

## Artist statement

Danish Ahmed's solo show delves into a space outside our overcrowded and constrained physical world. Through his work, he endeavors to visualize a realm where unadulterated, original forms exist in their most rudimentary state untainted by the force of time or the restraints of materiality. Taking inspiration from metaphysical and spiritual traditions like Plato's Theory of Forms and Sufi metaphysics, Ahmed views this realm as the origin and destination of all material being. His art practice involves imagining configurations of these pristine forms, attempting harmony and alignment that is reflective of the unchallengeable nature of a higher reality.

The visual language of his work employs rhombus-like shapes serving as portals, or vistas, into this incorporeal cosmos advocating a spatial dimension of their own. Clouds are used metaphorically within his compositions hinting at the fleeting nature of perception and the search for deeper truth. Ultimately, Ahmed's work aims to evoke a sense of harmony and connection with the unseen.

## Profile

Danish Ahmed is a visual artist and academic with three decades of experience in the field. He is currently an Associate Professor at the Indus Valley School of Art & Architecture, where he previously led the Foundation Programme for five years. Before that, he dedicated 17 years to the Textile Institute of Pakistan, serving as the Head of the Textile Design Technology Programme.

Ahmed holds an MFA research degree from the University of New South Wales (UNSW), Sydney, Australia. His work has been featured in numerous group exhibitions across Pakistan, along with a solo show in 2010 at Cross Art Projects in Sydney. Most recently, in 2022, he showcased a solo exhibition at Chawkandi Gallery, Karachi.

Beyond his personal practice, Ahmed is involved in fostering artistic discourse. He is a founding member of The Karachi Collective (TKC), an online platform engaged in discourse around diverse trajectories of cultural and creative diligences rooted in the local, national, and South Asian context.

## Education

- 2010 Master of Fine Art (MFA) - Painting, College of Fine Arts (CoFA), University of New South Wales, Australia
- 2001 Bachelor of Arts, University of Karachi
- 1994 Four year Diploma in Fine arts – Painting from Karachi School of Arts - First class first position

## Professional Experience

- 2016 - Present Associate Professor - Foundation Programme  
Head of Foundation Programme (July 2016 - July 2021)  
Deputy Director - Quality Enhancement Cell (2017 – 2022)  
Indus Valley School of Art & Architecture, Karachi
- 2021 - Present Co-Founder, Member Advisory Panel - Art and Design Coordinator,  
The Karachi Collective
- 1999 - 2016 Associate Professor & Program Coordinator, Textile Institute of Pakistan (TIP), Karachi
- 2009 Adjunct Faculty, College of Fine Arts (CoFA), UNSW, Sydney, Australia
- 1998 - 2000 Director, The Institute of Art & Design (IAD)
- 1995 - 1998 Lecturer, Karachi School of Art, Karachi

## Honorary Positions and Memberships

- 2016 - Present Indus Valley School of Art & Architecture  
Member - Academic Committee (2016 – 2021)  
Member - Board of Studies – Interior Design Programme (2016 – 2019)  
Member - Advisory Committee – Continuing Education Programme (2016 – 2019)  
Convener - Advisory Committee – Foundation Programme (2016 – 2021)  
Member - Dean's Council (2016 – 2021)  
Member - Sexual Harassment Inquiry Committee (Since Fall 2021)  
Member – Faculty Title Award Committee (2020 – 2023)
- 2023 - Present Member of Board of Studies, Fine Art – BNU Lahore
- 2015 - 2016 Textile Institute of Pakistan  
Member of Academic Council  
Convener – Board of Studies for Textile Design Technology Program  
Member of Grievance Committee, Admissions Committee
- 2015 - Present Dept of Visual Studies, University of Karachi  
External Jury member - Textile Design Thesis Assessment 2021  
External Jury member - Fine Art Thesis Assessment 2022  
Member Board of Studies - Fine Art Department – KU (2024 - present)
- 2015 - 2016 Member of Advisory Committee for Foundation Program  
Indus Valley School of Art & Architecture
- 2010 - 2020 External Juror, Diploma in Fine Arts Thesis Assessment  
Sind Board of Technical Education
- 2017 - 2018 Textile Institute of Pakistan  
Member of Board of Studies, BBA honors, Textile Management & Marketing programme  
Exhibitions

## Solo Show

- 2022 The C word, Chawkandi Art Gallery, Clifton, Karachi
- 2010 Cross Art Projects Gallery, Kings Cross, Sydney Australia

## Selected Groups Shows

- 2024 ArtFest Karachi 2024 - Sambara Art Gallery, Karachi
- 2023 Spaces in Retrospection - Two person show – O Art Space, Lahore, Pakistan
- 2022 Retrospectively Yours, group show, O Art Space, Lahore, Pakistan
- 2021 Reexamine / Retrace, printmaking group show, AAN Ghandhara Art Space, Karachi
- 2020 Reliquary, curated by Sheherbano Hussain – Chawkandi Art Gallery, Karachi
- 2018 Proximity – conversation 1, two person show, Chawkandi Art Gallery, Karachi
- 2017 Botany of Desire, group show, Koel Art Gallery
- 2018 Under \_\_\_ Line, group show, Art Chowk Gallery, Karachi
- 2016 Light, Art... Action, group show, VM Art Gallery  
Group show as an extended event of first 'Pakistan Calling' film festival
- 2011 What's hot?, group show, Poppy Seed Gallery, Karachi
- 2010 Show me love, group show, KSA gallery, Karachi
- 2010 Re-surface, group show, VM Art gallery, Karachi
- 2008 11th Annual Exhibition, Gallery 4A, Sydney, Australia
- 2007 Inaugural Show at First National Gallery of Pakistan, Islamabad