

Artist statement

Mustafa Mohsin's work is shaped by a sense of cultural dissonance - of existing in a liminal space, never feeling fully at home anywhere. That friction informs his exploration of identity, intimacy, and longing. Rather than direct depictions of memory, his works are attempts to hold on to what lingers: gestures, atmospheres, unresolved emotions. His scenes are composed entirely from fraught memory: colored by emotion, he constructs scenes not as they were, but as they felt.

Humor often slips in as a way to navigate the vulnerability of those spaces. His work speaks to a broader sense of how we perform identity under pressure - from society, family, or even our former selves. His paintings expose the contradictions between self and Other, existing in moments of stillness, discomfort, or reflection.

Profile

Mustafa Mohsin is a Pakistani painter based in New York. Working between observation and memory, his paintings reconstruct lived experiences through atmosphere, gesture, and emotional recall. He holds an MFA from the New York Academy of Art and trained at the Florence Classical Art Academy in Italy. Mohsin has exhibited in New York, Los Angeles, Houston, Pakistan, and Italy, and is currently showing with Rajiv Menon Contemporary. His work was featured in Artsy's list of the five most talked-about artists at Untitled Art Fair Houston. He has also completed a permanent installation for Dishoom's Permit Room in London. Prior to painting full-time, he worked as a professional cake artist at Rina's Kitchenette, shaping his sensitivity to color and surface. His work has been featured in publications including The Art Newspaper, Interview Magazine, and Wallpaper.

Mustafa Mohsin

Education

- 2024 Master of Fine Arts, new York academy of art, new York city, USA
- 2021 Diploma in art education and pedagogy, Florence classical art academy, Florence, Italy
- 2020 3-year diploma in visual arts, Florence classical art academy, Florence, Italy
- 2016 BBA marketing (major) and media studies (minor), Lahore school of Economics, Lahore, Pakistan

Exhibitions

- 2026 Solo presentation, Rajiv Menon Contemporary – January 2027(upcoming), Los Angeles, USA
- 2026 Canvas gallery - 5th May 2026 (upcoming), Karachi Pakistan
- 2026 Half gallery - 26th May 2026 (upcoming), New York USA
- 2025 Living memory, Untitled Art fair Houston - September, Houston TX
- 2025 Exhibitionism, Rajiv Menon contemporary, Los Angeles USA
- 2024 The subaltern can paint, Aicon gallery, NYC USA
- 2024 Deck the walls, New York academy of art, NYC USA
- 2024 Rastah pop up show, SOHO, NYC USA
- 2024 Power dynamics, powerhouse arts Brooklyn, NY USA
- 2024 False walls, spring break art fair, NYC USA
- 2024 Take home a nude, Sothebys, NY USA
- 2024 Hamptons art fair 2024, OKFRIDA, NY USA
- 2024 Summer exhibition, forum gallery, NYC USA
- 2024 Thesis show, New York academy of art, NYC USA
- 2024 Alumni art exhibition, Aitchison college, Lahore Pakistan
- 2023 Blurry vision, Highside workshop, NYC, USA
- 2023 Deck the walls, New York academy of art, NYC, USA
- 2022 Moving stills, Tasweer Ghar, Lahore Pakistan
- 2021 Baad e sabaa, dastaangoi, Islamabad, Pakistan
- 2021 Thesis exhibition, Florence classical art academy, Florence, Italy
- 2018 Alumni exhibition, Aitchison college, Lahore, Pakistan
- 2017 Next big thing, unicorn gallery, Lahore Pakistan

Residencies

- 2025 Potato farm project, NY USA
- 2021 Dastangoi artist residency, Islamabad Pakistan
- 2017 Shakir Ali Museum artist residency, Lahore, Pakistan

Work history

- 2024 Adjunct faculty, New York academy of art
- 2023 Teaching assistant SURP (summer undergraduate residency program), New York Academy of Art
- 2021 Instructor/ teaching assistant, Florence classical art academy, Florence, Italy
- 2016 - current Director, Rina's kitchenette, Lahore Pakistan

Press

- 2025 The 5 Most Talked-About Artists from Untitled Art, Houston 2025 by Maxwell Rabb, Artsy
- 2025 Rajiv Menon Contemporary, a new gallery with focus on South Asian art, opens in Hollywood by Carlie Porterfield, The Art News Paper
- 2025 At His Namesake Gallery, Rajiv Menon Wants to Put South Asian Artists on the Map by Anoushka Mirchandani, Interview Magazine
- 2025 New gallery Rajiv Menon Contemporary brings contemporary South Asian and diasporic art to Los Angeles 'Exhibitionism', the inaugural showcase at Rajiv Menon Contemporary gallery in Hollywood, examines the boundaries of intimacy By Aastha D, Wallpaper
- 2025 Rajiv Menon Contemporary to open Los Angeles gallery by Mark Westall , Fad Magazine
- 2024 Summer Exhibition , New York Academy of Art
- 2022 Dastaangoi brings InternarionL Artists to Pakistan's North for a Plein Art Tour by Hafsah Sarfraz
- 2022 Islamabad-based Dastaangoi is creating a platform for cultural exchange between Pakistan and the world, The initiative includes a permanent gallery and an artist's residency by Hannah Perez
- 2021 In Our Utopias We Unite as One by Shireen Ikramullah Khan
- 2021 Dastaangoi Art Residency: Baad-e-Saba: The Morning Breeze by Haroon Shuaib

Artist statement

In these oil pastel drawings, Noormah Jamal constructs dreamlike tableaux that move between the playful and the unsettling. Rendered in vivid colour and expressive mark-making, the works unfold as symbolic narratives where figures, landscapes, and objects function less as literal scenes and more as fragments of memory or allegory. The compositions often appear deceptively childlike at first glance, figures with simplified proportions, saturated skies, and fantastical elements, yet beneath this immediacy lies a complex emotional register. Jamal frequently approaches her work through a child's lens, using innocence and whimsy to disarm the viewer while gradually revealing darker psychological and social undertones.

Across these drawings, recurring motifs like mountains, clouds, stars, flames, and domestic objects all form a symbolic vocabulary through which personal and collective histories surface for the artist. Figures often occupy ambiguous narrative spaces: resting in water while flames rise behind them, standing atop podiums like monuments, or appearing haloed and winged within surreal landscapes. These scenes resist singular interpretation. Instead, they function as emotional landscapes where vulnerability, protection, competition, and myth coexist. The bowls, halos, wings, and celestial imagery suggest both ritual and folklore, drawing loosely from oral traditions and cultural memory that inform Jamal's broader practice.

Ultimately, these drawings operate as sites of quiet tension. Humor, tenderness, and absurdity coexist with moments of danger or melancholy. By situating her figures within surreal environments that blur the boundaries between childhood imagination and lived experience, Jamal creates images that invite prolonged looking, where the whimsical becomes uncanny, and the personal becomes mythic.

Profile

Noormah Jamal is a Brooklyn based multidisciplinary artist. She graduated from the National College of Arts Lahore in 2016, majoring in Mughal Miniature Painting. And earned her MFA in Painting and Drawing, minoring in ceramics from Pratt Institute, NY in 2023.

Her work centers around identity and the personal baggage that people carry. Her image making and sculptures are deeply rooted in the oral histories of her community and family. Some of her notable shows include, Space in Time at Rietberg Museum in Switzerland and at Canvas Gallery Karachi; Sites of ruin and Power/Play at Twelve Gates Arts in Philadelphia and her solo Meena/Veena at Rajiv Menon contemporary in LA.

Her work has been featured in various publications and media including Hyperallergic, the Herald, Artsy, Impulse mag, the Karachi collective and the New American paintings.

Currently she is a member of the Elizabeth foundation for the arts, Manhattan studio program.

Noormah Jamal

Education

- 2012 - 16 Bachelor of Fine Arts: The National College of Arts, Lahore
Major: Mughal Miniature Painting, Minor: Printmaking
- 2021 - 23 MFA Painting and Drawing: Pratt Institute Brooklyn

Solo Exhibitions

- 2021 Drun: The insider, the outsider, at Sanat initiative Karachi, Pakistan
- 2025 Meena/ Veena, Rajiv Menon contemporary Los Angeles, April 11th

Select Group Exhibitions

- 2026 Embodied Narratives curated by Micaela Giovannotti at Kates-ferri projects
- 2025 Seen unseen, hosted by UN Pakistan, at Pakistan National Council of Arts
- 2025 Garden of times Curated by Sehrish Mustafa, Articulate Lahore April 17th
- 2024 Body Freedom Every(body) Curated by Jasmine Wahi and Rebecca Jampol, In collaboration with the Armory and Time square arts, NYC
- 2024 Vitruvian Woman, Thierry Goldberg Gallery, NYC
- 2024 Means of production, Sheerly touch-ya factory Queens, Curated by the Lunch hour
- 2024 The past is a country at Rajiv Menon Contemporary, LA
- 2024 Sovereign Asian art Prize finalist exhibition in Hong Kong
- 2024 Power/Play, Twelve gates Philadelphia, Curated by Ambika Trasi
- 2024 Savage Garden at Kates-ferri projects, NYC
- 2024 Poetics of Relatability at Aicon Contemporary, NYC
- 2023 Drawing into sculpture, LIC-A Art, NYC, Curated by Matt Nolen Dec 13th
- 2023 Unrooted, Sotheby's Institute of Art, NYC, Nov 9th
- 2023 EFA New members show, Elizabeth foundation of the arts, NYC, Sep 14th
- 2023 Mankind, at Canvas Gallery Karachi
- 2023 Making space: Histories and Heritage, Pratt MFA Brooklyn, Curated by Sofia Shaula, March 27th
- 2022 Sites of Ruin, at Twelve Gates Arts, Philadelphia, 4th November
- 2022 Pakistan flood relief fundraiser at prime produce, Hell's Kitchen NY, 30th Sep. (Auction)
- 2021 For the wicked and the valiant, Curated by Irfan Dahri at O art space Lahore, 8th Jan
- 2020 Displayed with Khamsa art, Curated by Ambereen Karamat 8th July
- 2019 Self portraits in the age of the selfie, COMO Museum of Art Lahore, Aug 31
- 2019 Space in time, Canvas Gallery Karachi, Curated by Quddus Mirza, Aug 20
- 2019 Diversity Adversity, 11th Taaza Tareen art residency VASL artist association Karachi Curated by Adeela Suleman, April 18
- 2019 Space in Time, Reitberg Museum Switzerland, Curated By Quddus Mirza and Dr. Caroline Widmer, Feb 21
- 2019 WE'19, World Bank Islamabad, Curated By Zara Sajid, March 8
- 2018 Tarhun: the beautiful the bizarre, 2 person show at O art space Lahore

Fairs

- 2026 Zonamaco Three person booth with Kates-Ferri projects, Feb
- 2025 Untitled Miami : Two person Booth with Kates-Ferri projects, Dec
- 2025 Asia Now Paris : 'Love Letters' with O art space curated by Anissa Touati, Oct
- 2024 NADA MIAMI: Solo booth with 12 Gates Arts in the TD special spotlight section curated by Jasmine Wahi, Dec

Publications / Print media / Digital Media

- 2026 Zonamaco fair in The Art news paper
- 2025 Wavehill winter workspace announcement
- 2025 'I will never leave you' printed in SAAG
- 2025 New American Paintings Northeast issue 176
- 2025 6 shows celebrating AAPI artists by Arun Kakar in Artsy
- 2025 Reluctant roots, Radical Blooms by Anwesh Banerjee in Taara mag volumn 3
- 2025 Face to face in Impulse mag by Abbas A. Malakar
- 2024 'South asian childhood seen through lens of metaphor and play', in artblog by Vriddhi Vinay
- 2024 'In the studio with Noormah Jamal' in CMA By Kerry Santulo
- 2024 Finalists publication of 'The Sovereign Asian Art prize' Hong Kong
- 2023 'Capturing essence of the human form' in The News International, June 19
- 2023 Pratt's MFA students Plumb the meaning of belonging by Rhea Nayyar in Hyperallergic, April 10
- 2022 Artwork 'The sins of eve', featured on the aleph review website. July 19
- 2022 Arresting Artwork, Interviewed by Anmol Irfan in The New Humanist London, Jan 17
- 2021 Artwork 'The lovely bones', featured on the Aleph review website July 2
- 2021 'Nonsensical truths a reflection of Drun' by Jovita Alvares, The Karachi collective, July 1
- 2020 Artwork 'hold your shit together', printed in the 4th volume of the Aleph review
- 2020 Art and representation: challenging the negative perception of Pukhtoons by Propergaanda
- 2019 Noormah Jamal interviewed by Aya for Girls club Asia, Dec 17
- 2019 Imran Mir art prize winners announced in ADA(architecture design art)
- 2019 Imran Mir art prize winners in Dawn News, Sep 23
- 2019 11th Taaza Tareen art residency VASL in Art now Pakistan By Numair Abbasi
- 2019 Noormah Jamal at VASL 11TH Art residency by Natasha Japanwala
- 2019 Parallel Solitudes, The NEWS, April 15
- 2019 Parallel solitudes opens, Dawn News, April 14
- 2019 Weekend scouts Noormah Jamal Artist in focus, Weekend Magazine, April 7
- 2018 Seeing Voices by Sehrish Mustafa in Art Now Pakistan
- 2018 Tarhun- The beautiful-The bizarre by Hira Shah for Youlin Magazine, Sep 24
- 2018 A room with another View By Quddus Mirza For The News, Sep 23
- 2018 A look into Jamal's Exhibition By Samah Akhtar for Propergaanda
- 2018 Ustad Shahgird Publication By PNCA
- 2018 Ustad Shahgird Publication by Xiang Polytechnic University : Empirical Empire by Maheen Aziz for Art Now Pakistan
- 2017 Controlling The Narrative (Pakistani female Figurative Artists) By Anum Lasharie, Sep 21
- 2017 For Arts Sake (Lahore's artists) in Weekend Magazine By Anum Lasharie, August 7
- 2017 Cover artwork for Decorrespondent (Sabeen Mehmood)
- 2016 In spotlight: Noormah Jamal By Taskeen Zahra for Sunday Magazine, April 27
- 2016 Degrees of Success in Dawn Herald By Zarmeene Shah, Mar 15
- 2016 Great un-expectations In Art now Pakistan By Seher Tareen, Feb 1
- 2015 Pakistani Art School Trains The Next Generation of Miniaturists, By Noemie Jennifer, Nov 23 in The Creators Project

Talks and Lectures

- 2025 Panel Discussion sponsored by SAWCC at EFA open studios
- 2025 Artist talk at Parsons invited by Professor Jen Mazza
- 2025 Moving art forward in the New/old normal at NADA Miami with Jasmine Wahi and Cierra Britton
- 2024 Artist talk 'Twelve Gates Arts' May
- 2023 Artist talk with 'Christie's education' August
- 2023 Artist talk at South Asian Feminist futures collective, NYU, June
- 2022 Artist talk at Twelve Gates Arts, Philadelphia Nov
- 2021 Lecture on 'The history of miniature painting and the relevance to design and color' to foundation year students, Pratt Institute, Oct
- 2019 Artist talk at COMO Museum of Art, Lahore, Sep

Residencies

- 2026 Wavehill winter workspace residency NYC
- 2023 - 24 Projectart Resident for the year at the Bushwick library NYC
- 2023 - 24 Children's Museum of the Arts NYC Resident
- 2019 Vasl 11th TAAZA TAREEN art residency Karachi 12th March - 26th April

Awards / Honors

- 2024 Nominated for Rema Hort Mann foundation Grant
- 2024 Nominated for The Joan Mitchell fellowship
- 2024 Finalist for the Sovereign Asian Art Prize
- 2024 Pratt Circle award for Academic excellence
- 2023 Elizabeth foundation for the Arts Studio program
- 2023 James Seeman scholarship
- 2023 Schuback endowed scholarship for academic achievement
- 2023 Provost renewable graduate scholarship Pratt institute
- 2019 Imran Mir Art Prize

Artist statement

The caryatid is stripped of its classical ideal, returned to the body of the ordinary woman - bare, unmonumental, marked by labor.

Discarded clothing holds histories of use, touch, and erasure. Through stitching and accumulation, it becomes structure - intimacy turned to endurance.

Drawing from vernacular doll-making traditions of Punjab, Pakistan, the figures carry an ancestral presence, where care gathers as inheritance.

The bodies resist refinement. Sagging forms, altered proportions - refusing the aesthetics of control.

Within ruin - like architectures, labor endures - without spectacle.

Profile

Ruby Chishti is a Pakistani American sculptor and installation artist based in New York City. Educated at the National College of Arts in Lahore, her work traces the transformation of discarded, mass-produced, and ceremonial garments into layered sculptural forms that challenge hierarchies and hold social memory and lived experience.

Working across sculpture and installation, Chishti engages found textiles to explore themes of loss, resilience, migration, and interdependence. Her practice is shaped by personal histories - including displacement and rupture - and reflects an ongoing inquiry into survival, care, and the passage of time.

She has participated in residencies nationally and internationally, including serving as Critic-in-Residence at Cornell University, and was awarded the VSC/Pollock-Krasner Fellowship (2022) and the Joan Mitchell Foundation Grant (2024).

Her work has been exhibited at institutions including the Asia Society Museum, Queens Museum, Hudson Valley MOCA, Brooklyn Museum, Middlebury College Museum of Art, Harris Museum (UK), and the National Museum of Qatar, among others.

Her work is held in the permanent collections of the Art Mill Museum (Qatar Museums), Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, Devi Art Foundation, and the Whitworth, University of Manchester.

Ruby Chishti

Education

BFA, National College of Arts, Lahore, Pakistan
Sculpture and Ceramics, El Dorado Center, Placerville, CA
Bronze Casting, Art Foundry Gallery, Sacramento, CA

Selected Exhibitions

2025 Bunker Art Space 2025-2026 Exhibition, West Palm Beach, FL
2025 The Golden Thread II: A Fiber Art Exhibition, Bravin Lee Programs, New York, NY
2025 The World Is A Loose Stitch II, Solo Exhibition, Rohtas II, Lahore, Pakistan
2025 Narrators of Dissonance, Group Exhibition, 1x1 Gallery, Dubai
2025 Beyond DNA 2, O Art Space, Lahore, Pakistan
2025 Dialogue Across Time, Chawkandi Art Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
2024 Brooklyn Artists Exhibition, Brooklyn, NY
2024 The World Is a Loose Stitch, Solo Exhibition, Aicon Contemporary, New York, NY
2024 40 Years of Ceres, Ceres Gallery, New York, NY
2024 Dil Na Umeed To Nahi, Faiz Festival, Alhamra Art Center, Lahore, Pakistan
2023 Address: Earth, Group Exhibition, Hudson Valley Museum of Contemporary Art, NY
2023 Tossed, Middlebury College Museum of Art, VT
2023 Through the Eye of the Needle, MOCA Hudson Valley, NY
2022 What Fragment of You Survives in Me?, Solo Exhibition, Canvas Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
2022 India Art Fair, Booth B7, Gallery Threshold, New Delhi, India
2022 Social Fabric, ArtsWestchester, White Plains, NY
2022 Lines of Control, Chawkandi Art Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
2021 Patterns of the Past: Weaving Heritage into "Pakistani" Art, Grosvenor Gallery, London, UK
2021 Bind/Bound, Gallery Threshold, New Delhi, India
2021 FRINGE, Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi, India
2020 The Tide Turns, Solo Exhibition, Aicon Gallery, New York, NY
2020 Me(Mory), Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi, India
2019 End of Nature, Aicon Gallery, New York, NY
2019 Between Spirit and Magic, Rossi & Rossi, Hong Kong
2019 Common Borders, Farhang Foundation (Tehran, Iran) & Sanat Initiative (Karachi, Pakistan)
2018 *Narratives of Memory: A Conversation with Time*, Cornell Art Biennial, Jill Stuart Gallery, Ithaca, NY
2018 Objects We Behold, Aan Gandhara Art Space, Karachi, Pakistan
2017 Witness, Karachi Art Biennale, Pakistan
2017 Lucid Dreams; Distant Visions: South Asian Art in the Diaspora, Asia Society, New York, NY
2017 Detritus: Matter Out of Place, Serendipity Arts Festival, Goa, India
2016 Colombo Art Biennale, Sri Lanka
2016 Erote, The Hollows Art Space, Williamsburg, NY
2016 *Sheherzade's Gift*, Center for Book Arts, New York, NY

Fellowships, Residencies & Awards

2024 Joan Mitchell Fellowship
2019 VSC / Pollock-Krasner Foundation Fellowship, Vermont Studio Center
2014 VCCA Fellowship Award, VA
2006 Vermont Studio Center Fellowship, VT
2016 Theertha Artist Residency, Colombo, Sri Lanka
2012 Transparent Studio Residency, Bose Pacia, NY
2006 Vasl International Artist Residency, Karachi, Pakistan
2001 Artist in Residence (Shisha), Harris Museum, Preston, UK
2000 Vasl First International Artist Workshop, Gaddani, Pakistan

Lectures & Workshops (Selected)

2025 But... This Moment Is About You, South Asia Institute, Chicago
2025 But... This Moment Is About You, Workshop At Peekskill High School, Peekskill, NY
2018 Graduate Seminar Presentation, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
2016 Artist Lecture, Sri Lanka Archive of Contemporary Art, Design & Architecture, Jaffna, Sri Lanka
2014 Art Comes from Life, Montclair State University, NJ
2011 Artist Lecture, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY
2010 Artist Lecture, National College of Arts, Lahore, Pakistan
2008 DWAYER International Women's Workshop, Alexandria, Egypt

Collections

Qatar Museums
Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, New Delhi, India
Devi Art Foundation, New Delhi, India
Victoria & Albert Museum of Childhood, London, UK
Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester, UK

Artist statement

Usaydh Agha is an artist and painter currently working between Pakistan and the UK. His work focuses on figuration and narrative construction across a range of subject matter, exploring themes such as the place of the individual in the family and culture, the iconography of violence and the expression of place and context as a means to identity. At the center of his practice is a study of the visual image and its ability to express not only action, movement and emotion, but also its capacity to prompt self-reflective inquiry.

Profile

I am a recent graduate of the Royal College of Art (MA Painting). Prior to this, I received my training through private tutelage, courses at the Florence Academy of Art and the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University where I completed my undergraduate degree (BA in Philosophy and Political Science). Prior to working as an artist I trained and practised as a lawyer and advocate. I was raised in Karachi, Pakistan where I completed my early education.

Usaydh Agha

Education

- 2024 - 25 Royal College of Art (London, UK), Masters in Painting
- 2020 - 21 City University London (London, UK), Bar Vocational Course (PgDip), The City Law School
- 2015 - 16 Master of Laws: Professional Legal Practice (LL.M), The City Law School
- 2013 - 14 Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL), The City Law School
- 2009 - 13 Tufts University (USA) Bachelor of Arts (B.A), College of Arts & Sciences

Exhibitions

- 2025 Terrace Gallery (London, UK) Let the Dust Settle – Group Show
- 2025 Three Rooms Gallery (Walthamstow, UK) Reality Check – Group Show
- 2025 Peckham Rye Waiting Station (London, UK) Diasporic Archive – Group Show
- 2025 Handbag Factory (London, UK) Windows Granted – Group Show
- 2025 Royal College of Art (London, UK) MA Painting Degree Show – Group Show
- 2023 Canvas Gallery (Karachi, Pakistan) Group Show

Work Experience

- 2021 - present Painter and Visual Artist - Displayed in group shows at various galleries in both the UK and Pakistan
- 2016 - 21 Legal Practitioner - Corporate/Commercial Legal Services, Regulatory/Advisory Services, Civil Litigationhuaib