

SAIRA WASIM

Born in 1975 in Lahore, Pakistan
Lives and works in California

Bio

Saira Wasim was born in Pakistan in 1975, she trained at Lahore's National College of Arts and graduated with a Bachelors in Fine Arts with focus in miniature painting in 1999. Making use of caricature and satire her works address issues of power, politics, and globalization exploring social and political issues that divide the modern world, painting in miniature scale subject matter with monumental impact.

Wasim's works are also deeply personal, reflecting the dichotomy between tradition and the contemporary in her native Pakistan and her experiences as a Pakistani in her new home in the United States. She reflects on her own personal transition, and interweaves symbols of these personal experiences with the theatrics of international politics.

Although her subject matter is contemporary,

Saira's practice is rooted in tradition. She works in the time-honoured fashion of Mughal miniature painting, producing her own glue and working on hand made Indian Wasli paper. She prepares the surface of the paper to receive the fine paints that she makes herself, as well as producing squirrel hairbrushes, sometimes as thin as a single hair with which she applies the fine pigments in the gouache technique of the miniaturist.

For this exhibition in London Wasim found her inspiration in the historic relationship between Europe and the Indian sub continent, and sheds light on issues of politics and faith.

Saira Wasim's works have been exhibited in the Whitney Museum of American Art, Brooklyn Museum of Art and the Asian Art Museum. It is also part of several public collections, including the Victorian and Albert Museum in London.

CV

Education

1999 BA Fine Arts, National College of Arts, Lahore, Pakistan

Solo Exhibitions

2013 *To Define is to Limit*, Hong Kong Visual Art Center, Hong Kong

2008 *Epic Miniatures*, Ameringer McEnery Yohe gallery, New York

2005 *Political Carousel*, South Western University, Texas

Two-Person Exhibitions

2004 *Transcendent Contemplations* with Hasnat Mahmood, Green Cardamom, Hosain, London

2003 *With Waseem Ahmad*, Rohtas 2 Gallery, Lahore, Pakistan

Group Exhibitions

2015 *The Great Game*, The Iranian Pavilion Venice Biennale

2014 *Ethereal*, Leila Heller gallery in New York

2013 *Illuminated Geographies*, Aidekman Art Center, Medford, USA

2012 *Care Packages*, Twelve gates Art gallery, Philadelphia, USA

2012 *Invoking Peace*, at Euphrat Museum Of Art at Cupertino, USA

- 2011 *Realms of Intimacy*, Contemporary Art Center Cincinnati, USA
 2008 *Artropolis / Partisan*, Art Chicago, Chicago
 2008 *A New Cosmopolitanism: Preeminence of Place*, California State University, Fullerton Main Gallery, California, USA
 2008 *Empire and its Discontents*, Aidekman Art Center, Medford, USA
 2008 *One way or Another, Asian American art now*, at Honolulu Academy of Arts Honolulu Academy of Arts, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA
 2008 *One way or Another, Asian American art now*, The Japanese American National Museum, Los Angeles, USA
 2007 *Double Conscience*, Mattress Factory Museum Pittsburg
 2007 *One way or Another, Asian American art now*, Berkeley Art Museum, Berkeley, USA
 2006 *One way or Another, Asian American art now*, Asia Society New York
 2006 *Karkhana: a Contemporary Collaboration*, Asian Art Museum San Francisco, USA
 2005 *Karkhana: a Contemporary Collaboration*, Aldrich Museum, USA
 2005 *Future Tense: Security and Human Rights*, Queensland College of Art Griffith University, Australia.
 2005 Small works on paper 'Ritu-gathering of Seasons' group show of Pakistani and Indian Miniature painters. Anant Art gallery, New Delhi
 2004 *Playing with up-loaded Gun*, Fridericianum, Kassel
 2003 *Karkhana*, Touchstones Art Gallery, Rochdale, UK
 2003 *American Effect*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
 2003 *Playing with a Loaded Gun*, Apex art, New York
 2003 *Miniatures Pakistanaises*, Masion d' Art Contemporain Chaillioux, Fresnes, France
 2002 *Exotic Bodies*, at Harris Museum & Art Gallery, Preston, UK
 2001 *Maneuvering Miniatures*, International India Centre, New Delhi and Sakshi Gallery, Mumbai
 2001 *Around the Miniature*, Canvas Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
 2000 *Six Artists from Pakistan*, Jay Grimm Gallery, New York
 2000 Did richen Art Museum, Kuusisaari, Finland
 2000 125th Celebrations of National College of Arts and Millennium exhibition in National College of Arts Gallery, Pakistan

Awards and Residencies

- 2003 Residency in Vermont Studio Center, Vermont, USA, with fellowship award
 Distinction Award, National College of Arts, Lahore, Pakistan

Public Collections

Victorian and Albert Museum, London
 Smith College Museum, Massachusetts
 Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Tokyo
 Queensland art gallery and Museum, Australia
 Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, New Delhi, India

Workshops

- 2005 Two months workshop on 'Miniature Painting' at Oklahoma State University, Stillwater-Oklahoma
 2005 Two weeks workshop on 'South Asian Painting' in South Western University, Texas

Visiting Artist-talk

- 2012 Columbia College, Chicago
 2011 DePaul University, Chicago
 2010 Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago
 2009 North Western University, Chicago
 2008 Tuft University, Boston
 2005 Wes Watkins Center, Oklahoma State University
 2005 South Western University, Texas
 2004 Smith College, Massachusetts

2003 University of Maryland, College Park

2003 Whitney Museum of American Art, New York