Pakistan, KL City Art Gallery, Malaysia & Art Voice Seven Gallery, Indonesia. 2019 Bienvenue Art Fair, Paris, France. 2017 The Imago Mundi Project for Pakistan, (Publication: Lines in the Sand, Contemporary Art from Pakistan); Curators Aman Mojadidi & Ambereen Karamat; Venice Biennale, Italy. New Art from Pakistan: An Exhibition of Paintings and Sculptures by Pakistani 2012 Artists, A Project of Unicorn Gallery; High Commission for Pakistan, London, UK. Group Exhibitions (Selected) 2023 Reuse Rework Reconsider, A collaboration between Morley College UK, Cowasjee Print Studio, NCA, Lahore & Slaughterhaus Print Studio, UK; A travelling exhibition to Lahore, UK & Sri Lanka; Zahoor al Akhlag Gallery NCA, Lahore. 2023 Nabz, Curator, Scheherazade Junejo; Sanat Initiative, Karachi. Eve's I/Eye II, Curators, R.M. Naeem & Saulat Aimal; Sanat Initiative, Karachi. 2022 2022 The Body & Beyond: Women's Movements in Pakistan, Curator, Farida Batool; Lahore Biennale Foundation, Virtual Museum. 2022 Lines of Inquiry, Curator, Nusrat Khawaja; Chawkandi Art, Karachi. Baagh: Her Perception of Herself and the World, A project by Dr. Sadia 2022 Pasha Kamran; Ejaz Art Gallery, Lahore. A Decade, 10th Anniversary Show; Satrang Gallery, Islamabad. 2022 2022 Moving Stills, Curator, ArtWala; Tasweer Ghar, Lahore. 2022 Art for Humanity, O Art Space, Lahore. 2022 Aamad, Curator, Irfan Gul; O Art Space, Lahore. 2021 Khat o Kitaabat, Curators, R. M. Naeem & Nurayah Sheikh Nabi; O Art Space, Lahore & Koel Gallery, Karachi. The Architecture of Being, AAN Ideas Gandhara Art Space, Karachi. 2021 Artdom II- A collaborative project of the Artdom Project between women 2021 artists from Pakistan and Norway, Sanat Initiative, Karachi. An Etch in Time, A Box-Print Show of Etchings by 7 Artists; Inkster Print 2020 Studio, Lahore. 1 x 1, Curators, Shehrazade Junejo, Zara Sajid, Irfan Gul; Full Circle Gallery 2020 Karachi, O Art Space Lahore, & Embassy of France, Islamabad. Empowering Pakistan, Curator, Zara Sajid; World Bank, Islamabad. 2020 2020 Prints for Pandemic Relief, Selling Art to Fight Covid 19 in Pakistan, Online Fundraiser. 2019 Drawing Room Diamonds, (Publication), Curator, CHAMPA (Emaan Mehmud), Sanat Commune/Sanat Initiative, Karachi. UnMaking History, (Catalogue), Curator, Laila Rehman, Natasha Malik, 2019 Sahar Sohail, Resesarch & Publication Centre, Lahore. Opinion, Knowledge & Truth: Knowing to Transform, (Catalogue), 12.0 2019 Contemporary, Islamabad. Self Portraits in the Age of the Selfie, COMO Museum, Lahore. 2019 2018 Four Women Four Stories, (Catalogue); A Project of Studio RM; Curator, Irfan Gul; Sanat Gallery Karachi. Love Letters, (Catalogue); Curator, Mohsin Shafi; Sanat Gallery, Karachi. 2017 2016 Recent Works by Farazeh Syed, Buland Igbal, & Alee Saad, Chawkandi Art Gallery, Karachi. MA (Hons.) Visual Art Degree Show 2015, Art Scene Gallery, Karachi. 2016 2015 MA (Hons.) Visual Art Degree Show, (Catalogue); Zahoor al Akhlaque Gallery, National College of Arts, Lahore. Figure in Movement, Abrar Ahmed, Ashok Bhowmick, Farazeh Sved & 2014 Noori Berdi, Unicorn Gallery, Karachi. 28th Annual Exhibition of Painting, Sculpture & Graphic Arts, (Catalogue); 2014 Artists' Association of Punjab; Alhamra Art Gallery, Lahore. 2011 United- in the Age of Dialogue, (Catalogue); Contemporary Art Fair 2011, A Rastay Project; National Art Gallery, Islamabad. United we Stand, (Catalogue), Vogue Art Gallery, Lahore. 2011 Representational is not a Dirty Word, Poppy Seed Gallery, Karachi. 2010 Summer Breeze, Vogue Art Gallery, Lahore. 2010 Faces, Traces, Places, Galleria 919, Karachi. 2009 2009 A Show of Drawings, (Catalogue), Vogue Art Gallery, Lahore. 2009 Contemporary Art Fest 919, A pen and ink/charcoal show by contemporary leading and renowned Pakistani artists, Galleria 919, Karachi. 23rd Annual Exhibition of Painting, Sculpture & Graphic Arts (National 2009 Show), (Catalogue); Artist's Association of Punjab & Punjab Council of the Arts; National Art Gallery, Islamabad. An Encounter with Nature, Vogue Art Gallery, Lahore. 2009 Emerging Artists, Crow Eaters Gallery, Lahore. 2004 2002 17th National Exhibition 2002-Painting, Sculpture, Graphic Arts, (Catalogue), Artist's Association of Punjab, Lahore. 13th Annual Exhibition of Paintings, Sculpture, and Graphic Arts, (Catalogue), 1998 Artist's Association of Puniab, Lahore. National Exhibition of Paintings, Sculpture and Graphic Arts in Celebration 1997 of the 50th Anniversary of Pakistan, (Catalogue), Artist's Association of Punjab, Lahore. 1997 Exhibition of Drawings, Water Colours and Pastels, (Catalogue), Artist's Association of Punjab, Lahore. Annual Exhibit, Gandhara Art School, Islamabad. 1995 1994 Women Artists in Pakistan, Pakistan National Council of Arts, Islamabad. 1994 Young Artists' Exhibition, Pakistan National Council of Arts, Islamabad. Public/Private Collections Imago Mundi, Luciano Benetton Collection Furgaan Ahmed Collection Professional Experience Associate Professor (Visiting Faculty), Printmaking & Digital Media, National 2022-23 College of Arts, Lahore. External Juror, Bachelor, Fine Arts, Institute of Art and Culture, Lahore. 2023 2022 External Juror, Bachelor, Fine Arts, 4th Year, National College of Arts, Lahore. 2022 Research Assistant, 'Ilm-eMausiqui', Lahore Biennale Foundation, Virtual Museum. 2022 External Juror, 1st Year, Master in Visual Arts, National College of Arts, Lahore. Tutor, 1st & 2nd Year, Master in Visual Arts, National College of Arts, Lahore. 2022 2022 External Juror, 2nd Year, Master in Visual Arts, National College of Arts, Lahore. 2022 Internal Juror, 3rd Year, Bachelor, Fine Arts, National College of Arts, Lahore. Visiting Faculty, Academic Writing & Critical Reading, Beacon House 2021-22 National University. School of Visual Art & Design, Lahore. 2020 External Juror, 1st Year, Master in Visual Arts, National College of Arts, Lahore. External Juror, 1st Year, Kinnaird College for Women, Lahore. 2020 External Juror, Graduate Thesis, Kinnaird College for Women, Lahore. 2019 External Juror, Diploma Program, Fine Arts, National College of Arts. 2019 Lahore. 2002-11 Figure Drawing & Painting Instructor (A Level), Lahore Grammar School, Lahore. Research Associate/Incharge, Musicology Department, Sanjan 1995-04 Nagar Institute of Philosophy & Arts, Lahore. Lecturer, South Asian Cultural History and History of Indian Classical Music, 2003-04 Musicology Department, National College of Arts, Lahore. Curator/In charge, Oriental Art Gallery, Oriental College of Arts, Lahore. 2002 2001 Graphic/Web Designer, Net Blasé, Lahore. Painting of Women and Eunuchs as Subjects, Red Light District, Lahore. 1997-98 Graphic Designer, Mastech Advertising, Islamabad. 1995 Press / Reviews 2021 The Burden of Being, Quddus Mirza; The News on Sunday, 31 October 2021 The Colourful World of Female Artists-Part III, Maheen Aziz; The News International, 23 March 2021. The Better Half, Quddus Mirza; The News on Sunday, 07 March 2021 2021 2020 A Spotlight on Contemporary Pakistani Female Artists, Nayha Jehangir Khan; Youlin Magazine, 25 March 2020. Unmaking Histories, Saulat Ajmal; The Aleph Review, 30 March, 2020. 2020 The Artwork of Four Pakistani Artists showcased during Paris Art Week, 2019 DNA News, Paris, 12 October 2019. Unmaking History-Changing Narratives, Khadijah Rehman; Youlin Magazine, 2019 04 November 2019. 2019 Unmaking History Enthralls Art Lovers, The Nation, 01 November 2019. 2019 A Tale of Two Psyches, Nusrat Khawaja; Newsline Magazine, June 2019 There is No Them by Mohsin Shafi and Farazeh Syed at Sanat Gallery, 2019 Varda Nasir; Youlin Magazine, 25 April 2019. All Hail Woman: Artists Push Boundaries to Nurture the Female Voice, Zara 2019 Sajid; Hello Pakistan Magazine, March 2019 Issue. Lines in the Sand: Contemporary Art from Pakistan, The Imago Mundi 2018 Project, Luciano Benetton Collection. A Space of Her Own, Nusrat Khawaja; Newsline Magazine, 28 May 2018. 2018 Four Women Shaping their Space, Noor Butt; Art Now, Contemporary Art of 2018 Pakistan, Newsletter, June 2018. Four Women Four Stories, Marjorie Hussain; She Magazine, Mav 2018. 2018 You Can't Ignore Her, Nusrat Khawaja; Newsline Magazine, 18th October 2017 2017. Re-imagining the Imagined, Nageen Jawaid Sheikh; Art Now, Contemporary 2017 Art of Pakistan, November 01 2017. Breaking Boundaries, Nadeem Zuberi; Business Recorder, December 01 2017 2017 Love Letters: An Almost Forgotten Art, Hira Mannan; Art Now Contemporary Art of Pakistan, March 01 2017. 2016 Questioning the Colonial Norms of Aesthetics, Naeem Sadhu; Dawn Lahore, Sunday, August 28 2016. Being More with Less, Najam Soharwardi; The News International, February 2016 25 2016. Art Facts: Sensous Forms and Narratives, Nadeem Zubairi; Business 2016 Recorder, March 12 2016. 2012 Reviving Still Life Painting: Capturing Sadness on Canvas, Sonia Malik; The Express Tribune, December 06 2012. Expository Painting, Muniza Agha Fawad; Nigaah, Arts & Culture from 2012 South Asia, Vol. 1. Twenty. Faces of Life, Amna R. Ali; Newsline, February 2012 Issue. 2012 Portraiture: Shades of Women, Saima Salman; Dawn, January 29 2012. 2012 2012 Women & Colours, Peerzada Salman; Dawn, January 14 2012. 2010 Two Exhibitions Revive Art Scene, Shahab Ansari; The News International, October 23 2010. 2010 Portraiture: Passion for Portraits, Saira Dar; Dawn, March 07 2010. Painting the Faces of Life, Daily Times, Lahore Edition, February 02 2010. 2010 Faces, Traces, Places, Anwer Mooraj; Dawn, December 20 2009. 2009 2009 Black & White & Shades of Grey, Dua Abbas Rizvi; Friday Times, November 13-19 2009. A Show of Drawings, Saira Dar; Dawn, October 25 2009. 2009 Human Feelings Expressed on Canvas, Fawad Ali Shah; Daily Times, 2009 October 11 2009. 2004 Work by Ten Artists, Daily Times, Site Edition; May 14 2004. 1994 Paintings Depicting Problems of the Down Trodden, Rana Javed Iqbal; The News, September 16 1994. Bright Side of the Moon, Mussarrat Nahid Imam; The Nation, September 23 1994 Preserving the Work of Young Artists, Huma Masroor; The Nation, August 1994 18 1994. **Publications** Published artwork: Feminist Review & Queer Elsewheres: South Asian 2023 Imaginaries across Intersectional Terrain. Published artwork: The Aleph Review- An Annual Anthology of Contemporary 2022 Creative Literary and Artistic Expression. 2021 Published Essay Feminizing & Sexualizing the Orient as the Mysterious Other in 19th Century Orientalist Art: Journal Research in Arts & Education; The Creative Process: Critical Perspectives on Art, Research & Education from Pakistan & Beyond, Aalto University, School of Arts, Design & Architecture, Department of Art, Finland. Published artwork: Bano's Companion to Feminist Art-Women, Art and 2021 Politics in Pakistan, by Sadia Pasha Kamran. Published cover artwork: autobiography Bezubaani Zubaan na ho Jayay, 2020 Malka Pukhrai. Published artwork: Words Without Borders: The Online Magazine for 2020 International Literature, https://www.wordswithoutborders.org/ 2019 Published artwork: Lines in the Sand, Contemporary Art from Pakistan, The Imago Mundi Project for Pakistan, Curated by Aman Mojadidi & Ambereen Karamat, Venice Biennale. Writings Feminizing & Sexualizing the Orient as the Mysterious Other in 19th Century 2017 Orientalist Art, Dissertation MA Visual Arts, National College of Arts, A Musical Approach to Painting, National College of Arts, (Library). 2015 2004 The History of South Asian Classical Music in its Social and Cultural Context, Third Quarterly Report, Sanjan Nagar Institute of Philosophy and Arts in collaboration with Unesco. Woh Baatein Teri Woh Fasaane Tere, Outlook India, February 23 2004. 2004 1998 The Preserver of a Traditional Heritage—Bashir Ahmed, The Nation, December 1998. Contemporary Artists Make History, The Friday Times, June 12 1998. 1998 Residencies 2022 Inkster Print Studio (in collaboration with Shakir Ali Museum) Artist Residency, Lahore. (Open Studio). Vermont Studio Center Artists' Residency, Vermont, USA (Open Studio). 2020 Inkster Box Print Artists' Residency, Inkster Print Studio, Lahore. 2019 2019 Wood Cut Artist Residency, Inkster Print Studio, Lahore. Awards & Grants Merit Grant, Artists' Residency, Global Art Center, Belgium. 2023 Nominated: Sovereign Asian Art Prize, Sovereign Art Foundation. 2020 2020 Merit Grant, The Vermont Studio Center Artists' Residency, USA. Semi Finalist in the Open Call by Brick Lane Gallery, London. 2020 2005 Gold Medal, Masters in School Education and Administration, Beacon House National University, Lahore, Pakistan. Projects / Workshops 2023-24 Reuse Rework Reconsider, A collaboration between Morley College UK, Cowasjee Print Studio, NCA, Lahore & Slaughterhaus Print Studio, UK. 2022-23 Box Print Project, Cowasjee Print Studio, National College of Arts, Lahore. 2021 Collograph & Mixed Media Workshop, Inkster Print Studio, Lahore. Indo-Persian Miniature Painting, Irfan Hassan Studio, Lahore. 2018 2016-17 Hum Sab Ceramic Workshop, Lahore. The Concerns and Contexts of Art Practice, Akifa Mian, National College of 2015 Arts, Lahore. 2004 Recording, Performance and Criticism, Studio Recording and Musical Criticism, Sanjan Nagar Institute of Philosophy and Arts, Lahore. 2004 Semiotics, Dr. Lowell Lybarger, Sanjan Nagar Institute of Philosophy and Arts, Lahore. Advanced Writing Techniques, Dr. Lowell Lybarger, Sanjan Nagar Institute 2004 of Philosophy and Arts, Lahore. 2003 Intelligent Listening of Music, Sarah Zaman, Sanjan Nagar Institute of Philosophy and Arts, Lahore. 2003 Tabla—Tala/Matra Appreciation and Recognition, Ustad Sajjad Manni, Sanjan Nagar Institute of Philosophy and Arts, Lahore. Designed Government Website for Sialkot, AOS, Lahore. 2002 Visuals for Gender Training Program, Kashf Foundation, Lahore. 1997 1994 Visuals for Annual Calendar, Siza Pharmaceuticals, Lahore. Selected Professional Presentations Vermont Studio Center, Artist Presentation, USA. 2020 2020 Evil O-Coronavirus Artpocalypse: The Art World Responds-Part 7, YouTube Series by Waswo X. Waswo. Instagram Live Talks-White Turban, Artist Talk. 2020 Como Museum of Art, Artist Talk, Lahore. 2019 Master in Visual Arts, Artist Talk, National College of Arts, Lahore. 2017 Gallery Representation Antidote Dubai, Dubai. Twelve Gates Art Gallery, Philadelphia, USA. Canvas Gallery, Karachi. Sanat Gallery, Karachi. O Art Space, Lahore. Satrang Gallery, Islamabad. Khamsa Art. Musical Performances International Sufi Music Festival, Rafi Peer Theatre 2015 International Sufi Music Festival, Rafi Peer Theatre 2011 2009 All Pakistan Music Conference (Semi Classical Genre) All Pakistan Music Conference (Semi Classical Genre) 2006 All Pakistan Music Conference (Semi Classical Genre) 2002



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

○ canvasgallery2014@gmail.com○ www.canvasgallery.net○ canvasgallerykhi① canvas.galleryУ Canvas.Gallery