

WHERE MEMORY BEGINS

Group Exhibition

ARGHAVAN HATIF
MAHA OMER

Opening

6:00 PM

Tuesday

08th September 2026

Exhibition continues till 15th September 2026



Where Memory Begins

Curatorial Statement

Where Memory Begins brings together two contemporary approaches to miniature painting, exploring memory, innocence, instinct, nature, and belonging through intricate compositions and intimate details, the artists transform the miniature into a space where personal and collective experiences unfold.

Arghavan Hatif reflects on childhood, imagination, freedom, and the honesty of uninhibited expression, while Maha Omer explores the interconnectedness of humans, animals, and nature through themes of survival, vulnerability, migration, and absence.

Together, their works invite us to look closely at the quiet traces that shape us—memories carried from childhood, instincts rooted in nature, and experiences that remain long after they have passed. Where Memory Begins is a reflection on what we remember, what we inherit, and what continues to live within us.



Arghavan Hatif

Statement and Bio:

I am a visual artist specialising in miniature painting, with a strong foundation in traditional techniques and contemporary artistic practices. I graduated with Top Distinction in 2023 from the National College of Arts, Lahore, Pakistan, where I majored in Miniature Painting.

My artistic practice explores the relationship between tradition and modernity through miniature painting, oil painting, printmaking, and sculpture. Drawing from my experiences across different cultural contexts, I examine themes of identity, cultural memory, migration, and transformation. Through intricate details, layered compositions, and experimental approaches to materials, I reinterpret classical artistic forms to engage with contemporary narratives. My work seeks to create meaningful dialogue and emotional connections while reflecting on both personal and collective histories. My current body of work focuses on the uninhibited quality of children's drawings as a reflection of freedom, innocence, and simplicity. Inspired by the honesty and spontaneity of children's mark-making, I meticulously recreate crayon textures and scribbled lines using traditional gouache on wasli paper. This deliberate and time-intensive process transforms seemingly effortless gestures into carefully crafted visual experiences, creating a dialogue between precision and instinct. Through vibrant colour, experimental techniques, and the disciplined language of miniature painting, I explore how simple acts of creativity can communicate profound emotional and psychological truths. By bringing together the precision of a centuries-old artistic tradition with the expressive freedom of childhood, my practice invites viewers to reconsider ideas of innocence, imagination, memory, and the evolving boundaries between traditional craftsmanship and contemporary artistic expression.



Unlearning Perfection

10 x 11 inches - Gouache on Wasli Paper -



Where Innocence Begins

12.5 x 21 inches - Gouache on Wasli Paper -



The freedom to remember

15 x 21 inches - Gouache on Wasli Paper -



Playing with silence

15 x 21 inches - Gouache on Wasli Paper -



A Child Remembers Colour

11 x 13.5 inches - Gouache on Wasli Paper -



When I Forgot the Rules

10 x 12 inches - Gouache on Wasli Paper -



Little Hands, big dreams

08 x 10.5 inches - Gouache on Wasli Paper -



Still Learning to Colour

12 x 15.5 inches - Gouache on Wasli Paper -



Carefully Uncontrolled

10 x 13.5 inches - Gouache on Wasli Paper -



Draw Outside the Lines

19.5 x 23.5 inches - Oil on Canvas -



Maha Omer

Biography:

Maha Omer (b.1999) is a Lahore-based visual artist. She graduated with Honors from the National College of Arts, Lahore with a Bachelor of Fine Art in Miniature Painting (2023). Currently, she is pursuing her Masters in Art and Design from the Beaconhouse National University, Lahore while maintaining an active studio practice. Omer primarily works as a miniature painter, engaging the medium's visual language and techniques within a contemporary context. Omer's work has been exhibited at several galleries including ArtScene Gallery, Karachi (2025); Ejaz Art Gallery, Lahore (2024); ArtSoch Contemporary, Lahore (2024); Pakistan Art Forum, Lahore (2024); O Art Space, Lahore (2023); Numaish Gah, Lahore (2023); Alhamra Art Gallery, Lahore (2023) and Tagheer Art Gallery, Lahore (2023). Omer's work has also been cited in the International art publication Printemps Asiatique, Paris.

Statement:

This body of work explores the cycle of dependency among living beings, where the self, animals, and nature share the same space and are in constant exchange with one another. These subjects appear both as the observer and the participant, all equally vulnerable to their surroundings. Inspired by traditional miniatures, I created a visual language that represents the Interplay between human and animal, predator and prey, presence and dissolution. In this interplay, the animals become a reflection of the instincts we carry as humans to hunt, protect and seek. When stripped of what separates us, we are left with our shared and fragile hold on survival. This interconnectedness is what the work navigates, all as part of the same whole. Through a



Pursuit of Nature

16 x 14.5 inches - Gouache on folded Wasli -



Detailed Image



Detailed Image Side - A



Detailed Image Side - B



Borrowing Heaven

07 x 28 inches - Gouache on folded Wasli -



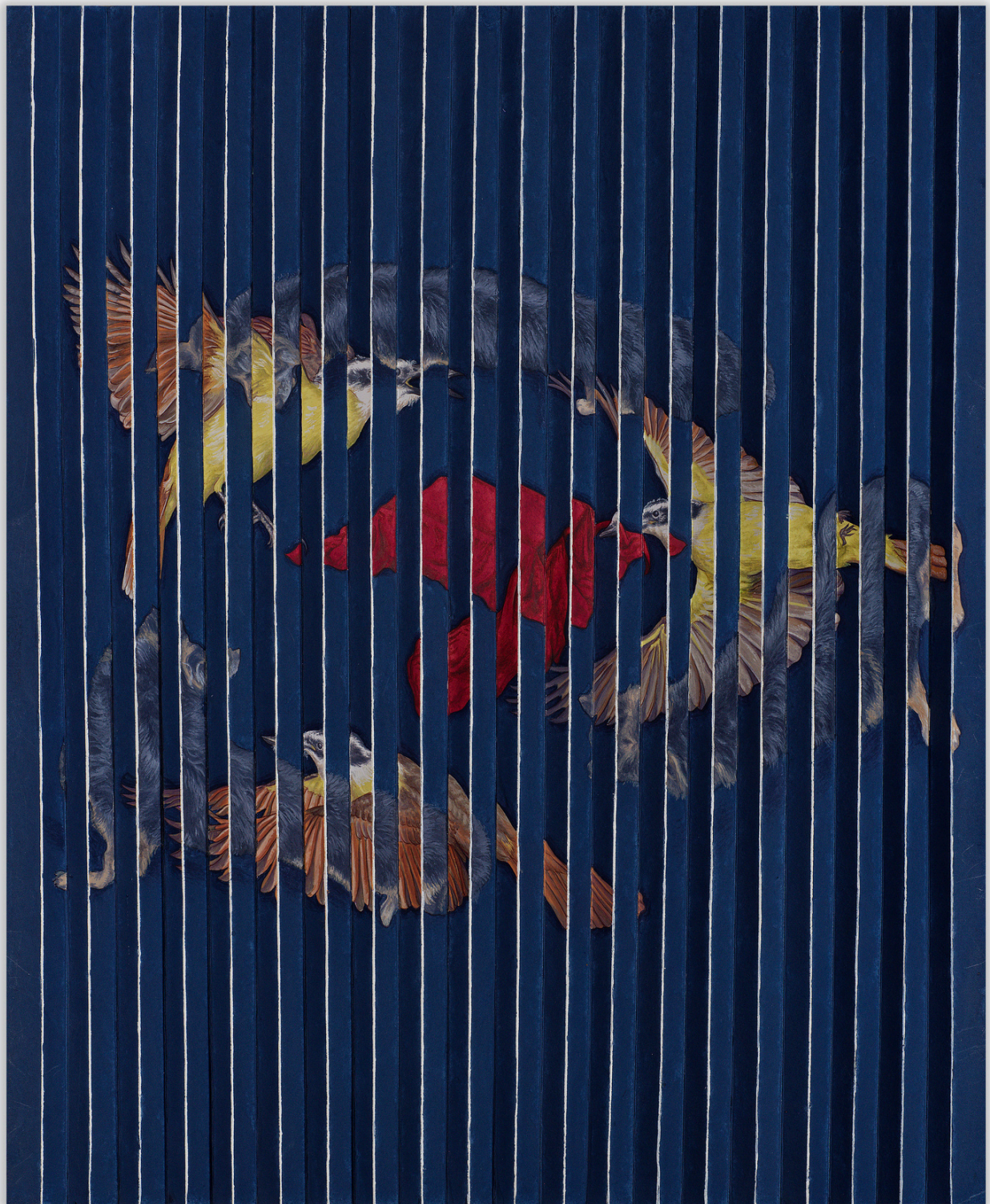
Detailed Image



Detailed Image Side - A



Detailed Image Side - B



Shape of Absence

16 x 13 inches - Gouache on folded Wasli -



Detailed Image



Detailed Image Side - A



Detailed Image Side - B



Homecoming

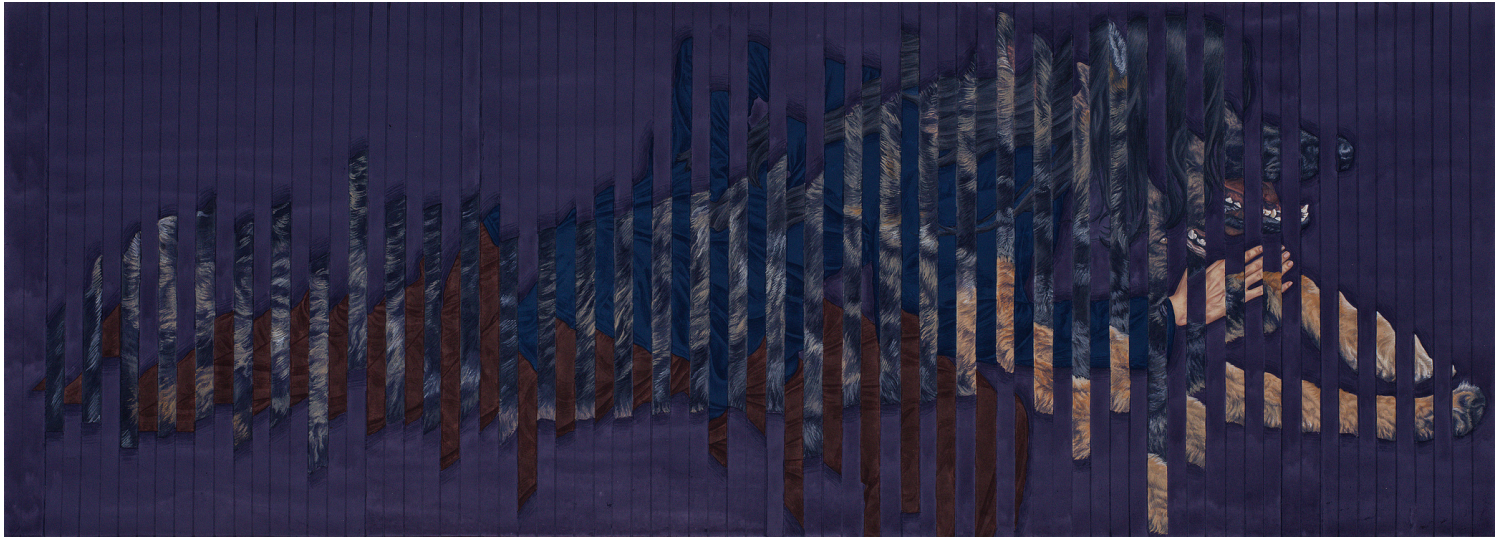
06 x 24 inches - Gouache on folded Wasli -



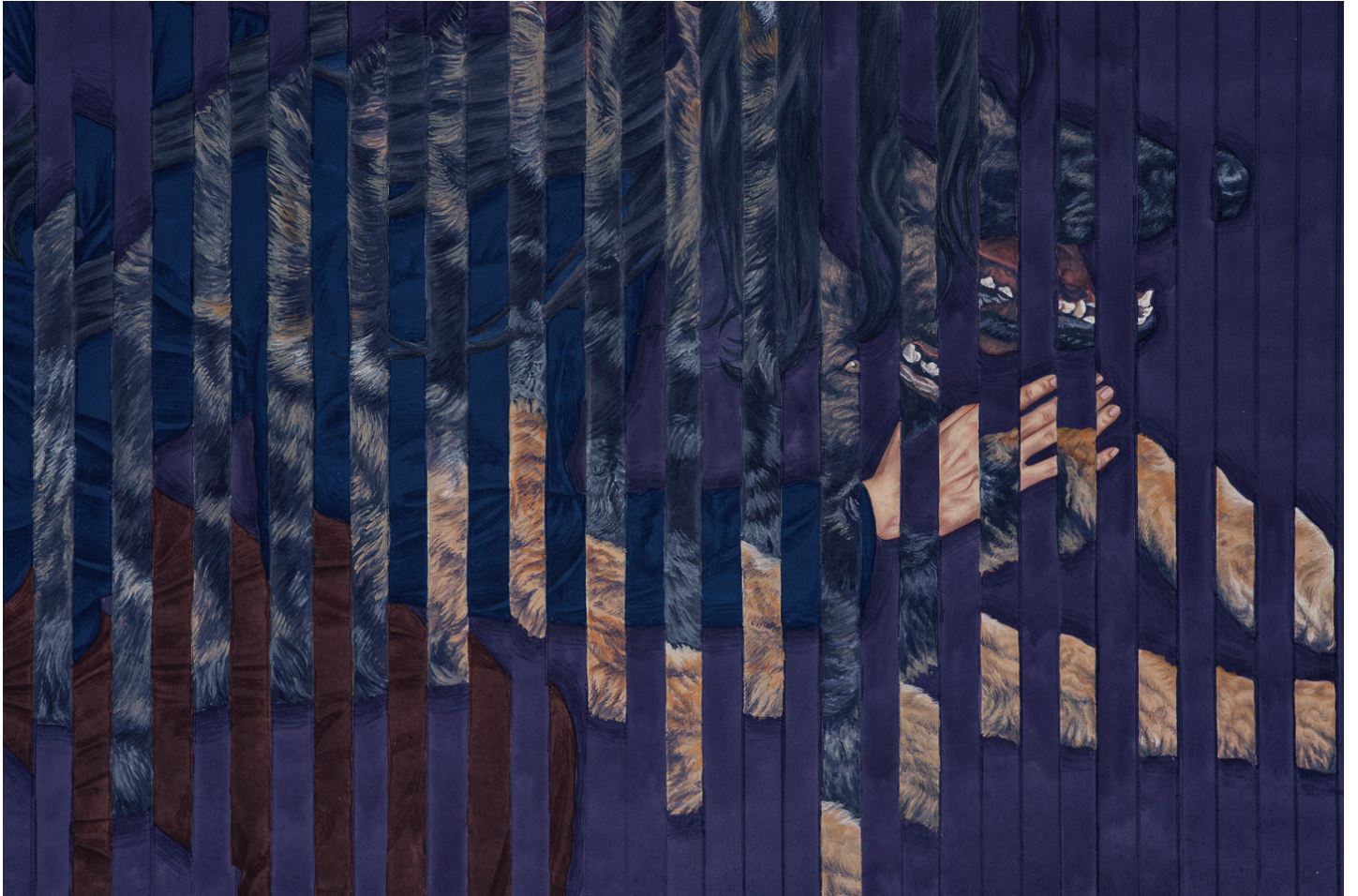
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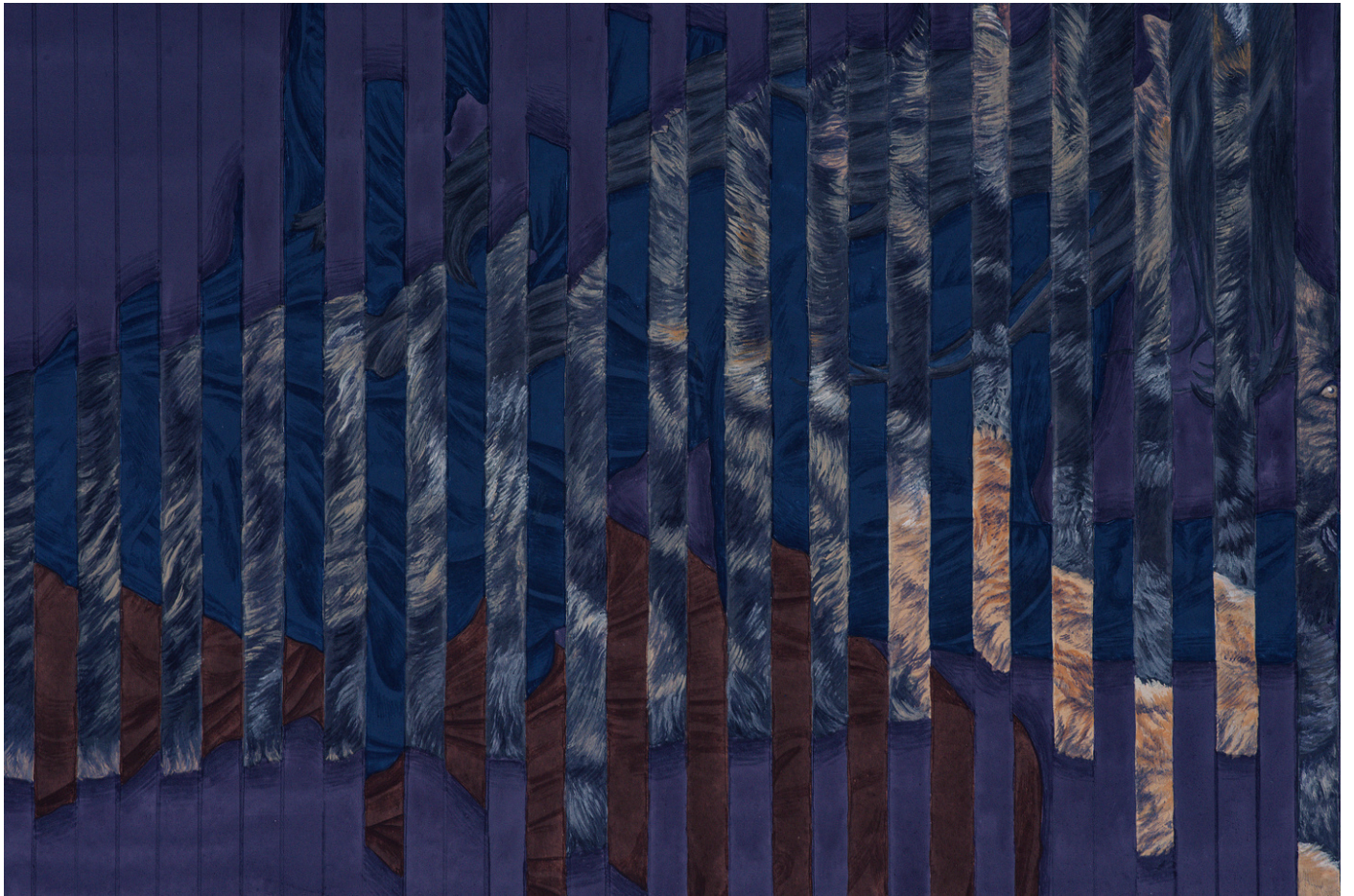
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Women Who Run with the Wolves
07 x 28 inches - Gouache on folded Wasli -



Detailed Image



Detailed Image



The Final Call

18 x 28.5 inches - Gouache on Wasli -



Detailed Image



Detailed Image



Epilogue

10.5 x 28.5 inches - Gouache on Wasli -



Detailed Image



Detailed Image



Migration

09 x 28 inches - Gouache on folded Wasli -

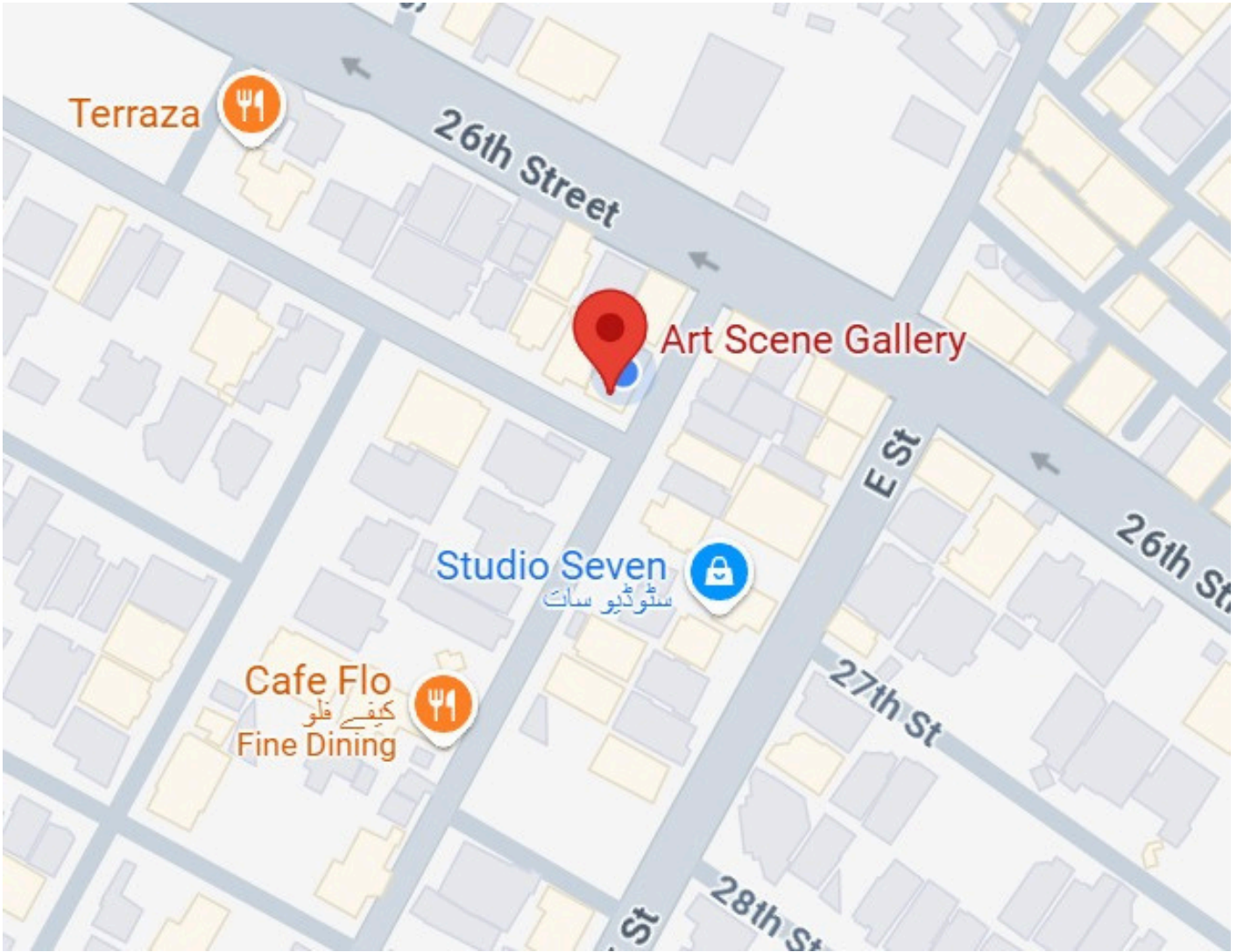


Detailed Image



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artscene gallery



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