

Artist statement

*“Every journey ends with a return home.
Perhaps, every journey is just a way back home.”*

For me, Persian carpets are not only commodities but mobile living objects capable of listening and recording the time. Through incorporating myths, tales and fantasies of multiple times, these rugs, in each and every thread woven together, imbibe, delineate and convey simple and complex narratives of life and death, of pain and pleasure, of kings and peasants. Each individual carpet witnesses, conceals and then narrates a story of its own. Through the shades, patterns and textures of rugs, I seek to combine, connect and investigate their different forms of expression and transform them into modes of my personal stories which in a way reflect my state of mind at a certain point in time, which later become untouchable memories of their own.

Profile

Marjan Baniyadi is an Iranian visual artist based in Munich, Germany. She completed her BFA and Masters at the National College of Arts, Lahore, Pakistan, in 2017 and a Masters in Ceramic Design from the University of Pécs, Hungary, in 2020.

In 2025, she completed a Diploma in Fine Arts at the Academy of Fine Arts Munich, Germany, and was granted the DAAD Award. Currently, she is an Artist-in-Residence at the Taoxichuan Ceramic Residency in Jingdezhen, China.

Marjan Baniasadi

Education

- 2025 Diploma in Fine Arts, Academy of Fine Arts, Munich, Germany
- 2020 MA Ceramic Design University of Pécs, Hungary
- 2017 MA (Hons.) Visual arts at National College of Arts, Lahore, Pakistan
- 2016 Bachelor of Fine Arts, [Painting] National College of Arts, Lahore, Pakistan

Solo Exhibitions

- 2025 Once upon a Winter Thread, Jo Van de loo Gallery, Munich, Germany
- 2024 The Melody Beneath, Jo Van de loo Gallery, Munich, Germany
- 2022 A Singing Bird in an Open Cage, Jo Van de loo Gallery, Munich, Germany
- 2022 Colours of Home, Dastaangoi Gallery, Islamabad, Pakistan
- 2022 Berlin Front views, Haunt_Berlin, Berlin, Germany
- 2021 Interwoven Narratives, Azad Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- 2020 Woven Narratives of Time, Taseer Art Gallery, Collateral Event of Lahore Biennale 02, Lahore, Pakistan
- 2018 In Praise of Other Places, O Art Space, Lahore, Pakistan

Group Exhibitions

- 2026 TACKER 2026 / PRESELECTION, Galerie der Künstler*innen, Munich, Germany
- 2025 Ausstellung der ADBK-Debütantinnen (m/w/d), Kunstverein München, Munich, Germany
- 2025 Jahresgaben, Kunstverein München, Munich, Germany
- 2025 Between Two homes, O art space, Lahore, Pakistan
- 2025 A gentle Apocalypse, Alhamra Arts Council, Lahore, Pakistan
- 2024 Tomorrow isn't promised, collateral event to Lahore Biennale 03, 11templeroad, Lahore, Pakistan
- 2024 Süße Zitronen, Ismaning Schloss Pavillon, Ismaning, Germany
- 2024 "Perspektiven" Förderpreis für Junge kunst des Kunstclub13 in cooperation with Platform, Munich, Germany
- 2024 Mitgebracht, Oberpfälzer Künstlerhaus, Schwandorf, Germany
- 2024 Beyond Material" group exhibition, Dastaangoi Gallery at Alserkal Avenue, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- 2023 "The butterfly effect", Chawkandi Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
- 2023 Festival of Birds I, Shadows of Simorgh, Hinterland Galerie, Vienna, Austria
- 2022 Zwischen Gestern und Morgen, Klasse Pia Fries, Museum Kurhaus Kleve, Germany
- 2022 Dual Genesis, two persons show of Marjan Baniasadi and Maryam Baniasadi, Chawkandi art Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
- 2021 Days of Heartbreak, curated by Nicola E. Petek, Pony Royal off space, Berlin, Germany
- 2021 SHABTAB (9), Azad Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- 2019 Forty/Fifty/Sixty Pieces of Iranian Contemporary Art, Azad Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- 2018 Transition of Tradition, two persons show, Taseer Art Gallery, Lahore, Pakistan
- 2017 Imago mundi, Lines in the Sand representing Pakistan, Luciano Benetton Collection Map of the new Art, Venice
- 2017 Explore. Dream. Discover., Sanat Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
- 2016 A present in duality, two-person show of Marjan Baniasadi and Maryam Baniasadi, Azad Art Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- 2016 News from tomorrow, Group show curated by Canvas Gallery for Karachi Literature Festival, Karachi, Pakistan

Residencies, Honors And Awards

- 2026 Migratory birds project, Taoxichuan Artist Residency, Jingdezhen, China
- 2025 DAAD Award for Outstanding Achievements of International Students, ADBK, Munich, Germany
- 2025 1-year Studio Grant at PS61, Munich, Germany
- 2025 Invited international artist for the lecture series of the Faculty of Art and Design, Utah Valley University, Utah, USA
- 2024 Nomination for Perspektiven // Förderpreis für junge Kunst des Kunstclub13 e.V., Munich, Germany
- 2023 International Stipend of Künstlerhauses Oberpfälzer for a 6-week residency at Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, Virginia, USA
- 2023 "Ecological Aesthetic, Webinar, invited by Duke University, department middle east studies center, USA
- 2021 Stipendienprogramms des Freistaats Bayern "Junge Kunst und neue Wege", Bayern Innovativ, Germany
- 2019 "Selection of Persian carpet as a subject matter in Visual Arts" Ninth European Conference of Iranian Studies, Freie Universität Berlin on behalf of the Societas Iranologica Europea, Berlin, Germany
- 2019 The Pienkowitz Fully Funded Residency and winner of Public Choice award, Chelm, Poland
- 2018 Stipendium Hungaricum für Studying Masters in Ceramic design at University of Pécs, Hungary

Artist statement

My practice is grounded in the visual languages and material histories of South Asia, particularly Indo-Persian and Mughal miniature painting. Trained at the National College of Arts in Lahore, I am drawn to the structural foundations of the miniature tradition - the precise underdrawings, compressed spatial logic, and ornamental line work that organize each image. I expand on this history by introducing materials unconventional within the tradition, such as charcoal and pastel, allowing classical structure to coexist with a more open, drawing-based approach.

My work has long been shaped by migration and displacement. After moving from Pakistan to the United States, I became increasingly interested in how identity is carried and reshaped across geographies and time. Figures, animals, and hybrid forms in my paintings draw from art-historical sources within miniature painting as well as lived experience, often inhabiting unsettled or shifting spaces that reflect life between cultures. Rugs, pattern, and recurring animal forms operate as anchors of memory, myth, and belonging.

In recent years, questions of inheritance and transmission have become more present in the work; how culture, language, and ways of seeing are passed on, translated, or transformed across generations. Living and working at a distance from my family in Pakistan while raising a child in the United States has sharpened my attention to these dynamics, subtly inflecting both the imagery and the scale of my practice without displacing its broader concerns with history, migration, and the female body as a site of cultural memory.

Profile

Sanié Bokhari (b. 1991) is a mixed media artist born in Lahore, Pakistan. She earned her BFA from the National College of Arts, Lahore, and her MFA in Painting from the Rhode Island School of Design. She was awarded the prestigious President's Scholarship at RISD and did a fellowship with the RISD museum during her time there as well. Her work has been exhibited globally, including at Canvas Gallery in Karachi, Harper's Gallery in Los Angeles, Aicon Gallery in NYC and Bonhams in London. Bokhari has participated in numerous residencies such as Vermont Studio Center and NARS Foundation. Her work has been featured in publications like Fondazione Imago Mundi, Fad magazine, ArteEast, and G5A: Imprint, and acquired by collections including the Nion McEvoy Foundation, as well as private collections of Dr. Fadi Braiteh, OJ Prakash, and Rahul Sabhnani.

Sanié Bokhari

Education

2018	Rhode Island School of Design, USA, MFA Painting
2014	National College of Arts, Pakistan, BFA Painting, cum laude
2009	GCE Advanced Level, Lahore, Pakistan
2007	GCE Ordinary Level, Lahore, Pakistan

Exhibitions

2026	March madness, Room 57 gallery, NYC
2026	How to hold a wild thing, Rajiv menon contemporary, LA
2025	Visions of a new order, New order arts, Philadelphia, PA
2025	Call your mom, Kid super studios, Brooklyn, NY
2025	The river never runs dry, Glass rice, San Francisco, CA
2025	Exhibitionism, Rajiv Menon contemporary, Los Angeles
2025	Here's looking at you, Plato Gallery, NYC
2025	Under the talking tree, Kunsthall n, Copenhagen, Denmark
2024	Shaam-e-Disco, Swivel gallery, NYC
2024	The Past is a country, Rajiv Menon Contemporary, Los Angeles
2023	Item number, Rajiv Menon contemporary, Los Angeles
2023	Alter Ego, KAPOW gallery, NYC
2023	The Immigrant Artist Biennale, Enmeshed dreams of water, Brooklyn, NY
2023	NADA foreland, The Macedonia Institute, NY
2023	Hot Summer pt. 2, Swivel Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
2023	Body ecologies, Canvas Gallery, Lahore, Pakistan
2023	RIPE, Harpers Gallery, Los Angeles
2023	Potheads, Swivel Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
2023	Borderwalls V, The Border Project Space, Brooklyn, NY
2022	Between the Earth and Sky, Martha's Contemporary, Austin, TX
2022	Dirty Work, Greenwich House Pottery, NYC
2022	The Shilla, Harper's Gallery x The here and there co. Seoul, Korea
2022	Alter, 12 Gates gallery, Philadelphia, PA
2022	Worthless Studios Benefit Auction, Artsy, NYC
2022	Field Projects Open Studios, NYC
2022	Natural Selection, Room 57 Gallery, NYC
2021	Far and Familiar, Glass Rice gallery, San Francisco
2021	Free arts NYC auction, Sotheby's, NYC
2021	Judith has arrived, Aicon Gallery, NYC
2021	Spring/Break Art Show, NYC
2021	Rites of passage, Whitney Centre of the Arts, Massachusetts 2021 You make my heart sing, Belowgrand gallery, NYC
2020	Young Artists: One, Fridman Gallery, NYC
2020	Spring/Break Art Show, Los Angeles
2019	It's more about us, Selenas Mountain, Brooklyn, NY
2019	PLOP, end of residency show, London, UK
2018	Sixteen Memos for the Next Millennium, NARS Foundation, Brooklyn, NY
2018	Counter Narratives: Geographies of the Unfamiliar, Asya Geisberg, NYC 2017 Home is the strongest conjuration, Morgan Lehman Gallery, NYC

Residencies

2023	Macedonia Institute, NY
2022	Field Residency, NYC
2020	Vasl Residency, Karachi, Pakistan
2019	PLOP residency, London, UK
2019	Bashir Ahmad Studio residency, Lahore, Pakistan
2018	NARS Foundation, Brooklyn, USA
2015	Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, VT, USA
2012	Luton Culture, Luton, Bedfordshire, UK

Publications

2025	Fondazione imago mundi, Where things happen
2025	Hype Beast, Plato Gallery's Latest Show Rewrites the Rules of Female Portraiture
2023	Fad Magazine, 3 NYC exhibitions - under one disco ball
2023	ArtEast: Artist Spotlight Interview
2023	The Trailblazers, Interview for Bonhams Auction House
2022	Art Seen: The Curator's Salon Magazine, Fall 2022
2021	The OG, Edition 3: The Creative Quar-routine issue
2021	Precog Magazine, NYC: Issue 6
2020	G5A Foundation for Contemporary Culture, Mumbai, India: Imprint

Awards

2014	Honors List at the National College of Arts, Lahore
2014	Vermont Studio center grant, VT
2017	President's Scholarship at Rhode Island School of Design, RI