

Artist statement

D.H.I. (Drawing Hostile Infrastructure) borrows the language of institutional abbreviations to examine recurring forms within Karachi's streets through drawing and painting.

The works emerge from repeated encounters with two distinct but related conditions: improvised barricades assembled from everyday objects, and the persistent presence of security vehicles outside government and diplomatic buildings across Karachi. One is temporary, assembled and dismantled as needed; the other is institutional and enduring.

The drawings study ordinary objects that temporarily become infrastructure; *the Blue Board Paintings* turn to institutional objects that make authority visible through their continual presence. One emerges from improvised acts of governance, the other from the mechanisms of the state. Both intervene in circulation. Both occupy the street. Together they examine how power is exercised through the forms that shape everyday movement and define public space.

What keeps drawing me back to these forms is the way they resist straightforward description. A barrier supported by a plastic chair is both entirely ordinary and quietly absurd; a heavily armoured vehicle can appear unexpectedly compact, almost theatrical. I am interested in that unstable space where careful observation meets exaggeration, and where the ordinary begins to look unexpectedly strange. Drawing and painting become a way of testing that instability.

Profile

Seher Naveed is a Karachi-based artist with over a decade of experience in visual arts and academia. Her practice explores the socio-political development of urban environments and their impact on everyday life, with a particular focus on Karachi and its evolving political and infrastructural landscape. Through this lens, her work examines how architecture and infrastructure reflect collective aspirations within contexts shaped by political instability.

Seher earned a BFA from the Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture (IVS), Karachi, and an MA in Fine Art from Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London (UAL). She has exhibited widely in local and international galleries and institutions. Her work is held in the permanent collection of the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, New Delhi. In 2026, her Tips series was commissioned by Art Jameel for the exhibition Global Positioning Systems at Jameel Art Center, Dubai. In 2015, she initiated and curated Drawing Documents, a research project and publication series examining diverse drawing practices across Pakistan.

She is currently Associate Professor at IVS, where she teaches courses in drawing and painting. She is also co-director of the Urban Repository Archive (URA), a project preserving student research on Karachi's evolving conditions, and serves on the editorial board of Hybrid, a transdisciplinary research journal at IVS.

Education	
2008 - 09	MA Fine Art, Central Saint Martins, University of Arts London, UK
2004 - 07	BFA Painting, Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, Karachi, Pakistan
Academic Appointments	
2024 - present	Associate Professor, Department of Fine Art, Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, Karachi, Pakistan
2023	Assistant Professor, Department of Fine Art, Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, Karachi, Pakistan
2020 - 23	Head of Department, Department of Fine Art, Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, Karachi, Pakistan
2017 - 20	Assistant Professor, Department of Fine Art, Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, Karachi, Pakistan
2012 - 16	Lecturer, Department of Fine Art, Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, Karachi, Pakistan
2010 - 12	Adjunct Faculty, Department of Fine Art, Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, Karachi, Pakistan
Select Courses Taught (IVS)	
2025	Visual Thinking and Inquiry 2, Fall
2025	Major Studio 1 (2D): Urban/Nature: Tactile Explorations, Spring
2024	Visual Thinking & Inquiry 1, Spring
2023	Drawings Methods 5, Spring
2022	Major Studio 1 (2D): Painting, Spring
2020	Major Studio 1 : Painting 1, Spring
2021	Drawings Methods 5, Spring,
2020	Drawing Methods 2, Fall
2020	Major Studio 1 (2D): Printmaking, Oil and Photo-transfers, Fall
2020	Major Studio 2 : Painting, Spring
2025	Art and Context 3: Beyond the Studio (Theory), Fall
2025	Art and Context 1: Urban Life in Modern and Contemporary Practices (Theory), Spring
2025	Art and Context: Conflict Representation - Installation Art (Theory), Fall
2023	Liberal Art Elective: Creative Practices Beyond the Studio (Theory), Fall
2022	Art and Context 3: Beyond the Studio (Theory), Fall
2021	Thesis Studio 2, Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall
2021	Thesis Studio 1, Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring
2020	Final Research Paper, Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021, Spring
Research and Editorial Projects	
2025 - present	Co-designed and Co-leading research, Maachi Qaida (Fish Manual) Internship Project and Archival Research for The Fish Market: A Document, Urban Repository Archive (URA), IVS, Karachi, Pakistan
2024 - present	Founding Co-director, Urban Repository Archive (URA), Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, Karachi, Pakistan
2024 - 25	Lead Editor, Hybrid Research Journal, Vol. 7 “Hot”, Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, Karachi Pakistan
2021; 23 - present	Editorial Board Member, Hybrid Research Journal, Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, Karachi Pakistan
2015 - 18	Founder and Co-curator, Drawing Documents (publication and exhibition series), Gallery, Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, Karachi Pakistan
Grants	
2024	Archive Grant, Art South Asia Project (UK) - Awarded to Urban Repository Archive (URA) Department of Fine Art, Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, Karachi, Pakistan
Solo Exhibitions	
2025	Built to Fail, Aicon Contemporary, New York, USA
2023	Shape Shifting, Canvas Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
2021	In and Around, Abu Dhabi Art Fair, Aicon Contemporary, Abu Dhabi, UAE
2021	Contained, Aicon Contemporary, New York, USA
2020	Contraptions, Canvas Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
2015	The Wall, IVS Gallery, Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, Karachi Pakistan
Group Exhibitions	
2026	Global Positioning Systems, Curated by Lucas Morin and Indranjan Banerjee, Jameel Art Center, Dubai, UAE
2026	House of Spider Silk: On Quiet Architectures, The Friday Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
2026	The Shape of Space, Collaboration between Art Manzil and Articulate Studios, Curated by Niyash Mistry, Lahore, Pakistan
2023	Pop South Asia: Artistic Explorations in the Popular, Curated by Iftikhar Dadi and Roobina Karode, Karan Nadar Museum, New Delhi, India
2022	Pop South Asia: Artistic Explorations in the Popular, Curated by Iftikhar Dadi and Roobina Karode, Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, UAE
2022	Pagal Pagal Pagal Pagal Filmy Duniya, Althea Thauberger, Artistic Response, Curated by Elham Puriya Mehr, Hinterland, Vienna, Austria
2020	Pretty Art For Pretty People, Curated by Emaan Mahmed, Sanat Initiative, Karachi, Pakistan
2020	Karachi Ki Khoj: Redefining the Metropolis, Curated by Ali Dossal, Humayun Memon, Sohail Zuberi, NED, City Campus, Karachi, Pakistan
2019	2nd Karachi Biennale, Bagh Ibn-e-Qasim, Karachi, Pakistan
2019	Quantum City: Territory space Place, Public Art Exhibit, Curated by, Amin Gulgee, Sara Pagganwala, Zarmeene Shan, Karachi Port Trust (KPT building), Karachi, Pakistan
2018	Sweeping Back the Sea: New Contemporary Art from Pakistan, Aicon Gallery, New York, USA
2018	Cultivating Wastelands, Curated by Zahra Khan, Rossi & Rossi, London, UK
2018	Future Debris, Curated by Saba Khan, Zahoor-ul-Akhlaq Gallery, National College of Arts, Lahore, Pakistan
2017	1st Karachi Biennale, NJV, Karachi, Pakistan
2017	Fine Print: Etching and Aquatint, IVS Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
2017	Taqseem, Koel Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
2016	Murree Museum Artist Residency Exhibit, Murree Resource Center, Murree, Pakistan
2015	And Nothing but the Truth: PARRHESIA II, Curated by Zarmeene Shah, Koel Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
2015	The Science of Taking a Walk, Curated by Hajra Haider Karrar, AAN Gandhara Art Space, Karachi, Pakistan
2014	At Intervals: Three Moving Image Works from Pakistan, Curated by Gemma Sharpe, University of Dundee, Scotland, UK
2013	Awaz: Baldia Factory Inferno, Curated by Adeela Suleman, Arts Council, Karachi, Pakistan
2012	Stop, Play, Pause, Repeat, Curated by Nafisa Rizvi, Lawrie Shabibi Gallery, Dubai, UAE
2012	Drawing Mandalas, Curated by Muhammad Zeeshan, Canvas Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
2012	Mere Humd@um, Aicon Contemporary, New York, USA
2011	Perception Vs Progression (two-person show), Khaas Gallery, Islamabad, Pakistan
2011	Encounters, Curated by Zarmeene Shah, Rohtas Gallery, Lahore, Pakistan
Curatorial Projects	
2022	Asim Butt Rediscovered Works, IVS Gallery, Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, Karachi, Pakistan
2019	Contemporary Anxieties The Body and Its Politics, Co-Curated with Omer Wasim, with support from Vasl Artists' Association, IVS Gallery, Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, Karachi, Pakistan
2018	Observations, Drawing Documents 06, Inaam Zafar, IVS Gallery, Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, Karachi, Pakistan
2017	The Impossibility of Loving a Stone, Drawing Documents 05, Omer Wasim & Saira Sheikh, IVS Gallery, Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, Karachi, Pakistan
2017	We Ate the Birds - A Multidisciplinary Project, Koel Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
2016	Photographs Are Drawings, Drawing Documents 04, Saba Khan, IVS Gallery, Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, Karachi, Pakistan
2016	Linear (Im)Possibilities, Drawing Documents 03, Yasser Vayani, IVS Gallery, Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, Karachi, Pakistan
2016	Other Selves, Drawing Documents 02, Moeen Faruqi, IVS Gallery, Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, Karachi, Pakistan
2016	See View, Drawing Documents 01 with Suleman Aqeel Khilji, IVS Gallery, Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, Karachi, Pakistan
Workshops	
2025 - 26	Assembling Art Archives: Participant - Selected through application process, Art South Asia Project, UK X Asia Art Archive, India,
2022	Online and in person in Kathmandu (Nov, 2025), Expanding the Studio to the Bazaar, Workshop Co-designed and led with Saba Khan, Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, UAE
2021	Drawing Marathon, Conceived and Instructed, House of Kal, Karachi, Pakistan (IVS Gallery) and Colombo, Srilanka (Online) House of Kal Curators: Aziz Sohail and Sandev Handy
2021	Thinking Through Practice, Co-designed and Co- led Workshop with Veera Rustomji, Department of Fine Art, Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture
Invited Talks and Panels	
2025	Panelist - URA, Decolonization: Post Independence Art and Architecture in South Asia, +921 Heritage Talks, Pakistan Chowk Community Center (Online)
2025	Presentation, Mapping Karachi: The Urban Repository Archive, Art Murmur, Art South Asia Project, Uk (Online)
2025	Presentation, How Art Students are Collecting, Recording and Observing Change, SOCH, Awaaz Leadership Labs, India (Online)
2025	Talk, Art, Archives and Urban Imagination, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Agha Khan University, Karachi
2024	Talk, Process Practice Research: Talk on Drawing Documents, Spring Lecture Series, MPhil Program, IVS
2024	Panelist, Asia Forum Arts and Environment Roundtable: Publications, Climate Congress: Of Lists and Seas, Lahore Biennale, Lahore
2022	Talk, Safe Map of Karachi - Pagal Pagal Pagal Pagal Filmy Duniya, In Conversation with Elham Puriya Mehr (Online)
Publications and Writing	
2025	Editorial Note, Hybrid Research Journal, Vol.7 “HOT”, Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, Karachi, Pakistan
2020	Commissioned Essay, A Brief Overview of Public Art in Karachi2nd IPAF publication - Karachi Ki Khoj Redefining the Metropolis
2018	Essay, Are Images the Real Story? Materializing Memory and Problems with Archiving, Hybrid Research Journal, Vol. 1 “Archive”
2017	Essay, Art/Work – A Survey of Labour in Art, Optics of Labour – Omer Wasim & Saira Sheikh (exhibition publication)
2017	Essay, Are Photographs Drawings: An Essay on Saba Khan's Image Archive, Drawing Documents 04 - Photographs Are Drawings Saba Khan
2016	Essay, Working Drawings, Drawing Documents 02 - Other Selves Moeen Faruqi
2016	Essay, See View: The Landscape is Already There, Drawing Documents 01 – See View Suleman Aqeel Khilji
2019	Catalogue Essay, Contemporary Anxieties – The Body and its Politics, Art in Pursuit: Exploring Social and Political Issues in Public and Other Spaces, Vasl Artist's Collective Publications
2016	Article, In the Mountains: Murree Museum Artists' Residency, Art Now Pakistan
2016	Article, A History Interrupted: The 70s - Pakistan's Radioactive Decade, Art Now Pakistan
2016	Article, A Line of Thought: Review of New Urban Constructions at Koel Gallery, Art Now Pakistan
2014	Article, Still Painting: Review of [dih-still.ed] at Sanat Gallery, Art Now Pakistan
2022	Research Visit, Invited by Mondrian Fonds, Amsterdam, Netherlands
2016	Project Coordinator and Artist in Residence, Murree Museum Artist Residency, Murree, Pakistan
2015	Artist in Residence, Murree Museum Artist Residency, Murree, Pakistan
2015	Writer in Residence, Taaza Tareen, Vasl Artists' Collective, Karachi, Pakistan
2013	Artist and Teacher in Residence, START Jordan, Amman, Jordan
2008	Artist in Residence, Sutra, Kathmandu, Nepal
Bibliographical Citations and Reviews	
2023	Shifting Space, Peerzada Salman, Dawn
2023	Art Review: Shape Shifting, Sana Shahid, Youlin Magazine
2023	The Promise of Pop Art, Kamran Asdar Ali, The News
2021	Making Sense of Security, Quddus Mirza, 2021The News
2021	Contraption and the Tilism, Peerzada Salman, Dawn
2020	Flight Interrupted: Eco Leaks from the Invasion desk, Muhammad Zeeshan, On Curating
2017	Conversations with Contemporary Pakistani Artists Vol 1. 86 Minutes with Seher Naveed, Vasl Artists' Association, Karachi, Pakistan
2017	Eating the Birds, by Zehra Hamdani, The Friday Times
2017	One for the Birds, Nusrat Khwaja, Newsline Magazine
2017	An Artist Retreat: On the Edge of Chaos, Saira Ansari, Libas International Magazine
2015	Sign, Science and Space, Quddus Mirza, The Friday Times
2015	And Nothing But The Truth, Osama Khalid, Art Now Pakistan
2015	Review: The Science of Taking a Walk, Shanzay Subzwari, Express Tribune
2015	The Presence of Absence: A Solo Show by Seher Naveed, Amna Iqbal, Art Now
2015	Not For Sale: Painter Seher Naveed Refuses to Compromise on Self-Expression, Express Tribune
2012	Travel Guide to Karachi: Going Nowhere, Sanam Maher, Express Tribune
2013	Fighting Fire, Gemma Sharpe, The Friday Times
2012	Top Ten: Harry Hutchison Selects Ten Emerging Indian and Pakistani Artists, Blouin Artinfo
2012	Mere Humd(r)um, Sadia Salim, Art Now
2011	Review: Perception Vs Progression, Momina Sibtain, Express Tribune
Professional Service	
2023 - 25	Faculty Representative, Executive Committee, IVS, Karachi, Pakistan
2022	External Jury Panel Member, Final Year Thesis, Department of Fine Art, National College of Art (NCA)
2021	External Jury Panel Member, Final Year Thesis, Department of Visual Studies, Karachi University, Karachi
2020	External Supervisor, Dissertation, MA Art Education, Beaconhouse National University (BNU), Lahore, Pakistan
2020 - 21	Admissions Committee, IVS, Karachi, Pakistan
2019	External Jury Panel Member, Final Year Thesis, Department of Visual Studies, Karachi University, Karachi
2019	Mentorship for Vasl resident artist, Mina Arham, Vasl Artists' Collective, Karachi, Pakistan
2017	External Supervisor, Final Year Thesis, Department of Fine Art, NCA Rawalpindi Campus, Rawalpindi, Pakistan
2016 - 18	Member, Curriculum Coordination Committee, Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, Karachi, Pakistan
2015 - 17	Curator, IVS Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
2009 - 10	Guide for Hayward Gallery (CSM - work placement), Shows: Ed Ruscha: Fifty Years of Painting; Annette Messager: The Messenger; Mark Wallinger: The Russian Linesman, Hayward Gallery, London, UK