

وقت کی سرگوشیاں، روشنی کی کہانیاں

Whispers of Time, Stories of Light

Curated By FS Karachiwala

AQ Arif

Masood A. Khan

Opening
7th October 2025

6:00 PM

Exhibition continues till 14th October



Curatorial Note

FS Karachiwala

In **وقت کی سرگوشیاں، روشنی کی کہانیاں** (Whispers of Time, Stories of Light), the works of Masood A Khan and AQ Arif converge in a dialogue that is both poetic and profound, an exploration of memory, light and the timeless pulse of human existence.

Masood A Khan, in his decades-long pursuit of a "new realism," brings forward a body of work that rises from abstraction, guided by the thought, "If I could smell light." His canvases radiate an unseen fragrance of illumination, emerging from darkness to reveal layered meanings and stories. In works such as *Einstein with Monkeys*, he questions humanity's trajectory, proposing a return to simplicity and harmony as a survival imperative. His art embodies light as both metaphor and presence, fragile, emotive and transformative.

AQ Arif, by contrast, paints silence into form. His muted palettes and expansive landscapes are spaces of stillness where stories quietly unfold. Figures drift through these worlds, bearing solitude and contemplation, while Mughal architectural forms anchor his narratives in a cultural lineage that is at once historical and meditative. His works become intimate reflections, whispers of memory shaped by heritage, space and time.

Together, the two artists create a rhythm of contrasts and continuities: Masood's light rising out of shadow like a fragrance, and Arif's landscapes of quiet resonance, grounded in history and contemplative stillness. Both cross the delicate terrain of memory, belonging and imagination, each in their own language yet harmonized in spirit. *Whispers of Time, Stories of Light* is not merely an exhibition, it is an encounter with the unseen. Listening the soft voices of light and time and arriving into a space where love, heritage and reflection touch into story and silence alike.



AQ Arif

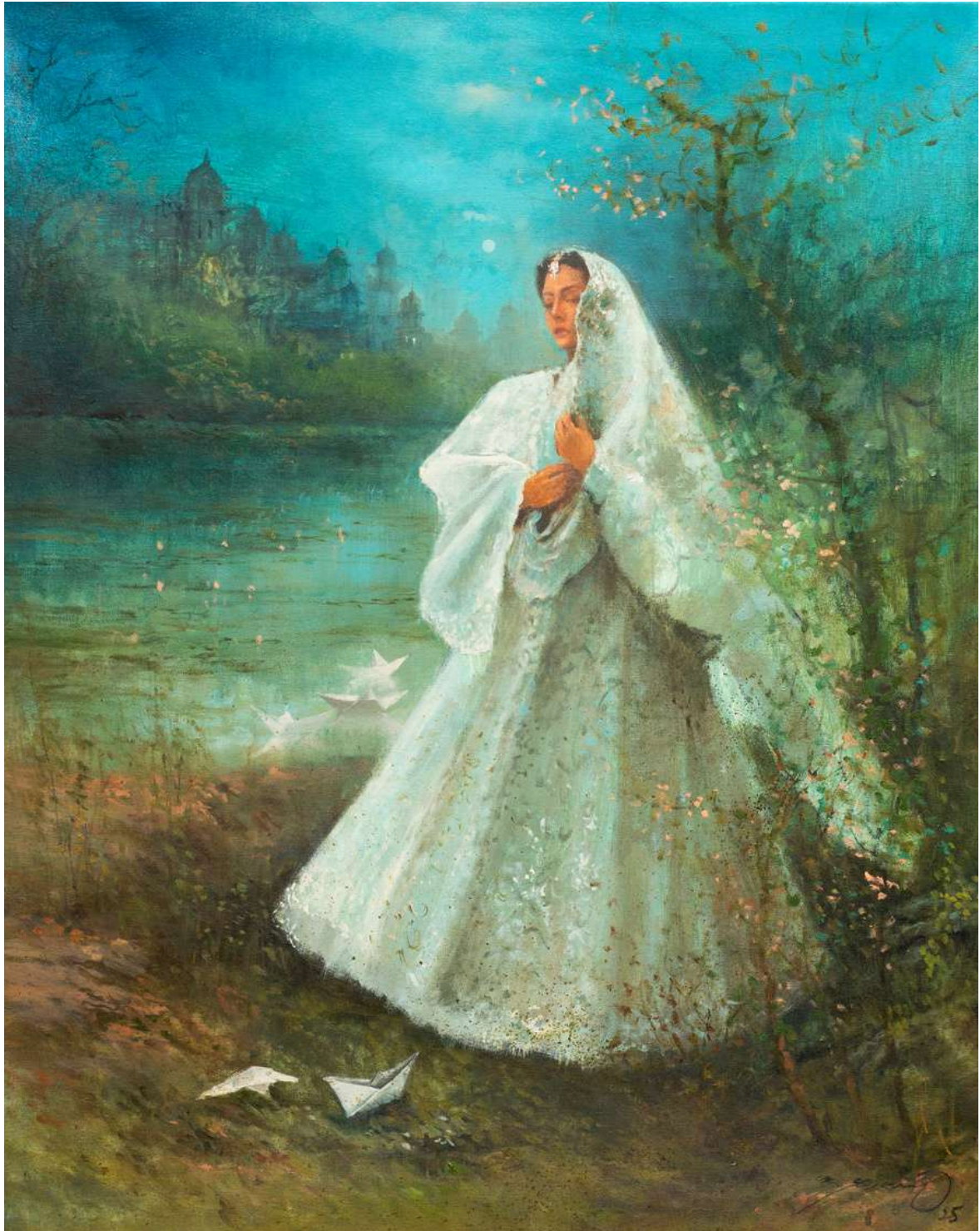
Bio:

AQ Arif was born in 1975 in a family that had no connections to the art world. Only his mother was a writer who first noticed him spending countless hours drawing and painting on papers and rags he would find around the house. His mother then cultivated this interest and supported his decision to study fine arts. Arif started his academic study of fine arts at the Karachi School of Arts in 1992 and finished his final year with a 2nd position in the province of Sindh. He finished his degree in 1996 and started participating in group exhibitions all over the city of Karachi. His first big break was in 2003 at Chawkandi Gallery where his first solo exhibition was completely sold out. Since then, he has had 23 solo exhibitions around the world with countless group exhibitions. Meanwhile, he has also concentrated on teaching the students of Pakistan and has taught at Indus Valley School of Arts, Karachi School of Arts, Mashkoor School of Arts, Textile Institute of Pakistan, Iqra University, and North City School of Arts. Where he supported students to break into the art world and to begin a dialogue into bringing South-Asian art in front of the eyes of the mainstream. In 2014, he was awarded the International Best Artist award by Trevisan Art Gallery in Italy. His work was also part of an auction of south-Asian contemporary artists at BONHAMS auction house in 2017 where it set a new record for his work. Arif's work is a part of many public and private collections around the world. He is currently a member of the American Impressionist Society and the Watercolor Art Society of Houston where he currently resides. In 2020 he was also awarded the Presidential Award for Pride of Performance by the Government of Pakistan.

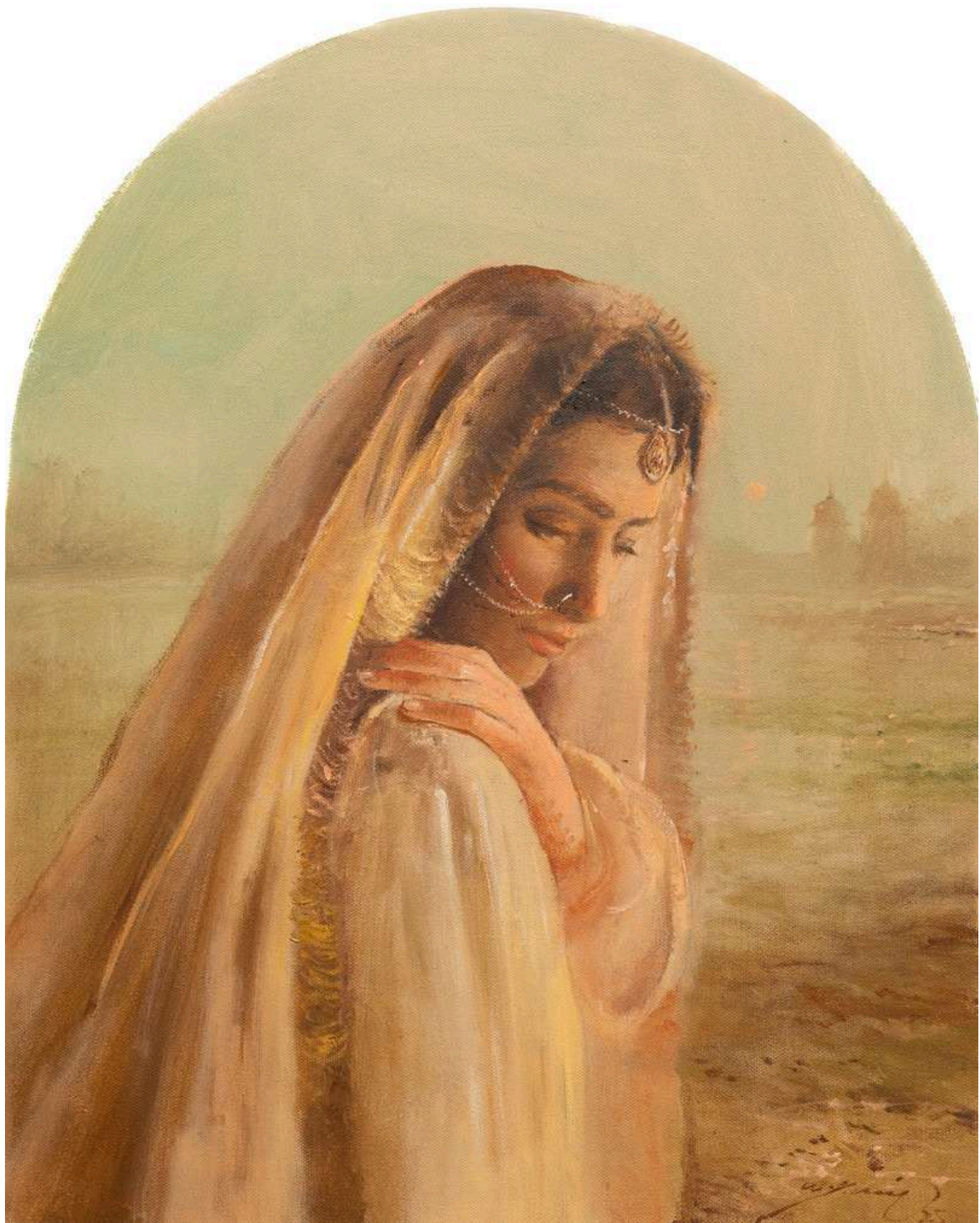
Statement:

I am a visual artist, and my work engages viewers on an emotional and intuitive level. My practice is rooted in quiet expression, creating pieces that evoke stillness and emotional depth. Soft, muted color palettes are central to my work. They reflect my inner world—gentle, introspective, and carefully observed. These subtle tones create a calming visual presence, allowing emotions to emerge gradually and resonate with quiet strength.

I often introduce narrative through figures placed within expansive landscapes, offering a sense of story, solitude, and contemplation. I also draw inspiration from Mughal architecture, weaving historical and cultural references into my compositions. These structures ground my work in a specific visual heritage while adding to its timeless and meditative quality.

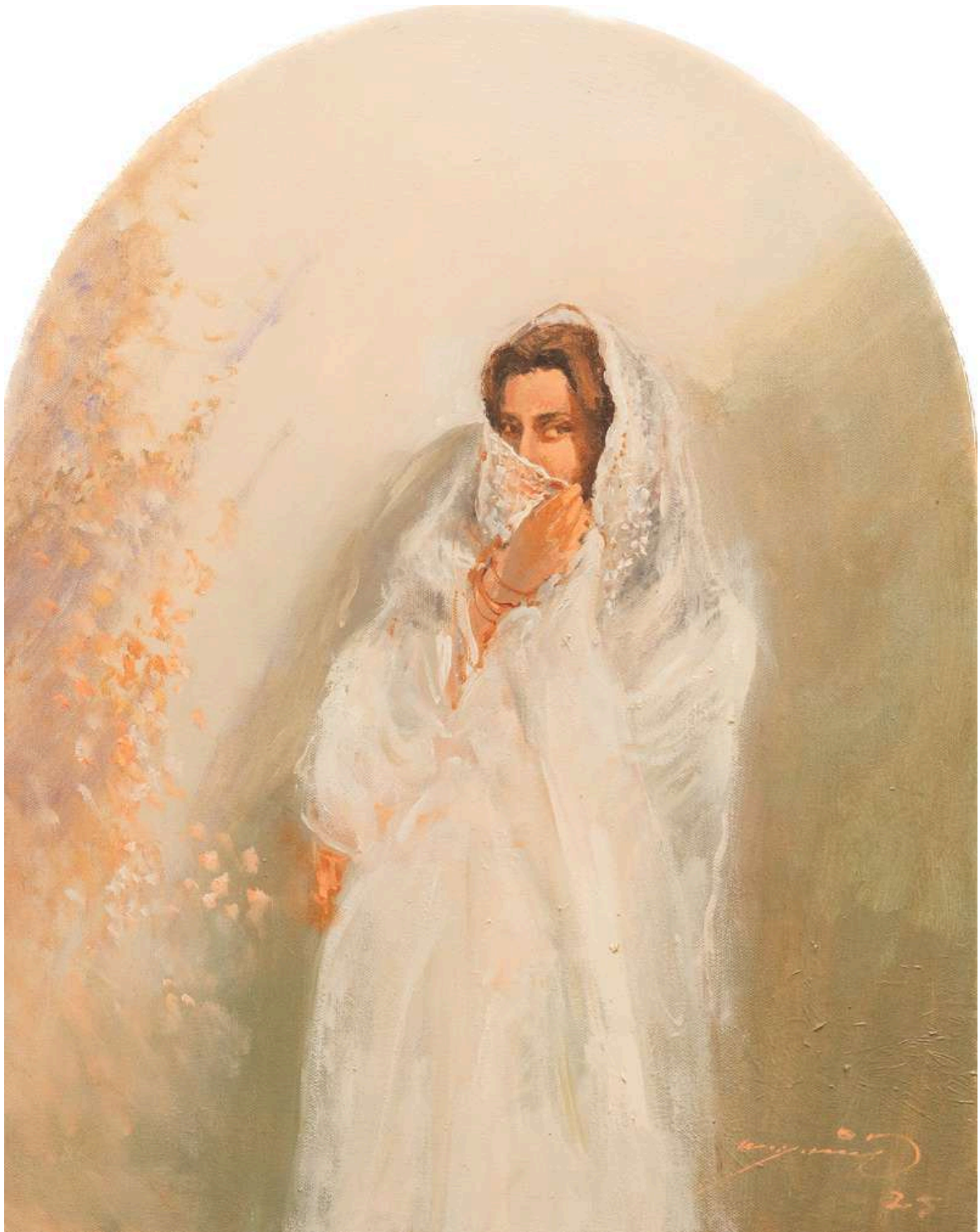


24 x 30 inches - Oil on Canvas
Under the Blue Sky



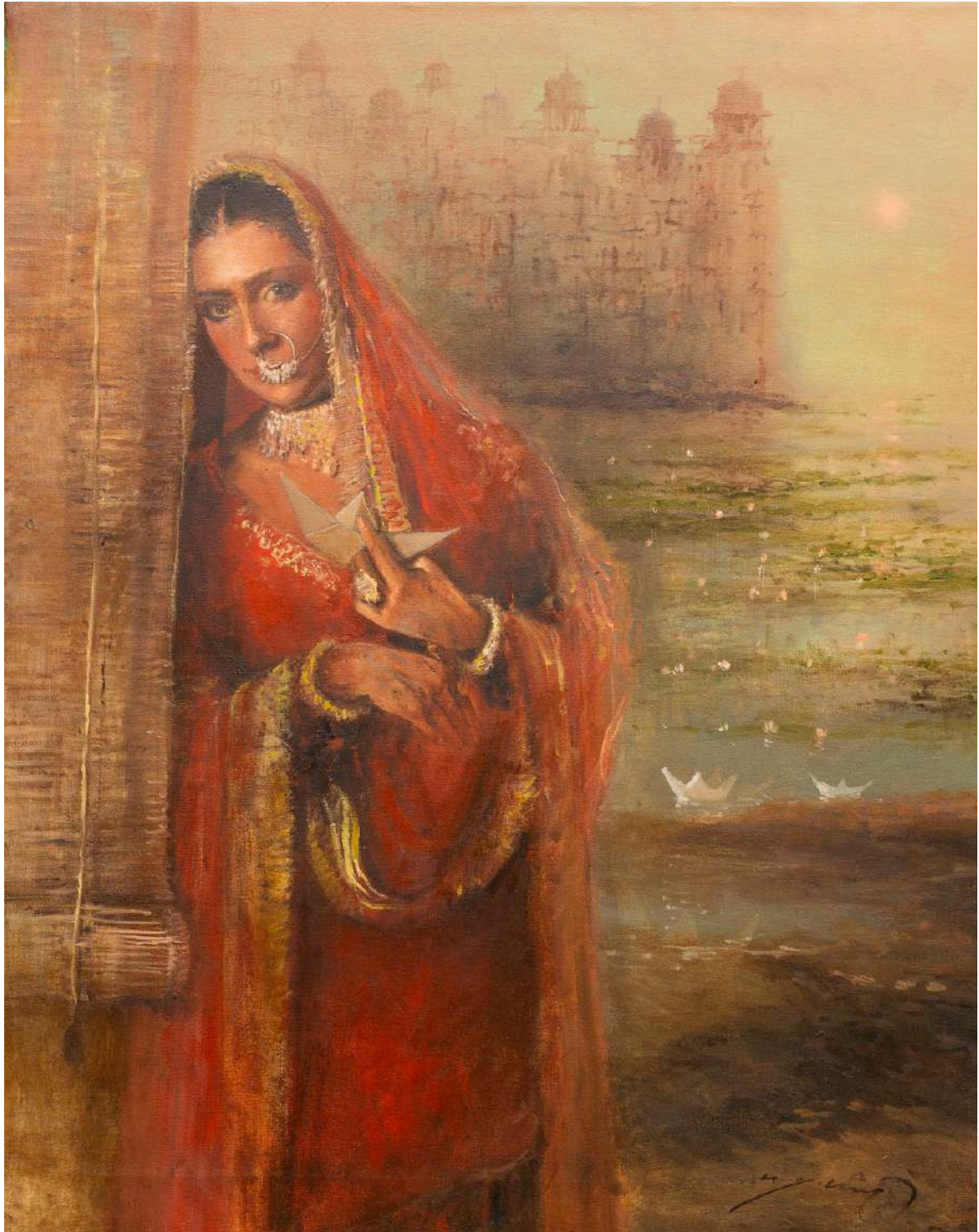
15 x 20 inches - Oil on Canvas

Under the Pale sky



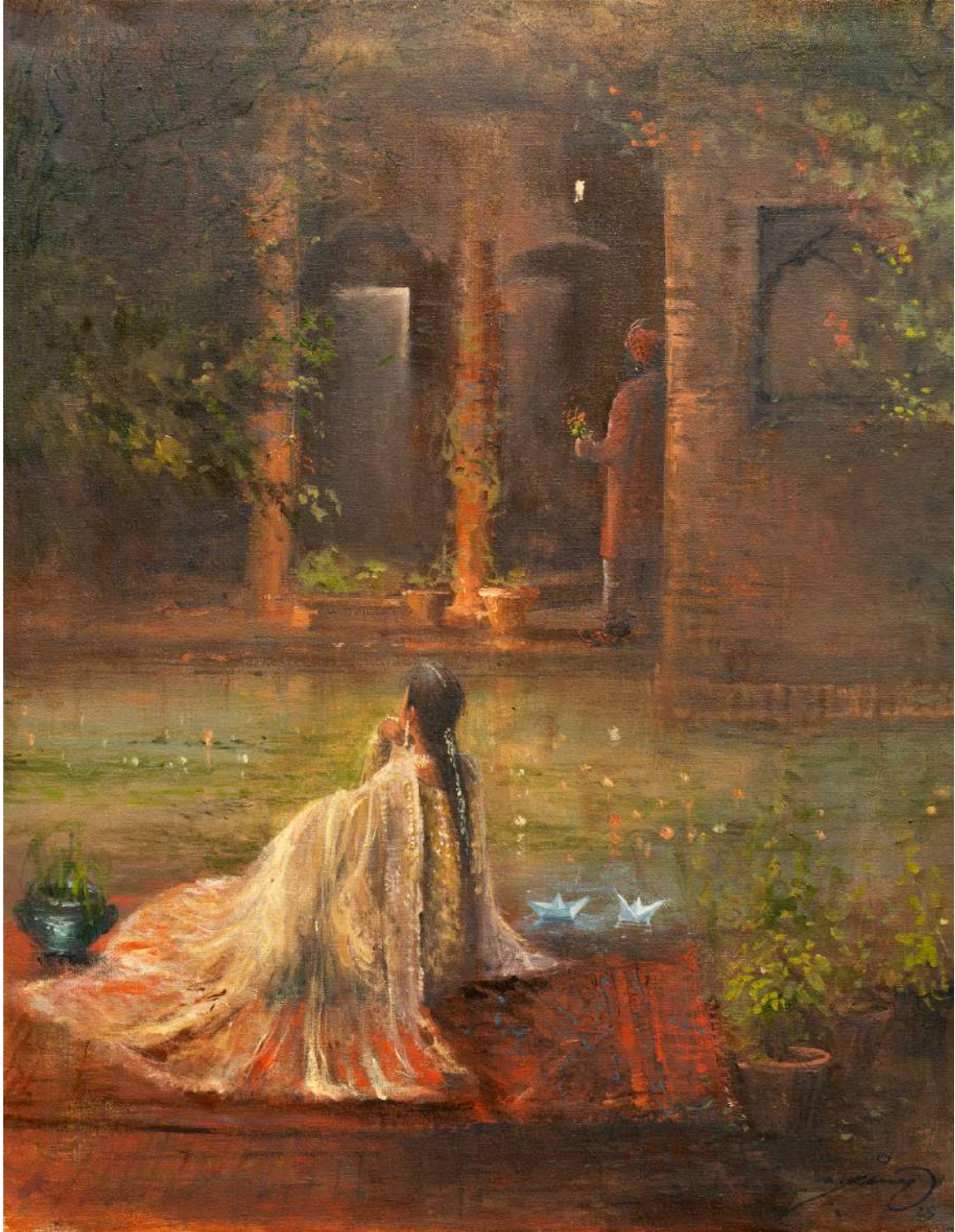
15 x 20 inches - Oil on Canvas

Behind the Veil

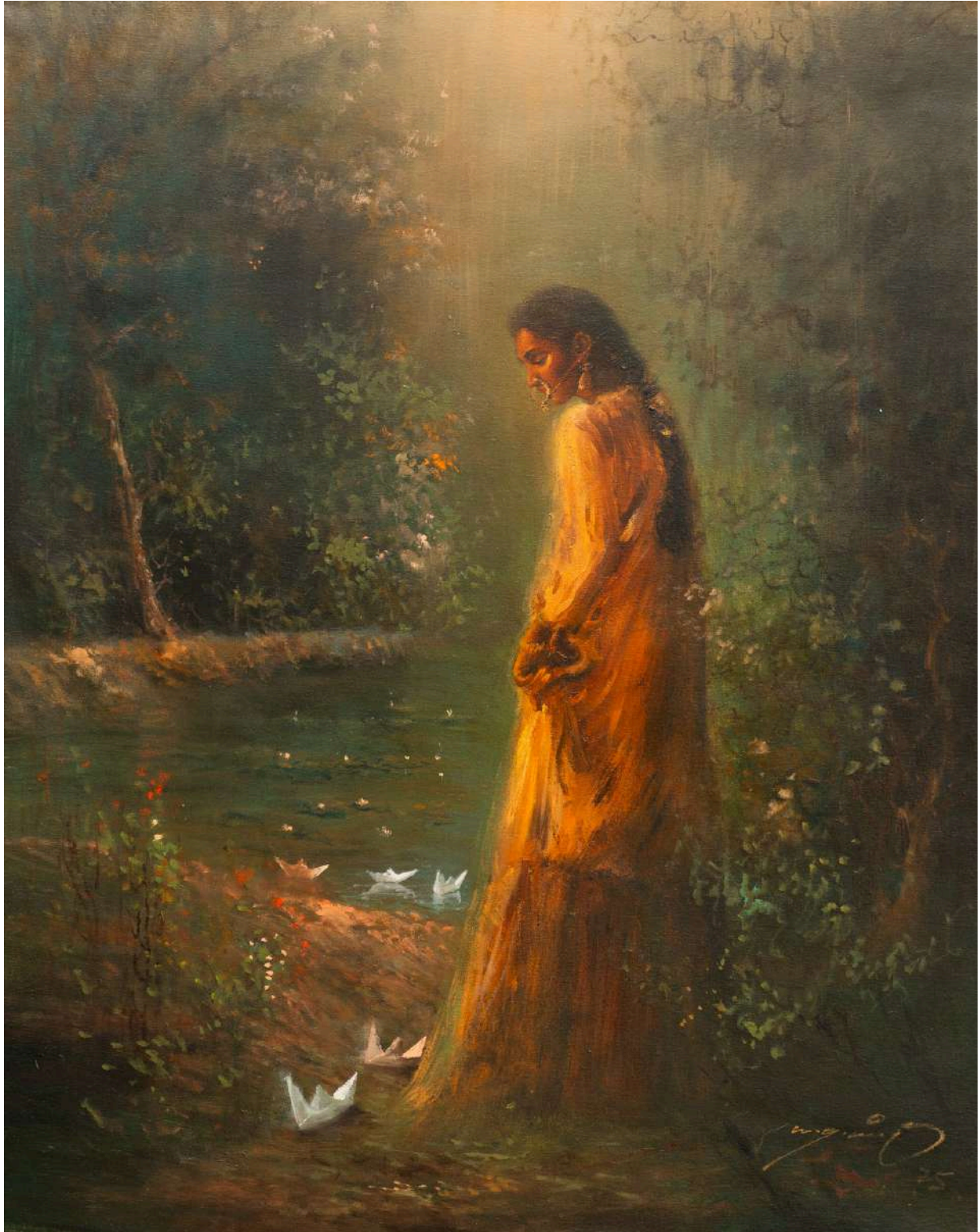


22 x 28 inches - Oil on Canvas

Waiting



22 x 28 inches - Oil on Canvas
A Glance Between Pillars



24 x 30 inches - Oil on Canvas
A Pause in the Wind



22 x 28 inches - Oil on Canvas
Traces of the Rider



36 x 30 inches - Oil on Canvas
The Silence Before Arrival



60 x 29 inches - Oil on Canvas
When the Dust Settled



24 x 43 inches - Oil on Canvas
The River Remembers



Masood A. Khan

Statement:

For over four decades, my practice has been a search for a new realism. This recent body of work emerges from an abstract thought: "If I could smell light."

In these works, light rises out of darkness like a fragrance, carrying with it subtle emotions and layered meanings. Each piece tells a different story, reflecting the simplicity of life infused with love and feeling.

Among them is Einstein with Monkeys, a work that reflects on the urgent need for humanity to rethink its path. Perhaps, for our survival, we must consider a reverse evolution of Darwin, returning to simplicity, balance and harmony with the world around us.



20 x 30 inches - Watercolour on Paper
Untitled I



22 x 30 inches - Watercolour on Paper
Untitled III



22 x 30 inches - Watercolour on Paper

Untitled IV



22 x 30 inches - Watercolour on Paper
Untitled V



22 x 30 inches - Watercolour on Paper
Untitled VI



22 x 30 inches - Watercolour on Paper
Untitled VII



22 x 30 inches - Watercolour on Paper
Untitled VIII



22 x 30 inches - Watercolour on Paper
Untitled IX



22 x 30 inches - Watercolour on Paper
Untitled X



22 x 30 inches - Watercolour on Paper
Untitled XI

artscene gallery



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