

Lands Beyond the Veil

Shanzay Subzwari

Opening
Sat. 28th March
5pm to 8pm
Continues till
28th April, 2026



Lands Beyond the Veil

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VM Art Gallery is proud to present *Lands Beyond the Veil*, a deeply spiritual and personal exploration by Shanzay Subzwari. Through her contemplations on the soul and its journey beyond the physical world, shaped in part by a period of personal loss, Shanzay takes us into the depths of her imagination and inner landscape, creating mystical, fantastical realms where the soul resides before its reunion with the Divine.

In the artist's own words, she describes her quest:

For a long time, I have been drawn to liminal spaces: thresholds between worlds, 'thin places' where the seen and unseen seem to converge. This body of work emerges from a personal period of loss, following the passing of two people close to me in 2025, which led me to reflect on the nature of existence beyond the physical realm.

The Islamic concept of Barzakh - an intermediary state between life and the hereafter, separated from us by a subtle veil - became a central point of inquiry. These paintings extend beyond a singular interpretation of Barzakh, instead exploring broader questions of hidden dimensions, inaccessible realities, and the boundaries of human perception. Through this lens, the work approaches liminality as both a spiritual and metaphysical condition, shaped by imagination as much as belief.

Marking a return to large-scale acrylic painting after more than a decade, this series draws upon my training in Mughal miniature painting while expanding into a hybrid visual language that oscillates between the detailed and the dreamlike. The compositions navigate a space between the real and the surreal, allowing for a fluid interplay of narrative, symbolism, and abstraction.



Shanzay Subzwari

Shanzay Subzwari (b.1991) is a visual artist and writer with an MFA (distinction) from London Metropolitan University on the British Chevening Scholarship. Her international exhibitions and art residencies span Finland, Switzerland, Spain, the UK (Wales and England) USA, Italy, Turkey, and Pakistan. She works in miniature painting, acrylic painting, video art, and papercutting, with pieces held in notable collections, including the South Asian Institute, Chicago. She is an adjunct faculty member of her alma mater, Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture. Shanzay has collaborated with brands like Spotify, SFK Bridals and Khaadi, hosts the ArtLounge Talks on Instagram, and hosted the 2023 and 2025 Nigaah Art Awards. She has an art x fashion brand called House of Subzwari.

Shanzay's video work in collaboration with Welsh artist Lauren Heckler was showcased as part of the major show *Tigers & Dragons* at the Glynn Vivian Gallery, Swansea, between May- November 2025. She is a finalist of the Culture and Creativity Award at the Study UK Alumni Awards in Pakistan, and received the Charles Wallace Fellowship for artistic research in the UK in 2026.



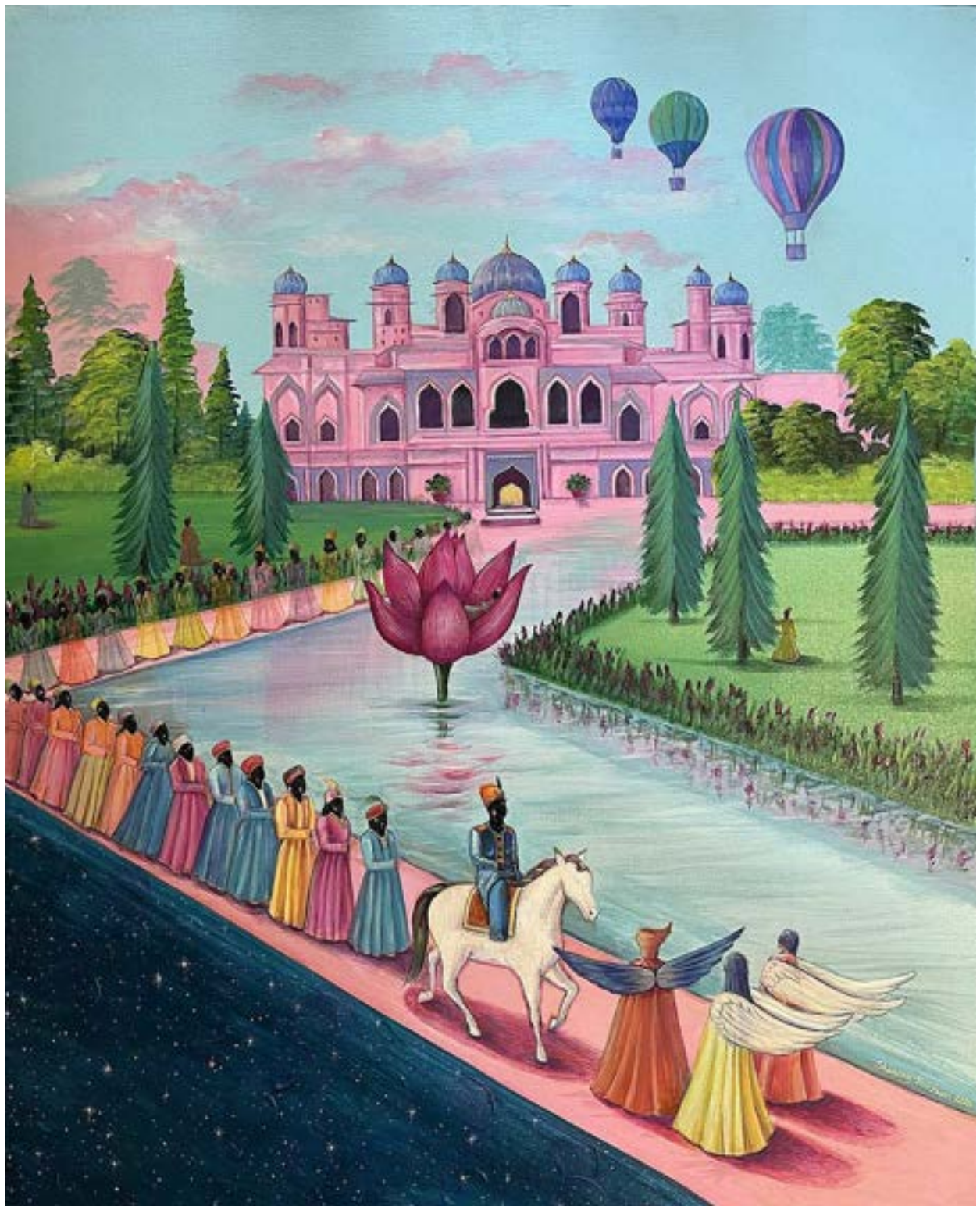
Shanzay Subzwari
Jungle In The Clouds, 2025
Acrylic on Canvas
54h x 84w in
PKR 950,000





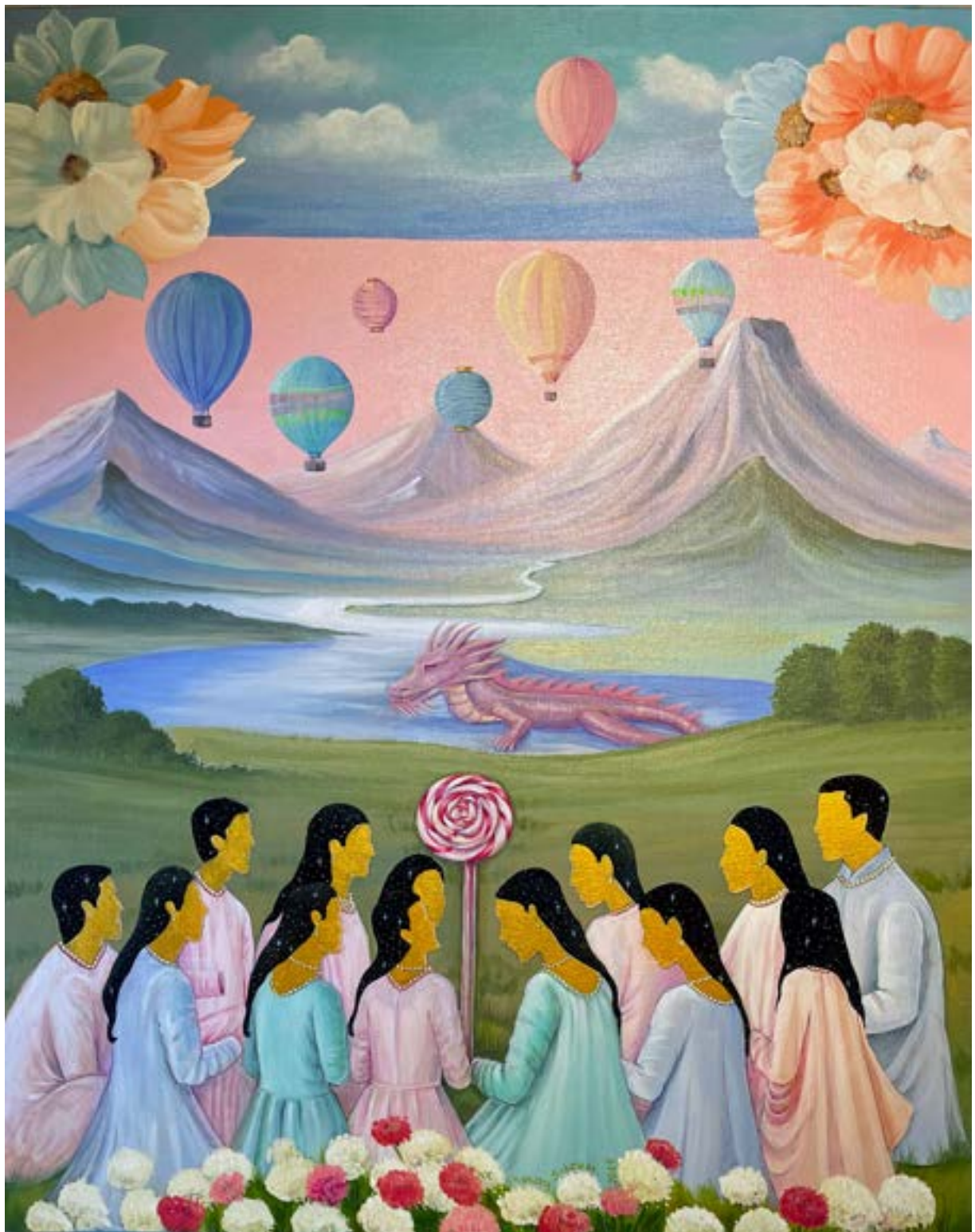
Shanzay Subzwari
Darbar In The Skies, 2025
Acrylic on Canvas
48h x 72w in
PKR 1,050,000





Shanzay Subzwari
A Royal Welcome, 2025
Acrylic on Canvas
30.50h x 24w in
PKR 270,000





Shanzay Subzwari
Garden Party, 2025
Acrylic on Canvas
30.50h x 24w in
PKR 270,000





Shanzay Subzwari
A Joyous Ascent, 2025
Acrylic on Canvas
30.50h x 24w in
PKR 250,000



Shanzay Subzwari
Tranquil Waters, 2025
Acrylic on Canvas
30.50h x 24w in
PKR 250,000



Shanzay Subzwari 2025

Shanzay Subzwari
Should I Go There or Stay Here?, 2025
Acrylic on Canvas
15h x 15w in
PKR 95,000





Shanzay Subzwari
Candyland In The Skies, 2026
Acrylic on Canvas
10h x 5w in
PKR 38,000





Shanzay Subzwari
I Bloom Where I'm Planted, 2026
Acrylic on Canvas
10h x 5w in
PKR 38,000





Shanzay Subzwari
Touched By Gold, 2026
Acrylic on Canvas
10h x 5w in
PKR 38,000





Shanzay Subzwari
I Can Show You The World, 2025
Acrylic on Canvas
10h x 50w in
PKR 170,000







Shanzay Subzwari
Whimsy, 2026
Gouache on Handmade Paper
11.50h x 8w in
PKR 95,000



Shanzay Subzwari
We Are All Here, 2026
Acrylic on Canvas
5h x 10w in
PKR 38,000



Shanzay Subzwari
I'm Always Here, 2026
Gouache on Handmade Paper
11.50h x 8w in
PKR 95,000



Shanzay Subzwari
I Don't Care- I Love It!, 2026
Acrylic on Canvas
5h x 10w in
PKR 38,000



Shanzay Subzwari
Happy Days, 2026
Acrylic on Canvas
10h x 5w in
PKR 38,000