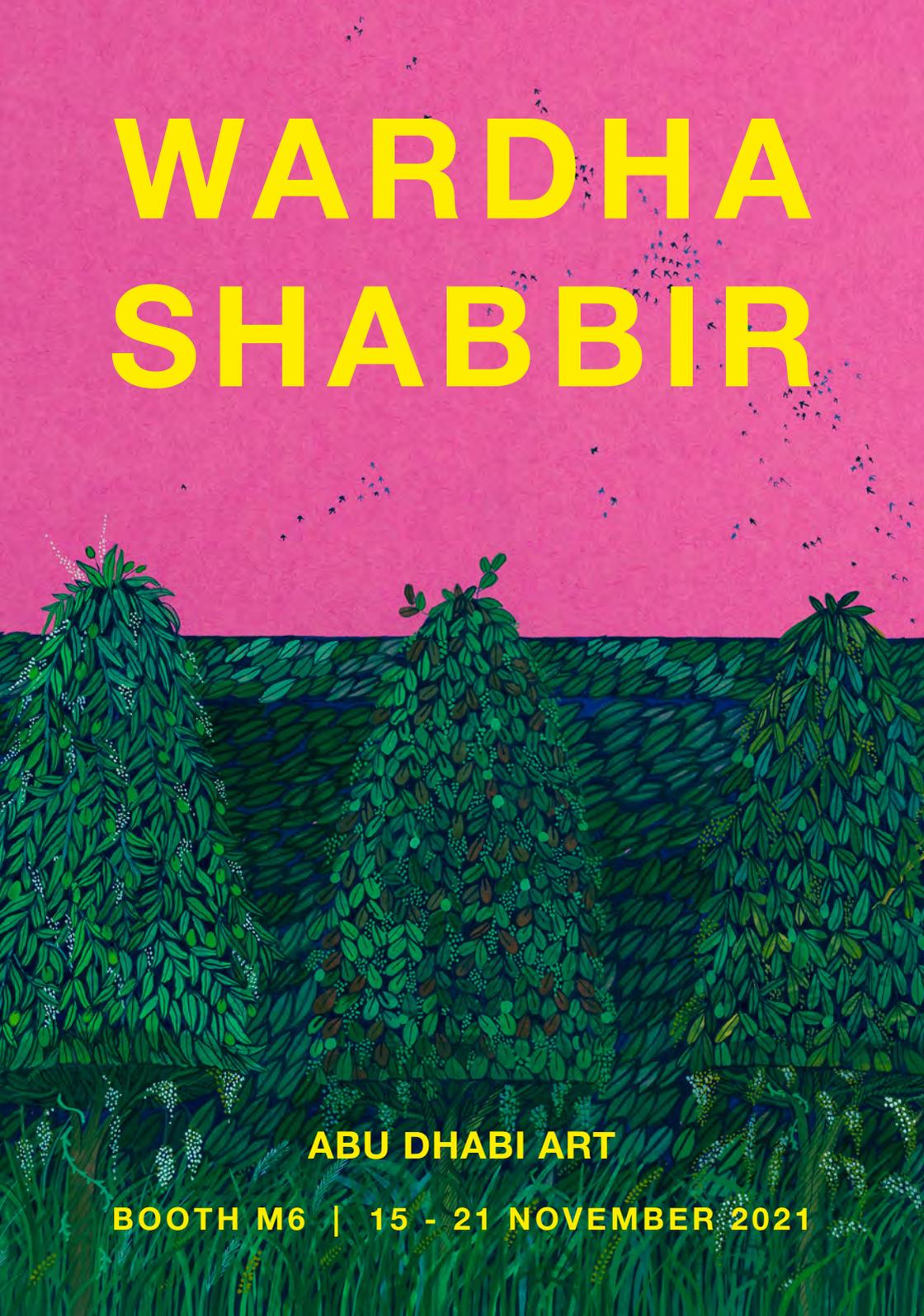


WARDHA SHABBIR



ABU DHABI ART

BOOTH M6 | 15 - 21 NOVEMBER 2021



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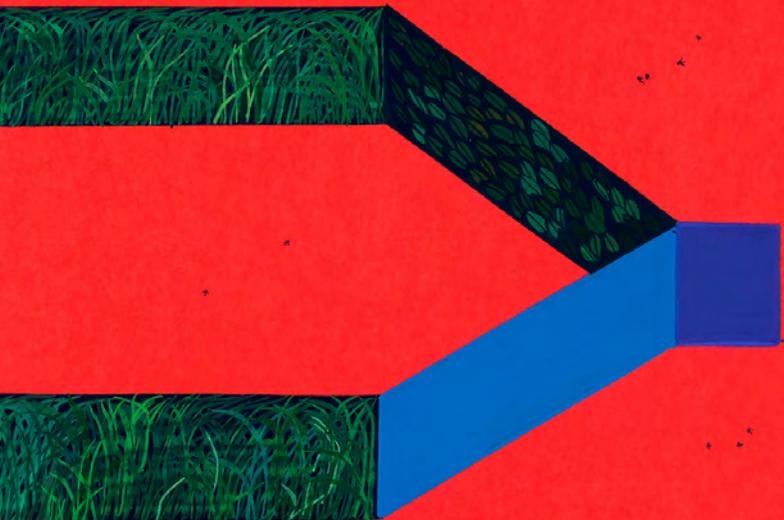
**Grosvenor
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WARDHA SHABIR

ABU DHABI: 2021



Left
A Land Mass,
Gouache On Acid
Free Paper, 2021

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.

GROSVENOR GALLERY

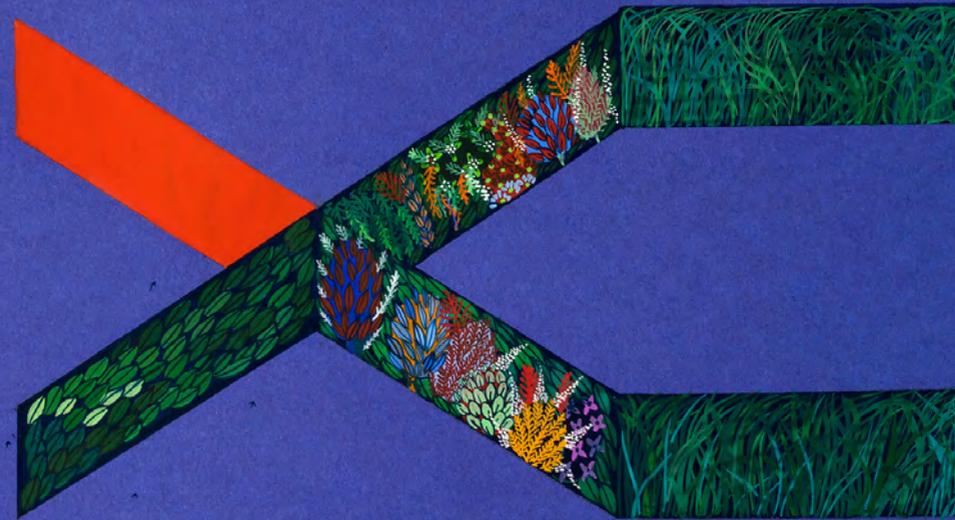
Through this artistic pursuit, I pay a collective homage to the struggle that is quintessential to women's lives. Taking forward the technique learned during my years of practicing Miniature Painting, influenced by the gardens from my surroundings and contemporary architecture, the organic compositions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

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 same time, paves the journey to self-realization.

Through my work, I urge women to dissociate with their *silence* and break free from the concrete confines of the world to recognize the endless possibilities and potential of their existence.

Wardha Shabbir, 2021

Right
A Land Mass,
Gouache On Acid
Free Paper, 2021



1. *A Meeting Point*, 2021

Signed and dated on the reverse

Gouache on acid free paper

29 x 25.6 cm

11 21/50 x 10 4/50 in



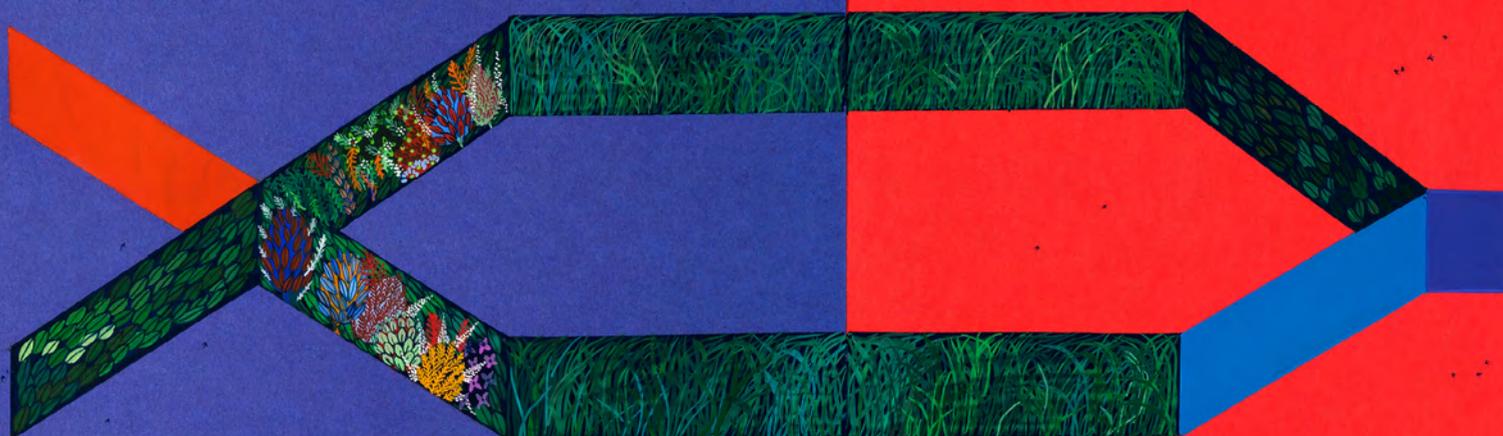
2. *A Land Mass*, 2021

Signed and dated on the reverse

Gouache on acid free paper

29 x 51.2 cm

11 21/50 x 20 8/50 in



3. *Three From A Family*, 2021

Signed and dated on the reverse

Gouache on acid free paper

29 x 25.6 cm

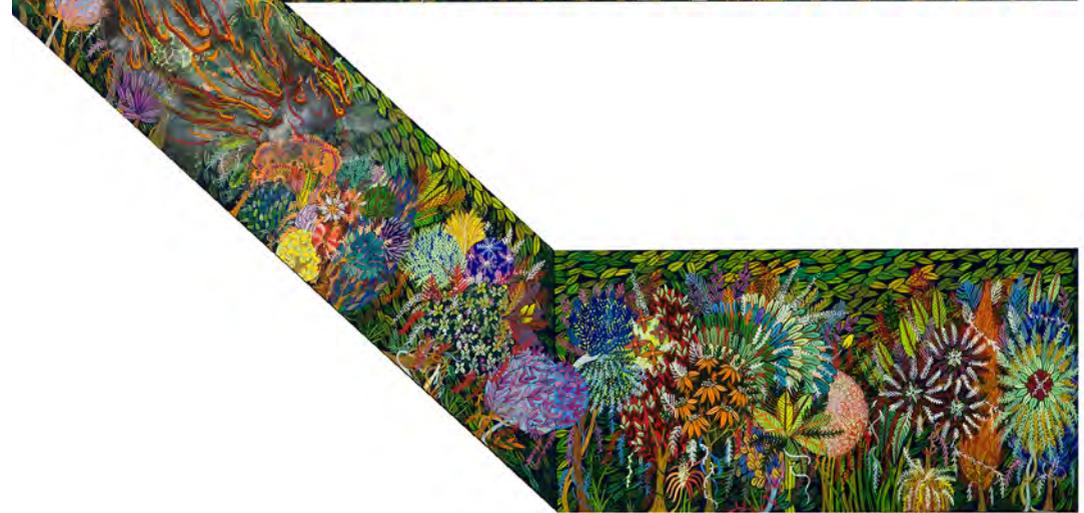
11 21/50 x 10 4/50 in



4. *A Forest Of Us*, 2021

Signed and dated on the reverse
Gouache on acid free paper

101.6 x 88.9 cm
40 x 35 in



5. *A Ray of Green*, 2021

Signed and dated on the reverse

Gouache on acid free paper

Diptych

29 x 51.2 cm

11 21/50 x 20 8/50 in



6. *Everyone's Experiences*, 2021

Signed and dated on the reverse

Gouache on acid free paper

76.2 x 101.6 cm

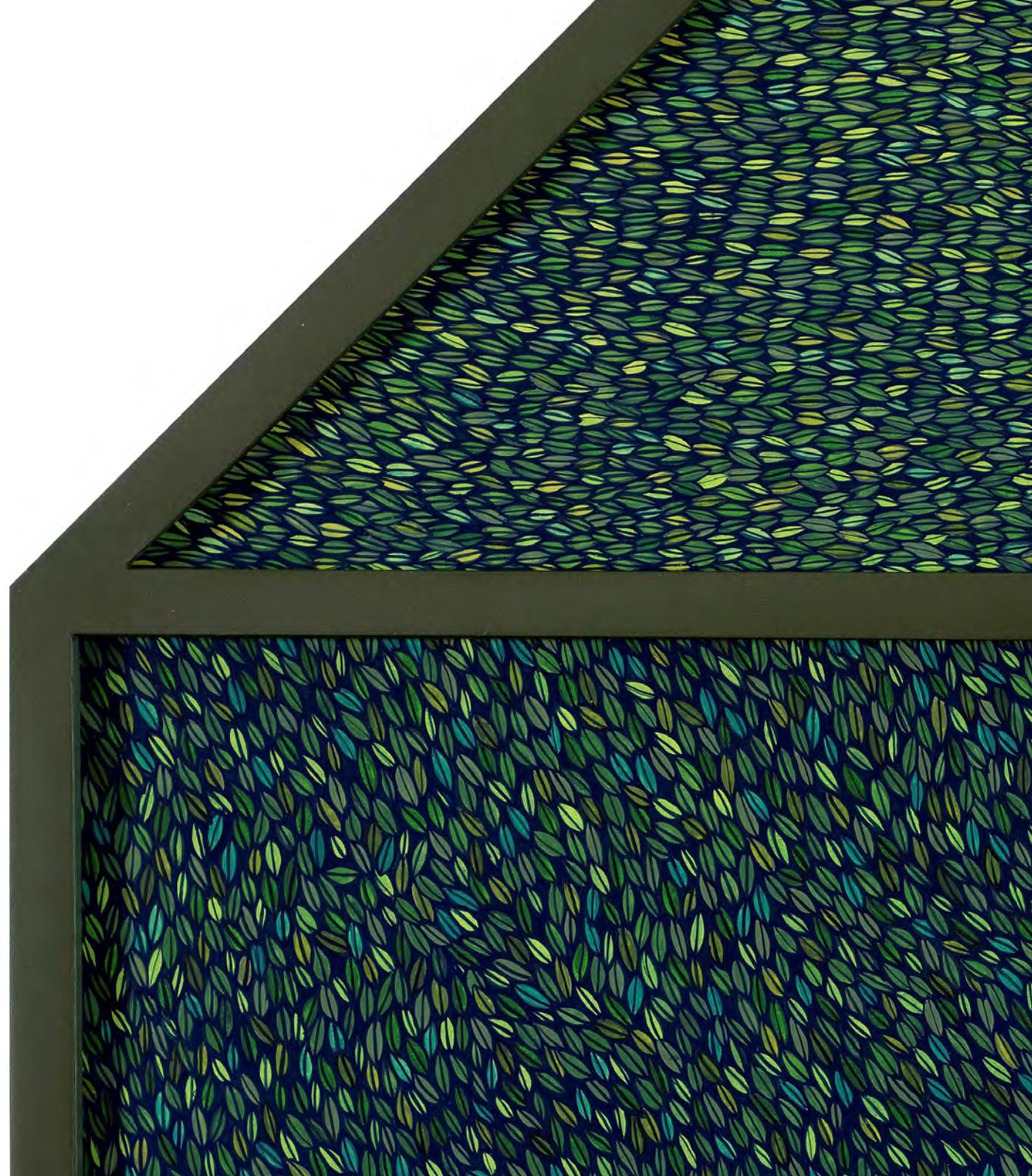
30 x 40 in



“My work is pictography of my own journey/Siraat as a female Muslim living in Pakistan. By exploring the realms of my own painted foliage I am trying to decipher the meaning of self through my own work. I am moving beyond the representation of individual episodes, experiences and have begun to explore the very act of our journeying through these paintings.

“A single geometric shape of a cube has a lot of significance in Islamic art; this shape can further be expanded and multiplied to form a pattern. It thus implies the infinitude that is a part of all geometric developments in the art of illustrated manuscripts. Abundant foliage is a component of the quintessential Islamic garden; some of the hedges and avenues that I make are angular while some are circular and cubic. Together, they suggest the prospect of limitlessness that geometry offers, of endlessness set in motion by the intersection of lines and circles. But the fact that the botanical shapes, which I make, are tree-lined indicates an organic geometry.

“A cube here becomes a person and a vessel denoting the omnipresence of power or the point of departure within one self to another dimension of subconscious. Which again becomes an image of self-realization like my other works. The cube becomes the centre of a circle, which is considered as a profound key in discipline of geometry.



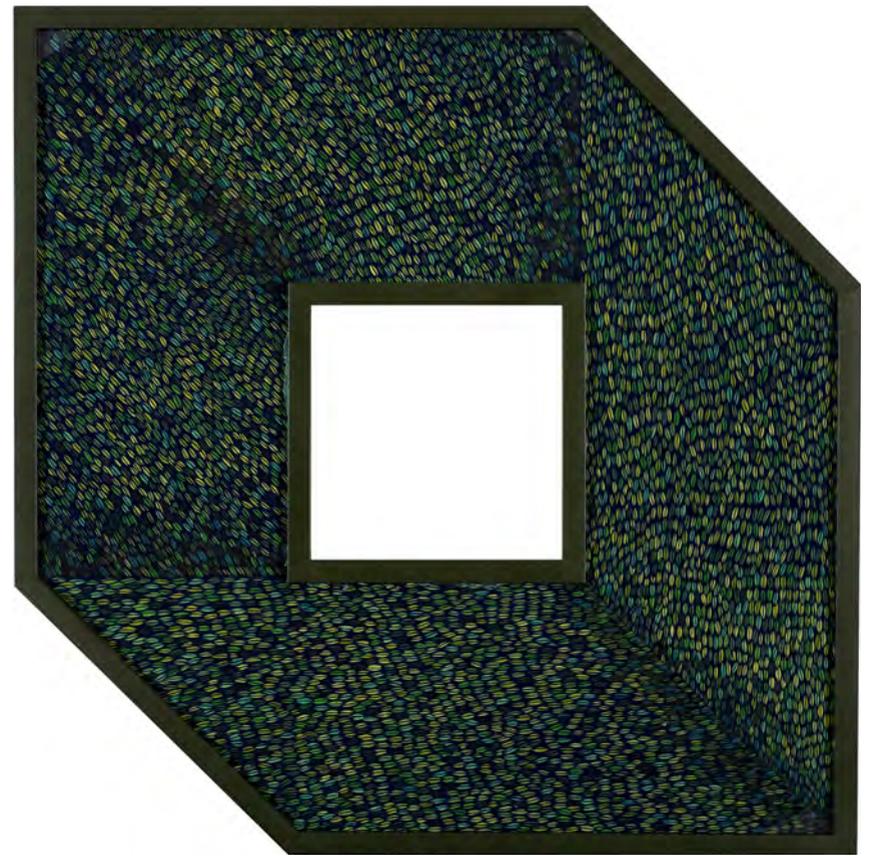
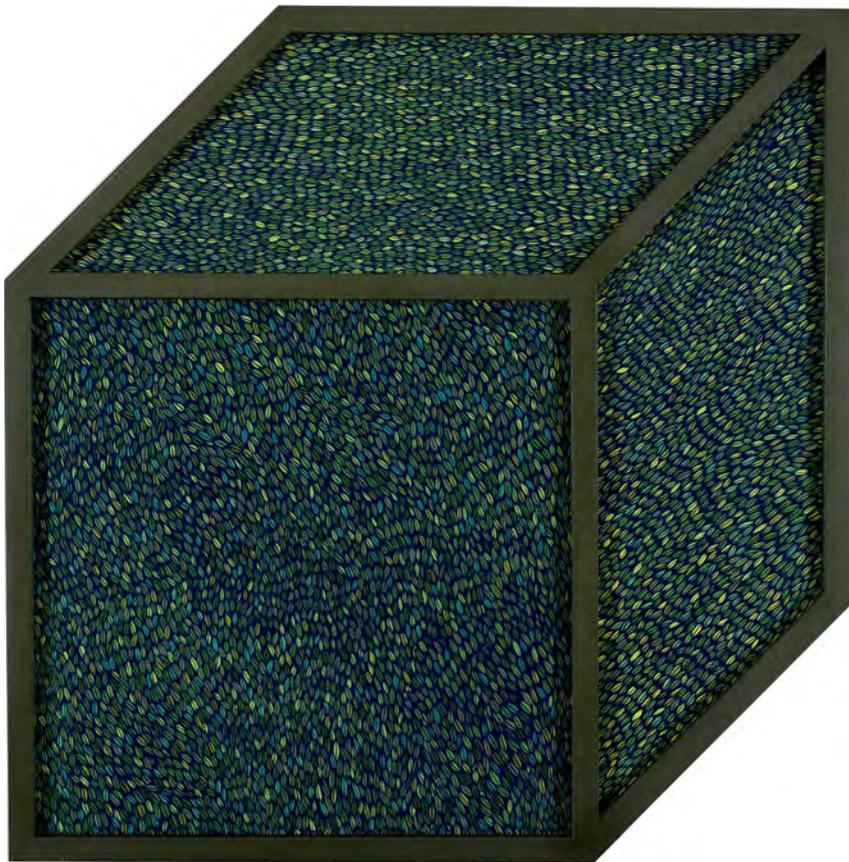
7. *One World Here / Another There*, 2020

Each panel signed and dated on the reverse

Gouache on acid free paper

Diptych

Each: 73 x 73 cm (28 3/4 x 28 3/4 in)





BIOGRAPHY

Wardha Shabbir (b. 1987) lives and works in the city of Lahore, Pakistan where she graduated from National College Of Arts with an honors in 2011, followed by the prestigious Principal Honor Award. Wardha has been awarded with many scholarships, grants and was also selected for an exchange program in Paris, 2010 with (ECOLE) during her Academic years (2007-11). She has been awarded the best young artist Award from AL-Hamra Art Gallery, Lahore, Pakistan (2011). She is also an Educationist and is teaching at National college of Arts, Lahore- Pakistan since 2013. She is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor.

Since her graduation Wardha has been widely displaying on both National and International platforms. She was the first artist from Pakistan selected for FLACC, Belgium where she initiated a research-based experiment on human Sensorium while transforming a 2D miniature painting into a 3D Interactive Environment. In 2016, she became part of the Summer Intensive Program at The Slade School Of Fine Arts, London, UK. She has been part of DAS (Dhaka Art Summit), Scope (Basel), Contemporary Istanbul (Turkey), Abu Dhabi Art Fair, Indian Art Fair and various group and Solo exhibitions both on National and International level.

Wardha was amongst the finalist for the prestigious Jameel Art Prize 5- Victoria & Albert Museum, London, United Kingdom where her works have also been shown and will be travelling to other venues -most recent is the Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai, 2019.

She has also been nominated twice for the Sovereign Art Prize in 2019 and 2020.

Shabbir's work is in well-reputed private and corporate collections in Switzerland, Berlin, Dubai, Royal family of Abu Dhabi, Various prominent collectors in India and Pakistan, New York, Canada and London.

2021

Wardha Shabbir, Grosvenor Gallery, Abu Dhabi Art, UAE

EXHIBITIONS

2021

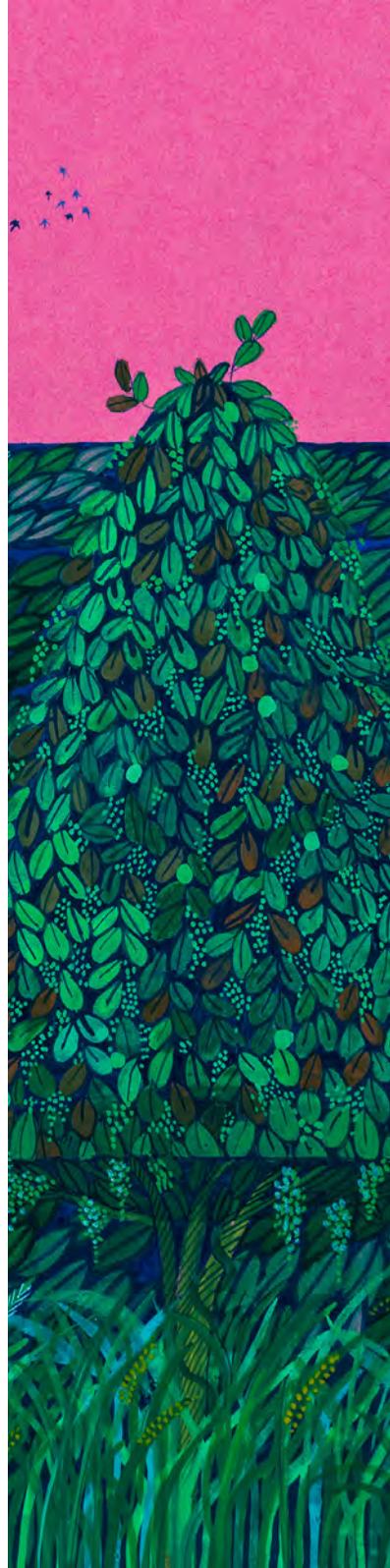
Artissima, Art Fair at Italy with Gallery Latitude 28
Group show at Fondazione Torino Musei, Italy
Green Matter, Solo Show, Canvas Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
Re-Examine Re-Trace, Group Show, Gandhara Art Space, Karachi, Pakistan
Delhi Contemporary Art Week, Latitude 28, Delhi, India

2020

Abu Dhabi Art Fair, 1x1 Gallery, Abu Dhabi
Tapestry Of Fading Gardens, 1x1 Gallery, Dubai
Geometry And Minimalism, Grosvenor Gallery, London

2019

Solo Show "*In A Free State*", Grosvenor Gallery, London, UK
Delhi Contemporary Art Week, Gallery Latitude 28, Delhi, India
Jameel Prize 5, Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai
"*If You Have A Garden In Your Library*"-1, AAN Gandhara Art Space, Karachi
Indian Art fair, Gallery 1x1, New Delhi, India



2018

Solo Show, Canvas Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
Group Exhibition, Museo Diocesano Carlo Maria Martini, Milan, Italy
Delhi Contemporary Art Week, Gallery Latitude 28, Delhi, India
Jameel Prize 5, Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK
Group Exhibition, *Solitude*, Koel Gallery, Pakistan Curated By Salima Hashmi
"*I Too Am, A Part Of History*", Curated by Zahra Khan, Fakeer Khana Museum, Lahore, Pakistan
Lahore Biennale Foundation, Public Installation: Way To Paradise, Bagh-e-Jinnah, & Lahore, Pakistan
Multiple Narratives, Group Show at Grosvenor Gallery, London, UK
Group Show, Gallery Threshold, 10 years Anniversary Show, Delhi, India

2017

Finalist among 8 Artists for Jameel Art Prize 2018, V&A Museum, London, UK
Two Person Show, *Maps Of Skin And Spirit*, Canvas Gallery, Karachi

2016

Solo Exhibition, Rohtas -2 Lahore, Pakistan
Summer Intensive Program Exhibition, Slade School Of Fine Arts, UCL, UK
Revisiting Beauty, Threshold Gallery, Group Show, India
Narcissist Reborn: Sanat Gallery Karachi, Group Show

2015

"*Utopia*", Jan Kossen Contemporary Art Gallery, Group Show, NY, USA

EXTERNAL RECOGNITION & AWARDS

2014

“*Waxing Lyrical*”, Chawkandi Art Gallery, Group Show
DAS (Dhaka Art Summit), Representation of Miniature
Painting, Dhaka, Bangladesh

2013

Artist in residence at FLACC, Belgium, FLACC Artist’s
Residency and Show, Genk, Belgium

2012

Art Basel, Switzerland, June 14 -17
Solo show, Rohtas-II, August 29, Lahore, Pakistan
Shortlisted among the four international Artists for
FLACC (Genk), Belgium
Group Exhibition at Indian Art fair, (The Drawing room)
New Delhi, India

2011

Group Exhibition at The Drawing Room (*CONCH
CURVE CREATION*), Lahore, Pakistan
Group Exhibition at *DXB UNFRAMED*, Dubai
Group Exhibition at Contemporary Istanbul, Turkey
Group Exhibition n at JAN KOSSEN ART, *Looking through
the wider lens*, Basel, Switzerland
Group Exhibition at The Drawing Room (*NOT JUST
ANOTHER GROUP SHOW*), Lahore, Pakistan
Group Exhibition at The Drawing Room, Dubai
Group Exhibition at Al-Hamra, Red hot, Lahore, Pakistan
“*Pakistan - Una Sinfopnia De Sonidos y Colores*”, Contemporary
Pakistan Art, Buenos Aries, Argentina
Group Exhibition at VM Gallery, Emerging Talent,
Karachi Pakistan



2020

Nominated for Sovereign Asian Art Prize, 2020

2019

Honorable Mention at ADA Awards 2018-19, Category
2D art works

2018

Nominated For Sovereign Asian Art Prize, 2019
Selected as a Finalist of Jameel Art Prize 2018, Victoria
And Albert Museum, London, UK

2016

Nominated For Jameel Art Prize 2018, Victoria And
Albert Museum, London, UK
Shortlisted for the 4TH International Emerging Artist
Award, Dubai

2011

Principals Honors Award

2010

Honors in NCA Degree Show, (Final Year Project show)
2010

2006

Winner – Young Artists Exhibition, Alhamra Lahore Arts
council, Lahore, Pakistan

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