

The Water You Seek

Wardha
Shabbir



5–18 October 2022

**Grosvenor
Gallery**



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Grosvenor Gallery
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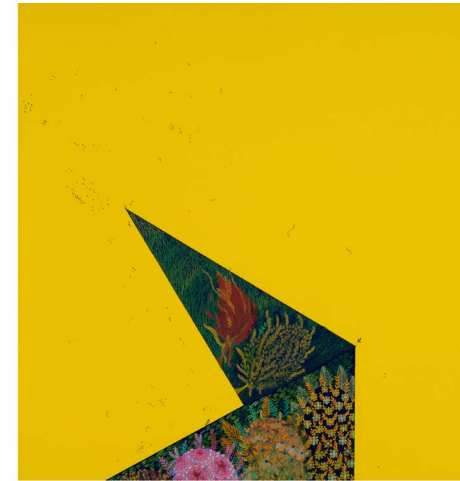
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The *path* continues to guide my visual research into the space around me, while I take reference from the physical markings of the world and the non-physical realm of the mind. Having used surrounding spaces as a continuity of my canvas, I have moved on to create new 'spaces' within the paintings themselves, in form of passages, enclosures and sometimes even light. I construct these maps, not just to familiarize myself with these *spaces*, but also subconsciously to navigate through the past and future as a means of returning to the *self*.

The foliage, forming relations with points and lines, engages and disengages with the surface to formulate 'organic geometry' expressing a perceptual journey. With provocative elements of my subjective experience, I create interactive imagery that unveils itself gradually to the observer's eye, stimulating their senses at first and finally reaching them through their own visual vocabulary. I aim to incite a thought-provoking process of *demystification* through the rendering of hauntingly beautiful visuals that persist in the mind.

Through this artistic pursuit, I pay a collective homage to the struggle that is quintessential to women's lives. Taking forward the *technique* learnt during my years of practising Miniature Painting, influenced by the gardens from my surroundings and



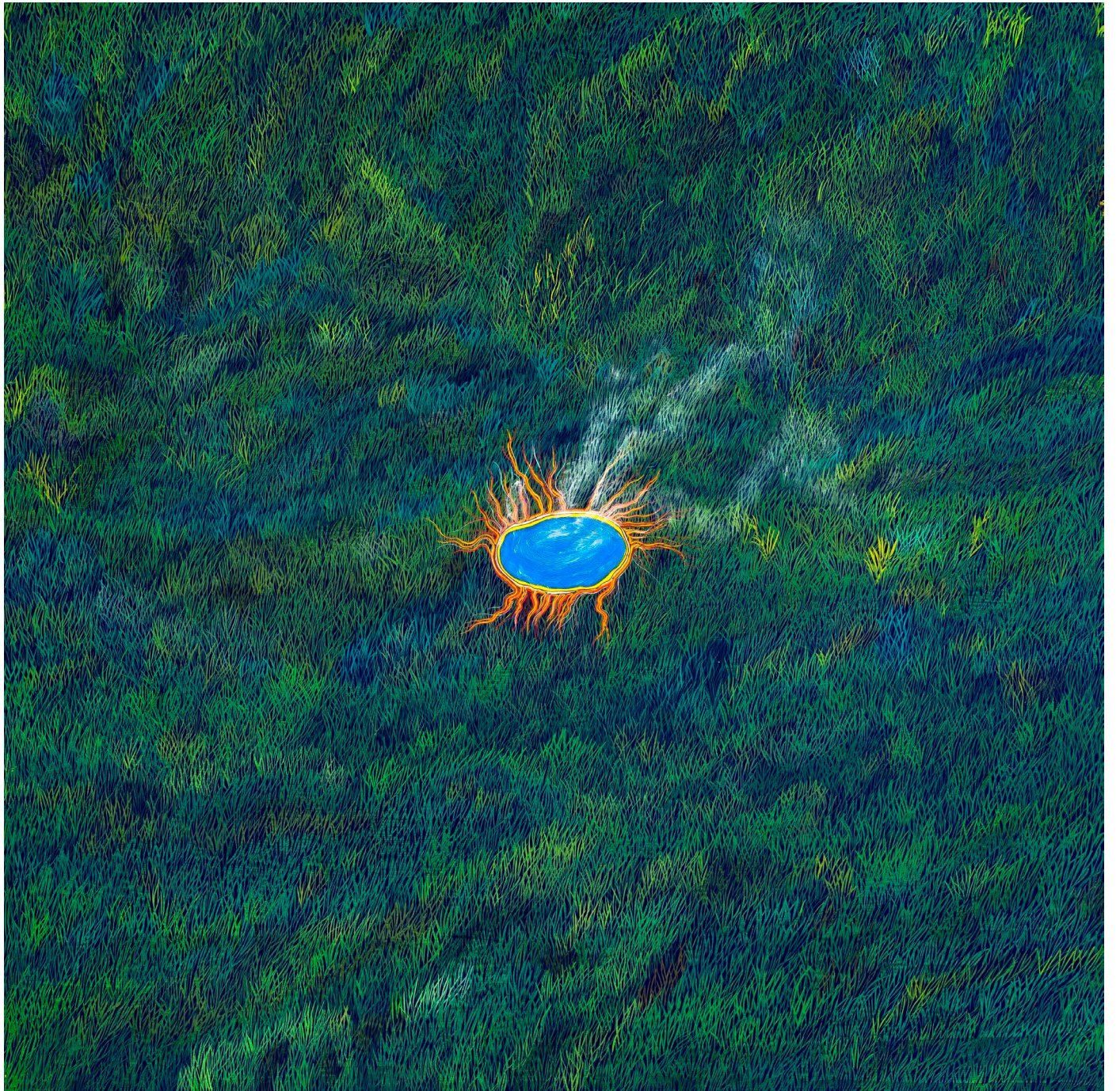
Detail from:
Poetic Activism
2022

contemporary architecture, the organic compositions portray a plethora of women's experiences. The abundance of growth, morphing into elaborate motifs emulates the unfathomable contours of female imagination. Vivid hues illustrate the strength and vitality of feminine emotion. Through my work, I urge women to dissociate from their *silence* and break free from the concrete confines of the world to recognize the endless possibilities and potential of their existence.

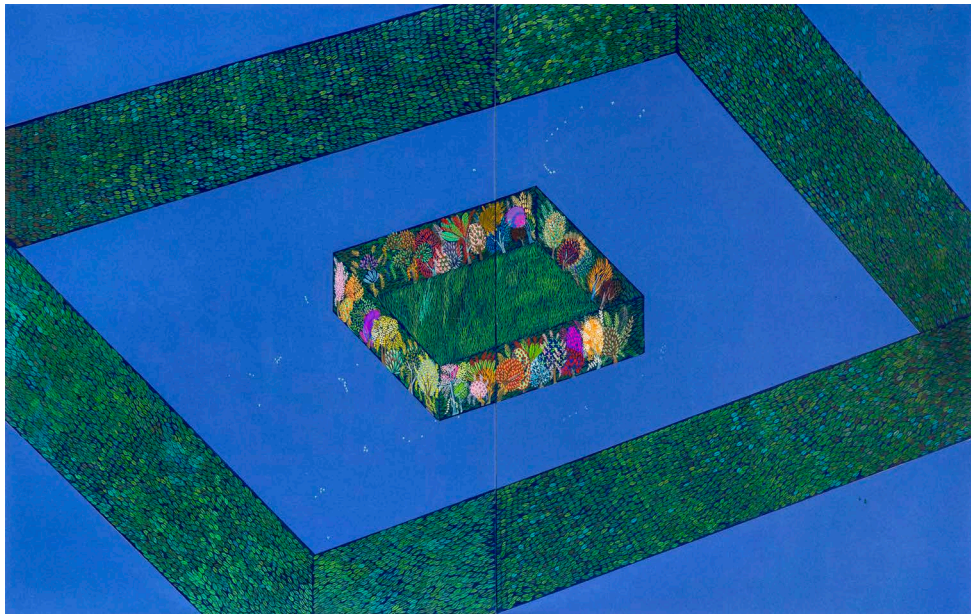
Within these paradisiacal visuals, I have carefully embedded symbols of loss and despair, but also hope and survival. There is infinitude in a person's isolated journey; in following a path that has an end in itself. A path that multiplies, wavers, even breaks but reconciles over and over again. Etiolating flora amongst flourishing growth represents death in the path, as it is through death that one learns to live again. This contradictory state of awareness, living while dying at the one and the same time, paves the journey to self-realization.

Wardha Shabbir, August 2022

The Water You Want
2022
Gouache on acid free paper
66 x 66.5 cm
26 x 26 1/8 in



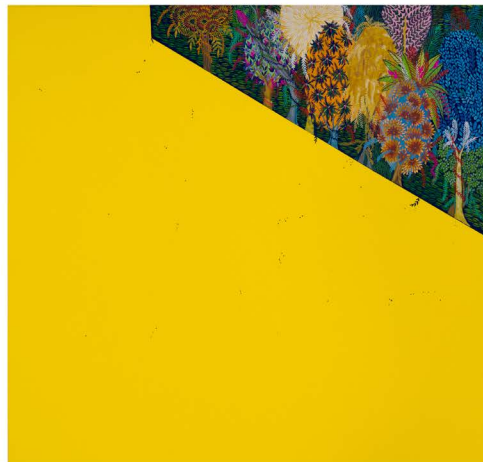
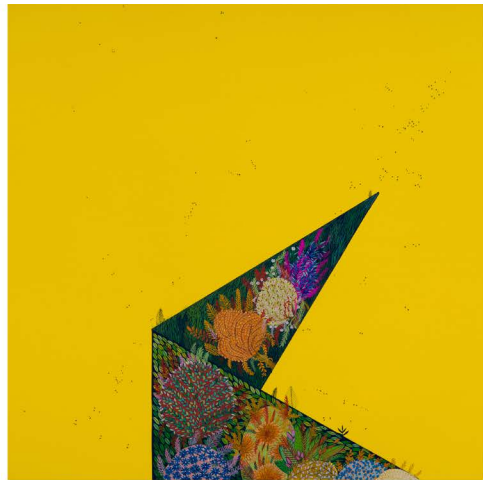
A Resilient Captive
2022
Gouache on acid free paper
49 x 80.3 cm
19 1/4 x 31 5/8 in



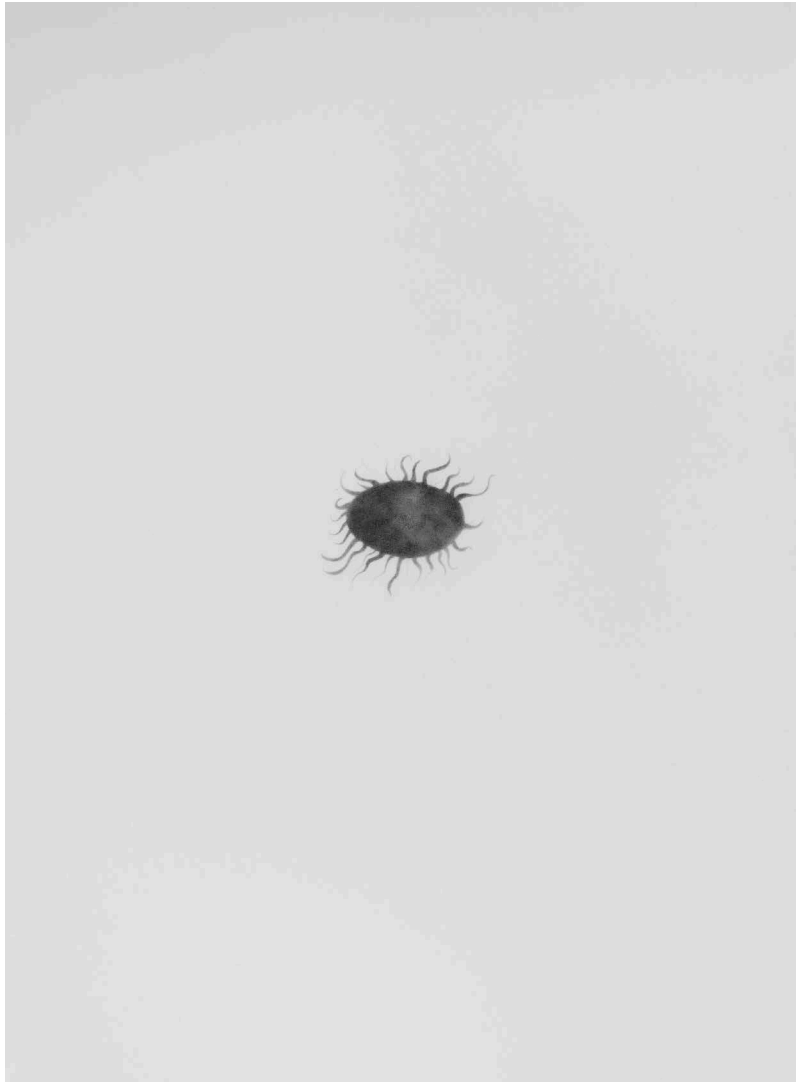
The Sight Of A Being
2022
Gouache on acid free paper
79 x 80.5 cm
31 1/8 x 31 3/4 in



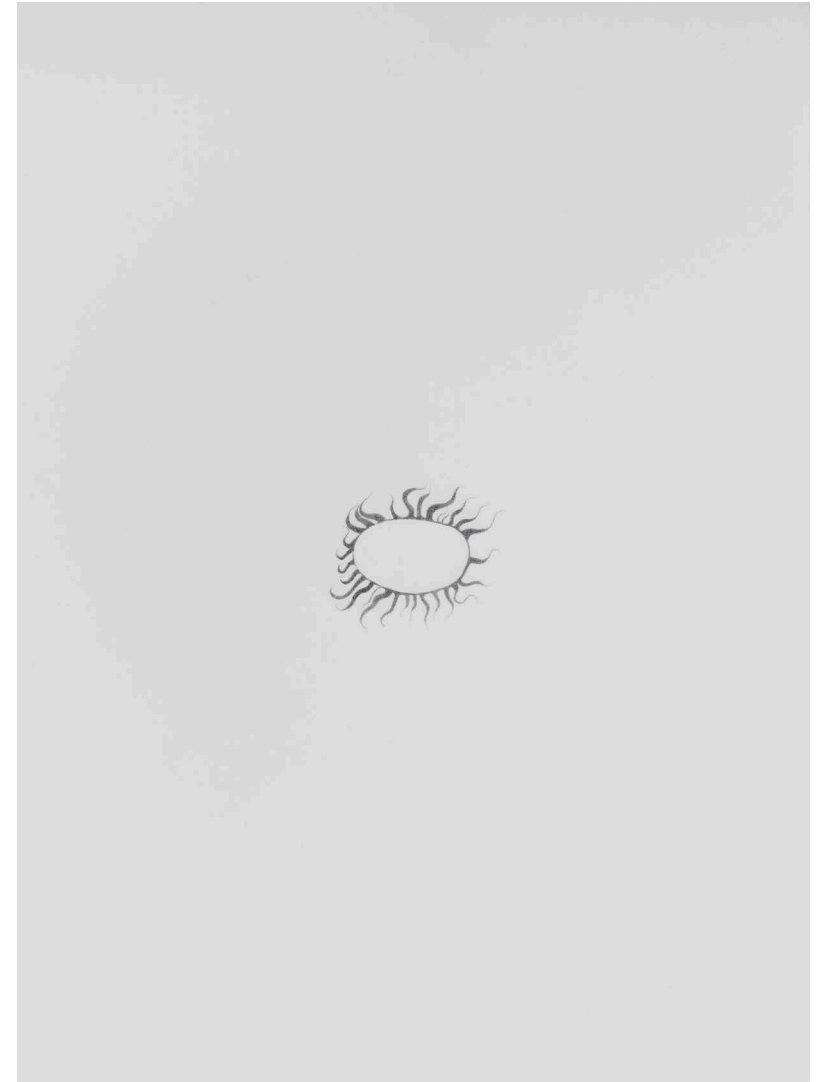
Poetic Activism
2022
Gouache on acid free paper
99 x 148.5 cm
39 x 58 1/2 in



Kaali Aag/ Black Fire (A)
2022
Gouache on acid free paper
31 x 23 cm
12 1/4 x 9 in



Kaali Aag/ Black Fire (B)
2022
Gouache on acid free paper
31 x 23 cm
12 1/4 x 9 in



Building My Own Sanctuary
2022
Gouache on acid free paper
52 x 74 cm
20 1/2 x 29 1/8 in



An Approximate Translation Of Self (A)
2022
Gouache on acid free paper
24.1 x 17.8 cm
9 1/2 x 7 in



An Approximate Translation Of Self (B)
2022
Gouache on acid free paper
24.1 x 17.8 cm
9 1/2 x 7 in



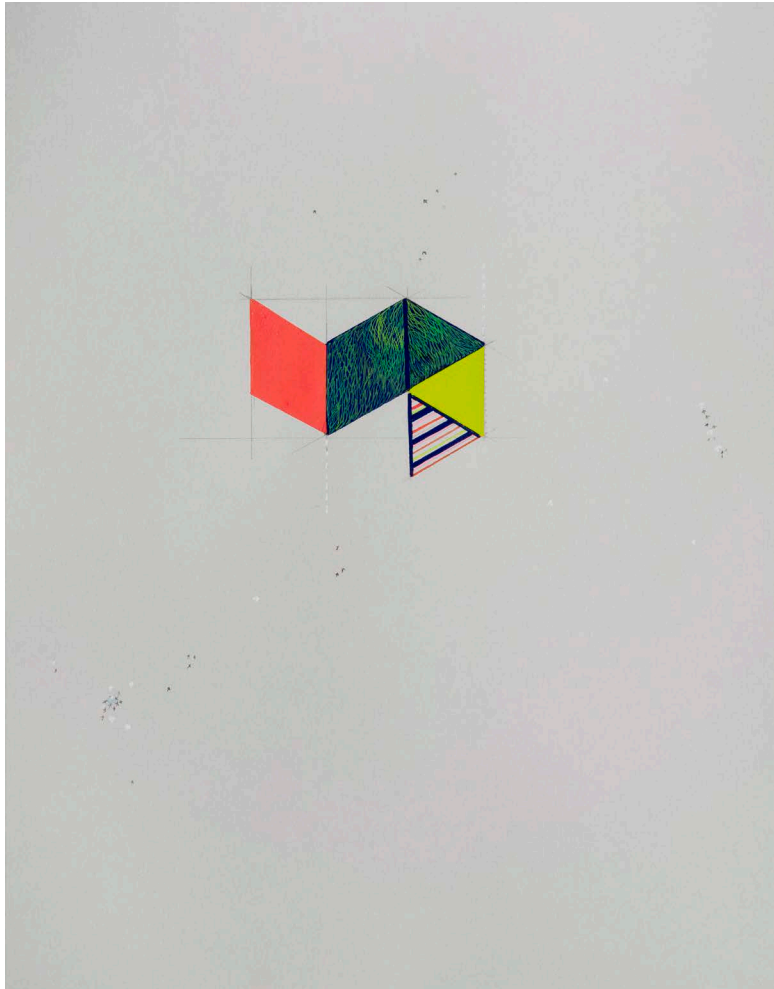
Threatening Emotions
2022
Gouache on acid free paper
43.5 x 67 cm
17 1/8 x 26 3/8 in



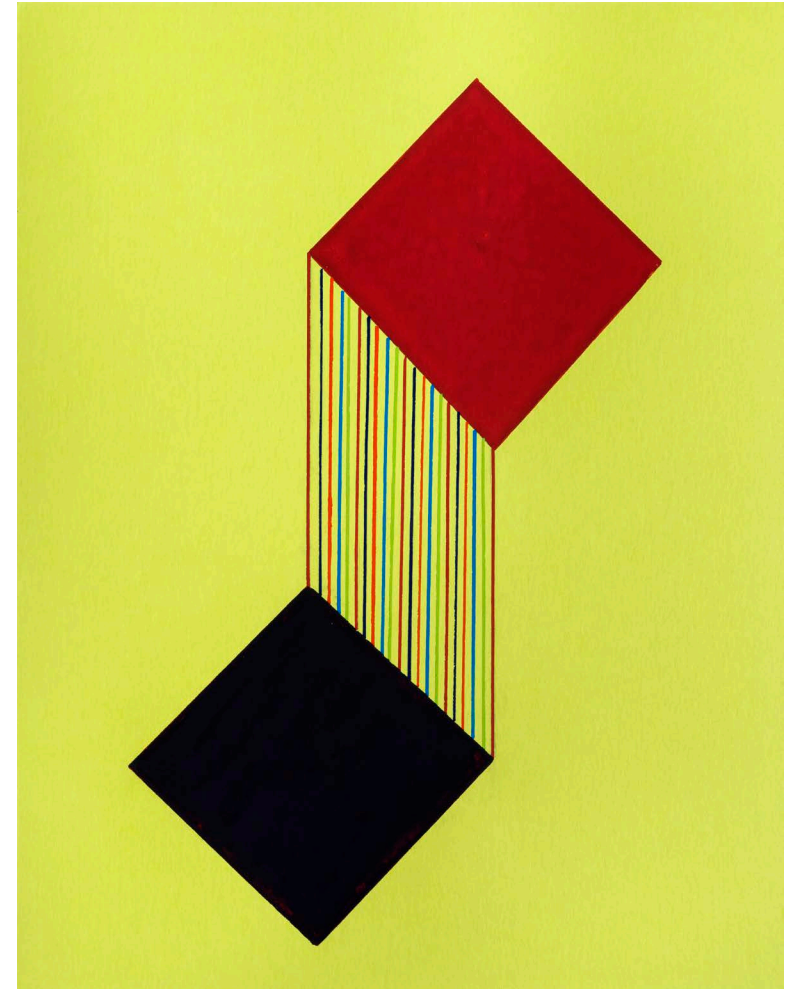
A Land Mass
2022
Gouache on acid free paper
27.9 x 21.5 cm
11 x 8 1/2 in

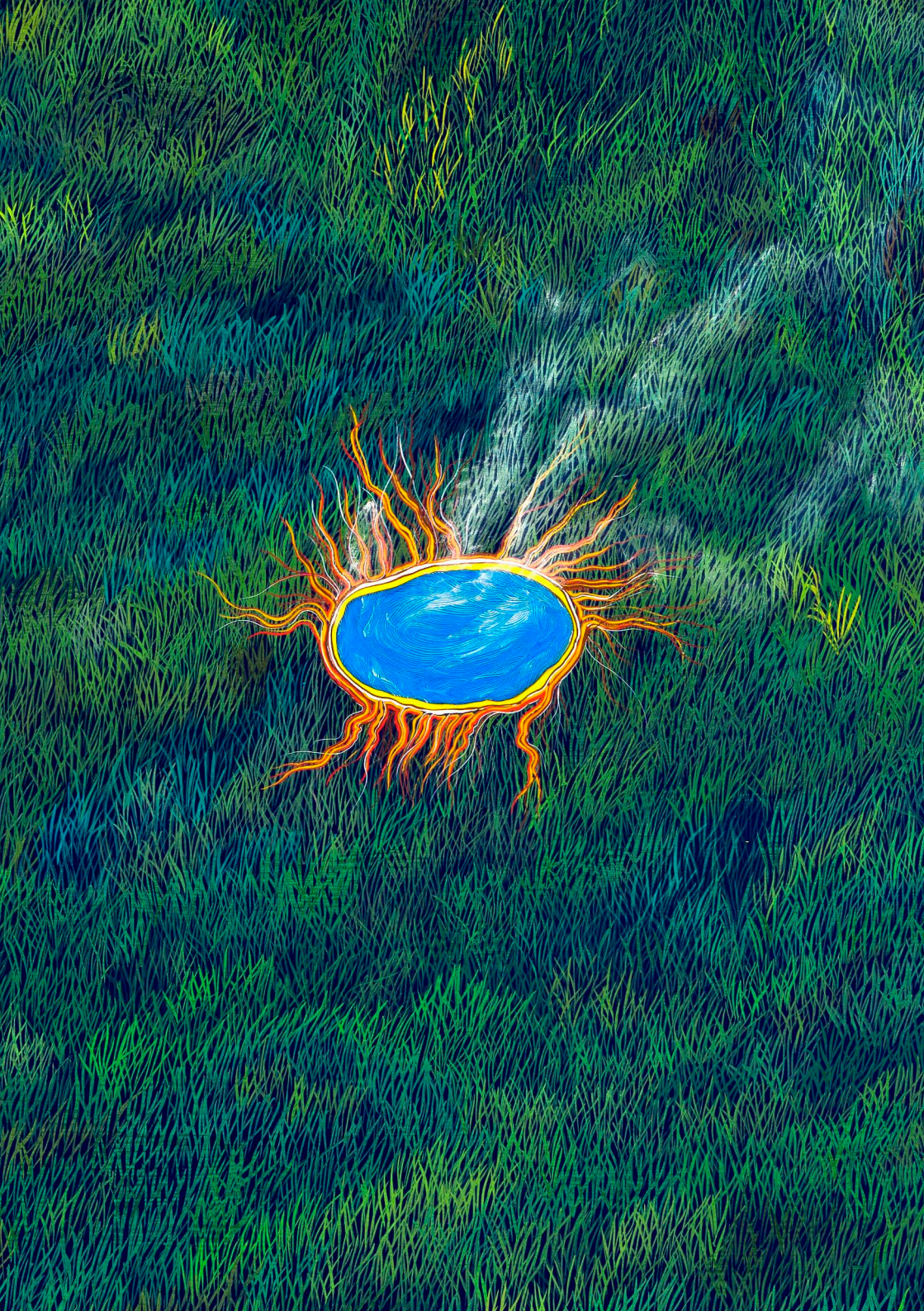


Ascending Progress
2022
Gouache on acid free paper
27.9 x 21.5 cm
11 x 8 1/2 in



Narratives Of Colours
2022
Gouache on acid free paper
27.9 x 21.5 cm
11 x 8 1/2 in





BIOGRAPHY

Wardha Shabbir (b.1987)



Visual practitioner and contemporary miniaturist Wardha Shabbir lives in Lahore, Pakistan. She graduated from the prestigious National College of Arts, (NCA), Lahore, with a bachelor's degree in Fine Arts (BFA Hons.) in 2011, where she merited the Principal's Honour Award. During her academic career at NCA, Shabbir was awarded numerous scholarships and grants as well as being selected for an exchange programme in Paris, with the Ecole des Beaux Arts, (2006-'10). Additionally, she received the best young artist Award from Al Hamra Gallery, Lahore, in 2011. She is also a visiting Assistant Professor at NCA.

Since graduating, Shabbir has exhibited widely both within Pakistan and internationally. She was the first artist from Pakistan selected for FLACC Belgium, where she initiated a research-based experiment transforming a two-dimensional miniature painting into a three-dimensional interactive environment. In 2016, she participated in the Summer Intensive Programme at the Slade School of Fine Arts, London. In addition, Shabbir has exhibited at the Dhaka Art Summit, Scope (Basel), Contemporary Istanbul, Abu Dhabi Art, UAE, India Art Fair, New Delhi, Artissima, Torino, Art Dubai (solo Booth - Bawwaba), as well as numerous group exhibitions around the world.

Her solo exhibitions include *Green Matter*, Canvas Gallery, Karachi 2021; *In a Free State*, Grosvenor Gallery, London, 2019; *The Space Within*, Canvas Gallery, Karachi, 2018; *Of Trees and Other Beings*, Rohtas II, Lahore, 2016 and *Many Metamorphoses*, Rohtas II, Lahore, 2012.

Shabbir was among the finalists for the esteemed Jameel Prize 5 (2018), at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, an exhibition which travelled to the Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai in 2019. Shabbir has also exhibited at both the Lahore (2018) and Karachi Biennale (2018). She has been nominated twice for the Sovereign Art Prize, (2019 and 2020). Shabbir's work is in well-reputed private and corporate collections in Switzerland, Berlin, Dubai and Abu Dhabi, as well as various prominent collections in Pakistan, India, UK, USA and Canada.

Exhibitions

2022	Indian Art Fair, Group Presentation, Gallery Latitude 28, New Delhi, India Art Dubai, Bawwaba Section, Canvas Gallery, UAE	2016	Solo Exhibition, Rohtas-2 Lahore, Pakistan Summer Intensive Program Exhibition, Slade School Of Fine Arts, UCL, UK <i>Revisiting Beauty</i> , Threshold Gallery, New Delhi, India <i>Narcissist Reborn</i> , Sanat Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
2021	Abu Dhabi Art, Grosvenor Gallery, Abu Dhabi, UAE Artissima, Gallery Latitude 28, Torino, Italy Fondazione Torino Musei, Torino, Italy <i>Green Matter</i> , Canvas Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan <i>Re-Examine Re-Trace</i> , Gandhara Art Space, Karachi, Pakistan Delhi Contemporary Art Week, Latitude 28, Delhi, India	2015	<i>Utopia</i> , Jan Kossen Contemporary Art Gallery, New York, USA
2020	Abu Dhabi Art Fair, 1x1 Gallery, Abu Dhabi, UAE <i>Tapestry Of Fading Gardens</i> , 1x1 Gallery, Dubai, UAE <i>Geometry And Minimalism</i> , Grosvenor Gallery, London, UK	2014	<i>Waxing Lyrical</i> , Chawkandi Art Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan Dhaka Art Summit, Dhaka, Bangladesh
2019	<i>In A Free State</i> , Grosvenor Gallery, London, UK Delhi Contemporary Art Week, Gallery Latitude 28, New Delhi, India <i>Jameel Prize 5</i> , Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai, UAE <i>If You Have A Garden In Your Library</i> , AAN Gandhara Art Space, Karachi, Pakistan India Art fair, Gallery 1x1, New Delhi, India	2013	FLACC Artist's Residency and Show, Genk, Belgium Open studio artist (in research), Gallery Z33, Hasselt, Belgium (June 29)
2018	Canvas Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan Group Exhibition, Museo Diocesano Carlo Maria Martini, Milan, Italy Delhi Contemporary Art Week, Gallery Latitude 28, Delhi, India <i>Jameel Prize 5</i> , Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK <i>Solitude</i> , Koel Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan <i>I Too Am, A Part Of History</i> , Fakeer Khana Museum, Lahore, Pakistan Lahore Biennale, Public Installation: <i>Way To Paradise</i> , Bagh-e-Jinnah, Lahore, Pakistan <i>Multiple Narratives</i> , Grosvenor Gallery, London, UK Gallery Threshold, New Delhi, India	2012	Art Basel, Switzerland, 14–17 June Rohtas-II, Lahore, Pakistan India Art fair, New Delhi, India
2017	<i>Maps Of Skin And Spirit</i> , Canvas Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan	2011	The Drawing Room (CONCH CURVE CREATION), Lahore, Pakistan DXB Unframed, Dubai, UAE Contemporary Istanbul, Turkey <i>Looking through the wider lens</i> , Jan Kossen Art, Basel, Switzerland <i>Not Just Another Group Show</i> , The Drawing Room, Lahore, Pakistan The Drawing Room, Dubai, UAE <i>Red Hot</i> , Al-Hamra, Lahore, Pakistan <i>Pakistan – Una Sinfonia De Sonidos y Colores</i> , Contemporary Pakistan Art, Buenos Aries, Argentina <i>Emerging Talent</i> , VM Gallery, Karachi Pakistan

Photography
Asif Khan

Design
CHK Design

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