Artist statement

لکھتے رقعہ لکھے گئے دفتر
شوق نے بات کیا بڑھائی ہے
میر تقی میر

it started as a letter and ended up as daftar (volumes /piles of files),
What lengths my eagerness has taken me to!

Meer Taqi Meer

Translations of the Text used in Paintings

1. Daagh Dehlvi

How I have deceived my heart in my restlessness
By writing your reply to my letter myself

2. Ghulam Farid

When I look at him, he does not look back
And when I am not looking, then he looks at me
Where do I find the luck that will allow us to meet our gaze

3. Gulzar

The words do not sit still on the page
They keep flittering about like butterflies

4. Habib Jalib

An incomplete poem

5. Hassan Dars

There is no need for rukoo or sajda
You should only offer funeral prayers

6. Jaun Elia

Various incomplete pieces of poetry

7. Meer Taqi Meer

I am dying of anguish
What a blow the heart has received!

It started as a letter and ended up as daftar (volumes)
What lengths my eagerness has taken me to

My desire for the greatest beloved
What calamity has it dropped upon me

The brokenness of the heart is something to see
What a building these sorrows have demolished

The metaphor that those lips are like rubies
Are only made up words for the sake of saying something

So close to the heart, yet so far away
Who can claim to be acquainted with the Beloved

What is Behistun (a mountain), and who is the hewer of that mountain
It is love testing its own strength

The ailment from which you can die
Is the separation from your loved ones

Here, we have been reduced to dust
But there, the same coquetry and vanity persists

I am dumbfounded by the death of Majnu
Meer what a death has the madman attained

8. Mehmood Darvish

I am my language

9. Mirza Ghalib

What all am I uttering in my madness
May no one understand anything at all

10. Munir Niazi

Today has also gone by in vain
No work has been done
The sun rose in the east
And set in the west
I met no one
Nor did I remember God
I did not pray
Nor did I drink wine
Neither happiness nor sadness came to me
I did not laugh nor cry
Today has also gone by in vain

11. Paul Valery

A poem is never finished, only abandoned

12. Rasul Gamzatov (translated by Faiz Ahmed Faiz)

When he had not learnt to speak yet
I could understand him completely
Now he has become a poet, heaven's sake
And now it's a shame that I do not understand anything he says

13. Sabir Ali Sabir

Whatever I say
They ask immediately
Where has this been written
They only accept what is written
When I write it down
Even then they do not accept it
(And ask) this which you have written
Where has it been written

That which has never been said
Do not ever say it
That which has never been written
Do not ever write it
Where has this been written

14. Sachal Sar Mast

One day the murshid taught me a line about love
I lovingly wrote it down on the plank of my heart
Sachal, love does not grow old even if your beard turns white

15.Shah Latif

The first page of Gunj (one of the earliest manuscripts of Shah jo Risalo)

16. Sultan Bahu

The River of the heart is deeper than the sea; who knows of the heart?

17. Ustad Bukhari

I admire the entire world, but not as much as I admire you

18. Ustad Daman

Pakistan has been divided strangely;
A bit here and a bit there
What treatment can these surgeons give;
The wound is here and they are treating it elsewhere

Profile

Ayaz Jokhio, born in 1978 in Mehrabpur, Sindh, is one of the most intelligent, innovative, and important voices in contemporary art from Pakistan. He obtained his Bachelor's in Fine Arts from the National College of Arts, Lahore, in 2001, and his Master's in Art Education from Beaconhouse National University, Lahore, in 2018.

He lives and works between Lahore and Mehrabpur, Sindh.

Jokhio, known for his work, often infused with dry humor, uses an amalgamation of imagery from both print and electronic media, alongside his own observations of contemporary Pakistan. He incorporates diverse media and techniques, from painting with his hands to digitally created images, and from installations to kinetic sculptures.

His works have been shown extensively in numerous solo and group exhibitions, both nationally and internationally. Notable exhibitions include Curtained at Canvas Gallery, Karachi (2022), the First Karachi Biennale (2017), Digging Deep Crossing Far in Karachi, Berlin, and Lahore (2016-17),
the Art Dubai Solo Booth at Canvas Gallery (2015), Sindh Festival, Karachi (2014), Art Dubai 12 and ArtHK 11 at Green Cardamom, and A Poet's Country: His Eyes at Green Cardamom, London (2012). He also exhibited at the Asia Pacific Triennial 6 in Brisbane, Australia (2009).

Jokhio has also been an artist-in-residence in Germany, Japan, Switzerland, and his home country, Pakistan.

Jokhio quit his position as an associate professor after teaching for 18 years (2006 to 2024) at the Mariam Dawood School of Visual Arts and Design, BNU Lahore. He currently teaches at Harsukh School Lahore, a school run by his family for children from underprivileged backgrounds.

Education

2001	Bachelor in Fine Arts, National College of Arts Lahore, Pakistan
2018	Master in Art Education, Mariam Dawood, School of Visual Arts and Design - Beaconhouse National University, Lahore, Pakistan

Teaching Experience

2006 - 09	Visiting Faculty, Mariam Dawood School of Visual Arts and Design - National University, Lahore, Pakistan
2009 - 24	Member of Permanent faculty, Mariam Dawood School of Visual Arts and Design - Beaconhouse National University, Lahore, Pakistan
2025 - 26	Visiting Faculty, Department of Fine Arts (Painting), National College of Arts Lahore
2023 - Present	Adjunct Teacher, Harsukh School (Idara e Ilm o Fun) Lahore, Pakistan
2007 - 26	Has been Member of external jury for undergraduate and Master thesis at National College of Arts Lahore, National College of Arts Rawalpindi, Indus Valley School of Art, Design & Architecture Karachi, CEAD Jamshoro (now known as SABS University) and Kinnaird College for Women Lahore, Pakistan (Multiple times, From 2007 to 2026)

Solo Exhibitions

2025	Three Chairs The Barracks Art Museum Lahore, Pakistan
2024	Painting of a Palette' Canvas Gallery Karachi, Pakistan
2022	Curtained Canvas Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
2019	This Is Not Magrittes Painting. Canvas Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
2017	Half Paintings Ayaz Jokhio Canvas Gallery, Karachi
2015	Ayaz Jokhio (Solo booth) Canvas Gallery Karachi at Art Dubai
2015	Ideas Are Black and White Koel Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
2014	Filling Greys (a coloring exercise for advanced in age) Taseer Art Gallery, Lahore, Pakistan
2013	Non-commissioned Portraits and Landscapes Canvas Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
2012	A Poets Country: His Eyes Green Cardamom, London, UK
2009	Newspaper-collages Canvas Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
2009	Old Father Time Grey Noise Art Gallery, Lahore, Pakistan
2008	Miniature Paintings Rohtas 2 Gallery, Lahore, Pakistan
2008	Ayaz Jokhio Drawings Grey Noise in collaboration with VM Art Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
2005	99 Self-portraits 2005 Arcus Studio, Moriya, Japan
2005	Titled Hirshgang - Akademie Schloss Solitude, Stuttgart, Germany

Two - Person Exhibitions

2013	Ayaz Jokhio and Zainub Jawwad Utopiana, Geneva, Switzerland
2011	Adeel uz Zafar and Ayaz Jokhio Canvas Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
2010	Medium as Metaphor - Ahmed Ali Manganhar and Ayaz Jokhio Green Cardamom, London, UK
2008	Bani Abidi and Ayaz Jokhio, Zahoor ul Akhlaq Gallery NCA, Lahore, Pakistan

Group Exhibitions (Selected)

2026	Stray, White Wall Gallery, Lahore, Pakistan
2025	The NCA triennale: Kasb e Kamal Kun, National College of Arts Lahore, Pakistan
2025	Feed(/)me, Haam Gallery, Lahore, Pakistan
2024	Manzar: Art and Architecture from Pakistan 1940 to Today, National Museum of Qatar
2024	Affordable Luxury II' Sanat Initiative, Karachi, Pakistan
2024	Mathematics of Composing pretences Kaleido Kontemporary Lahore, Pakistan
2023	The Day After an Art exhibition the 9Th Islamabad Literature Festival, Pakistan
2023	Re-examine/Retrace 0.2 O Art Space, Lahore, Pakistan
2022	Facts, Fiction and The Factory: A Reflection T2F Gallery/Vasl Artists Association Karachi, Pakistan
2022	Sculpture/Sculptor Como Museum, Lahore, Pakistan
2022	Shiraka (Come Together) Alserkal Arts Foundation, Dubai, UAE
2022	The Factory Chawla Shoe Factory, Sunder industrial Estate, Lahore, Pakistan
2021	Past, Present, Future Koel Gallery and O Art Space, Karachi, Pakistan
2020	1x1 O Art Space, Lahore, Pakistan
2019	Mera Safar, Koel Gallery Karachi, Pakistan
2018	'In the Beginning Was the Word', O Art Space, Lahore, Pakistan
2017	Karachi Biennial, NJV School, Karachi, Pakistan
2016 - 17	Digging Deep Crossing Far Karachi, Berlin and Lahore, Pakistan
2015	Nescafe Dolce Gusto, curated by Canvas Gallery at Mohatta Palace, Karachi, Pakistan
2014	Sindh, the ending sound reverberates and dissolves in the air Koel Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
2014	Art Fest. Sindh Festival, Frere Hall, Karachi, Pakistan
2013	CH9 Art Gallery, Geneva, Switzerland
2013	Extra | Ordinary Group Show curated by Rashid Rana, Canvas Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
2013	'Crossing Over' Gallery Latitude 28, Delhi, India
2013	Past Perfect Zahoor ul Akhlaq Art Gallery, NCA, Lahore, Pakistan
2012	Art and Peace HD Centre, Geneva, Switzerland
2012	Band, Baja, Baraat Indus Valley School Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
2012	Green Cardamom at Art Dubai 2012, UAE
2012	In Praise Of Red Royaat Gallery, Lahore, Pakistan
2011	Green Cardamom at ArtHK11, Hong Kong, China
2011	After All Royaat Gallery, Lahore, Pakistan
2011	'Portrait/Subject' - Green Cardamom at Art Dubai, UAE
2010	Rising Tide Mohatta Palace Museum Karachi, Pakistan
2010	Group exhibition of shortlisted artists for Asian Art Prize 2009 Sovereign Art Foundation, Hong Kong, China
2010	Resemble: Reassemble (contemporary Pakistani art) Devi Art Foundation, Gurgaon, India
2009	The Sixth Asia-Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art Queensland Art Gallery / Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane, Australia
2009	Hanging Fire: Contemporary art from Pakistan Asia Society and Museum, New York, USA
2009	Going Places Canvas Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
2009	Green Cardamom, Art Dubai, UAE
2009	Starring Artist Indus Valley Art Gallery, Indus Valley School of Arts and Design, Karachi, Pakistan
2008	Lets Talk Grey Noise in Collaboration with Jam Jar, Dubai, UAE
2008	Drawn from line Green Cardamom, London
2008	Tradition, Technique and Technology Aicon Gallery, Palo Alto CA, USA
2008	26.04.08 - Grey Noise launch show, Alhamra Art Gallery, Lahore, Pakistan
2007	Inaugural exhibition - National Art Gallery, Islamabad, Pakistan
2007	Sohni Dharti - a project of Vasl and Citizens Archive of Pakistan, Arts Council Karachi, Pakistan
2007	'Talespinning' - Croweaters Art Gallery Lahore, Pakistan
2006	Who are you, where are you really from? - Whitworth Art Gallery, University of Manchester, UK
2006	Vasl Media Art Show - VM Art Gallery Karachi, Pakistan
2005	Self Portraits of Our Time - Rohtas 2 Art Gallery, Lahore, Pakistan
2004	Site-specific works by ASS-fellows, Raumstrass - Akademie Schloss Solitude, Stuttgart, Germany
2002	Selected works by top NCA-graduates, Zahoor ul Akhlaq Art Gallery - NCA Lahore
2001	Final year Thesis exhibition, National College of Arts, Lahore, Pakistan

Film Making

2007	Generation Next (5 short films) - a collaboration with 5 children from different social backgrounds, a project of BBC URDU
2006	Dekh Magar Pyar Se - a short film, a project of BBC URDU on sexuality - baat tau karni parre gi
2005	Cinematography and Art direction: Gairatmand - a tele-film directed by Sharjil Baloch, a project of British Council Karachi on honor killing in Pakistan (later selected for drama of the year award PTV 2007)
2003	Direction: A Tribute to Yousif Machhi - a short film, a project of Sindh TV (selected for screening at 4th Kara Film Festival Karachi).
2003	Cinematography: Ki Jana Mein Kon- a documentary on life of Hindus in Sindh, a project of Action Aid, Karachi (won Best documentary Award at 1st South Asian Documentary Festival Katmandu 2008)

Artist in Residence / Fellowship

2019	Pioneer Residency Khushaab, Pakistan
2013	Utopiana Geneva, Switzerland
2012	artasfoundation Zurich, Switzerland
2005	Arcus Project, Moriya, Japan
2004 - 05	Akademie Schloss Solitude, Stuttgart, Germany

Publications (Selected)

2018	Subjective Atlas of Pakistan, Creative Industries Fund and Hivos, Netherland
2017	Portraits by Ayaz Jokhio, Canvas Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
2013	Extra | Ordinary published by Canvas Gallery Karachi, Pakistan
2011	Drawn from Line Abbot Hall Art Gallery, Kendal and Green cardamom London, U.K
2010	Rising Tide Published by Mohatta Palace Museum, Karachi, Pakistan
2010	In The Milieu Of Fatah Halepoto Published by Green Cardamom, UAE
2010	Resemble /Reassemble Published by Devi Art Foundation, Gurgaon, India
2009	Staring: Artist Self-portraits from Pakistan published by Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture Karachi, Pakistan
2009	Hanging Fire: Contemporary art from Pakistan Published by Asia Society and Museum, New York, USA
2009	Younger Than Jesus Published by New Museum, New York and Phaidon, USA
2009	Sixth Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art APT6, Published by Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art - Brisbane, Australia
2008	Ayaz Jokhio Drawings Published by Grey Noise Lahore in collaboration with VM Art Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
2008	Tradition, Technique, Technology II: Contemporary artists from Pakistan Published by Aicon Gallery, Palo Alto, USA
2006	Who Are You, Where Are You Really From Published by Whitworth Art Gallery, University of Manchester, UK
2005	Titled Published by Akademie Schloss Solitude, Stuttgart, Germany