Artist statement

The works in this exhibition emerge from an ongoing engagement with the body - its desires, its thresholds, and its quiet negotiations with violence. Drawing from the visual language of Baroque painting, particularly its use of light, flesh, and suspended moments, these paintings inhabit a space between intimacy and rupture.

The pomegranate appears throughout as a recurring form. Traditionally associated with fertility, abundance, and sensuality, it is also approached here as a site of fracture. Its skin holds; its interior yields. In this tension between containment and release, the fruit begins to mirror the body - not as representation, but as condition.

Across the works, acts of touch, pressure, and proximity unfold without resolution. A hand hovers. A body leans. A surface gives way. These gestures remain suspended, resisting climax or closure. What emerges instead is a quiet violence - one that is not performed, but felt. It exists in the moment before rupture, where desire and harm are no longer easily distinguishable.

Profile

Muhammad Ali is a multidisciplinary visual and performance artist who graduated in 2010 from the Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture (IVSAA) with his Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts (BFA).

In the proceeding decade, Ali exhibited widely locally and internationally, with several solo and multi-person shows to his credit, including displays at the Bruckenthal Museum of Contemporary Art in Romania and being selected as a finalist for the Sovereign Asian Art Prize 2013, as well as a seminal group show at Dubai's leading Lawrie Shabibi Gallery in 2012. His work was subsequently shown in Hong Kong and South Korea and he was nominated and selected to represent Karachi Biennale 2017 (KB17) at a performance art intensive in Leeds.

Ali's creative process weaves together intuition, emotion, and imagination. His works become portals to alternate realities, fostering connections and conversations.

Education

2010 Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts (BFA)
(Specialisation in Miniature Painting & Photography)
Indus Valley School of Art & Architecture (IVSAA) Karachi

Solo Exhibitions

2026 'The Pomegranates', Canvas Gallery, Karachi
2024 'Some Kind of Marriage', Canvas Gallery, Karachi
2023 'From Karachi, With Love', PAF Gallery, Lahore
2020 'Love Letters to Lost Lovers', Canvas Gallery, Karachi
2016 'Emperor's Real Clothes', Canvas Gallery, Karachi
2014 'A Rainbow of Y/Our Own', Canvas Gallery, Karachi
2013 'Let Them Eat Butterflies', Canvas Gallery, Karachi

Group Exhibitions

2025 'Time Dust', KB 27 Curtain Raiser, Gulgee Museum, Karachi
2023 'Revolution/Evolution', Sambara Art Gallery, Karachi
2021 'Past-Present-Future', Koel Gallery/O Art Space, Karachi
2021 'PAF Collectors' Soiree 2021', PAF Gallery, Lahore
2021 'Every Second Counts', Tanzara Gallery, Islamabad
2020 'The Trojan Donkey', Virtual Performance Art Happening
2020 'Laal Jadoo/Red Magic', Karachi House, Karachi
2018 'Mix Tape [1]' Canvas Gallery, Karachi
2017 'Marination', The Tetley, Leeds, UK
2017 'Karachi Biennale' 17 (KB17), Karachi
2017 'Botany of Desire', Koel Gallery, Karachi
2017 'Portraiture', Canvas Gallery, Karachi
2016 'Slippery Grammar', Full Circle Gallery, Karachi
2016 'Magnum Chocolate Party Art Show', Pearl Continental Hotel, Karachi
2016 '70s: Pakistan's Radioactive Decade', Amin Gulgee Gallery, Karachi
2016 '700 Stitches', Creative Karachi Festival, Alliance Française de Karachi
2015 'Nescafé Dolce Gusto Launch Exhibition', Mohatta Palace Museum, Karachi
2015 'They Really Live the Real Reality', Twelve Gates Arts, Philadelphia
2015 'Speaking in Tongues', Karachi Literature Festival, Beach Luxury Hotel, Karachi
2014 'Dreamscape', Amin Gulgee Gallery, Karachi
2014 'FRESH', Amin Gulgee Gallery, Karachi
2013 'Pursukoon Karachi', Arts Council, Karachi
2013 'Sovereign Asian Art Prize Finalists' Artworks', Seoul Auction Pyeongchang Space, Seoul
2013 'Sovereign Asian Art Prize', (Finalists) Sovereign Art Foundation, Hong Kong
2013 'RIWAHYTI: One Night Stand', Amin Gulgee Gallery, Karachi
2012 'Usman aur Mein', Koel Gallery, Karachi
2012 'Stop, Play, Pause, Repeat', Lawrie Shabibi Gallery, Dubai
2012 'Concern Worldwide Summer Party Live Auction Items', Mango Tree, London
2012 'Band, Baaja, Baaraat, IVSAA Gallery, Karachi
2011 'Condolence Theatre', two-person show, Canvas Gallery, Karachi
2011 'Moderate or Otherwise', ArtChowk Gallery, Karachi
2011 'Desire is War', The Contemporary Art Gallery, Brukenthal National Museum, Sibiu, Romania
2011 'And Nothing but the Truth', IVSAA Gallery, Karachi
2011 'What's Hot', Poppy Seed Gallery, Karachi
2011 'Floors, Wall, Roof', Rohtas Gallery, Islamabad
2011 '9th Emerging Talent Exhibition', V.M. Gallery, Karachi
2010 'Thesis Degree Show', Indus Valley School of Art & Architecture, Karachi
2009 'A Feast in Exile', Alliance Française de Karachi, Karachi
2008 'Group Show', Alliance Française de Karachi, Karachi

Work Experience

2017 Visiting Faculty for Design, Iqra University, Karachi
2017 Visiting Faculty for Drawing, Iqra University, Karachi
Volunteer Art Teacher for children with special needs from Karachi Vocational Centre, IVSAA (Fine Art Community Service Programme)
Visiting Faculty for Continuing Education Programme, IVSAA
Internship (Gallery Management), Poppy Seed Gallery, Karachi