



CANVAS

GALLERY

AHSAN JAVAID

Two Pasts Meet Memory

6 MAY - 15 MAY 2025

Artist statement

My practice explores the intersections of identity, memory, and power, engaging with how histories are constructed, obscured, and remembered. I am particularly drawn to the gaps and silences within collective narratives, examining how power operates within visual culture and materiality, shaping what is preserved and what fades from view.

This body of work was informed by socio-political literary texts that serve as entry points for visual exploration. Rather than directly translating or illustrating the text, my process fosters a dialogue between language and image. The texts I engage with provide a loose framework, carrying layers of meaning, history, and memories. I work with found imagery from print media and digital archives, using painting, drawing, and collage as my primary layering devices. Through deconstruction and reassembly, I shape compositions where fragmented histories, collective memory, and lived experience converge into fluid, evolving forms of visual storytelling. The process of cutting, layering, and recomposing mirrors the fluidity of historical memory—how events are recalled, altered, or reframed across time and space. Figures emerge and recede, gestures interrupt and intertwine, creating compositions that resist linear narratives and invite multiple readings.



Title: Bookings Closed

Year: 2025

Medium: Oil & acrylics on canvas, used clothes in acrylic box

Size: 32 x 29 inches



Detail



Title: Iqbal Park

Year: 2025

Medium: Oil & acrylics on canvas, used clothes in acrylic box

Size: 16 x 17 inches



Detail



Title: Missing from the Pile

Year: 2025

Medium: Oil & acrylics on canvas, used clothes in acrylic box

Size: 42 x 42 inches



Detail

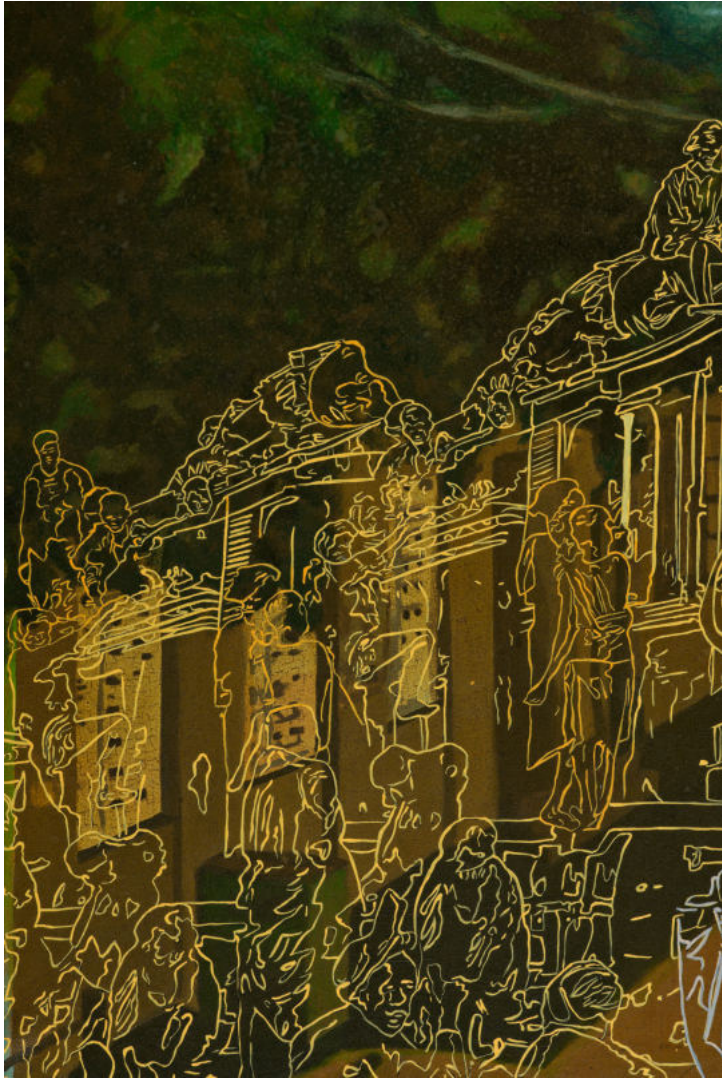


Title: Once Upon a Time in Bolan

Year: 2025

Medium: Oil & acrylics on canvas, used clothes in acrylic box

Size: 44 x 46 inches



Detail



Title: One Late Afternoon

Year: 2025

Medium: Oil & acrylics on canvas, used clothes in acrylic box

Size: 21 x 16 inches



Detail



Title: Practice Makes a Man Perfect

Year: 2025

Medium: Oil & acrylics on canvas, beachwood

Size: 36 x 49 inches



Detail



Title: Return if Found

Year: 2025

Medium: Oil & acrylics on canvas, used clothes in acrylic box

Size: 20 x 16 inches



Detail



Title: Still in Transit

Year: 2025

Medium: Oil & acrylics on canvas, used clothes in acrylic box

Size: 16 x 19 inches



Detail

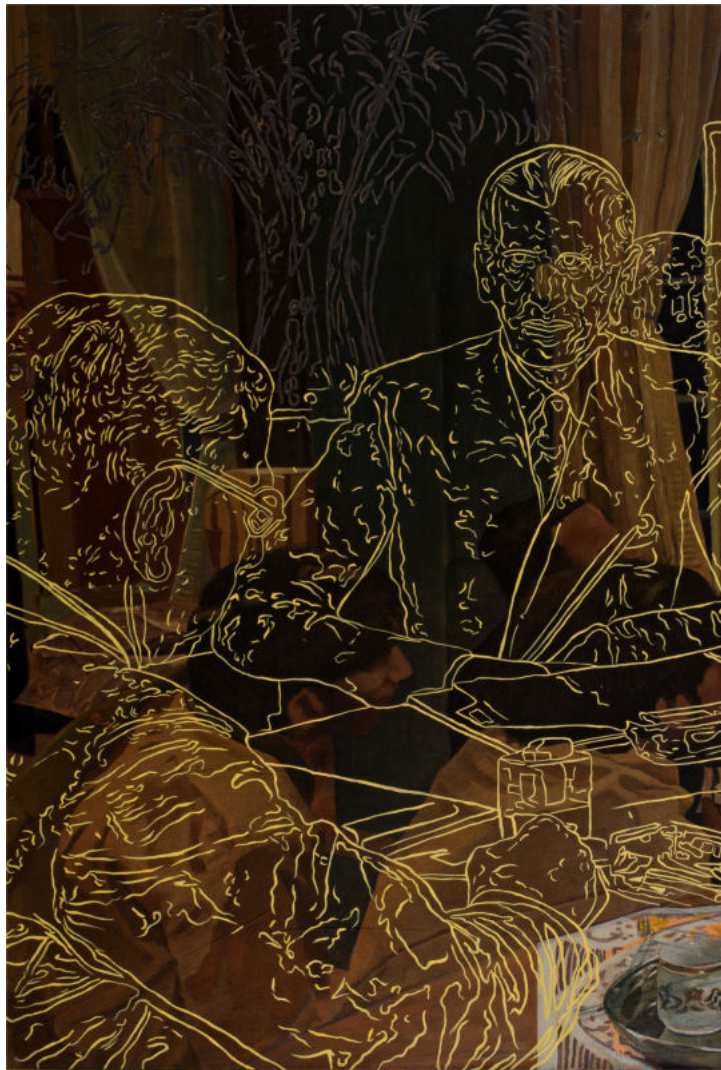


Title: Tea is Fantastic

Year: 2025

Medium: Oil & acrylics on canvas, beachwood

Size: 35 x 72 inches



Detail



Title: Terms & Popsicles

Year: 2025

Medium: Oil & acrylics on canvas, beachwood

Size: 36 x 55 inches



Detail

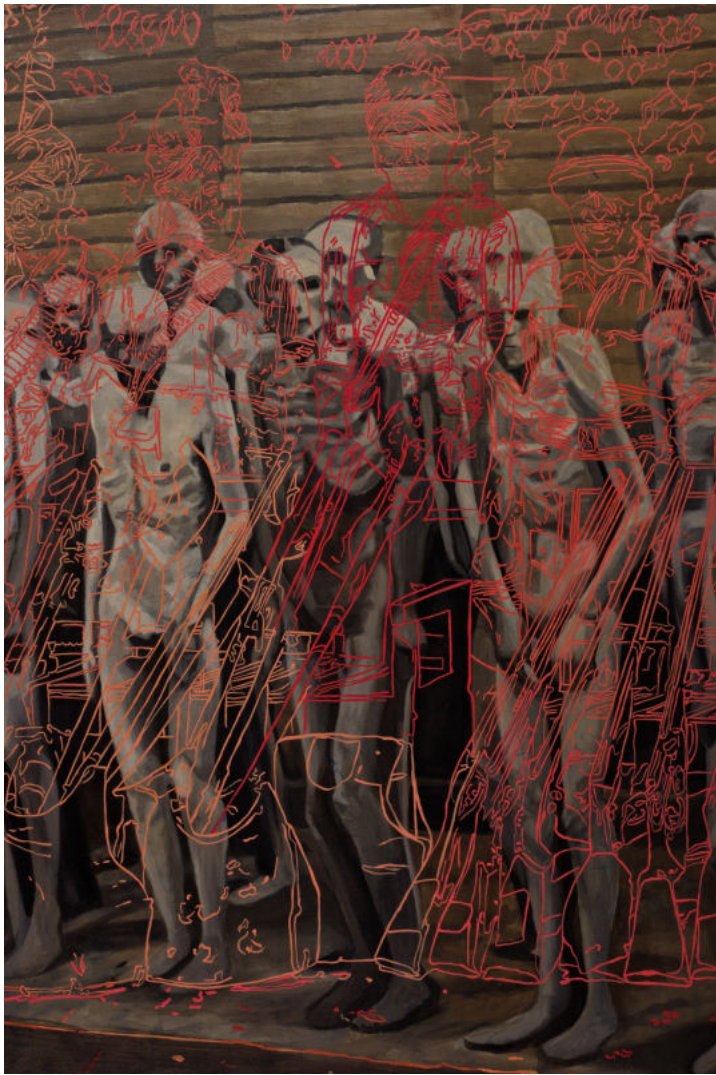


Title: The Line of Fire

Year: 2025

Medium: Oil & acrylics on canvas, beachwood

Size: 40 x 61 inches



Detail



Title: Trespassed

Year: 2025

Medium: Oil & acrylics on canvas, used clothes in acrylic box

Size: 15 x 18 inches



Detail



Title: Unveiled

Year: 2025

Medium: Oil & acrylics on canvas, used clothes in acrylic box

Size: 30 x 29 inches



Detail

Profile

Ahsan Javaid, born in 1992, graduated in Fine Arts (Painting) from the National College of Arts, Lahore, in 2015. Within this very year, Ahsan's work got selected for the 'India Art Award 2016' and he participated in the 'First KBT-OPP Artists Residency' and 'Climate Change and Art: A Practitioner's Retreat' art residency in Swat. He also attended 'Capacity Building and Knowledge Transfer on Preventive Preservation and Basic Conservation of Art in Pakistan' in the same year. Ahsan was also awarded the Arjumand Painting Award 2021. Ahsan has been working with major art galleries in Pakistan including Canvas Gallery, Koel Gallery, Sanat Initiative, O Art Space, Numaish Gah, Gallery 6, Gandhara Art Space, and more. He has also exhibited his works internationally in USA at Rajiv Menon Contemporary, with more shows coming up in 2025. Along with his artistic practice, Ahsan is an art director and also the Co-Founder of Articulate Studios and residencies. Ahsan currently lives and works in Lahore, Pakistan.

Qualification

2016 Bachelor of Fine Arts, National College of Arts, Lahore, Pakistan

Experience

2016 - 20 Drawing Teacher, Studio RM Naeem, Lahore, Pakistan
2018 - 19 Visiting Lecturer, Multimedia department, National college of arts, Lahore, Pakistan
2018 - 19 Assistant Instructor, Lifetime learning program, Lums, Lahore, Pakistan
2013 - 14 Art Director, Telenor Regional Office, Lahore, Pakistan
2012 - 13 Concept Artist, Brand Campaign Project ‘Made of Pakistan’ for Leisure Club, Sefam, Lahore, Pakistan
2010 - 11 Sketch Artist, Brand Campaign for ‘Dalda Olive Oil’ with Bulls Eye Communication, Lahore, Pakistan

Awards

2021 3rd Prize, Arjumand Painting Award, Lahore, Pakistan
2014 2nd Prize, Portrait Competition at Coopera Art Gallery, Lahore, Pakistan
2014 1st Prize, Portrait Competition at Alhamra Art Council, Lahore, Pakistan

Solo Exhibitions

2023 Chinese whispers, Sanat Initiative, Karachi, Pakistan
2021 In Here - Out There O Art Space, Lahore, Pakistan

Exhibitions

2025 Lahore Tal, Rajiv Menon Contemporary, Los Angeles, United States of America
2024 For Outcome/ of Outcome, curated by RM Naeem at Sanat gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
2024 A personal portal, curated by Robella Ahmed at Dastangoi gallery, Islamabad, Pakistan
2024 Like, Share & subscribe, Rajiv Menon Contemporary, Los Angeles, United States of America
2024 24 hours show, Koel gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
2024 figure 24, Gallery 6, Islamabad, Pakistan
2024 Now Streaming, Rajiv Menon Contemporary, Los Angeles, United States of America
2023 NABZ, Sanat Initiative, Karachi, Pakistan
2023 MANKIND, Canvas Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
2023 Likha Hua Hai, Numaish Gah Art Gallery, Lahore, Pakistan
2022 Art for humanity, O Art Space, Lahore, Pakistan
2022 Seher e Sadequain, Gallery 6, Islamabad, Pakistan
2022 The Winners, Gallery 6, Islamabad, Pakistan
2021 UNCURATED, Full Circle Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
2021 Onrushing, Gallery 6, Islamabad, Pakistan
2021 Arjumand Painting Award, Alhamra Art Council, Lahore, Pakistan
2021 Reexamine / Retrace, Gandhara Art Space, Karachi, Pakistan
2021 Virtual reality, O Art Space, Lahore, Pakistan
2020 Drawing, O Art Space, Lahore, Pakistan
2020 12:00 a.m’,Zaman Art Gallery, New York, United States of America
2020 1x1, Antidote, Dubai, UAE
2020 The Cage, City Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2020 1x1, O Art Space, Lahore, Pakistan
2019 1st kbt-opp Artist Residency Exhibition, Alliance franchise, Karachi, Pakistan
2019 1st kbt-opp Artist Residency Open House, Orangi Pilot Project, Karachi, Pakistan
2018 Dichotomy, Canvas Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
2018 Cross Border, Swiss Ambassador’s Residence, Islamabad, Pakistan
2018 Art for artist Qutub rind and Contemporaries, O Art Space, Lahore, Pakistan
2018 Utopian States, O Art Space, Lahore, Pakistan
2018 Seeing and being seen, Canvas gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
2017 2nd TCF GALA, Crown Plaza, New York, United States of America
2017 Social Objects, Canvas gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
2017 Arjumand Painting Award, PNCA, Islamabad, Pakistan
2017 Beyond Today, O Art Space, Lahore, Pakistan
2017 I Love Pakistan, Studio Seven, Karachi, Pakistan
2016 Climate Change an Art, Gallery 6, Islamabad, Pakistan
2016 Celebrating Magnum, Canvas Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
2016 Collective Renditions, Satrang Gallery, Islamabad, Pakistan
2016 Ibtida, Studio Seven, Karachi, Pakistan
2016 Becoming, The Paint Bucket, Lahore, Pakistan
2016 It's all about..., Canvas gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
2016 News from Tomorrow, Karachi Literary Festival, Karachi, Pakistan
2016 Thesis Show, National College of Arts, Lahore , Pakistan
2014 To Find the Properties of Imagination, The Paint Bucket, Lahore, Pakistan
2013 Annual Painting Exhibition, Alhamra Art Council, Lahore, Pakistan

Residencies / Workshops

2022 Partition of identity project by UCL, London, Art based workshop IMKAAN Welfare Foundation, Karachi, Pakistan.
2019 8th Art Beat Workshop, Studio RM Naeem, Lahore, Pakistan
2018 First Karachi Biennale Trust artist residency, curated by Muhammad Zeeshan, Karachi, Pakistan
2018 Youth Form, A workshop for Lahore Biennale, Lahore, Pakistan
2016 Climate Change and Art – A Practitioners, Retreat Residency in Swat, A joint venture of the Ministry of Climate Change, Gallery 6 and East-West Center Association-Islamabad Chapter, Islamabad, Pakistan
2016 Resident Artist, Studio RM Naeem, Lahore, Pakistan
2016 Art Restoration and Conservation Workshop, with internationally renowned conservator Mr. Martin Bernstein and his team from Denmark, Lahore, Pakistan

Publications and Articles

2023 Connected flights of imagination written by Quddus Mirza
2020 Back to square one written by Quddus Mirza
2018 Seeing and Being Seen written by Peerzada Salman
2017 Revival of the Fittest” written by Quddus Mirza
2017 Of absences and empty spaces” written by Sabeen Ehsan
2019 Perceiving Orangi with a fresh frame of reference: maps altering Perceptions” written by Koonji Syed
2016 It's all about written by Peerzada Salman
2018 Seeing and Being Seen written by Majorie Husain
2018 Bougainvilleas and currency notes written by Saira

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