

The Worlds We Create

Curated By Zahabia Khozema

Ayesha Sultan

Layl Ali

Menal Bano

Sabeen Yameen

November 11th, 2023

5pm - 8pm

Continues till:
November 29th, 2023



VM ART GALLERY

VM Art Gallery is pleased to present “**The Worlds We Create**”, a group exhibition curated by Zahabia Khozema that features the works of Ayesha Sultan, Layl Ali, Menal Bano and Sabeen Yameen. The show will open on Saturday, November 11th at 5 pm and continue till November 29th 2023.

Curatorial Note

The worlds we weave,
and the worlds we leave,

the dreams we live,
and the dreams we escape,

are the bargains we make,
are the lives we live.

The Worlds We Create finds its inspiration in the nuances of my gendered experiences of existing, negotiating, and inhabiting diverse spaces. Eager to amplify different perspectives, I invited a group of artists whose struggles, interpretations, and creative ingenuity encapsulate their unique navigation and resilience in this world.

Through their works, these artists have not only opened enriched lines of inquiry but have also interconnected components of memories, lived realities, metaphors, and folklore, creating new worlds.

Layl Ali

Meet the Artist

Layl Ali is an artist, writer, and architect invested in unpacking questions related to space, politics, and gender. They look at ‘women’ as political beings, examine space as a political category, and speculate how collective memories and resistances can be articulated. The sacred and the feminine often emerge as themes in Layl’s work, becoming an arc to interpret the political and social realities of the subjects they explore. Seeking the feminine within the landscape and through it, interrogating notions of home, maps, and the city are avenues that they are continually exploring through different forms. These forms oscillate between experimental pedagogy, writing and activism, playing a central role in shaping the kind of artistic practice Layl wants to inhabit.



Artist Statement

My work investigates local beliefs around the sati that exist in shrines dedicated to women across the subcontinent. It brings focus to the act of protection i.e. the act of being swallowed into the earth as an entry to speculation regarding the lives and experiences of women in a patriarchal world and in their relationships to the divine. These works emerge from a larger exercise in imagining alternatives to reflect on the social and political realities we are often restricted by.



Alizeh Ayesha
Sati, 2023
Acrylic on Paper
68h x 28.50w in
PKR 70,000.00



Alizeh Ayesha
City Beneath City, 2023
Acrylic on Paper
68h x 33w in
PKR 80,000.00



Alizeh Ayesha
My Room, 2023
Acrylic on Paper
68h x 31w in
PKR 75,000.00

Ayesha Sultan

Meet the
Artist

Ayesha Sultan graduated from the Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture in 2019. She has a deep passion for urban landscapes and the psychology of space. Ayesha's approach to design is creating meaningful experiences, viewing each project as an opportunity to craft stories and connections through physical structures. She has worked as an architect with Coalesce Design Studio and AAJoyland. Currently, Ayesha is working as a freelance designer and a performance artist.



Artist Statement

I explore the connection between external environments and the emotional landscape through my practice. The interplay between the evident spaces and the non-evident emotions along with my journey towards embracing womanhood has shaped my work, stimulating self-awareness and introspection. I hold that the transformative power of art is its ability to offer reflection; whereby one may navigate and celebrate their unique experiences. My work is an invitation for viewers to contemplate the resonance between their own inner landscapes and the environment they inhabit.

Menal Bano

Meet the Artist

Menal Bano is a Visual Artist based in Karachi, Pakistan. She graduated from the Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture in 2020 with a BFA and a distinction in her dissertation. Menal is an urban flaneur with a love for exploring, singing, and capturing emotions in visual forms. She was an artist resident at Tasweer Ghar (Lahore) in 2021 and has had her work exhibited in galleries throughout Pakistan including shows at Sambara Art Gallery (Karachi), Full Circle Gallery (Karachi) and Artescape Gallery (Islamabad). Menal has also worked as an illustrator while keeping her personal practice as an extension of her study.



Artist Statement

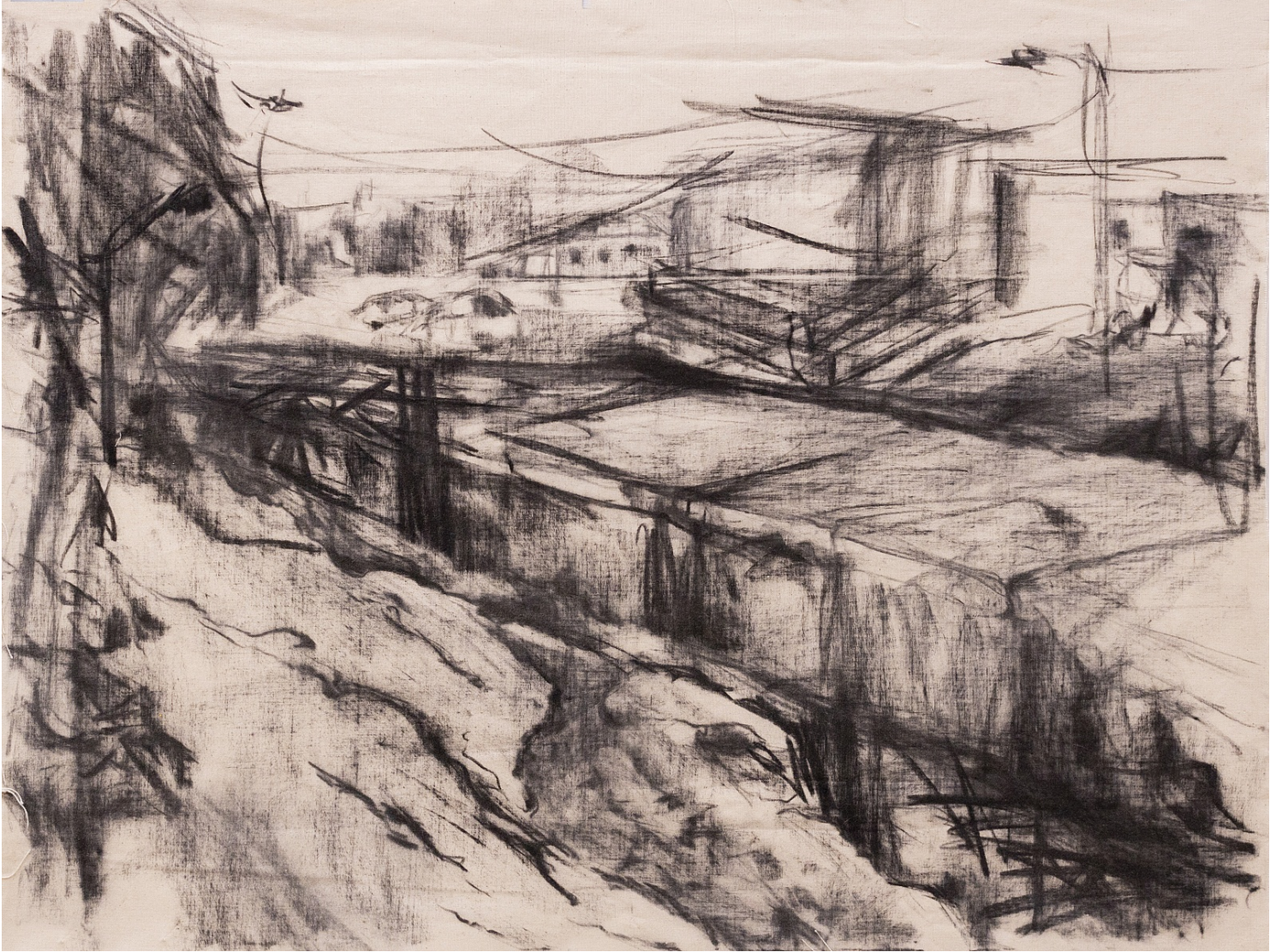
I am interested in how gender shapes our experiences of the urban space. Through my paintings, I examine spaces in a conscious practice of experiencing the city in a way that is both personal and political. I document and capture the narratives and emotions of the spaces I inhabit. By using colour as my primary medium to capture the essence of the moment, I communicate a complex range of feelings through marks and gestures.



Menal Rehman
Concern, 2023
Oil on Canvas
16.50h x 12w in
PKR 30,000.00



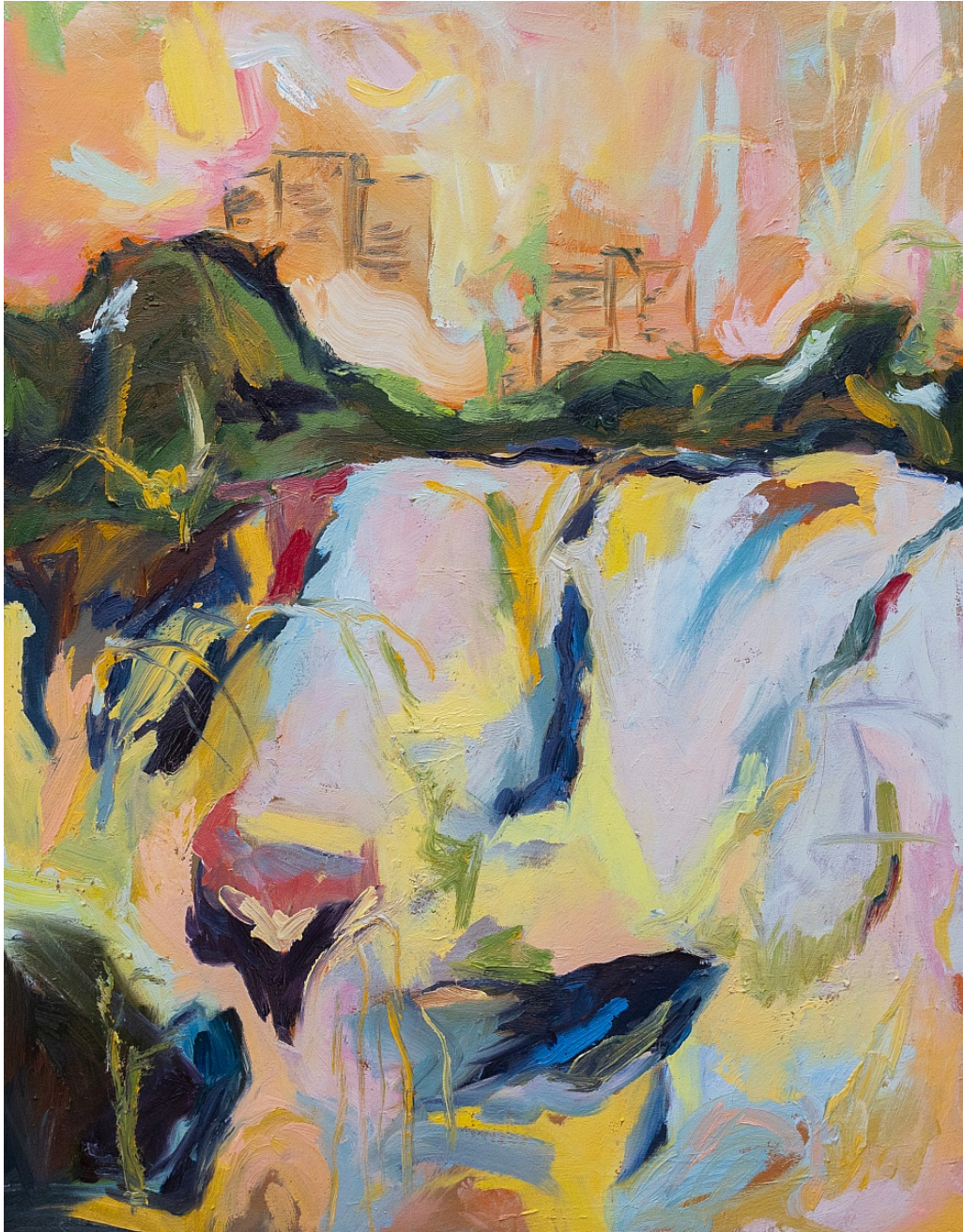
Menal Rehman
Belief, 2023
Oil on Canvas
16.50h x 12w in
PKR 30,000.00



Menal Rehman
Coarse, 2023
Charcoal on Canvas
24h x 30w in
PKR 45,000.00



Menal Rehman
Balance, 2023
Charcoal on Canvas
24h x 30w in
PKR 45,000.00



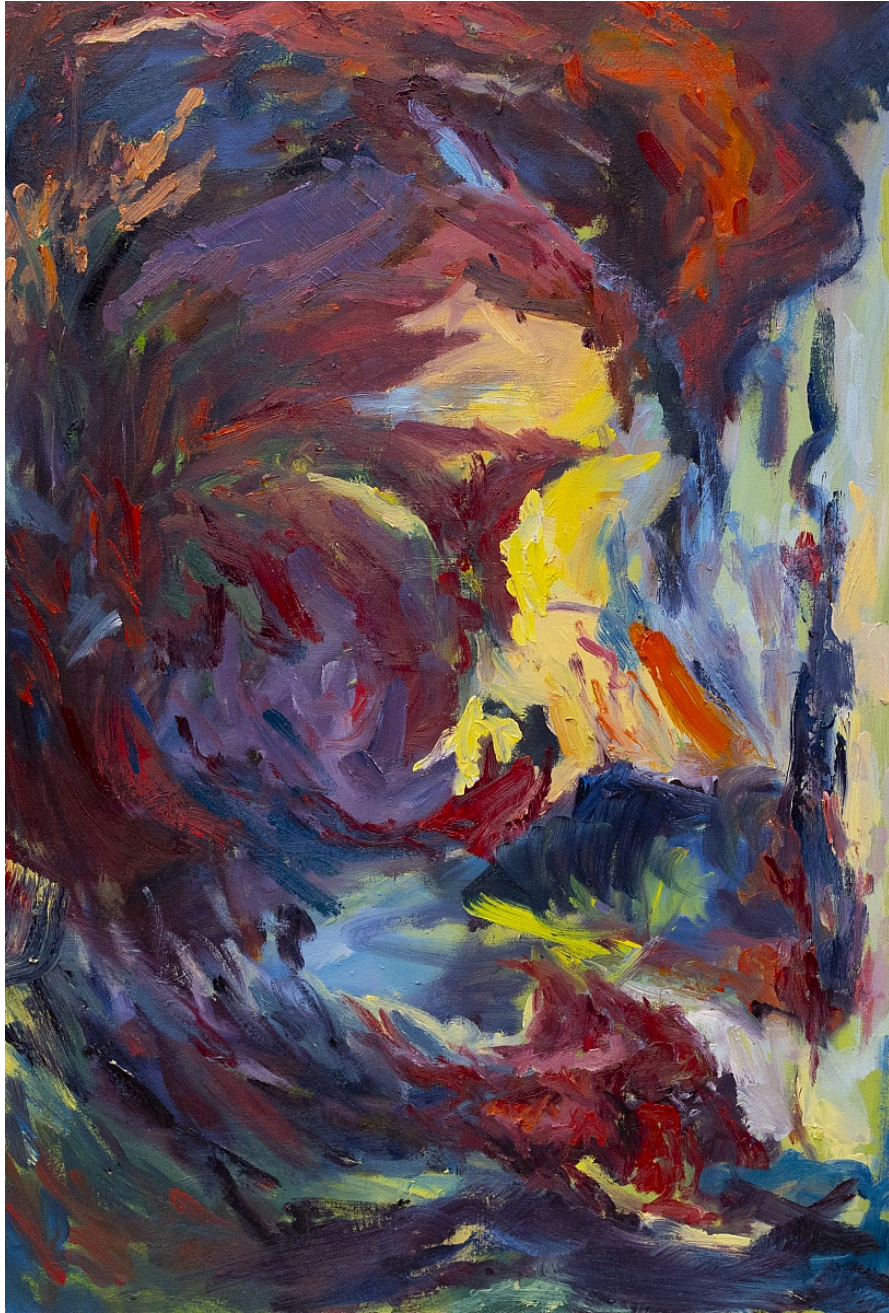
Menal Rehman
Resilience, 2023
Oil on Canvas
26h x 20w in
PKR 50,000.00



Menal Rehman
Wander, 2023
Oil on Canvas
26h x 20w in
PKR 50,000.00



Menal Rehman
Cathartic, 2023
Oil on Canvas
26h x 20w in
PKR 50,000.00



Menal Rehman
Nerve, 2023
Oil on Canvas
36h x 24w in
PKR 65,000.00

Sabeen Yameen

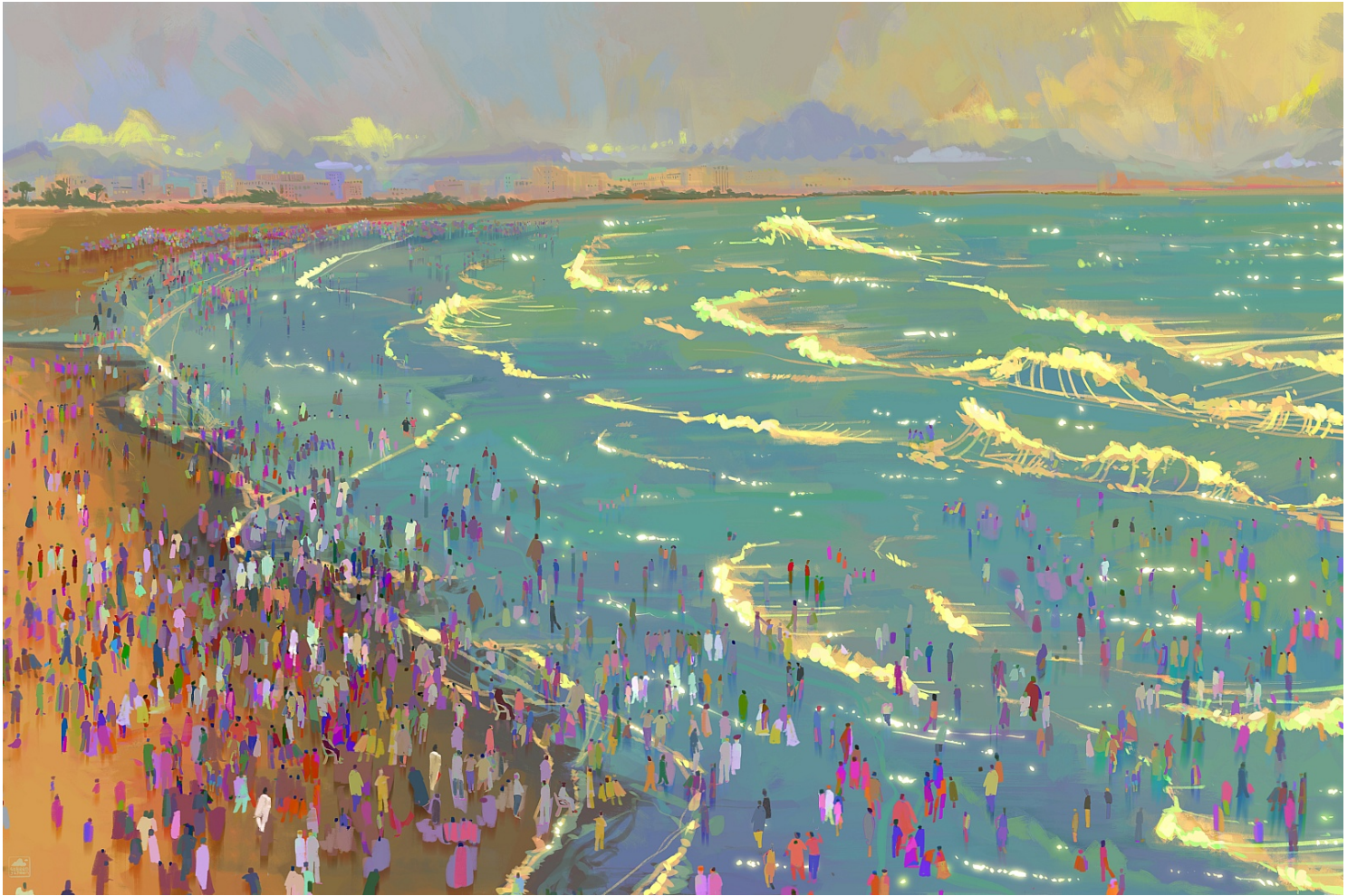
Meet the
Artist

Sabeen Yameen is an architect and a visual artist from Karachi, Pakistan. She graduated from the Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture in 2019. Her work is inspired by the enchantment, whimsy and melancholy hidden in the everyday, ordinary moments. Currently based in Lahore, Sabeen is an independent practitioner, who uses mediums like illustration, animation, AR and soft pastels. In addition to her independent work, she also works as a designer and animator for Miss O and Friends, a social platform to empower young girls.



Artist Statement

My work looks at memory as a landscape, juxtaposing childhood recollections with the present, to evoke a sense of change and nostalgia. I delve into the evolving identity of spaces and their resonance with personal histories and how gender dynamics intersect with the ever-evolving cityscape. The infinity of the sea view, Karachi, once emblematic of boundless possibilities, over the years, has converged with the finite boundaries of privatization. A seascape, once a vibrant and free public space, has been increasingly cordoned off, its expanse reduced to a fraction of its former self, resulting in an experience at the edge of what once was. This transformation stands as a metaphor for the broader shifts in our urban landscapes, especially for women.



Sabeen Yameen
A Sea of People, 2023
Digital Painting Print on Canvas
24h x 36w in
PKR 50,000.00



Sabeen Yameen
Sahil, 2023
Digital Painting Print on Canvas
24h x 36w in
PKR 50,000.00



Sabeen Yameen
Sukoon, 2023
Digital Painting Print on Canvas
24h x 36w in
PKR 50,000.00



Sabeen Yameen
Waves of Journey 2023
Digital Painting Print on Canvas
24h x 24w in
PKR 40,000.00