

Artist statement

I spent a large part of my childhood visiting my maternal village Sanda Kalaan, situated on the banks of the river Ravi just outside Lahore, which brought me in close reach of nature in its wild state.

I evolved as a painter in constant movement, experimenting with expression - exploring how to express ideas and emotions through various techniques and modes of expression. I must be among the few painters who went from figurative to non-figurative and then back to figuration. As my involvement with my political activism increased, I wanted to share my aesthetic fulfilment, ideas and concerns with the viewer - and as many as possible. Not just questions of sharing a mood or an aesthetic experience but also a question of addressing live issues that were affecting the lives of people and nations - the Vietnam war, the Palestine struggle, the struggle of the working class against the establishment. I could not look away from all this. How could any artist not address these questions?

In my painting you can see influences of the European landscape painters as well as Chinese landscapes. There are also inspirations drawn from Persian and Rajput Miniatures. In contemporary painting the Pop Art Movement that drew attention to trite, everyday things provided me a means of conveying my thoughts to the viewer. In my early years I loved Gauguin and his flora and fauna of Tahiti in stylised form and colours. In my middle years Cezanne helped me to restructure myself. I was very disenchanted at that time when I left St Martins and did not paint for two to three years. When I restarted Cezanne was of great value and I also enjoyed Kline, Rothko and Monet.

Profile

Ijaz ul Hassan is one of the most dynamic and prolific artists of Pakistan. His work spreads over seventy years, his expansive murals command attention, his intimate sketches and paintings compel concentration; his creativity demands unstinted admiration.

FS Aijazuddin in an introductory paragraph to the book -

'Ijaz ul Hassan - Five decades of Painting'

Ijaz is a painter who seeks to record the concerns of a common citizen. His landscapes, often focus on sturdy species of nature for their resilience and message of hope. He is sympathetically aware of world events. Be it a catastrophe in Pakistan, in Vietnam, or Palestine and other parts of the world. He is an author who wrote one of the most comprehensive books about Pakistani art and a series of many witty and readable articles for the press. He was a popular teacher and a political activist. He writes poetry in English, Urdu and Punjabi. He is an enthusiastic global traveller who always carried his sketch book and has thus produced more than four hundred drawings that remind us of all the exotic and historic places

MIAN IJAZ UL HASSAN

President's Award for Pride of Performance (1991)

Sitara-e-Imtiaz (2015)

ACADEMIC RECORD

1966 MA (English) St. John's College, Cambridge, UK.
1961 MA (English) Government College, Lahore.
1959 Topped in Fine Arts, Punjab University B.A Examination.
1961-1962 St Martin's School of Art, London.
1957 HSC Aitchison College, Lahore.
1955 - 1957 Rambir Shamsheer Jang Art Prize for best Artist.

POSITIONS HELD

2010 Chairman, Working Group for Culture and Heritage, Planning Commission of Pakistan.
2010-13 Member Academic Council, Government College University Lahore.
2010-13 Chairman Executive Committee, BOG, National College of Arts Lahore.
2014-17 Member BOG, Punjab Council of the Arts.
1985-88 Member BOG, Punjab Folk Arts and Crafts Museum.
1994-97 Member Executive Committee, Lahore Museum.
1984-87 Member, Board of Studies, Balochistan University, Quetta.
1986 to date Chairman, National Artists' Association of Pakistan.
1986 to date Chairman, Artists Association of Punjab.
1985-88 Member BOG, Punjab Council of the Arts.
1984-1993 Vice Chairman, National Crafts Council of Pakistan.
1973-1978 President, Pakistan Artists' Equity, (National org. of T.V and Radio, artists, painters, actors, play writers and musicians)
1974 Member, National Committee for formulating the first National Policy for Arts and Culture

NATIONAL DELEGATE TO INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS AND CONFERENCES

1986 National Delegate: Workshop on Crafts Museum, New Delhi.
1989 National Delegate: Workshop for Tourism and Heritage Conservation, New Delhi.
1989 National Delegate: 16th Asian Assembly of the World Crafts Council, Colombo, Sri Lanka.
1989 Head National Delegation for SAARC Painters Camp at Kufri, India.
1991 National Commissioner, Exhibition of Pakistan Paintings at the IMF Visitors Centre, Washington DC.
1992 National Commissioner SAARC, Exhibition of Contemporary Art of Pakistan, at the First South Asian Festival at New Delhi, and Trivandrum, India.

PUBLICATIONS AND DOCUMENTARIES

1991, 1996 Author of book Ijaz ul Hassan 'Painting in Pakistan', published by Ferozsons Ltd, 6th edition.
2003-06 Weekly Article, for the Daily Times ('The way it was' on art, social & political issues)
Written Papers & articles for seminars, journals and newspapers in Pakistan and abroad.

PAKISTAN TELEVISION DOCUMENTARIES

Documentaries on Pakistani Artists.
Episodic weekly documentaries on painting titled, "Art Cafe" from pre-historic times to Pakistan. The episodes are available on [youtube/ptvhome/artcafe](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpTvHome/artcafe).

TELEVISION INTERVIEWS

CNN (Washington), Al Jazeera (Washington), Voice of America, PTV, GEO, Punjab TV, AAJ TV, HUM TV, DAWN TV, City-42.

ART WORKS IN PUBLIC COLLECTION

Fukuoka Art Museum, Japan,
Kentucky Cardiology Centre, USA,
Prime Minister House, Islamabad
National Assembly of Pakistan, Islamabad,
Pakistan Foreign Office, Pakistan
High Commission, India,
National Film Development Authority (mural)
The National Art Gallery of Pakistan,
The Lahore Arts Council (Ceramic mural),
The Lahore Museum, Punjab Art Gallery,
Punjab Council of the Arts
The Governor House, Sindh.
IGI Insurance Company.

LECTURES AND TALKS

Delivered Lectures, talks on subjects of fine arts and culture at Universities, Museums and Cultural Bodies in Pakistan and abroad.

INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBITIONS

Represented Pakistan in International Art Exhibition held at USA, Britain, France, Germany, Belgium, Italy, Japan, India, Bangladesh, Jordan, Brazil, Egypt, Morocco, Korea and Indonesia.

GROUP SHOWS

1975-76 National Film Development Authority (NAFDEC) Titled 'Imaging'
size: 10 ft. x 23 ft.
Lahore Council of Arts (The Alhamra) Ceramic mural titled: Punjab Culture and Heritage Landscape. size approx: 20 ft x 70 ft.
International General Insurance Company Titled: Let Thousands Plants Bloom (1990)
size: 8 ft. x 16.