

AURA

Curated by Qasim Bugti

AROOJ SHAHID

ABU HANZLA

ASAD GULZAR

DANISH SHIVANI

RAJESHWARI

RAMEEZ KHOKHAR

SUNDEEP KUMAR

SHABIR BALOCH

UMAINA KHAN

ZULEKHA MANDOKHAIL

6th MAY 6:00 PM

Exhibition will continue till 13th May

📍 26th Street, Block 4 F-39/1 Clifton, Karachi 📞 0300-2269590 📷 @artscenegalleries

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AURA

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6th MAY 6:00 PM

CURATORIAL NOTE

AURA brings together a diverse group of emerging and established artists whose works radiate a unique sense of presence, emotion, and energy. The title "AURA" reflects the invisible but deeply felt essence that each artwork carries an extension of the artist's inner world into the viewer's space.

In curating this exhibition, my intention was to select works that embody subtle yet powerful narratives, textures, and sentiments works that hold space quietly but speak profoundly. Each piece has been chosen for its ability to evoke feeling, provoke thought, and invite introspection. From poetic abstractions to contemplative figuration, AURA is a visual and emotional journey. I invite you to pause, observe, and let the aura of each artwork resonate with your own.

Qasim Bugti
Curator



AROOJ SHAHID

ARTIST STATEMENT :

My work is rooted in an exploration of our evolving relationship with the natural world. Drawing inspiration from the quiet intricacies of monstera leaves and macaw feathers, I reflect on the growing sense of distance between humanity and the ecosystems that once nurtured us. Through layered forms and shifting surfaces, I evoke the tension between presence and absence. What is seen, remembered, and slowly forgotten. Organic elements emerge and dissolve, hinting at a fragile connection that is becoming increasingly blurred in the face of modern life. My paintings invite a contemplation of the spaces that now exist between us and the natural rhythms we were once part of. They are meditations on memory, transformation, and the quiet call to reimagine our place within a larger living world.

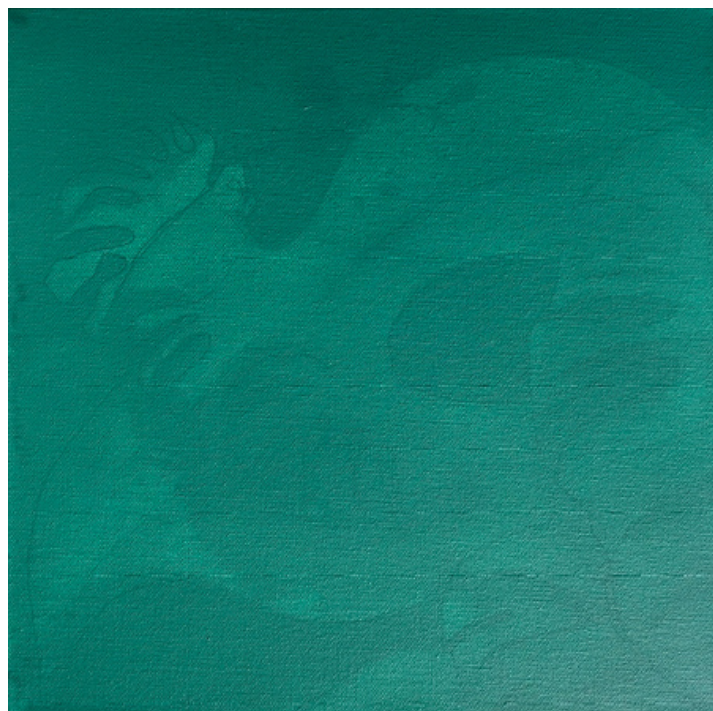
SHORT BIO:

Arooj is a contemporary visual artist based in Lahore, Pakistan. She earned her bachelor's degree in Jewelry Design from the Pakistan Institute of Fashion and Design (PIFD). Though largely self-taught in painting, she refined her artistic practice under the mentorship of established artists, developing a distinctive, intuitive approach to creative expression across multiple mediums. Arooj's work spans a range of materials including watercolor, acrylics, polymer clay, resin, and mixed media. She has been teaching private and group art classes for two years at her studio in Lahore, where she has taught over 70 students and hosted more than 10 workshops. Her painting 'Verdant Whispers' was featured in the 2024 Fabriano In Acquarello exhibitions in Italy and Texas. From January to February 2025, she participated in the Collective55 residency under the mentorship of Qasim Bugti, an experience that expanded her conceptual and material exploration. Her practice reflects an evolving relationship with the natural world and a sensitivity to the subtle shifts between memory, environment, and human experience.



12" by 16"-Acrylic & Archival Ink on Canvas- 2025

Quiet Distance



12" by 12" each-Acrylic & Archival Ink on Canvas-2025
Fading Conversations



ABU HANZLA

ARTIST STATEMENT :

My practice convey the complex and interconnected relationships between human activities and the environment. Inspired by the beauty and fragility of nature, his paintings often celebrate the intricate details of the world around us Yet, they also bear witness to the impact of human intervention, acting as a visual narrative that highlights the consequences of our actions on the delicate ecosystems that sustain life.

SHORT BIO:

Born in Faisalabad, Pakistan, Abu Hanzla is a contemporary visual artist. He earned his Master's degree in Visual Arts from the National College of Arts, Lahore, in 2024, and his Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts from the Institute of Art and Design, Government College University, Faisalabad, in 2019.

Hanzla's work has been exhibited widely at prominent venues, including the India Art Fair; Ejaz Art Gallery, Lahore; Alhamra Art Center, Lahore; Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), Islamabad; Gallery6, Islamabad; Tagheer Gallery, Lahore; NumaishGah, Lahore; Kaleido Kontemporary Art Gallery, Lahore; Muse Art Gallery, Lahore; Ocean Art Gallery, Lahore; and O Art Space, Lahore.

In 2024, he was awarded the prestigious Charles Wallace Trust Grant to attend a three-month course at the King's Foundation School in London. He has also contributed to art education as a visiting lecturer in the Department of Fine Arts at Lahore College for Women University.



30x40 inches-Oil on canvas-2025

Reclaiming Grove



30x40 inches-Oil on Canvas-2025

Mall Road Lahore



MUHAMMAD ASAD GULZAR

ARTIST STATEMENT :

Through my visual journey I aim to discover the complexities of emotion and experiences. Either bold or delicate, each stroke expresses interplay of light and shadow, certainty and uncertainty and so on. Through my creations, I affirm to evoke introspection and curiosity, inviting viewers to explore their own interpretations and connections. My visual language is a reflection of the myriad emotions and essence of life, you may say that I create a language that transcends words and speaks directly to the soul.

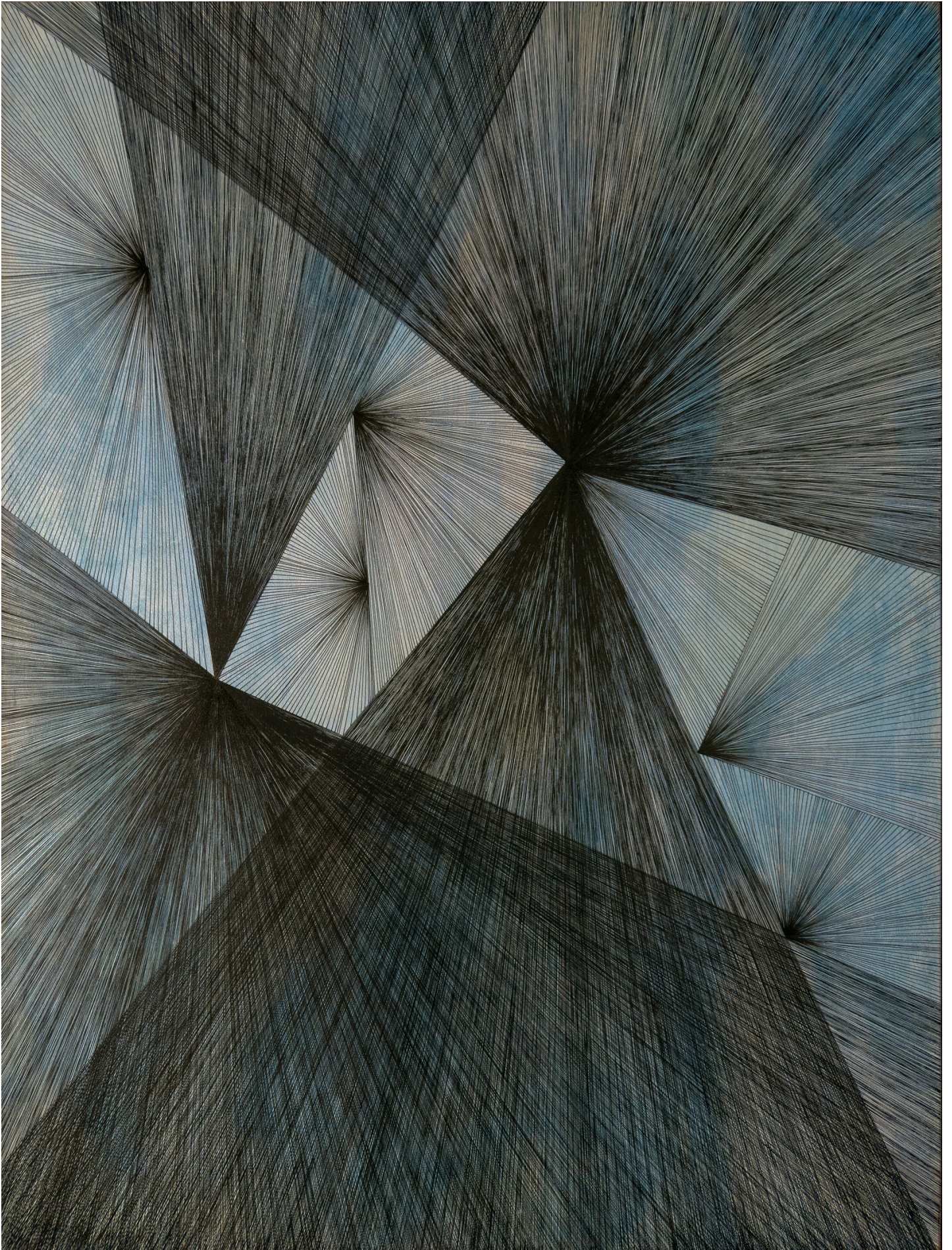
SHORT BIO:

Muhammad Asad Gulzar was born in Hyderabad, Sindh, Pakistan in 1991. He graduated in fine arts from Centre of Excellence Arts and Design, Mehran University Engineering and Technology, Jamshoro in 2014. He explored junk materials in his bachelor's thesis through paintings. In his Art practice, he used different mediums and surfaces. He participated in many groups shows in different well-known galleries in Pakistan like V.M Art Gallery, IVS Art Gallery, Alliance Francaise de Karachi, Spaces gallery, Frere Hall, ArtScene Gallery in Karachi, Oart Space gallery in Lahore, Pakistan art forum gallery Lahore, Sanat initiative gallery Karachi, Khaas contemporary Gallery Islamabad, Tagh'eer Lahore, Haam gallery Lahore, Numaish Gah Lahore, and also participated in international water color biennale at CEAD, MUET, Jamshoro in 2018. also, his work published in an international E-magazine. He worked in CEAD, MUET, Jamshoro as a fine arts Instructor between 2017-2018. In his career he participated in 29 group shows nationally. He completed his Post Graduation Diploma in Visual arts from National College of Arts Lahore in in 2019. After that he completed his master's degree from NCA in 2022. He is known for his freehand line drawings on large size paper and canvas with pointer and graphite pencil.



36 x 30 inches-Archival ink on canvas-2025

Non Black V



36 x 48 inches-Archival on canvas-2025

Inverted Convergence



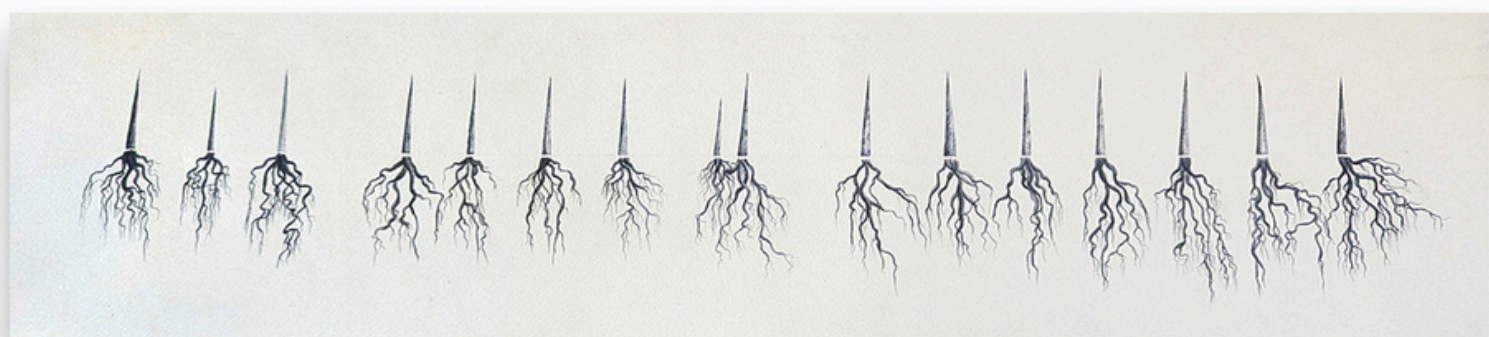
DANISH SHIVANI

ARTIST STATEMENT :

I explore the delicate interplay between the thorn and the root, using both as metaphors for life's inherent struggles and the foundational roots that anchor us. The thorns represent the resilience required to face adversity, while the roots symbolize the deep, often unseen, strength that supports growth. Through the use of watercolors, I aim to convey how challenges and support are intricately woven together, demonstrating that every hardship is met with the potential for grounding and growth. This visual language speaks to the cyclical nature of struggle and nourishment, where one cannot exist without the other.

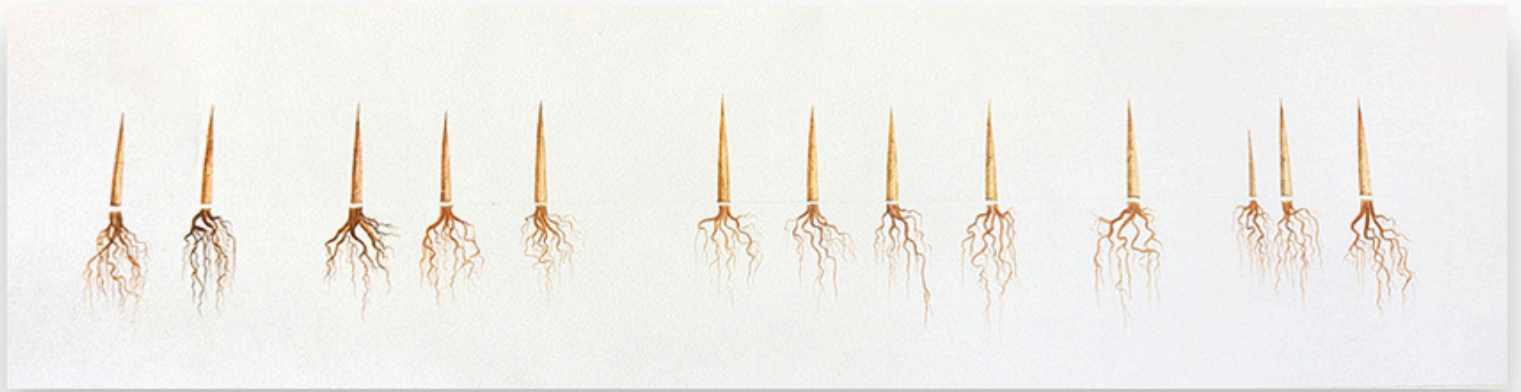
SHORT BIO:

Danish Shivani (born 1998), hailing from Tharparkar, Sindh, emerged as a formidable presence in the Karachi art scene following his graduation in Fine Arts from the Indus Valley School of Art & Architecture in 2020. With a keen focus on his roots with the community he has come from, Danish's art resonates deeply with audiences, delving into themes of identity, struggles, survival and the maker's perspective on the process. Noteworthy accolades include the Founder's Award from his alma mater and the prestigious Best Emerging Artist Award from Sambara Art Gallery in 2021. Through his evocative creations, Danish explores his personal connection to his roots while navigating the complexities of contemporary existence. Currently, Danish works and lives in Karachi.



31x6 inches- Watercolor on Archival paper-2025

The Relationship 1



31x6 inches- Watercolor on Archival paper-2025

The Relationship 2



RAJESHWARI

ARTIST STATEMENT :

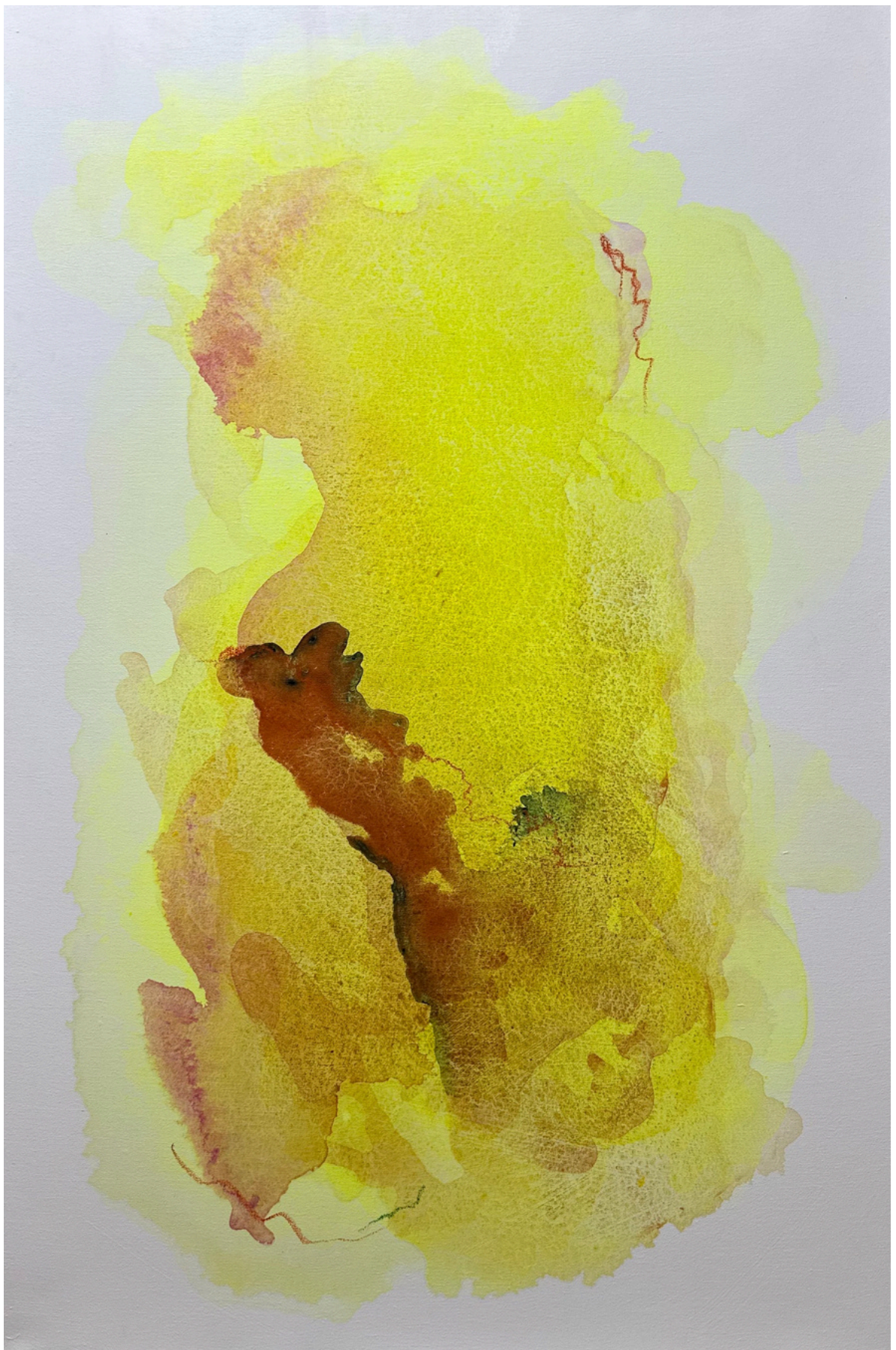
I find comfort in the rhythmic flow of acrylic washes, where I explore abstract expression through layers. Inspired by the world's simple compositions, I enjoy creating transparent visuals that capture the interplay of colours and textures. My art delves into life's complexities, using layers to symbolize the depth of our experiences. This process is my refuge, a way to connect with myself and find calm. It's a pursuit I've always desired, one that lets my soul flow freely, just like a journey of life.

SHORT BIO:

Rajeshwari is a Karachi based artist, she graduated in 2023, achieving a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts with distinction from Sabs University of Art, Design, and Heritage in Jamshoro.

She has exhibited her work at various prestigious venues, including Khamsa Art (Virtual Gallery), VM Emerging Artist Exhibition 2023, BROADCAST VOL-1 (O Art Space), VOL-I Portrait of Home (The CCC Gallery), Sindh Artists Exhibition at Art Council Of Pakistan (ACP), Pakistan's Emerging Art 2024 (Artcade Gallery), Inner Realms (a three-person show at Art Chowk Gallery), Stars Of Tomorrow at PAF, and has an upcoming show at Art Scene Gallery. Additionally, her work has been acquired by several notable private collectors.

As an abstract artist, Rajeshwari finds joy in the simple act of creation, avoiding strict themes. She draws inspiration from the beauty of nature. Currently, her focus lies in acrylic washes—an expression of abstract art centered around the theme of layers, inspired by the layers that compose our world and its simplicity.



2 by 3 ft-Acrylic & Pastels on canvas-2025

The Light Inside



3 by 3 ft-Acrylic on canvas-2025

Blue, Becoming



RAMEEZ KHOKHAR

ARTIST STATEMENT :

Rameez's work explores absence and perception, where named objects exist only as shadows and words. The interplay between text and form challenges our reliance on sight, urging us to see beyond the visible. Through simplicity and contrast, it invites contemplation on memory, presence, and the essence of everyday things.

SHORT BIO:

Born in Dadu city after his early education he moved to Hyderabad Sindh for further studies, Rameez is an art practitioner currently based in Lahore, Pakistan. He completed his BFA from the Center of Excellence in Arts & Design, MUET, Jamshoro, Sindh, Pakistan in 2012. Where he was awarded a Distinction for his efforts. Rameez then went on to pursue and complete his MA in Visual Arts from the National College of Arts, Lahore in 2023. His work displayed in various exhibition in Pakistan including Alhamra Art Center Lahore, Full Circle Gallery Karachi, VM Art Gallery Karachi, IVS Gallery Karachi, Art Council Karachi, Ahmed Parveez Art Gallery, Sindh Museum, Ejaz art gallery, PNCA Islamabad, Kaleido Kontemporary art Gallery Lahore , Oart space Art gallery, Tagheer Art Gallery, Numaish Gah art gallery Lahore



24x36-Oil on canvas-2025
Still life I



24x36-Oil on canvas-2025

Still life II



SUNDEEP KUMAR

ARTIST STATEMENT :

This series of works magnifies fragments of Pakistani coins to explore how everyday currency reflects deeper narratives of identity, faith, labour, and power. By isolating elements like the Badshahi Mosque, the crescent and star, and layering them with symbols such as Captain America's shield, I highlight the quiet tensions between national pride and foreign influence. In the diptych, bees and dripping honey become metaphors for collective labor and the uneven distribution of reward. These textured surfaces become more than metal, they reveal the complex ideologies and contradictions woven into our notions of value.

SHORT BIO:

Sundeeep Kumar (b. 1992) is a visual artist and educator based in Karachi, Pakistan. He holds a BFA in Painting from the Centre of Excellence in Art & Design, Jamshoro (now Shaheed Allah Buksh Soomro University of Art, Design and Heritage).

Kumar's practice centers on the transformation of everyday objects—particularly coins—into larger-than-life painted forms. Drawing from his background in macro photography and digital image manipulation, he explores themes of value, identity, and socio-political realities through a surreal and nostalgic visual language.

His work has been exhibited in over twenty group and solo exhibitions across Pakistan and is part of the permanent collection at VM Art Gallery, Karachi. In addition to his studio practice, Kumar co-founded the Atelier School of Art and Design in 2018, where he teaches and mentors aspiring artists.



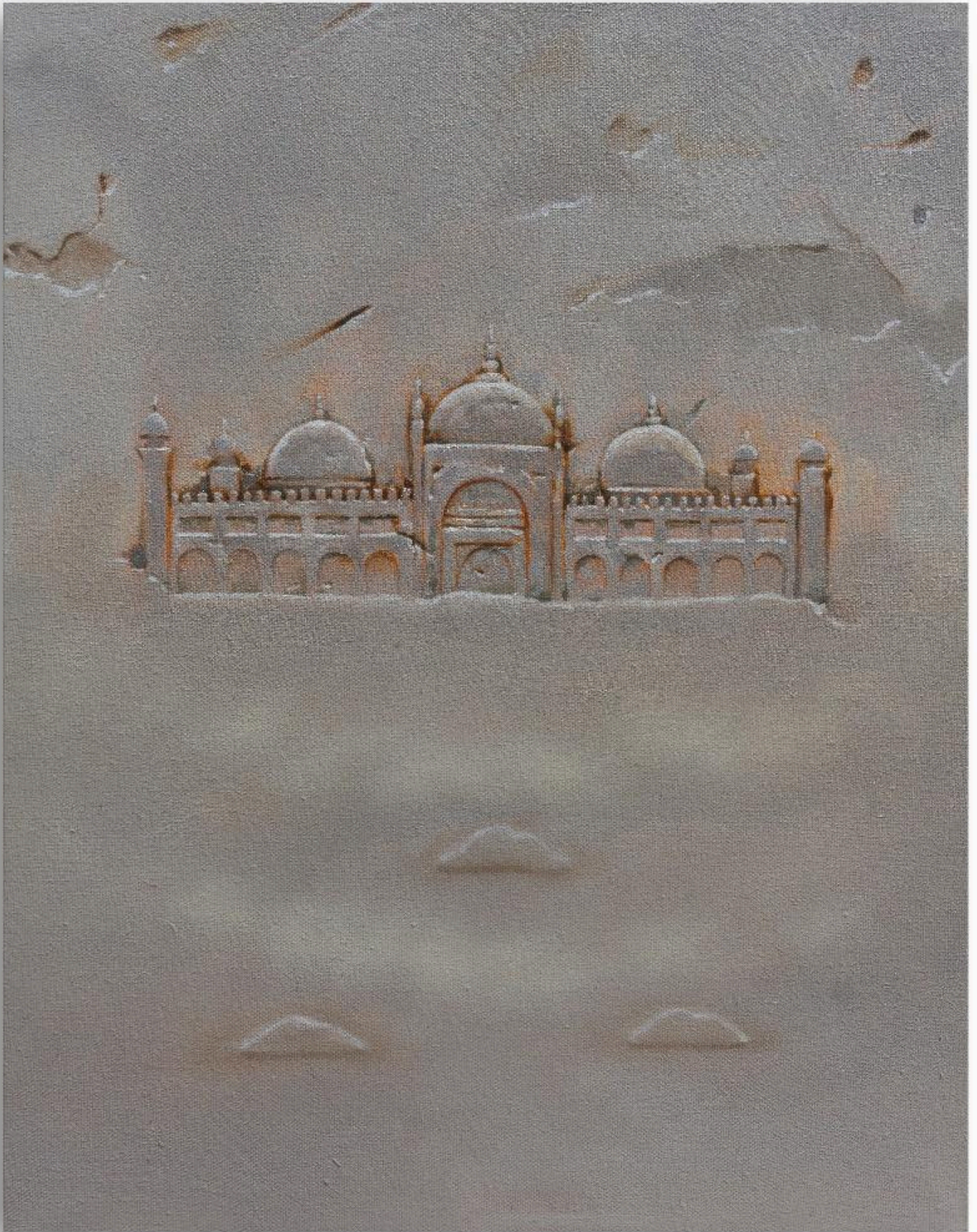
12x16 inches each-Oil on canvas-2025

The Irony (Diptych)



12x16 inches- Oil on canvas-2025

Under The Shield



12x16 inches-Oil on canvas-2025

Pride



SHABIR BALOCH

ARTIST STATEMENT :

My work deals with matters of current concern in Pakistan. I belong to Balochistan, and I have grown up witnessing violence and terror in the region. It is my belief that we ourselves are to blame for the situation we are in, and I have tried to adopt an alternative stance, not simply decrying but rather mocking the way people devise "solutions" for these problems, which are often self-created. My images offer depict involuntary bursts of laughter at unexpected situations - situations that are not necessarily funny, but which invite a subtle mockery.

SHORT BIO:

Shabir Ahmed Baloch is from Dera Murad Jamali Balochistan which is rough and remote. Born 25th of October 1985 acquiring early and high school education from his hometown. Shabir was a commercial sign board painter before he moved to Lahore, as he was admitted in National college of arts (NCA), earning his bachelors in fine arts (painting). He has done his M.Phil. In Art education from beaconhouse National University. Currently he is teaching at Lahore grammar school international Shabir chose to reside in Lahore to continue his creative adventure as a painter. His paintings reveal hardships of human life which are projected in a humorous notion. The idea behind his paintings illustrates human nature of laughing at someone else's pain like he used to say; "Nothing is funnier than the misfortune". Shabir has done many exhibitions throughout the country and abroad.



24x18 inches-Oil on canvas-2025
guard



UMAINA KHAN

ARTIST STATEMENT :

In this body of work, I am discussing the idea of dominant perspectives about a female body by the majority group within our society, observing and desiring women as objects of pleasure which almost dehumanises the body. This perspective tends to reinforce traditional gender roles and norms, reducing women to passive, decorative objects rather than fully developed characters with power and individuality.

Objectification of a female body represents no value but simply focuses on appearance and sexuality. Women are frequently depicted in ways that emphasize their sexual appeal and caters to the "majority gaze" more particularly, "male gaze." My female figures are opposite to what you would perceive a woman to be, it critiques the idea of body perfectionism and allows women to be different, flaw-full and unapologetic.

SHORT BIO:

Umaina Khan is a Karachi-based multidisciplinary practitioner, holding a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts from Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture. Primarily known for her vibrant palette and exploration of the female form in relation to "Male gaze." Participated in several national and international shows, her solo show "THE BODY BAKERY" was a satirical commentary on the glorification of the female body, followed by two art performances "Candy Lady" and "Candy Shop".

She curated "Candy forest" an immersive show consisting of performances, projections and installations in the first "World culture festival in Pakistan" in 2024. She recently displayed her work at Soho House "Hong Kong" with ArtBridger.

Umaina also curated performances called "Mystical garden" for Nigaah Art Awards 2025. Besides her art practice, she is an art mentor at Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture.



24x36 inches-Acrylic on canvas-2025
Who was she?



36x48 inches-Acrylic on canvas-2025

The sweet ladies



ZULEKHA MANDOKHAIL

ARTIST STATEMENT :

I am deeply invested in the idea of destruction and discard—not only as physical acts, but as metaphors for emotional erasure, memory loss, and societal neglect. My work often reflects on things, people, and places that have been forgotten, discarded, or rendered obsolete. In both subject and process, I am drawn to the tension between what is broken and what remains. In my thesis project, I explored the destruction and distortion of the human face, using it as a symbol of identity fractured by time, trauma, or abandonment. This exploration continues to inform my current practice, where I try to examine the aesthetics of decay and the beauty that can emerge from ruin.

SHORT BIO:

Zulekha Mandokhail (b. 2000, Quetta, Balochistan) is a visual artist whose practice is rooted in an unrelenting passion for art and an instinctive drive to create. Currently based in Quetta, she earned her Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts from the University of Balochistan in 2024 and is now pursuing her M.Phil. at the Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture. Working primarily in oils and charcoal, Zulekha's work reflects a deep exploration of emotional tension and visual contrast. Her undergraduate thesis culminated in a large-scale mural that seamlessly fused drawing and painting—a project that earned her a Gold Medal for its conceptual depth and technical execution. At the heart of Zulekha's artistic inquiry lies the theme of destruction—as both a physical act and a symbolic force.

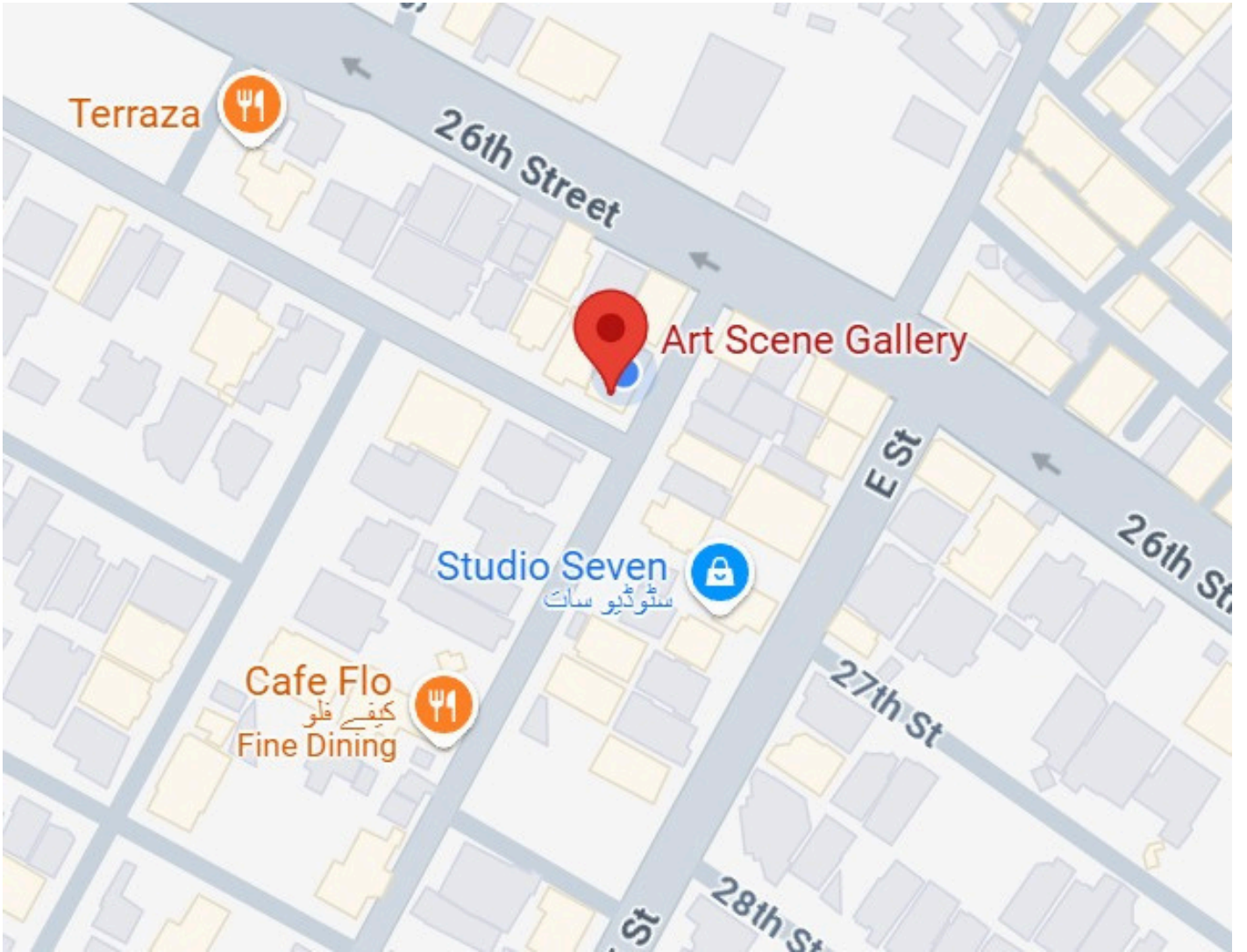
Through layered textures, raw gestures, and moody palettes, she seeks to unravel how things break down, transform, and give rise to new meaning. For Zulekha, art is not a choice but a compulsion—a space where obsession meets expression, and where chaos often becomes a form of clarity.



24" × 36"-inches,oil on canvas-2025

Store Room **تهخانه**

artscene gallery



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