

Choose
your words
carefully

BY
MUZZUMIL RUHEEL

CANVAS GALLERY

CANVAS

GALLERY

10th - 19th January 2023

Choose your words carefully

Working with the principles of text and their context, Muzzumil in this exhibition 'Choose Your Words Carefully', is sharing a body of work that reflects his current state of mind.

The observer in Ruheel watches the everyday as if he is a cog that is part of a greater machinery, yet he stays a silent witness collecting evidence. As an artist, he dissects where we have arrived: in a time where the sanctioned sanitation of ideas and thoughts has led to the sterilisation of speech. There seems to be a smokescreen that conceals intent, and carefully chosen words are chosen so carefully that they have become meaningless.

The exhibition presents works that have been perceived as obscure form of text that places the viewer in the artist's landscape. Here, norm dictates that speaking your mind or speaking in a certain way is not allowed.

How does one converse then?

The artist believes that globally, a new language has been organically developing in our subconsciousness. And this new language of the millennium needs a universal script so that it may become part of life, it may be used globally, it may be taught formally and may even become the future official language of the world someday.

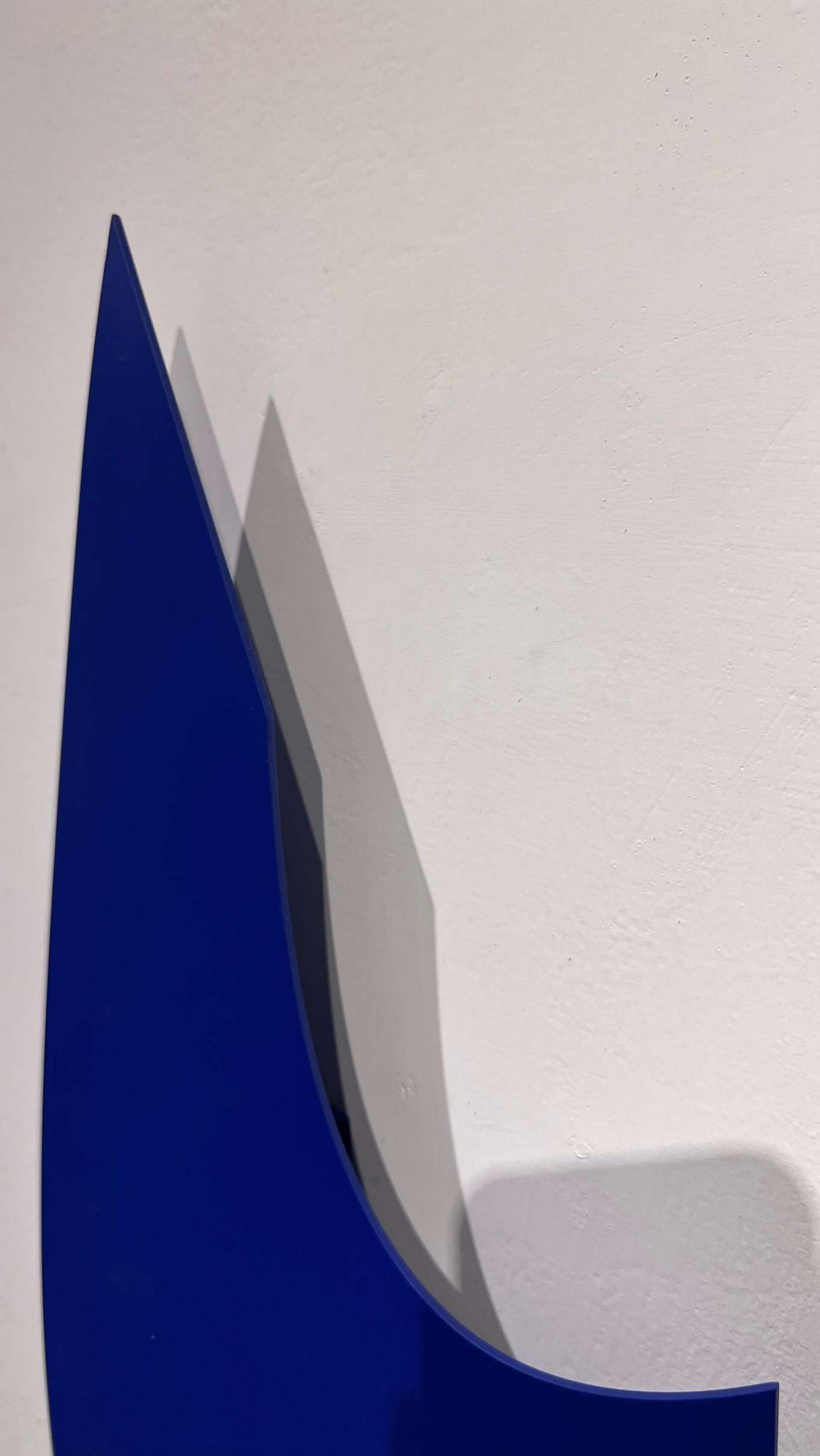
Muzzumil is working on developing this script, and this exhibition is a satirical reflection of that belief.

Muzzumil is a visual artist. He writes fiction through his artworks based on the discourse that ensues with core observation. The works that emerge are either a question, analysis, or response to his research, findings, and tales. His practice is conceptual, usually fiddling between the fictional and actual, exploring different trajectories like history, literature, language, cultural norms, faith, memories and philosophy.

Muzzumil is based in Karachi. He was born in Lahore in 1985 and is a graduate of the School of Visual Arts, Beacon House National University (BNU) 2009. He has been part of the faculty at the Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture (Karachi), the School of Visual Arts, Beacon House National University (Lahore) and the Visual Studies Department at the Karachi University. Muzzumil has had exhibitions nationally and internationally. His work is part of important public and private collections.



Title: Character 11 - out of this
Medium: Paint on metal
Size: 22 x 10.4 inches / 56 x 26 cm
Year: 2022





Title: Character 8 - standing point
Medium: Paint on metal
Size: 19.5 x 7 inches / 49 x 18 cm
Year: 2022



Title: Character 11 option II - out of this
Medium: Paint on metal
Size: 15.5 x 9 inches / 39 x 23 cm
Year: 2022





Title: Character 4 line - let's talk about it

Medium: Paint on metal

Size: 26 x 67 inches / 66 x 170 cm

Year: 2022





Title: Character 27 - top priority
Medium: Paint on metal
Size: 11 x 46 inches / 28 x 117 cm
Year: 2022





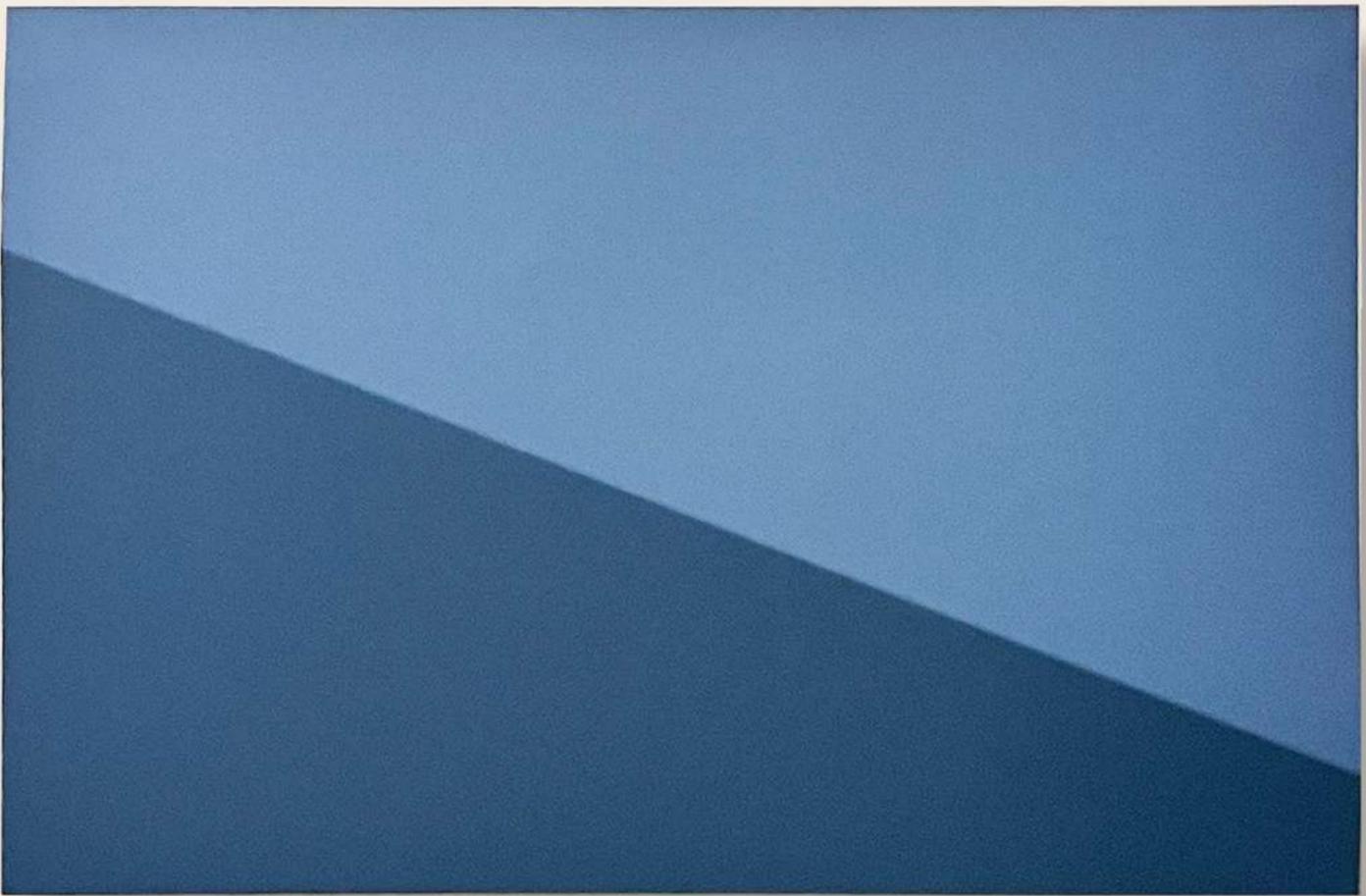
Title: Character 32 - something is missing

Medium: Paint on metal

Size: 38 x 20 inches / 98 x 51 cm

Year: 2022





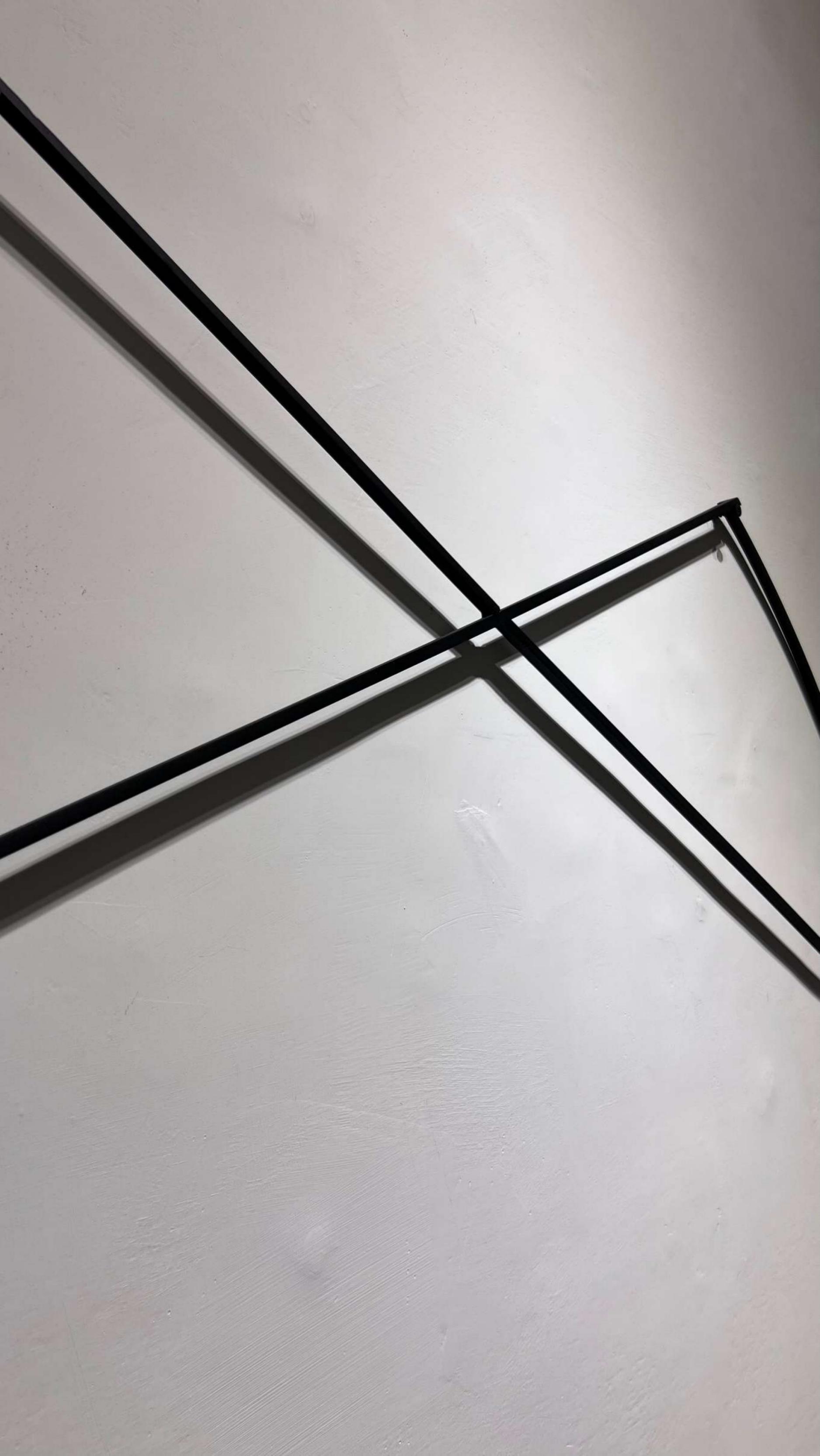
Title: Character 8 - in the sky
Medium: Paint on metal
Size: 18 x 28 inches / 41 x 71 cm
Year: 2022



Title: Character 15 - two sides
Medium: Paint on metal
Size: 35 x 9 inches / 89 x 23 cm
Year: 2022

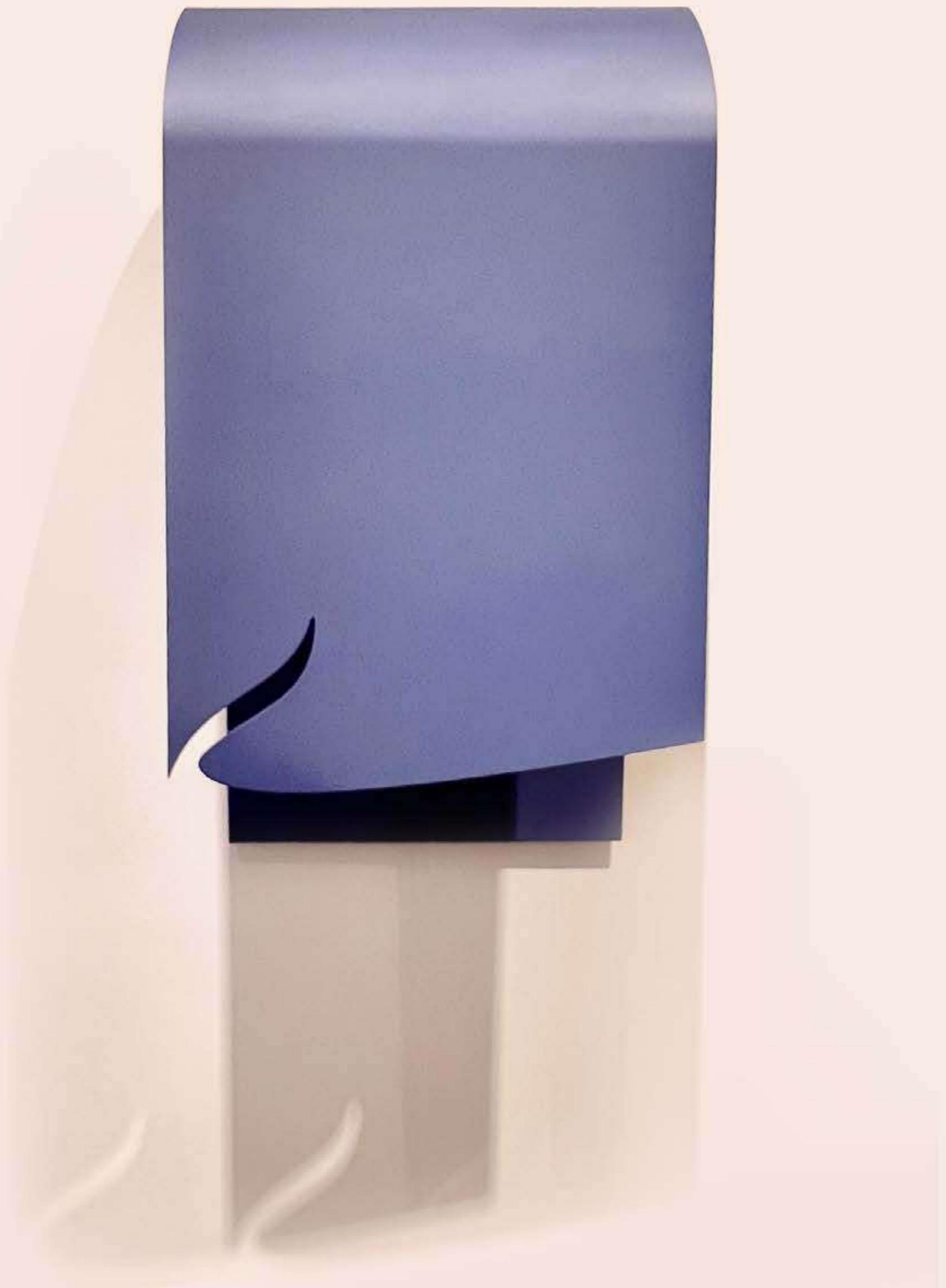


Title: Character 17- let's review
Medium: Paint on metal
Size: 47 x 60 inches / 120 x 153 cm
Year: 2022





Title: Character 19 - step towards
Medium: Paint on metal
Size: 22 x 30 inches / 56 x 76 cm diptych
Year: 2022



Title: Character 9 option III - u turn
Medium: Paint on metal
Size: 25 x 12 inches / 63.5 x 30 cm
Year: 2022



Title: Character 6 - to the point

Medium: Paint on metal

Size: 60 x 51 inches / 153 x 130 cm

Year: 2022





Title: Character 16 - other side

Medium: Paint on metal

Size: 29 x 32 inches / 74 x 82 cm diptych

Year: 2022



Title: Character 7 option IV - along with this
Medium: Paint on metal
Size: 51 x 9 inches / 150 x 24 cm
Year: 2022



Title: Character 21 - step by step
Medium: Paint on metal
Size: 19 x 24 inches / 61 x 49 cm
Year: 2022



Title: Character 7 options II - long story
Medium: Paint on metal
Size: 60 x 4 inches / 153 x 10 cm
Year: 2022



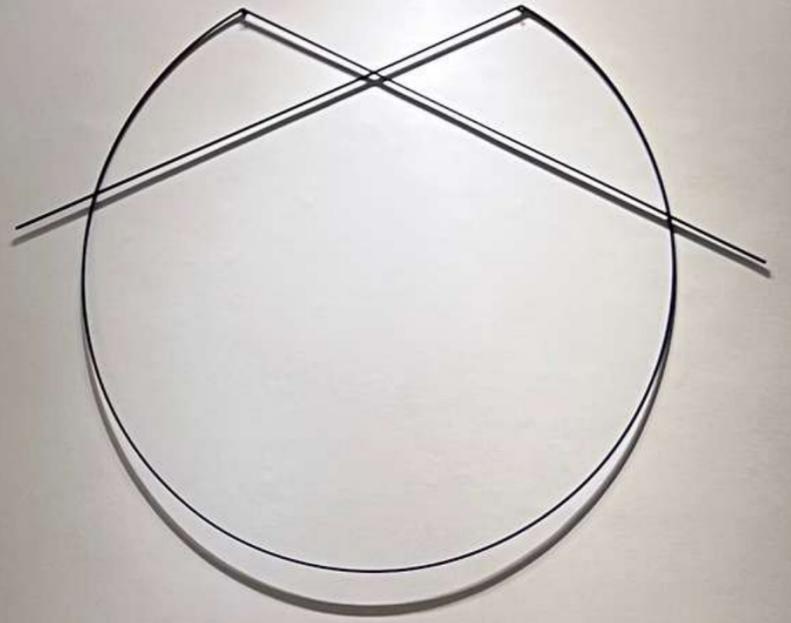
Title: Character 12 - round and around
Medium: Paint on metal
Size: 11.5 x 13 inches / 29 x 39 cm
Year: 2022







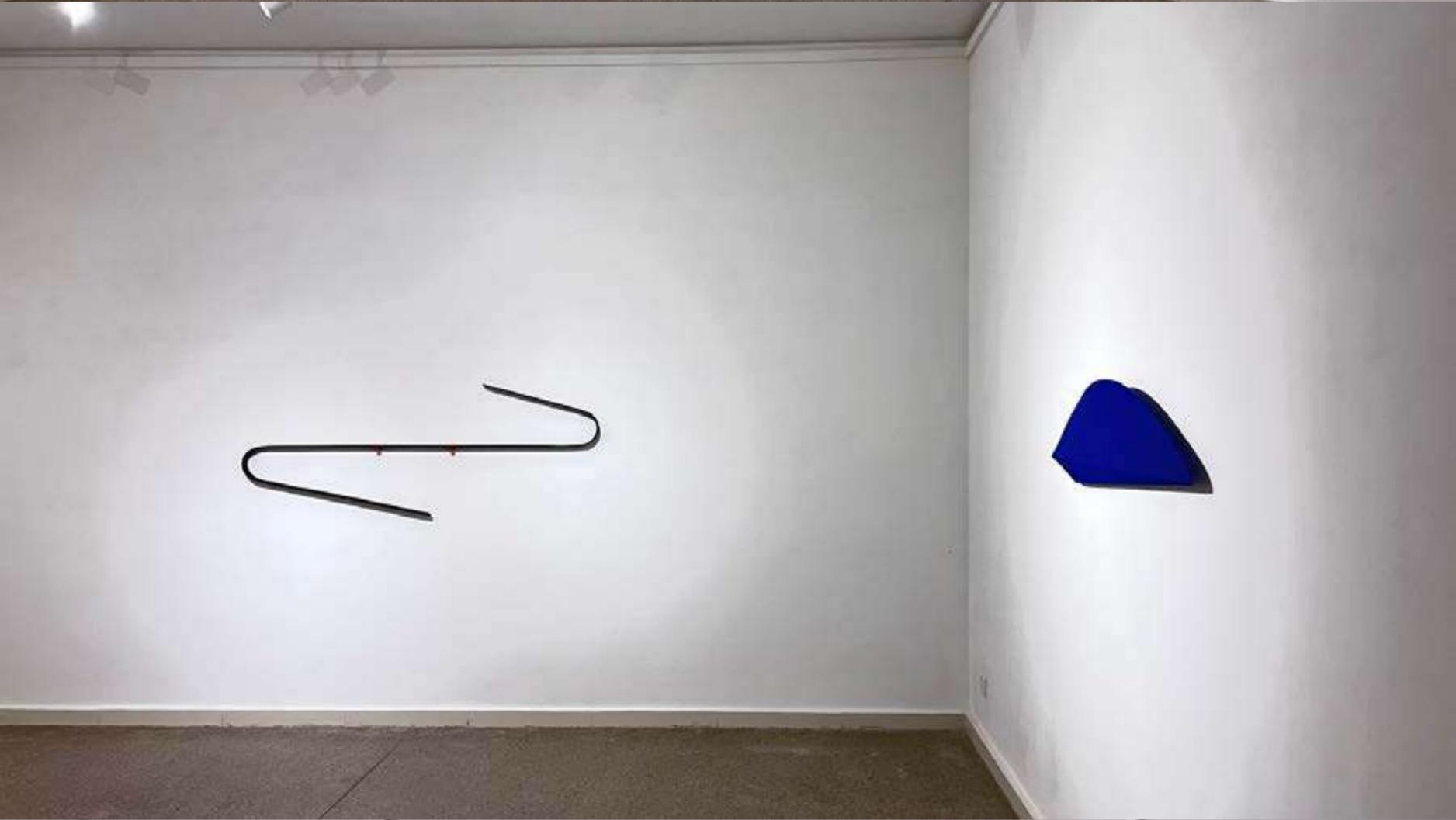
















Muzzumil Ruheel
1985 Lahore, Pakistan

Solo Exhibitions / Projects

Meeting Point, India Art Fair, Tarq, Dehli. 2022
The Pauses, Onewall, 1x1 Gallery, Dubai, 2021
A Guide to Nonsensical Dreams, Canvas Gallery, Karachi, 2021
“Confessions of the wait”, 1x1 Gallery, Dubai, 2020
In other wor(l)d, Canvas Gallery, Art Dubai, Dubai, 2019
‘Misunderstandings’, Canvas Gallery, Karachi, 2019
‘Baato Se Baat Nikali Hai’, Tarq Gallery, Mumbai, 2018
In between the lines, Art Dubai, Canvas Gallery, Dubai 2018
‘Point of No Return’, Rohtas Gallery, Lahore, 2018
‘Hearsay’, Canvas Gallery, Karachi, 2017
‘Lost in His Own Garden’, Grosvenor Gallery, London, 2016
‘The Alternate Life of Lies’, Canvas Gallery, Karachi, 2015
‘And His Beard Grew and Grew and Grew...’, Rohtas Gallery, Lahore, 2015
‘But Some of Them Never Happened?’, Canvas Gallery, Karachi, 2014
‘The Social “Animals”’, Koel Gallery, Karachi, 2013
‘It’s Only Words’, Rohtas Gallery, Lahore, 2012
‘I Do Not Quote From Scriptures; I Simply See What I See’, V.M. Gallery, Karachi, 2011

Biennales, Fairs & Festivals

Hims Academy, Schloss eyrichshof, Germany. 2022
DCAW, Dehli 2021
Between the sun and the moon, Lahore Biennale 2020
India Art Fair, Tarq, Delhi, 2020
Exit strategy, PNCA, Islamabad Art Festival, 2019
In other wor(l)d (solo), Canvas Gallery, Art Dubai, Dubai, 2019
The Quantum City’, International Public Art Festival, Karachi, 2019
India Art Fair, Tarq, Delhi, 2019
‘Witness’, Karachi Biennale, 2017
‘Imago Mundi Project’, Venice Biennale, 2017
‘Open the Door’, PGIAR, Colombo Art Biennale, 2016
‘Letter of Apology’, Abhisaran Booth, India Art Fair, 2015
‘Pastures Still Green’, IV Young Moscow International Biennial, Moscow Museum of Modern Art, 2014
Sindh Art Festival, Frere Hall, Karachi, 2014
‘Still Exotic’, Collaborative Project with Mohammed Abdelkarim, Cairo Documenta, Egypt, 2010
Bastakiya Art Fair, Dubai, 2009

Selected Group Exhibitions

Event, Memory, Metaphor, curated by Anish Gawande, Tarq, Mumbai, 2022
Re-examine / Retrace, AAN Gandhara Art Space, Karachi. 2021
‘Navigating Geometries’, Tarq, Mumbai, 2020
Tapestry of Fading Gardens, 1x1 Gallery, Dubai, 2020
Pioneer Artist Residency III, Canvas Gallery, Khushaab, 2019
‘Art For Education’, Museo Diocesano Carlo Maria Martini, Milan, 2018
‘Multiple Narratives’, Grosvenor Gallery, London, 2018
‘Layering the City’, Siddhartha Art Gallery, Kathmandu, 2017
‘Digging Deep, Crossing Far’, Kunstraum Kreuzberg/Bethanien, Berlin, 2016
‘In Letter and Spirit’, Tarq, Mumbai, 2016
Mohatta Palace Musuem, Karachi, 2015
‘Letter of Apology’ (Performance), OPJ Museum, Vijyanagar, Collateral Event Kochi Muziris Biennale, 2014
‘Letter of Apology’, Kaladham Museum, Vijyanagar, 2014
‘Present Re-Inventions’, ‘Grosvenor Gallery’, London, 2014
International Emerging Artist Award Show, Dubai, 2014
‘Shape, Pattern and Form’, Art Factum, Beirut, 2014
‘Crossing Over’, Gallery Latitude 28, New Delhi, 2013
‘Stop-Look-Listen’, Canvas Gallery, Karachi, 2013
‘Seven’, Full Circle Gallery, Karachi, 2012
‘Text Me’, Lawrie Shabibi Gallery, Dubai, 2012
‘Band Baaja Baraat’, Indus Valley School of Art & Architecture, Karachi, 2012
‘Items of Dual Use’, V.M. Gallery, Karachi, 2011
‘Items of Dual Use’, Wip Konshtall, Stockholm, 2011
Vasl Rohtas Rawan International Artists Residency Show, Rohtas I, Islamabad, 2011

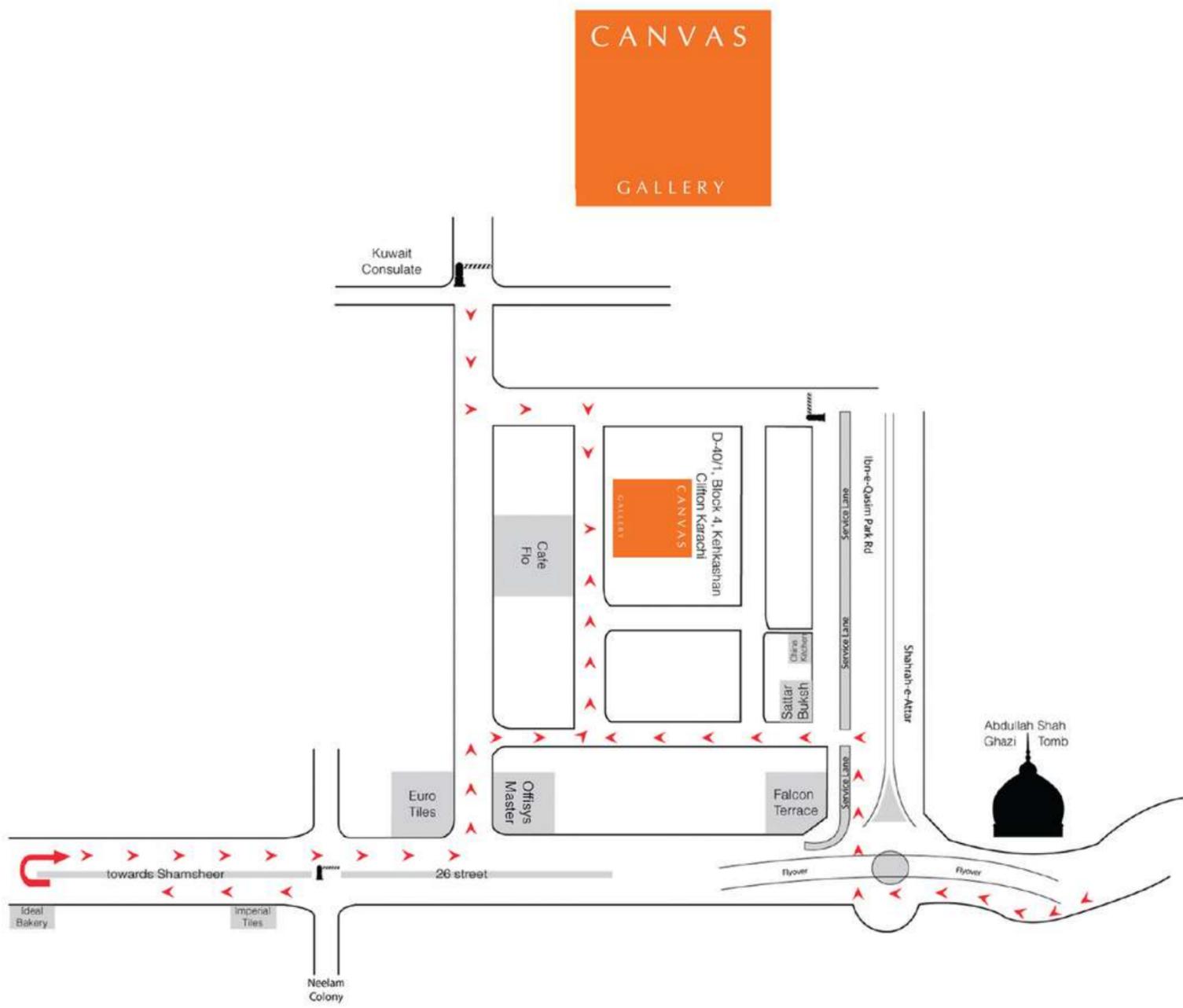
Combinations, Canvas Gallery, Karachi, 2010
Canvas Gallery, Karachi, 2009
'Space Invader Show', Aicon Gallery, London, 2009
Beaconhouse National University Degree Show, Almahra Art Gallery, Lahore, 2009
'Through Other Eyes', Herbert Art Gallery, Coventry, 2009
'Through Other Eyes', The Glynn Vivian Gallery, Swansea, 2009
Media as Medium Show, UDK, Berlin, 2008
Moti Roti 360° 60 x 60 Secs by Moti Roti, Pakistan, India and UK, 2008
Envoy of Wisdom, National Art Gallery, Islamabad, 2008

Workshops, Residencies & Projects

Pioneer Artist Residency III, Khushaab, 2019
Abhisaran JSW Residency, Vijyanagar, 2014
Vasl International New Media Artists' Workshop, Karachi, 2012
Vasl Rohtas Rawan International Artists' Residency, Islamabad, 2011
Media as a Medium Workshop, Lahore and Berlin, 2008
Architectural Calligraphy Workshop, Anjuman-e-Memran, Lahore, 2004
Calligraphy Workshop, National College of Arts, Lahore, 2002

Publications

When it comes to tech-art, Mint Lounge, 2022
Art Divvy Conversation with Muzzumil Ruheel, 2021
'Loss and Tension in the Exploration of Text in/as Image in Pakistani Art' Zohreen Murtaza ,
The Karachi Collective, 2021
'A Guide to Nonsensical Dreams' Maha Mihaj, The Karachi Collective, 2021
'At This Still Point Of Time ', Amra Ali , DAWN, 2021
'Construction and Confinement', Ranjit Hoskote, Tarq Artist Talk, 2020
'Failure to Communicate', Salwat Ali , DAWN, 2019
'Language at Hand', Quddus Mirza, The News, 2019
'Linguistic Misgivings', Peerzada Salman, DAWN, 2019
'Multitudes of Perspectives', Nadeem Zuberi, The News, 2019
Art Dubai Again, Artnow Magazine, 2019
Art Dubai 2019 Review, Zena Khan, Hello Magazine, 2019
'Pakistan's Radioactive Decade – An Informal Cultural History of the 1970s', 2019
'Play of Words', Sanjana Srinivasan, Art India Magazine, 2019
'Art with Urdu Calligraphy', Zahra Amiruddin, The Hindu, 2019
'The Letter is Enough After All' (Catalogue), Gemma Sharpe, Tarq, 2019
'Meet the 40 Artists Under the Age of 40', December Issue, Vogue India, 2018
'In Between the Lines' (Catalogue), Art Dubai, 2018
'Hearsay', Numair A. Abbasi, Art Now Pakistan, 2017
'The Nature of Truth, Nimra Khan, DAWN, 2017
'Multiple Notions', Nadeem Zuberi, Business Recorder, 2017
'Hearsay, Not Hearsay', Peerzada Salman, DAWN, 2017
'A Picture In Words', Samar Faisal Zia, Herald, 2016
'Lost in His Own Garden', Saima Munawar, Art Now Pakistan, 2016
'In Letter and Spirit' (Catalogue), Ranjit Hoskote, Tarq, 2016
'The Beauty of Letters', Huzan Tata, Verve Magazine, India, 2016
'Love Letters', Kimberly Garza, KimGarza Magazine, Berlin, 2016
'The Eye Still Seeks', Salima Hashmi, 2015
'Written in Beauty', Shurthi Srinath, Deccan Herald, 2015
(Catalogue), Abhisaran, India, 2015
'Present Re-Inventions', Art Now Pakistan, 2014
'Piecing it Together', Maryam Usman, The Express Tribune, 2014
'Transcendence' (Catalogue), 2014
'Social Animals', M. Saeed Kureshi, DAWN, 2013
'The Caricatures of Social Animals', Veera Rustomji, DAWN, 2013
'Crossing-Over' Ilena Bose, The Wall Art Magazine, New Delhi, 2013
'No Ordinary Language', Maureen Korp, Guerilla Magazine, Issue 34, 2012
'Exploring Language and Text Through Art', Khaleejessque, 2012
The National, Abu Dhabi, 2012
Artist Talk, Lawrie Shabibi Gallery, Dubai, 2012
'New Perspectives, Newer Possibilities,' Gemma Sharpe, Herald, 2012
Vasl Workshop, Eman Mahmud, Art Now Pakistan, 2012
'The Secret of Words', Aasim Akhtar, Friday Times, 2011
Artist Talk, Rohtas Rawan Studio, Islamabad, 2011
'Items of Dual Use', V.M. Gallery and Wip Konshtall, Stockholm (Catalogue), 2011
'Is This the Helmet of Mambrino?', Gemma Sharp, Shifter Magazine, 2010
'Through Other Eyes' (Catalogue), Herbert Art Gallery, Coventry, 2009
'Parallel Lines' (Catalogue), Bradford City Art Gallery and Museum, 2008
'Art for the Sake of the People', Quddus Mirza, The News, 2007
'Source of Inspiration', Farida Batool, 2006
'Tantalizing Text', Saira Dar, The Nation, 2006
'Modern Calligraphers, Makhzan-e-Khatati', Khurshid Gohar, 2006



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