

MUZZUMIL RUHEEL  
THE WILD IN OUR MOUTHS



CANVAS

GALLERY

16 - 25 September 2025

The Wild in Our Mouths  
Solo Exhibition by Muzzumil Ruheel  
Canvas Gallery

There are always things I wish I had said. The perfect comeback, the sharp taunt, the truth you hold in your mouth but swallow instead. In this body of work, those unsaid words have grown restless, they've sprouted wings, horns, claws, or sometimes just feathers. Some are gentle creatures, the powerless words that never make it out. Others are beasts, the ones that could shake everything, but are kept behind closed lips. Together, they are the wild in our mouths untamed, unsaid, irrepressible.



Artist: Muzzumil Ruheel  
Title: Mute? Not Today.  
(*Khamosh Nahi Bethon Ga Mai - I'm not staying silent...*)  
Year: 2025  
Medium: Paint, Mild Steel, Screws  
Edition of 5 + 2 AP  
Size: 26 x 36 x 1 inches



Artist: Muzzumil Ruheel  
Title: Grand Entrance  
*(Taalian bajain ? - app tashreef le ain hain  
Let's all give a round of applause, you finally decided to show up )*  
Year: 2025  
Medium: Paint, Mild Steel, Screws  
Edition of 5 + 2 AP  
Size: 18 x 14 x 1 inches



Artist: Muzzumil Ruheel  
Title: Can't Argue With Genius  
(*Ji App Sahi Keh Rahey Hain - Of course, you always know best*)  
Year: 2025  
Medium: Paint, Mild Steel, Screws  
Edition of 5 + 2 AP  
Size: 14 x 19 x 1 inches



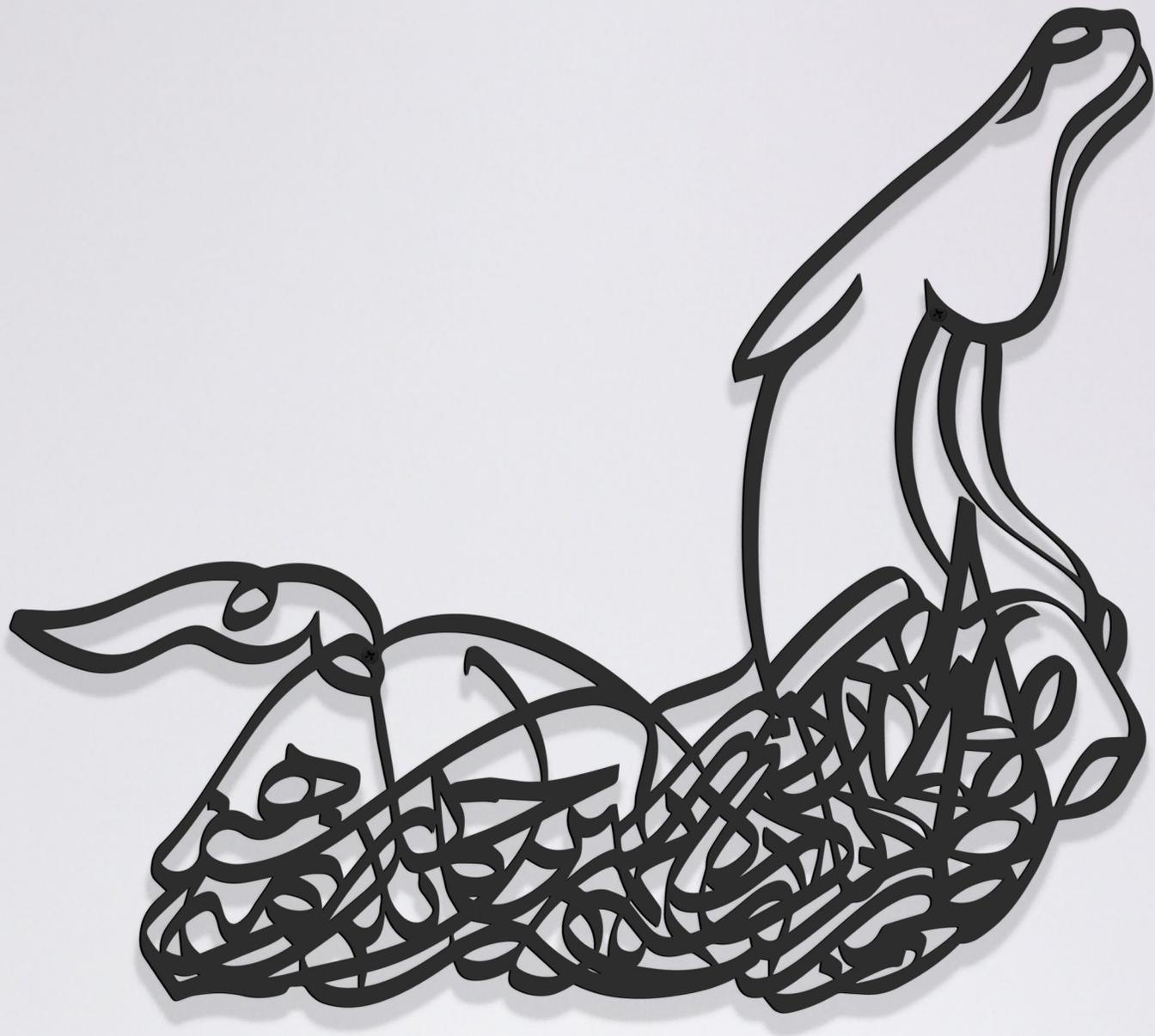
Artist: Muzzumil Ruheel  
Title: Why So Pleasant?  
*(Itna Muskura Ker Kiyoon Khitab Ker Rahay Hoo - Wipe that fake smile off)*  
Year: 2025  
Medium: Paint, Mild Steel, Screws  
Edition of 5 + 2 AP  
Size: 36 x 29 x 1 inches



Artist: Muzzumil Ruheel  
Title: Auditions Are Closed  
(*Baatain Kiyoon Laga Rahey Hoo - What's with all this chatter at me?*)  
Year: 2025  
Medium: Paint, Mild Steel, Screws  
Edition of 5 + 2 AP  
Size: 17 x 18 x 1 inches



Artist: Muzzumil Ruheel  
Title: Hands Off  
*(Ic Mai Mat Perho - Don't Even Start)*  
Year: 2025  
Medium: Paint, Mild Steel, Screws  
Edition of 5 + 2 AP  
Size: 18 x 10 x 1 inches



Artist: Muzzumil Ruheel  
Title: Award for Overacting Goes To  
(*Kuch Ziada Nahi Uchal Rahay? - Easy there, champ*)  
Year: 2025  
Medium: Paint, Mild Steel, Screws  
Edition of 5 + 2 AP  
Size: 29 x 24 x 1 inches



Artist: Muzzumil Ruheel  
Title: Where Are Your Reins?  
(*Tumhari Lagam Kahan Hai - Where's your leash..?*)  
Year: 2025  
Medium: Paint, Mild Steel, Screws  
Edition of 5 + 2 AP  
Size: 26 x 34 x 1 inches



Artist: Muzzumil Ruheel  
Title: Bite the Breeze  
(*Chalo Hawa Khao - Your portion is nothing*)  
Year: 2025  
Medium: Paint, Mild Steel, Screws  
Edition of 5 + 2 AP  
Size: 14 x 9 x 1 inches



Artist: Muzzumil Ruheel  
Title: Truth isn't your habit  
(*Sach Sunne Ki Aadat Nahi Hai Tum Ko - You're not used to hearing the truth*)  
Year: 2025  
Medium: Paint, Mild Steel, Screws  
Edition of 5 + 2 AP  
Size: 39 x 21 x 1 inches



Artist: Muzzumil Ruheel  
Title: Stop staring  
(*Ghoorna Bund Kero - Quit staring*)  
Year: 2025  
Medium: Medium: Paint, Mild Steel, Screws  
Edition of 5 + 2 AP  
Size: 7 x 13 x 1 inches



Artist: Muzzumil Ruheel  
Title: Shoo!  
(Chalo Bhago Yahan Se - Get out of here)  
Year: 2025  
Medium: Medium: Paint, Mild Steel, Screws  
Edition of 5 + 2 AP  
Size: 26 x 13 x 1 inches

Muzzumil Ruheel is a Karachi based visual artist, whose work moves between fact and fiction, often using stories and observations to open new ways of seeing. He began his journey as a traditional calligrapher before studying Visual Art at Beaconhouse National University, and over the years has developed a practice that is both rooted in his context and far-reaching in its scope.

He has presented solo exhibitions across Pakistan, UK, Germany, Dubai, India, and USA, and his work has been shown at major national and international platforms including the Young Moscow Biennale, Colombo Art Biennale, Lahore Biennale, Karachi Biennale, Cairo Documenta, Darmstadt Museum, Kaladham Museum, Wip Konsthall, Museo Diocesano Carlo Maria Martini, Kunstraum Kreuzberg/Bethanien, Universität der Künste, Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, Glynn Vivian Art Gallery, Art Dubai, and the India Art Fair. His works are part of important private and institutional collections worldwide, and his practice has been featured in leading art publications.

**Muzzumil Ruheel**

1985, Lahore, Pakistan

**Solo Exhibitions**

The wild in our mouths, Canvas Gallery, Karachi 2025  
Khayal/ Imagine curated by Saima Zaidi, Khaliq Dina Hall , Numaish Karachi, 2024  
on Emptiness, Friday Gallery, Los Angeles, 2024  
Speechless, Canvas Gallery, Karachi 2024  
We shall meet here, Coburg, Germany, 2023  
Choose your words carefully, Canvas Gallery, Karachi 2023  
The Pauses, Onewall, 1x1 Gallery, Dubai, 2021  
A Guide to Nonsensical Dreams, Canvas Gallery, Karachi, 2021  
Confessions of the wait, 1x1 Gallery, Dubai, 2020  
Misunderstandings, Canvas Gallery, Karachi, 2019  
Baato Se Baat Nikali Hai, Tarq Gallery, Mumbai, 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**

Crafting the contemporary. London Design Festival, London, 2024  
Design Summit, Lahore 2024  
35th Design Days, Coburg, Germany, 2023  
Red, Grosvenor Gallery, Art Dubai, Dubai, 2023  
Hims Academy, Schloss eyrichshof, Germany. 2022  
Meeting Point, India Art Fair, Dehli. 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  
In between the lines (solo), Art Dubai, Canvas Gallery, Dubai 2018  
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**

Tigers & Dragons – Curated by zehra jumabhoy, Glynn Vivian Gallery, Wales, UK, 2025  
Dialogues Across Time. Curated by Saira Danish Ahmed, Chawkandi Art Gallery, Karachi, 2025  
Knowledge of the Ancients, curated by Zahra Khan, at Barkat Ali Hall, Lahore. 2024  
DHARTI DHAR DHAR DHARKE GI, curated by Salima Hashmi, COMO Museum, Lahore, 2024  
Crafting the contemporary. Numaish, Mohatta palace Museum, Karachi 2024  
Volume of Air, curated by Ahmed Faizan Naveed, Haam Gallery, Lahore, 2024  
Suno (Listen), 1x1 Gallery, Dubai, 2024

Olive Branch, curated by Nafisa Rizvi, Koel Gallery, Karachi, 2024  
Modern and contemporary, Grosvenor Gallery, London 2023  
Animalia, curated by León Krempel and Ismail Mukadam, Darmstadt Museum, Germany 2023  
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 Museum, 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

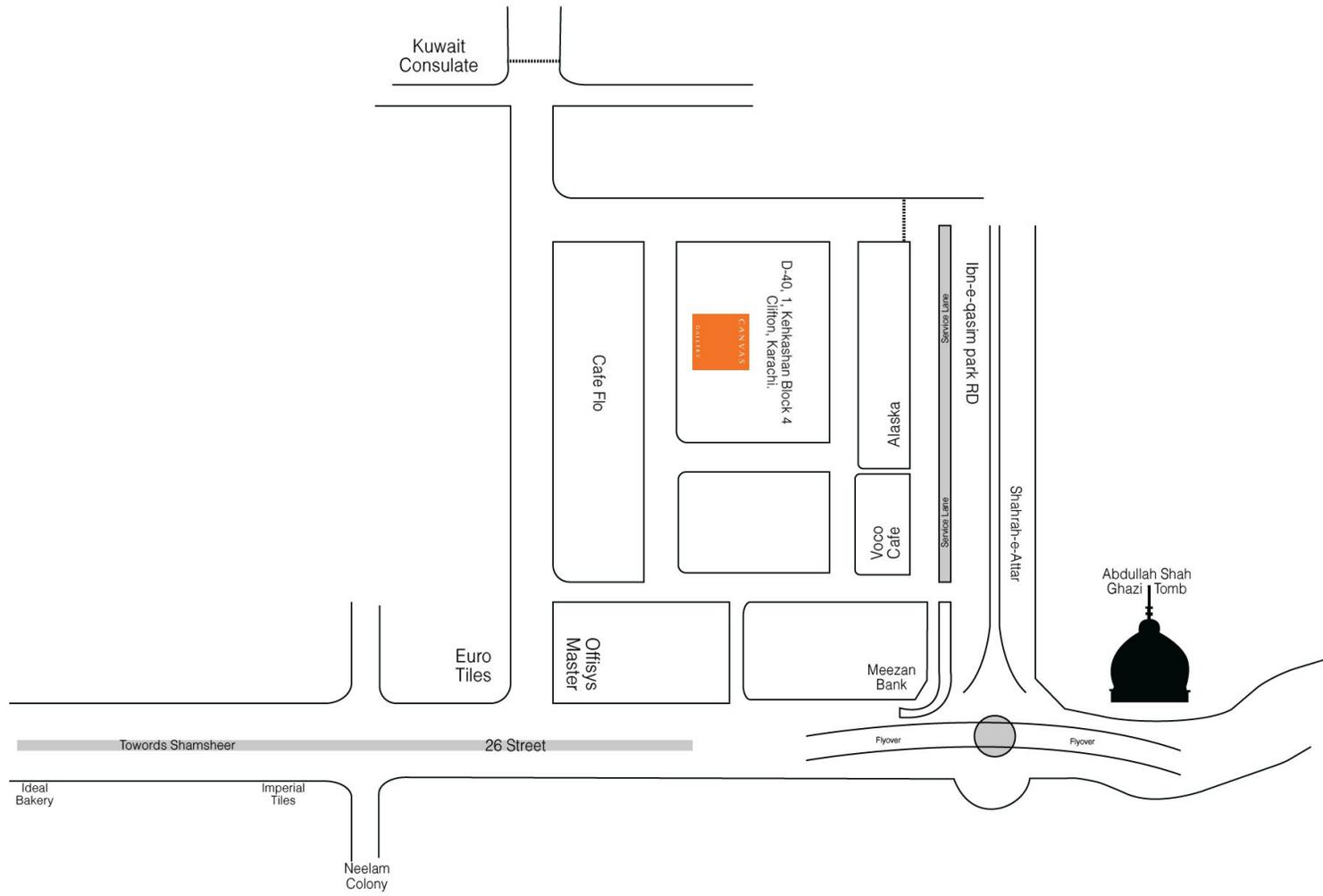
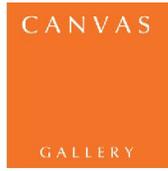
### **Workshops, Residencies & Projects**

Jhulay Lal, Crafting the contemporary in collaboration with Irene Albino. Numaish, Karachi 2024  
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**

Encryption, Decryption- The Politics of Language. Zohreen Murtaza, The Karachi Collective, 2023  
The Power of language, Peerzada Salman, Dawn 2023  
Disappearing tongues, Quddus Mirza, Encore, The News 2023  
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', Khaleej, 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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