



# *Spring Fest 25*

Art Exhibition  
**6th May, 2025**  
Until 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2025

Curated by  
**Prof. Dr. Samina Nasim**  
Principal  
College of Art and Design  
University of the Punjab



May 2025

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## CURETORIAL NOTE

### **Glory of Spring: Representation of Nature & Self-Expression**

Nature, in all its glory, bursts forth in a kaleidoscope of colors, itself being reborn in spring. The blooming flowers, variety of green foliage, and the brilliant hues of surrounding all combine to create a visual feast that delights the senses. The vibrant colors seem to pulse with life, as if infused with the very essence of the season. The colors of spring also symbolize the diversity and creativity of nature. The intricate patterns on a bird's feathers, the delicate petals of a flower, and the swirling shapes of a cloud all showcase the incredible complexity and beauty of the natural world.

The birds, in particular, are a symbol of hope, faith and new life. They build their nests, lay their eggs, and nurture their young, embodying the cycle of life that is at the heart of spring. Their songs are a celebration of the season, a declaration of joy and wonder that is infectious and uplifting. The birds, with their iridescent feathers, are the epitome of spring's beauty. They flit about, their wings beating in rhythmic motion, as they build their nests and start anew. The gentle cooing of the dove, the chirping of the sparrows, parrots, and the trilling of the lark all blend together in a symphony of sound that is both soothing and exhilarating. Every person has their own inner spring, regardless of external circumstances. This inner spring represents hope, renewal, and growth, and it's a personal and unique experience for each individual. In the present show nineteen artists have been participated, and different mediums are used to express their expressions. The natural world is seen as a manifestation of Allah's divine power and mercy. It's lovely that they find inspiration in the Creator's work and use their talents to reflect on and appreciate the beauty of nature.



Prof. Dr. Samina Nasim  
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Revisiting and reliving the past can unfold a transformative journey, offering both healing and personal growth. Imagine a captivating scene where a central figure engages in a poignant dialogue with an unexpected companion— color symbolizing transformation. This unlikely ally becomes a catalyst for deep healing, illustrating moments of vulnerability and resilience. Their exchange transcends mere visual appeal, reflecting the universal human experience of navigating personal histories and emerging with newfound strength and understanding.

- Abdul Mannan





Saroosh - I, Charcoal and Pastel on Canvas, 11 x 11 inches



Saroosh - II, Charcoal and Pastel on Canvas, 10 x 10 inches



ایک برس کے موسم چار  
پانچواں موسم پیار کا ... انتظار کا.. پت جھڑ .. ساون بسنت بہار  
ایک برس کے موسم چار ...  
شاعر .. اند بخشی

- Atif Amir



Ludo - I, Print, 13 x 24 inches



Ludo - II, Print, 13 x 24 inches



My work is a nostalgic journey through the bustling streets and vibrant bazaars of the Walled City of Lahore. Through layered textures, rich colors, and dynamic compositions, I capture the noise, hustle, and chaos that once shaped my childhood memories. Every brushstroke is an attempt to revive the sights, sounds, and spirit of a place that lives deeply within me. By revisiting these urban scenes, I reconnect with the warmth, traditions, and energy of my roots, transforming personal memory into collective visual storytelling.

–Dr Anila Zulfiqar



Urban Soulscape, Acrylic on Canvas, 30.5 x 20 inches



Urban Soulscape, Acrylic on Canvas, 36 x 36 inches



As a lifelong lover of nature and a plein air artist with academic training in philosophy, my work seeks to depict the essence of life, unburdened by the human presence.

- Dr. Aqsa Malik



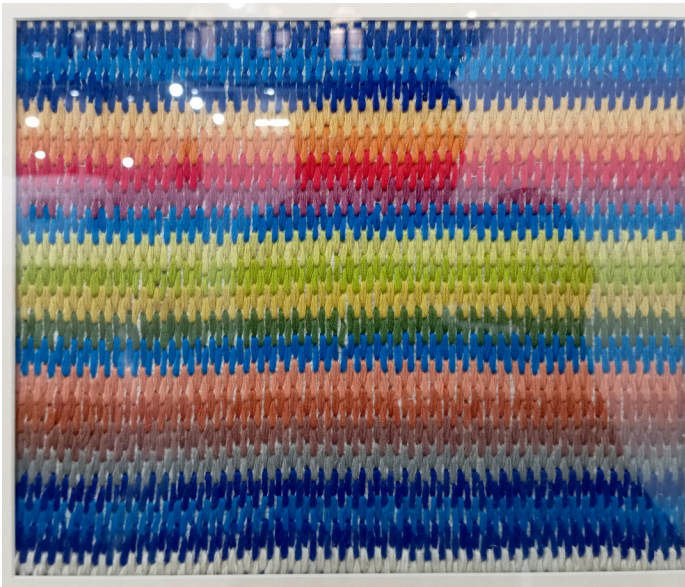


Untitled, Oil on Canvas, 12 x 16 inches



In the “Woven Breeze “and “Spring Tides”, I explored the transient nature of Spring through abstract embroidery. Delicate stitches and vibrant hues evoke the season’s gentle awakening, as lines unfold and colours burst forth. The intricate layout and textures reflect the delicate beauty of nature’s rebirth. Through these pieces, I invite viewers to immerse themselves in the sensory experience of Spring, where the boundaries between reality and abstraction blur. The embroidery serves as a metaphor for the interconnectedness of life, as threads weave together to form a tapestry of growth and renewal. As the seasons cycle, “Woven Breeze “and “Spring Tides”, stand as a testament to the enduring power of nature’s beauty and the human spirit’s capacity to create and renew.

- Dr. Asna Mubashra



Spring Tides, Fabric, 8.5 x 10 inches



Woven Breeze, Fabric, 8.5 x 10 inches



Pakistan's distinguished, National Award winning artist, Ghulam Mustafa, Wandering around Lahore, the city he loves he shares with us the mystic effects of light on solid objects. In his art, light creates myriad patterns on passers by, dazzling the observer's eyes as from shadowed lanes they observe buildings and people dissolve in sunlight. There is a forceful personal conviction in his work yet it is at the same time a contemporary observation of social and environmental subject matter. His recent work includes views of lake with ducks as well the beautiful regions of the country that pay homage to nature. Through his paintings he evokes the wonder and joy of a world in which there still exists trees and hills, mountains and clear skies.

- Ghulam Mustafa  
President Pride of Performance Award, 2002.





Hill Station, Oil on Canvas, 36 x 41 inches



Landscape, Oil on Canvas, 31 x 43 inches



Life is like a bubble. it can be considered positive and negative. if someone feels as if they were bubbles, they will pretend to be positive and brilliant.

- Habib Alam





Evolution of Bubbles, Installation

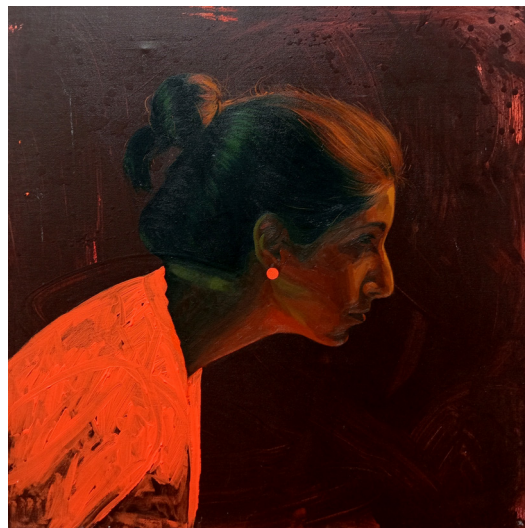


My work explores silent conversations between the male genders in society and studies the unbalanced nature of hierarchy amongst men. These hierarchies, which in my opinion are questionable, have become norms accepted and followed by society. I unpack these muted conversations by using facial expressions and hand gestures, which are considerably masculine and at times, aggressive. Compositional elements such as chiaroscuro and the use of forms that appear obscured or unrevealed are employed to heighten the mystery and sinister mood within the works.

- Javaid Iqbal Mughal



Qatba, Acrylic on Canvas, 33 x 25 inches



Portrait of a Young Girl, Oil on Canvas, 36 x 36 Inches



I paint contemporary realistic impressionist landscapes in oil. My recent work is divided into three categories garden flowers, field flowers and pond flowers, showing the atmosphere of Punjab which has been captured using my experimental palette. Philosophy of my painting is to capture the essence of the view. I focus on the interplay of light and shadow while using bold brush strokes and atmospheric techniques.

My plein air paintings capture moments and mood with spontaneity . Each painting evokes memories of that specific day's weather, light, and the time spent outdoors. My technique is plein air , while I have converted my huge paintings through small ones . I have captured the tones and forms of nature in my paintings, giving the viewer some of the same experience that I have felt in confronting the exquisite beauty and reality of the earth . Because I paint on site for the first stages of the work , I have developed a strong sense of place and of the dynamic order of the natural world. Each variety of flower or foliage possesses a unique structure and capability to enhance the meaning and intensity of an overall composition. Cold foggy weather made me crave for colourful flowers and plants like mustard , Mary gold , Roses , cockscomb , sunflower and water lilies which landed into the series.

- Mian Athar





Spring, Oil on Canvas, 24 x 30 inches



Landscape, Oil on Canvas, 20 x 24 inches



Nature, for me is very personal and abstract. The strange dawns and sunsets, water, changing colours; the sky spreading alone without a support; the beginning of a new day, with light converting into dark and the night transferring into day light. The birth of man and his return into the dust in an unending sequence! Nothing could be more amazing than all this! What is this paradox?

There is a deep pathos, hidden in all this. A pathos that is mine and yours too. There is a new hope, a new aspiration every moment... and that is the beauty of the Universe. This beauty holds my paintings together. Every picture is an expression of unwanted pain and unknown happiness. Now, these pictures are not mine anymore; they belong to the world.

- Mughees Riaz





Landscape, Oil on Canvas, 28 x 28 inches



My mission is to highlight the importance of our country and specifically my Lahore which is on its death bed. Having extensively travelled and stayed in various countries and having exhibited my work there and learnt Turkish and Italian I am convinced that Lahore is Art centre of the region. Watercolour might appear to be difficult but it is flexible if one understands its limitations and possibilities. It's easier to carry roles of paper while canvas and oil Paint may be different to carry around. Earlier I used to paint on the spot on the streets of Istanbul, Roma or Damascus and Aleppo and Lahore. But now I visit various spots make preliminary sketches and use photos and memory. The outcome is a master drawing which is generally much different from the spot that I had ventured.

- Prof. Dr. Ijaz Anwar  
President Pride of Performance Award, 1997



GCUV, Watercolor on Sheet, 28 x 49 inches



Landscape, Watercolor on Sheet, 30 x 50 inches



It draws a parallel between the cyclical nature of spring and the journey of creative innovation. The vibrant hues represent the dynamic interplay of influences – a century of Lahore cinema blossoming into fresh audio-visual forms. Like the season's transformative energy, the creative process reinvent old forms to embrace new growth and to exploit contemporary potential. It celebrates past inspirations as seeds of future expressions.

- Prof. Dr. Ahmad Bilal



Pahli si Mohabaat, Digital Print, 16 x 28 inches

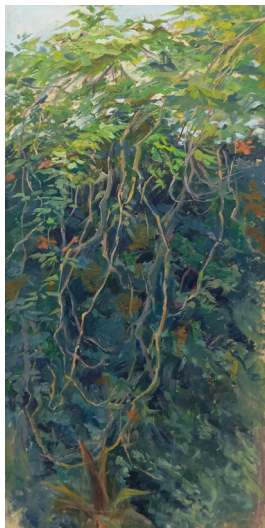


Being primarily a plein air painter, I have always work on the spot, in nature or inner city. However in the recent years following the Covid period, the confines of my family home has provided me with many a corners that invoke a sense of passing times and poignant moments.

“Grandmothers Sofa” is a tribute to the grand lady of this home, who has passed away recently. The morning light falling on the empty sofas of her favourite corner in the house, the garden still blooming, all remind us of her “presence” in our lives. The painting attempts to capture the quietude of this morning hour, while reminding us of the transience of life itself.

- Prof. Dr. Naela Aamir





Hope, Oil on Canvas, 17.5 x 35.5 inches



The Gathering, Oil on Canvas, 17.5 x 24 inches



My artwork is a celebration of nature and the vibrant spirit of spring. Through depictions of birds and their habitats, I aim to symbolize hope, peace, faith and the cyclical renewal of life. Vibrant colors and delicate details of bring to life the joy and promise of new beginnings. I capture the happiness and wonder of new life emerging, inviting the viewer to revel in the beauty and serenity of the natural world.

The intricate textures and hues of the painting evoke a sense of freshness and vitality, reflecting the season's transformative power. As the doves tenderly guards their eggs, the artwork embodies the nurturing spirit of motherhood and the promise of growth. I appreciate the simple yet profound beauty of nature and the eternal cycle of life.

- Prof. Dr. Samina Nasim



Mynah in Spring, Acrylic on Canvas, 24 x 48 inches



Doves, Acrylic on Canvas, 24 x 36 inches



Jhatial's artistic investigation explores the representation of images, analyzing their perception, interpretation, and contextualization in our information-rich era. Transitioning from traditional painting, Jhatial's practice embraces a multi-disciplinary approach, integrating performative and digital elements. Beyond his studio work, Jhatial contributes as a research associate for the digitization of Zahoor-Ul-Akhlaq's archive project at Asia Art Archive, Hong Kong, and is involved in the Faiz Ahmad Faiz archive project at the University of Texas. He is also a featured artist in CollaborARTISTS, supported by the British Arts Council England.

- Qadir Jhatial



Younger Days - I, Enamel on Canvas, 23 x 33 inches



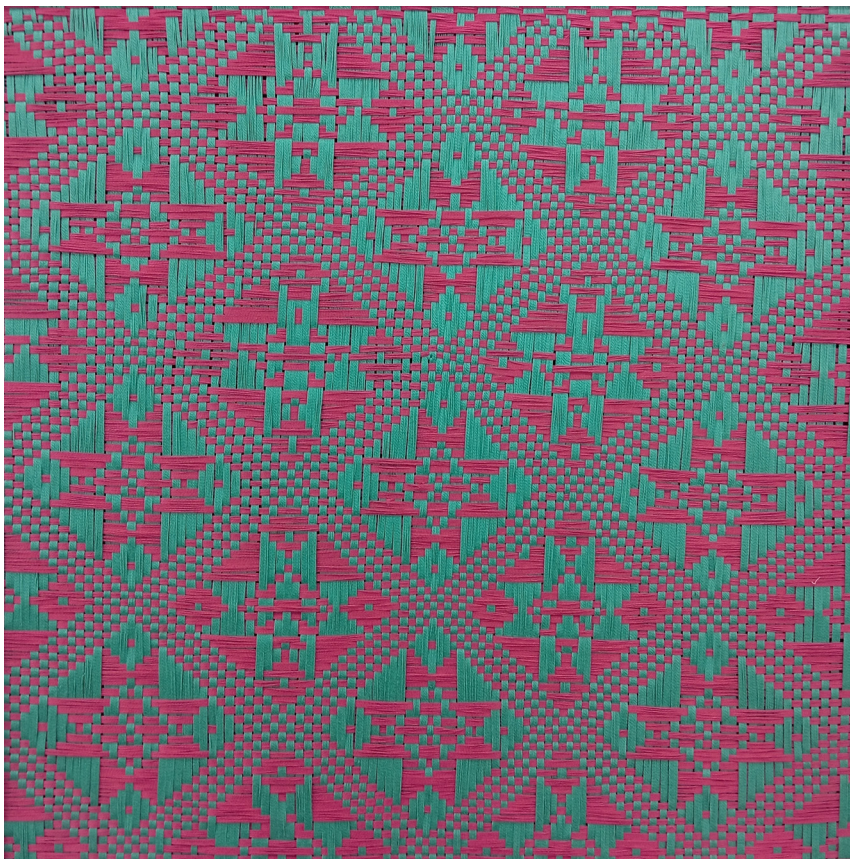
Younger Days - II, Enamel on Canvas, 23 x 33 inches





As a fiber artist, I draw inspiration from Basant. The festival iconic kites, with their shapes and delicate balance influence my embroidered and woven pieces. Using traditional techniques, I craft textiles that embody the joy, freedom, and vibrancy of Basant festive. Each stitch and thread intersection reflects the celebration's dynamic energy and the beauty of the kites soaring through the sky. By blending weaving and embroidery, my art becomes a tactile homage to Basant, inviting viewers to experience the festival's vibrancy through texture, form, shape and traditional techniques. Each art piece serves as a bridge between tradition and contemporary expression, celebrating the enduring spirit of Basant.

- Rabia Shaukat



Commemoration, Fiber Art, 18 x 18 inches



As a Fiber artist I recreate the Mughal art by using the technique of cut and slash, in textile form. This work is done by using different leftover fabrics and combination of various colours produce a spectacular image, which is highly sustainable and eco-friendly. I developed different designs like fresco, geometrical and floral patterns and the colours are very appealing to eyes. Textile material offers a broad audience, visual impact, durability, mobility, community engagement, versatility and economic viability. These benefits help to make my work more effective and give a chance to preserve the Mughal art. Restoration the fresco patterns and designs of Wazir Khan Mosque have a great vital value for the Pakistan heritage and also in the world wide which represents our cultural richness.

- Sadia Munawar



Intricate Legacy, Fiber Art, 12 x 16 inches



Sacred Symmetry, Fiber Art, 12 x 16 inches



In my work, I explore the expressive potential of printmaking techniques to construct layered narratives that merge nature, memory, and symbolism. Through a blend of traditional and experimental processes including collagraph and monoprint I create richly textured surfaces that invite viewers into surreal, organic environments.

The imagery in these prints often incorporates birds, flora, and abstract shapes, suggesting both harmony and tension within the natural world and human consciousness at the sometime. Each composition develops through a spontaneous process, where accidental marks and deliberate impressions coexist, reflecting the complex relationship between control and spontaneity in art-making.

By manipulating surface, color, and material, I aim to suggest an emotional response a sense of interest, nostalgia, or meditation. My prints are not just visual experiences but tactile ones, encouraging the viewer to consider what lies underneath and beyond the visible layers.

- Shumaila Khan

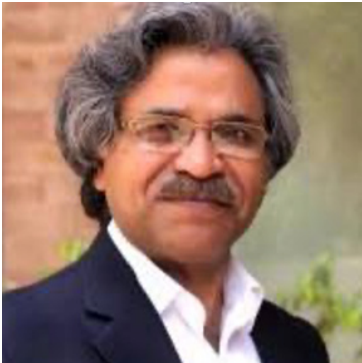




Bahar Ayi, Mix Medis Collograph, 9 x 13 inches



Manipulation, Mix Media Collograph, 9 x 13 inches



He is a renowned Pakistani Landscape artist. He is former Executive Director, Alhamra Arts & Cultural Center, Lahore. He won President Pakistan Pride of Performance for Arts and Culture, 2010, Bolan Cultural Award, 2004, and Graduate Cultural Award, 1997. In his paintings he depicted vastness of fields and sober harmonized colors of Sky and fields to express his artistic expression. Use of dramatic light enhance the value of environment.

- Zulfiqar Ali Zulfi  
President Pride of Performance Award, 2010.



Punjab Landscape - I, Oil on Canvas, 29.5 x 39.5 inches



Punjab Landscape - III, Oil on Canvas, 29.5 x 47.5 inches

## **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

Abdul Mannan  
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Dr. Aqsa Malik  
Dr. Asna Mubashra  
Ghulam Mustafa  
Habib Alam  
Javaid Iqbal Mughal  
Mian Athar  
Mughees Riaz  
Prof. Ajaz Anwar  
Prof. Dr. Ahmad Bilal  
Prof. Dr. Naela Aamir  
Prof. Dr. Samina Nasim  
Qadir Jhatial  
Rabia Shaukat  
Sadia Munawar  
Shumaila Khan  
Zulfiqar Ali Zulfi

## **AKNOWLEDGMENT**

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Anna Molka Gallery