

Artist Statement

In Retribution, I navigate the timeless themes of judgment, redemption, and the troubled contours of the human condition, using as a major point of reference, Michelangelo's magnificent altar piece at the Sistine Chapel, Vatican the Last Judgment. My carvings on wood attempt to rejuvenate the visceral and evocative images that Michelangelo so masterfully created in The Last Judgement, which stand as a highly relevant contemporary testament to the world's ongoing struggles for moral justice.

Each art work allows the viewers to confront mind - boggling moral and ethical dilemmas that transcend both time and place. The portrayal of the horror- struck damned soul, encircled by demons, evoking the perpetual struggle between light and darkness that is firmly ensconced within humanity. During the process, the angels blowing the trumpet herald the awakening of the soul, a clarion call for arousing awareness on the theme of retribution, emphasizing that actions resonate well beyond their immediate consequence.

The angels presenting the Book of Deeds provoke an inward contemplation on self- accountability, urging us to reexamine the weight of our moral choices and their lasting imprint on both our inner psyche and a wider global ethos.

Retribution provides the visitor with an opportunity to reflect on the ongoing impact of our cerebral choices and on the complex dilemmas enmeshed within our daily actions, they are persistent whispers from our not-so-distant past, urging us to re-navigate the fragile boundaries between existence and the collapse of our moral ethos, so as to achieve invigorating societal solution to our ongoing dilemmas.

Adeela Suleman - 2025

Sada e Mehshar – Raag Marwa in D Flat 9th

Composed by Arshad Mahmud and Ustad Nafees Ahmed

A technical note on the accompanying music for the Kingdom of Retribution exhibition

Sada e Mehshar: Raag Marwa in D Flat 9th, has been especially composed for artist Adeela Suleman's Retribution by Arshad Mahmud and Ustad Nafees Ahmed. The composition consists of a transformative musical journey that transcends cultural boundaries – a fusion of the rich tradition of northern Hindustani classical music as revealed in Raag Marwa, which is the most prominent raag in the Marwa Thaata. The resulting composition of classical fusion music encapsulates a depth of melancholic complexity in human emotion, drawing on the music of two distinct sitars and one surbahar; accompanied by tanpuras and intricate percussions on tabla, pakhawaj and the garha. The essentially South Asian instrumentation of the composition is interlaced with strands of western classical music in both wind and string forms - the church organ, the oboe, French horn and trumpet arrays, entwined with orchestral string elements - violins, cellos and the bass clarinet, punctuated at climactic points at the sam with a clashing sound of cymbals.

Raag Marwa given its dominant status in the Marwa Thaata is embedded with a defining musical juxtaposition of notes from other raags, and these re-surface in the composition for Retribution – Durga, Bhopali, Megh, Adana and Malkuns. The listener is drawn in to an intricate tapestry of sounds as he contemplates the images of trumpets awakening the dead and their journeys into paradise and hell.

Each raag drawn to the surface in the Marwa composition contributes its unique character, creating a rich interlocking dialogue that hovers uneasily between hope and melancholy. Ustad Nafees's voice begins with an evocative alaap, which transmutes into a series of interlocking sargams and taans as the composition moves inexorably towards its final climax.

Sada e Mehshar stands at the intersection of both tradition and innovation. In the work of composers Arshad and Nafees there is a harmonious convergence of cultures from both the east and west, that enables the listener to seek a deeper understanding of a day of judgement within our inner selves.

Profile

Adeela Suleman received her BFA from the Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, Karachi in 1999 and her MA in International Relations from Karachi University in 1995. Suleman was the Head of Fine Art Department at The Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, Karachi, Pakistan from 2008-2019. She is the founding member and director of Vasl Artists' Association Karachi, Pakistan, founding member & director of Odd Bird Art, Singapore, Pakistan, and founding member and director of Suleman Annual Grant for Arts – SAGA, Karachi, Pakistan

Suleman has exhibited in numerous solo exhibitions including those at Grosvenor Gallery, London, UK (2024); The Barracks Art Museum, Lahore, Pakistan (2024); Midlands Arts Center, Birmingham, UK (2022); Sullivan+ Strumpf, Singapore (2019); Aicon Gallery, New York, USA (2017); Gandhara Art Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan (2017); Davide Gallo Gallery, Milan, Italy (2017); Canvas Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan (2015); Aicon Gallery, New York, USA (2014); Canvas, Karachi, Pakistan (2012); Alberto Peola Gallery, Torino, Italy (2012); Aicon Gallery, London, UK (2011); Rohtas Gallery, Lahore, Pakistan (2008).

She has taken part in group exhibitions at notable Museums and foundations and her works are part of notable international public collections. Suleman has also participated in the Lisbon Jewelry Biennale, Portugal (2024); Art Basel Hong Kong (2024); Busan Biennale, South Korea (2022); Karachi Biennale, Pakistan (2017 and 2019); Singapore Biennale (2016); Asian Art Biennial, Taichung, Taiwan (2013); SEA+ Triennial, Jakarta, Indonesia (2013); Asia Triennial II, Manchester, UK (2011); 2nd Fukuoka Asian Art Triennial, Fukuoka, Japan (2002). Her work has been shown numerous times at , Art Dubai, Abu Dhabi Art Fair , India Art Fair and Armory, New York and Art Basel Hongkong.

Her work has been reviewed by several magazines, catalogues and newspapers such as Art Forum, BOMB Magazine, Wall Street International, New York Times, Publications, Art Radar Asia, Art Link Magazine and Art Asia Pacific.

Suleman's Monograph "Not everyone's Heaven" was printed by Skira in 2020. Her second book "Art, Violence and the State in the Killing Fields of Karachi" was published and co-authored by Mariam Ali Baig in 2022. Suleman lives and works in Karachi, Pakistan.

EDUCATION

1999	BFA in Sculpture, Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture. Karachi, Pakistan.
1995	MA in International Relations, University of Karachi. Karachi, Pakistan.
1992	Bachelor of Arts, St Joseph College. Karachi. Pakistan

WORK EXPERIENCE

2024	Visiting Faculty, Department of Sculpture, National College of Art (NCA), Lahore Pakistan.
2023 till present	Director and Founding Member of Suleman Annual Grant for Arts (SAGA), Pakistan
2022 till present	Director and Founding member of ODD BIRD ART, Singapore, Pakistan
2008 till present	Director and founding member of Vasl Artists' Association (formally known as Vasl Artists' collective)
2021	Visiting Faculty, Associate Professor, Department of Fine Art, Indus Valley School of Art & Architecture. Karachi, Pakistan.
2008-21	Associate Professor, Department of Fine Art, Indus Valley School of Art & Architecture. Karachi, Pakistan.
2008-19	Head – Department of Fine Art, Indus Valley School of Art & Architecture. Karachi, Pakistan.
2006-07	Co-Coordinator of the Vasl Artists' Collective, Karachi, Pakistan
2001-07	Coordinator of the Department of Fine Art- Department of Visual Studies, Karachi University.
2001-06	Working group member of the Vasl Art Trust, Karachi, Pakistan.
2005	Visiting Faculty Member of Indus Valley School of Art & Architecture. Karachi, Pakistan.

WORKS IN THE COLLECTION OF

Works are part of notable international public collections including the Barts Health-NHS London, UK; Qatar Museum, Qatar ; Devi Art Foundation, Gurgaon, India; Kiran Nader Museum of Art, New Delhi, India; Art in Embassies Collection, USA; Art Gallery New South Wales, Australia; Orlando Museum of Art , Orlando, Florida, USA; Flame Towers, Baku, Azerbaijan; Four Seasons Hotel, New Delhi, India, Hilton Hotel Bangaluru, India; Manchester Art Gallery, Manchester , UK ; Pinakothek Der Moderne, Munich ,Germany, Queensland Art Gallery , Brisbane, Australia, Denver Museum, USA, HBL Art Collection, Pakistan and The Kier Foundation, Sydney, Australia.

UPCOMING SHOWS

2026	Solo Show, Canvas Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
2025	Group Show, Glynn Vivian art Gallery, Swansea, Wales, UK

SOLO SHOW

2025	The Kingdom of Retribution, Canvas Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
2024	Retribution, The Barracks Art Museum, Lahore. Pakistan
2024	Exit the Tiger: Symbols of Valour in Tipu's India, Grosvenor Gallery, London, UK
2023	Solo Show, Art Dubai- Contemporary, Canvas Gallery Booth, Dubai, UAE
2022	Allegory of War, Midlands Arts Center, Birmingham, UK
2021	Armory Show, Solo booth, Aicon Contemporary, New York. USA
2021	Mercy Shall Follow Me, Aicon Gallery, New York, USA.
2020	Dubai Art Fair- Bawwaba Artists curated by Nancy Adajani, Solo Booth, Canvas gallery, Dubai, UAE
2019	Ashes to Ashes, Sullivan + Strumpf Gallery, Singapore
2019	Dubai Art Fair- Bawwaba Artists curated by Élise Atangana Solo Booth, Aicon gallery, Dubai, UAE
2018	What May Lie Ahead- Canvas Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
2017	From the Ruin to Rust – Galleria Davide Gallo, Milan, Italy.
2017	Not everyone's Heaven – Aicon Gallery, New York, USA.
2017	Fragmented Landscape- Gandhara Art Space, Karachi, Pakistan.
2015	Dream of Carnage. Canvas Gallery. Karachi, Pakistan
2014	Towards the end. Aicon Gallery. New York, USA.
2013	Impulse, Aicon Gallery Booth I-5 at Pulse Art Fair, New York, U.S.
2012	I had no choice but to hear you. Canvas Gallery. Karachi, Pakistan
2012	Solo Show- Alberto Peola Gallery. Torino. Italy.
2011	Solo show- Aicon Gallery London, UKs., in conjunction with site-specific sculpture Drained (2011), for the Manchester Cathedral as part of Asia Triennial Manchester, U.K.
2010	After all it's always somebody else... Aicon gallery, New York, USA.
2008	Uncertainty, Rohtas Gallery, Lahore, Pakistan.
2008	Solo show, Canvas Gallery, Karachi
2007	Confinement- Commune Artist Colony, Karachi, Pakistan.
2002	Salma Sitara and Sisters Motor Cycle Workshop- Preview- Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture.

EXHIBITIONS

2024	Manzar: Art and Architecture from Pakistan 1940s to Today
2024	Materiality as Design: Envisioning Space Through Time, Design Summit 01, Pavilion Lahore Fort, Lahore, Pakistan
2024	Encounters- Special Projects, curated By Alexie Glass Kantor, Art Basel Hong Kong, Hong Kong.
2024	Dil na umeed tu nahin (The heart has not lost hope), Alhamra art Centre, Lahore, Pakistan
2024	Olive Branch, Curated by Nafisa Rizvi, Koel Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan.
2022	We, On the Rising Wave, Busan Biennale, Curated by Haeju Kim, Busan, South Korea
2022	Pagal Pagal Pagal Pagal Filmy Duniya (Mad Mad Mad Mad Filmy world) , Curated by Elham Puriya Mehr , hinterland Galerie , Vienna, Austria.
2022	Art: Key to Conflict Resolution, Curated by Vasia Deliyianni, Casa Bianca, Thessaloniki, Greece
2022	India Art Fair, Aicon Contemporary booth, Delhi, India
2022	Embodied Change: South Asian Art Across Time, Seattle Asian Art Museum, Seattle, USA
2022	Media Art in Focus – Part III, Kunst Collection, Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich, Germany
2021-22	The 10th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art (APT10), Queensland Art Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA), Brisbane, Australia
2021	Abu Dhabi Art, Booth A 21, Aicon contemporary, Abu Dhabi.
2021	Patterns of the Past: Weaving Heritage in Pakistani Art, Curated by Zehra Jumabhoy, Grosvenor Gallery, London, UK in collaboration with Canvas Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan.
2021	SOUL fury, Bendigo Art Gallery, curated by Nur Shkembi, Bendigo, Australia.
2020	A Perfect Society, Aicon Contemporary, New York, USA.
2020	India Art Fair, Aicon Contemporary, New Delhi, India.
2020	Amish Quilts Meet Modern Art, State Textile and Industry Museum Augsburg, Germany
2020	Tapestry of Fading Gardens, IX1 Gallery, Dubai, UAE
2020	IMPART Collector's Show 2020: Material Agenda, curated by Tan Boon Hui, Singapore
2019	Abu Dhabi Art Fair, New Horizons, Aicon Contemporary, Abu dhabi.
2019	Art Dubai, Aicon Contemporary, Dubai.
2019	Very Very Sweet Madina: 1990's Artistic Innovation in Karachi. Curated By Aziz Sohail and Bani Abidi , Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah .
2019	Ecology & Environment KB19 (Karachi Biennale 2019), Curated by Mohammad Zeeshan, Karachi, Pakistan
2019	Burnish Tarnish, Curated by Girish Shahane, Palette Art Gallery, New Delhi, India.
2019	Art Theorem, organized by Imago Mundi, Benetton Foundation.
2019	‘FUTURE PAST: Tradition and Transgression in Contemporary Art from Asia’, Sullivan+Strumpf Sydney, Sydney, Australia
2019	Rhythms of Recurrence, Koel Gallery, Karachi
2019	Museums of Days, Sullivan + Strumpf Gallery Singapore, Singapore.
2019	India Art Fair- Aicon Gallery Booth, Delhi, India
2018	4th Faiz International Festival, Alhamra Art Gallery, Lahore
2018	Art for Education, curated by Salima Hashmi & Rosa Mario Flavo, Museo Diocesana, Milan, Italy.
2018	Objects We Behold, curated by Amra Ali, Gandhara Art Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan.
2018	Fearless -Contemporary South Asian Art, Art Gallery NSW, Sydney, Australia.
2018	Delicate Bond of Steel, Cincinnati Exhibition, Aicon Contemporary.
2018	Art Basel Hong Kong, Hong Kong.
2018	Trompe-l'œil- Curated by Dr. Mikala Tai, Sullivan + Strumpf Gallery, Singapore.
2017	Witness – KB17 -Karachi Biennale – Chief Curator Amin Gulgee, Karachi, Pakistan
2017	I don't want to be there when it happens – Curated by Mikala Tai and Kate warren, Rebecca Warren and Eugenio Viola – PICA- Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts, Perth, Australia.
2017	Art Stage Singapore, Singapore.
2017	I don't want to be there when it happens – Curated by Mikala Tai and Kate warren - 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, Sydney, Australia.
2017	We Ate the Birds- a multidisciplinary project, Curated by Seher Naveed, Koel Gallery, August 2017
2017	The Artist/ Knight – Curated by Joanna de Vos, Curated by Joanna De Vos, Kasteel Van Gaasbeek - Gassbeek Castle Museum, Belgium.
2017	Exhibition of films and talk at Pinakothek Der Modern Museum, Munich, Germany
2017-18	South Asian Design- Exploring how South Asian traditional crafts are inspiring exciting contemporary art, design and fashion. Manchester Art gallery, Manchester, UK
2016-17	An Atlas of Mirrors -Singapore Biennale- Singapore Art Museum, Singapore
2016	Hopes of paradise – Contemporary Art of Pakistan, Grosvenor Gallery, London, UK
2016	Abu dhabi Art Fair, Abu dhabi.
2016	The 70's Pakistan Radioactive Decade, Curated by Niilofar Farrukh & Amin Gulgee. Amin Gulgee Gallery, Karachi Pakistan
2016	Art Stage Singapore, Singapore.
2016	Dubai Art Fair, Dubai- UAE
2016	Indian Art Fair, Delhi- India
2015	Art International Istanbul 2015, Istanbul, Turkey.
2015	The Lay of The Land - Curated by Anushka Rajendran, Latitude28 gallery, New Delhi, India
2015	Art International Istanbul 2015, Istanbul, Turkey
2015	Headlines- Curated by Munawar Ali Syed, Frere Hall, Karachi.
2015	Dubai Art Fair, Dubai- UAE
2015	Indian Art Fair, Delhi- India
2013	+ SEA Triennale 2013, Curator : Jim Supangkat. Suwarno Wisetrotomo, Asikin Hasan, Rizki A. Zaelani, and Rikrik Kusmara. National Gallery of Indonesia. Jakarta, Indonesia.
2013	Everyday life- Asian Art Biennial 2013, Curated by Iris Shu Peng- National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taichung, Taiwan.
2013	Group Show of eminent Modern and contemporary Artists – Canvas gallery, Karachi.
2013	Group Show- Here & Now , Curated by Quddus Mirza. Lahore Art Gallery Lahore, Pakistan.
2013	Scope Art Fair , New York– USA
2013	Indian Art Fair, Delhi- India.
2013	Dubai Art Fair, Dubai- UAE
2013	Pulse Art Fair, New York. USA
2012	Group show celebrating 30 years of Rohtas Gallery.Curated by Quddus Mirza National Gallery Islamabad.
2012	The color of the Narrative- contemporary Art from Pakistan, Curated by Salima Hashmi. Bangkok Art & Culture center. Thailand
2012	Phantom of Asia-Contemporary Awakens the Past. Curated by Mami Katoko curator Mori Art Museum, Japan. Asian Art museum, SanFrancisco. USA
2012	Dubai art fair, Aicon gallery booth Dubai.
2012	Indian art summit, Aicon gallery booth New Delhi
2012	Band Baaja Baarat-group show, Curated by Sameera Raja, IVS gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
2012	Mein-the artist and the self. Curated by Noorjehan Bilgrami and Amean J. Koel Gallery Karachi.
2011	GrouP Show, Curated By Salima Hashmi. Drawing room Art gallery Lahore.
2011	Home Spun. Curated by Girish Shahane. Devi Art Foundation. Delhi. India.
2011	Asia Triennial II, Organized by Shisha. Manchester, UK.October
2011	Reprise .Aicon Gallery, New York.
2011	Dubai art fair, Dubai.
2011	Indian art summit, New Delhi
2011	Mad In Karachi 3D. Curated By Munawar Ali Syed. Art Chowk Gallery. Karachi
2010	RisingTide- curated by Naiza Khan.Mohatta Palace Museum. Karachi, Pakistan.
2010	Abu Dhabi Art Fair, Aicon Gallery booth. Abu Dhabi
2010	In Difesa- fondazione 107, Torino, Italy.
2010	Svelando l'Utopia, Alberto Peola Arte Contemporanea,Torino,Italy.
2010	Resemble reassemble- Devi Art Foundation. Delhi. India
2009	Different Drummer, Curated By Late Usmaan Ghaouri. IVS Gallery, Karachi.
2009	Going Places- Group show,Canvas Gallery, Karachi. Pakistan
2009	Starring the Artists- Self portraits from Pakistan, IVS Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan.
2009	Hanging Fire- contemporary Art from Pakistan. Asia Society Museum, New York, USA.
2009	Emperors new clothing. Talwar Gallery, New York.
2009	Steel Life- Curated by Elisabetta Pozzetti, La Triennale di Milano Museum, Milan Italy.
2009	Failing States-Two person show at Aicon Gallery, London. UK.
2009	Pulse Contemporary Art Fair. New York.
2009	Bologna Art Fair. Bologna , Italy
2008	Women of Light- Galerie Davide Gallo-Berlin, Germany.
2008	Tradition, Technique, Technology –II- Contemporary artists from Pakistan. Aicon Gallery, Palo Alto.USA.
2008	Women of Light- Galerie Davide Gallo-Berlin, Germany.
2008	Video Loop 08'- Barcelona, Spain.
2008	Fiera Internazionale d'Arte contemporanea International Exhibition of Contemporary Art-Bologna Italy
2007	An intensity of Space & Substance and LOVE -National Art Gallery, Islamabad, Pakistan.
2007	Preview Berlin –The emerging art fair- Berlin, Germany
2007	Articulating The Subtext- Curated by Niilofar Furrukh, Alliance Francaise Karachi. Pakistan.
2006	Flights of Fancy- Curated By Quddus Mirza, Royaat Gallery, Lahore. Pakistan.
2006	Body- curated by Amin Gulgee. Amin Gulgee Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan.
2006	Calligraphy- curated by Amin Gulgee. Amin Gulgee gallery, Karachi, Pakistan.
2005	Urban/Culture - CP Open Biennale 2005. Jakarta, Indonesia
2005	Beyond Borders, National Gallery of Modern Art, Bombay, India.
2004	Spielen mit geladenem Gewehr (Playing with the loaded gun), Kunsthalle Fridericianum Kassel, Germany..
2003	43rd Premio Suzzara, Associazione galleria Del Premio Suzzara, Italy.
2003	Playing with the loaded Gun, Apex Art, New York, U.S.A.
2003	Twenty-four Shots per second, Kara Film Fest, Karachi, Pakistan.
2002	Imagined Workshop-2nd Fukuoka Asian Art Triennale, Fukuoka, Japan.