

PORTFOLIO FOR
UK GLOBAL TALENT VISA

MARIA ZAHEEM

VISUAL ARTIST (PAKISTAN/UK)

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PERSONAL STATEMENT

I am a visual artist from Pakistan, passionate about showcasing the natural beauty, traditional village life, and cultural heritage of my homeland through paintings and murals. My work aims to create a visual bridge between cultures, allowing international audiences to experience Pakistan beyond stereotypes.

In the UK, I hope to participate in exhibitions, collaborate with local artists, and create public art that engages communities and inspires cross-cultural understanding. I also aim to lead mural projects and support emerging Pakistani artists, sharing our artistic richness with a wider audience.

MARIA ZAHEEM

Visual Artist

I am a visual artist from Kashmir, Pakistan, currently based in Manchester, UK. I completed my BS in Fine Arts from Rawalpindi Women University, Pakistan (2019–2023), specializing in cultural artwork, murals, and oil painting. My practice focuses on capturing the breathtaking beauty of northern Pakistan while exploring themes of identity and belonging. I have exhibited my work at PNCA, NDMA, Rawalpindi Arts Council, and international film festivals in the UK, with features in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other prominent platforms.



EDUCATION

BS Fine Arts

Rawalpindi Women University, Pakistan, (2019 - 2023)

I pursued my higher education in Fine Arts, where I gained in-depth knowledge of artistic techniques, theory, and history. This academic journey not only helped me refine my creative skills but also laid a strong foundation for my professional career as an artist.



SKILLS

TITLE	DESCRIPTION
Painting & Fine Art	• Oil Painting on Canvas • Acrylic Painting • Watercolors & Gouache • Mixed Media Techniques • Drawing & Sketching • Color Theory & Composition
Sculpture	• Clay Modeling • Plaster & Stone Work • Wood & Mixed Material Sculpture • Relief & 3D Art Forms
Printmaking	• Etching • Lithography • Screen Printing • Monoprint & Woodcut
Curation & Management	• Curating Art Exhibitions • Art Handling & Display Management • Event Planning & Organization • Team Collaboration & Coordination
Professional Skills	• Public Engagement through Art • Art Documentation & Portfolio Development • Writing Artist Statements & Exhibition Notes • Social Media Promotion of Artwork
Technical Skills	• Digital Presentation of Art • Photo Editing for Artwork • Preparing Artwork for Print & Publication

VISION

My vision is to use art as a universal language to highlight the beauty of Pakistan and connect it with the world. Through the UK Global Talent Visa, I aim to establish myself in the UK's art ecosystem, contributing to galleries, art festivals, and cultural collaborations. I want to represent Pakistan's landscapes in a way that inspires peace, connection, and cultural understanding. This visa will allow me to create opportunities for cultural exchange, exhibit my work to broader audiences, and collaborate with international artists. My long-term goal is to build a platform that represents Pakistani art and heritage globally, showing the world that even the simplest places in Pakistan hold magical significance.

EXHIBITIONS

SR. NO	TITLE	MEDIUM	YEAR
1	ORACLE AWARD SHOW – EXHIBITION & AWARD (UK)	Oil on Canvas	2025
2	Landscapes of Pakistan & Kashmir, Longsight Art Space, Manchester (UK)	Oil on Canvas	2025
3	Landscapes of Pakistan & Kashmir, The Light Cinema, Bolton (UK)	Oil on Canvas	2025
4	Landscapes of Pakistan & Kashmir, The Light Cinema, Bradford (UK)	Oil on Canvas	2025
5	Mural Art Installation Rawalpindi Women University (RWP, Pakistan)	Mural Art	2023
6	Haiku Art Illustration, NDMA (ISB, Pakistan)	Oil on Canvas	2023
7	Young Artists Exhibition, PNCA (ISB, Pakistan)	Oil on Canvas	2023
8	A Tribute to Kashmir, MOFA (ISB, Pakistan)	Sculpture	2022
9	“AGES” Themed Exhibition, Rawalpindi Arts Council (RWP, Pakistan)	Oil on Canvas	2022

OTHER EXHIBITIONS

SR. NO	TITLE	MEDIUM	YEAR
1	Explorer Group of Colleges, Islamabad Art Competition (ISB, Pakistan)	Oil on Canvas	2025
2	Pakistan Mountain Festival, Rawalpindi Art Council (RWP, Pakistan)	Oil on Canvas	2022
3	Women's Day Art Competition, Fatima Jinnah Women University	Oil on Canvas	2022
4	"World Pollution" NAB Art Competition (ISB, Pakistan)	Oil on Canvas	2017

(1) ORACLE AWARD SHOW

OIL ON CANVAS | 24 X 35 INCHES (2025)

Exhibited at Oracle Art Award Show
(Tong Park Hotel | Bradford, UK),
12th October 2025.

I was honored to be nominated and awarded at the Oracle Art Award Show for my artistic contribution and creative expression. This recognition strengthened my commitment to promoting Pakistani and Kashmiri art on international platforms.



MORE DETAILS ABOUT EXHIBITION

I exhibited a collection of landscape paintings that celebrated the cultural and natural beauty of Pakistan and Kashmir, reflecting the emotional bond between people and their homeland. My work expressed peace, identity, and heritage through color, form, and movement.



MORE DETAILS ABOUT EXHIBITION

In addition to my landscape collection, I showcased two paintings deeply inspired by the people and spirit of Gaza. These works aimed to capture the essence of resilience and hope that continues to shine through despite immense hardship and struggle. Each brushstroke reflected both the pain and perseverance of a community that refuses to lose faith in humanity. The emotional depth of these paintings resonated strongly with the audience, and both paintings were sold during the exhibition, receiving heartfelt appreciation and praise for their message and artistic expression.



MORE DETAILS ABOUT EXHIBITION

This moment captures one of the most meaningful parts of the exhibition watching people stand before my artwork, observing, interpreting, and connecting in their own ways. Each viewer brings a different perspective, emotion, and story to the canvas, turning the artwork into a shared experience rather than a solitary creation. Seeing their curiosity, reflection, and quiet engagement reminded me why I paint to evoke feelings that words often fail to express.



(2) LANDSCAPES OF PAK & KASHMIR

**OIL ON CANVAS | 24 X 35
INCHES (2025)**

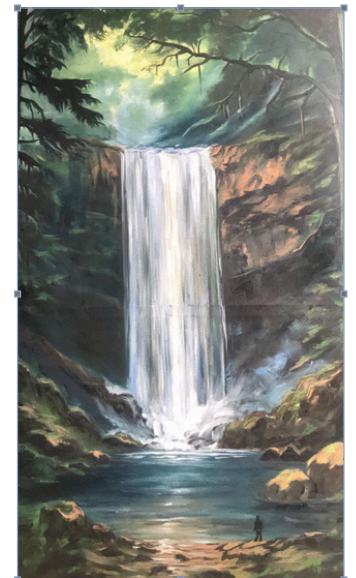
Exhibited at Longsight Art Space,
Manchester (UK), 1st October 2025.
The event was attended by
distinguished guests, including MP
Afzal Khan (Chief Guest) and
Councillor Shahbaz Sarwar.

I showcased paintings inspired by
the landscapes of Pakistan and
Kashmir. The exhibition highlighted
the cultural richness and natural
beauty of my homeland.

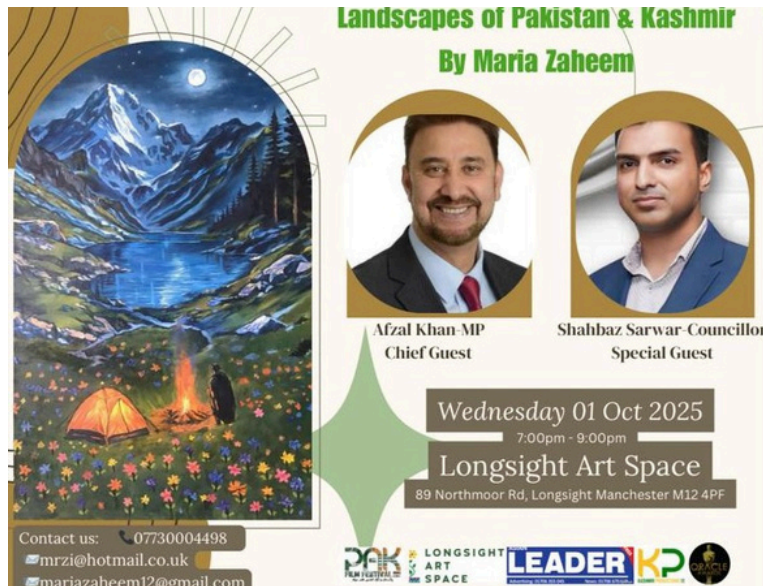


MORE DETAILS ABOUT EXHIBITION

The exhibition offered an in-depth exploration of the breathtaking landscapes of Pakistan and Kashmir, capturing the serene harmony between towering mountains, flowing rivers, and tranquil valleys. Through these depictions, the exhibition reflected on the intimate relationship between nature and human experience revealing how landscapes become vessels of collective memory, emotion, and cultural identity. The theme emphasized the way natural beauty intertwines with cultural memory, suggesting that the essence of a place is not only seen but also felt and remembered through generations.



MORE DETAILS ABOUT EXHIBITION



MORE DETAILS ABOUT EXHIBITION



MORE DETAILS ABOUT EXHIBITION



(3) LANDSCAPES OF PAK & KASHMIR

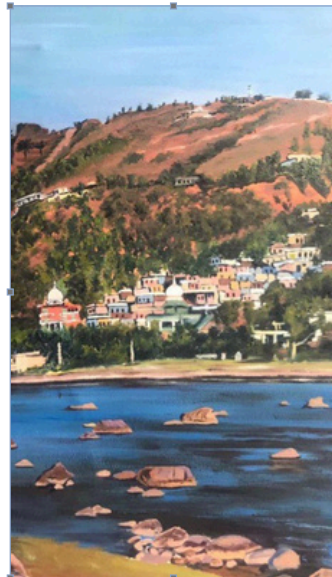
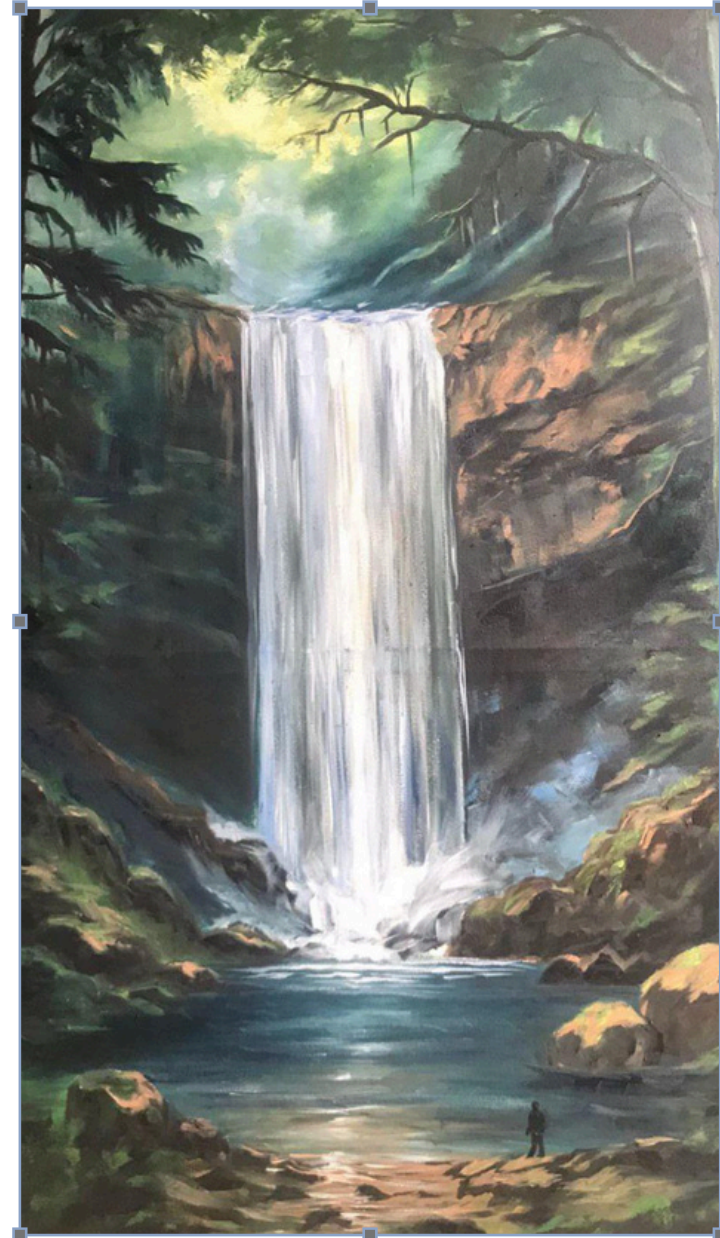
**OIL ON CANVAS | 24 X 35
INCHES (2025)**

Exhibited at The Light Cinema, Bolton (UK), 29th September 2025. The event was attended by the Mayor of Bolton, who joined as Chief Guest and his wife. They appreciated my artistic contribution.

This exhibition focused on the valleys, rivers, and mountains of Pakistan and Kashmir, presenting nature not only as a source of beauty but also as a symbol of heritage and identity.



MORE DETAILS ABOUT EXHIBITION



MORE DETAILS ABOUT EXHIBITION

Sharing the stories and inspirations behind my paintings was a truly meaningful experience. Each artwork reflects the deep connection between nature, memory, and culture showing how landscapes become more than just scenes, but symbols of identity and belonging.



MORE DETAILS ABOUT EXHIBITION



(4) LANDSCAPES OF PAK & KASHMIR

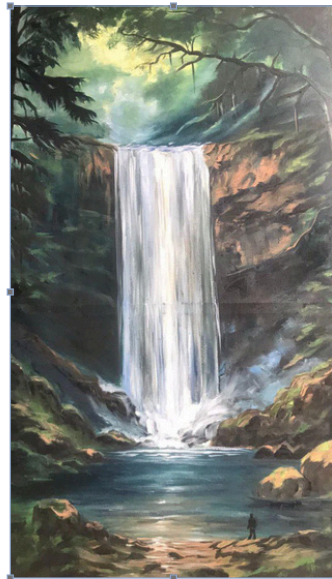
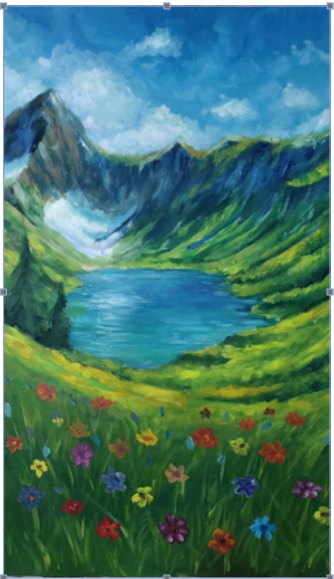
**OIL ON CANVAS | 24 X 35
INCHES (2025)**

Exhibited at The Light Cinema, Bradford (UK) as part of the Pak Film Festival UK, 17th September 2025. The participation of the Mayor of Bradford as Chief Guest added significant recognition to the event

This exhibition showcased a series of paintings capturing the timeless beauty and cultural essence of Pakistan and Kashmir.



MORE DETAILS ABOUT EXHIBITION



MORE DETAILS ABOUT EXHIBITION

Explaining the vision behind my artwork was a wonderful opportunity to share the thoughts, emotions, and inspirations that shaped each piece. Every painting carries a story a reflection of how I see the world through color, texture, and memory. I'm deeply grateful to everyone who joined, listened, and connected with the narratives woven into my work. Your engagement added a new layer of meaning to the exhibition.



MORE DETAILS ABOUT EXHIBITION



MORE DETAILS ABOUT EXHIBITION



(5) MURAL ART INSTALLATION

WALL MURAL (2023)

In 2022, I collaborated with fellow artists to create a wall mural on the library building at Rawalpindi Women University. This initiative was not an academic assignment but an independent art project.

I contributed significantly to the design and painting process, working with large-scale surfaces and applying my skills in composition, oil and acrylic techniques, and collaborative planning. The mural symbolized transforming the university library into a vibrant artistic landmark.



MORE DETAILS ABOUT EXHIBITION



MORE DETAILS ABOUT EXHIBITION



US Embassy Officials appreciating the art work of students of Fine Arts Department, RWU

Rawalpindi Women University



(6) HAIKU ART ILLUSTRATION

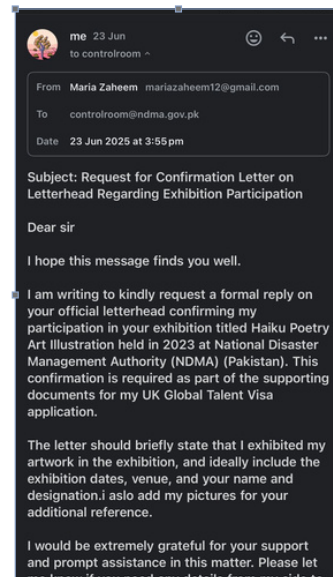
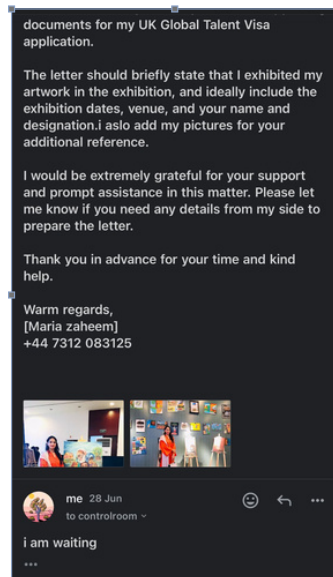
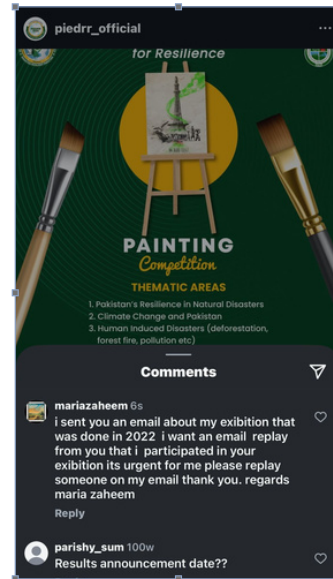
OIL ON CANVAS | 24 X 35 INCHES (2023)

I showcased my work in the Haiku Art Illustration Expo, a cross-disciplinary exhibition organized by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Islamabad in July 2023.

The event was attended by senior officials and ministers of that time, who praised the participating artists for their creativity. My work received recognition for its originality and its strong connection to natural landscapes.



MORE DETAILS ABOUT EXHIBITION

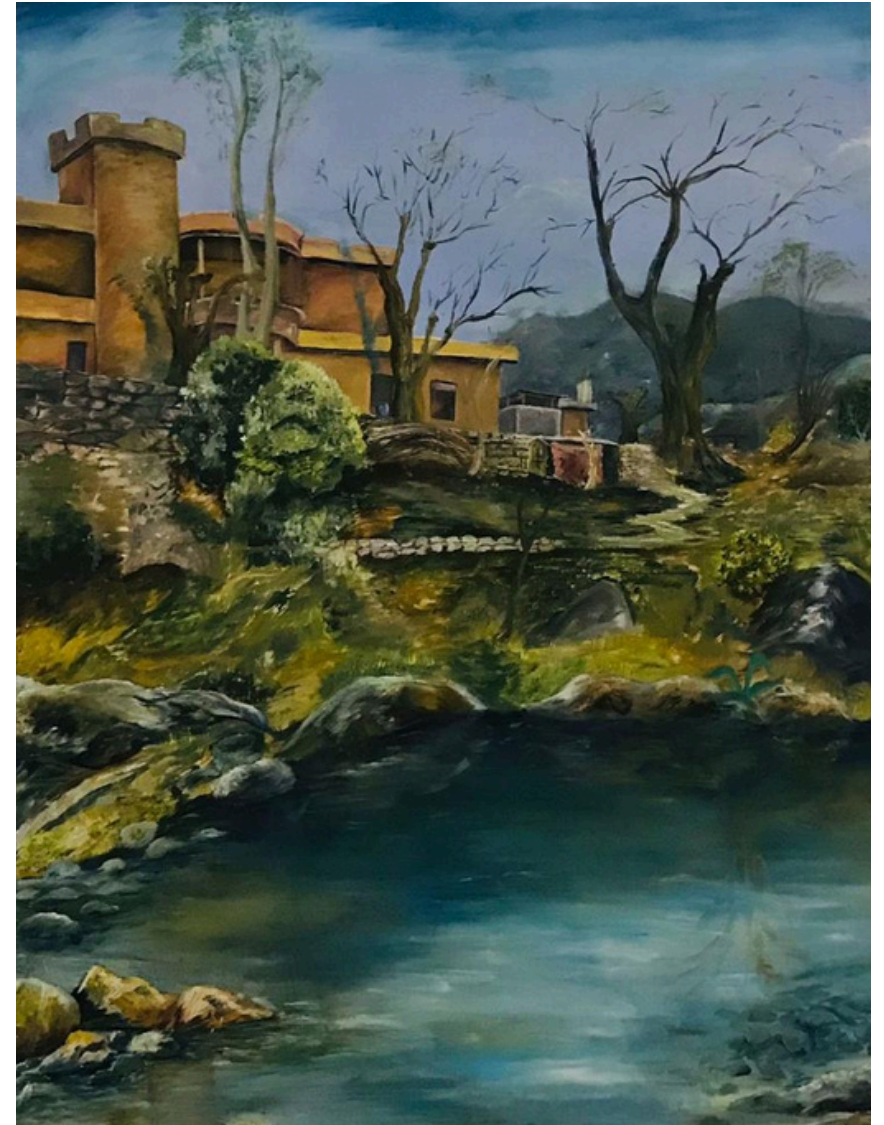


(7) YOUNG ARTIST EXHIBITION

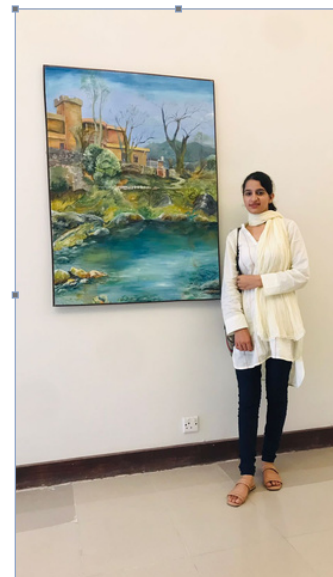
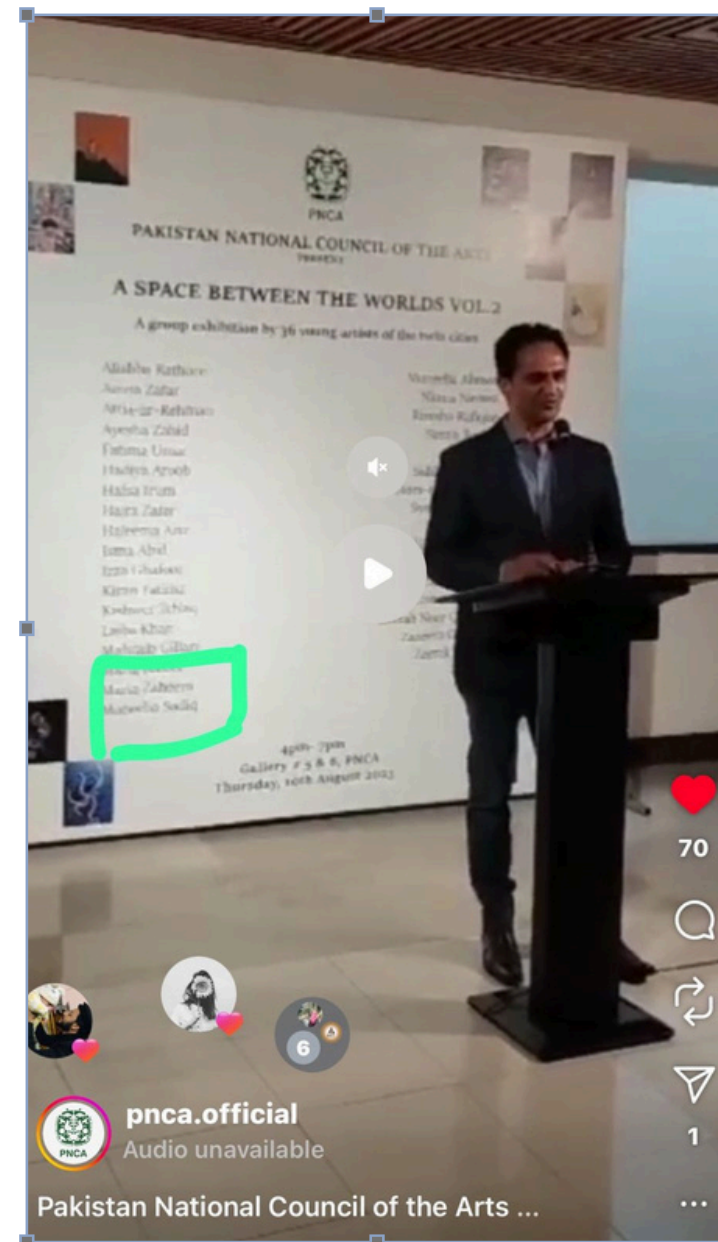
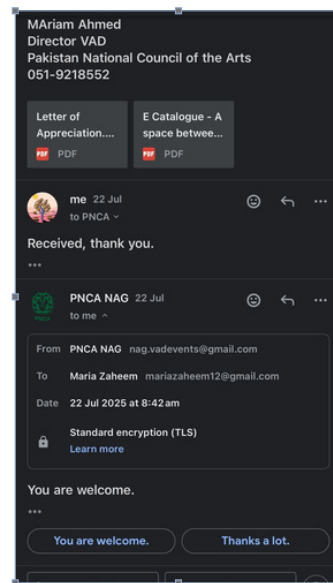
OIL ON CANVAS | 24 X 35 INCHES (2023)

I participated in the exhibition organized at the prestigious Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) which marked a significant milestone in my career.

In this exhibition, I presented my paintings inspired by the natural landscapes of Kashmir and northern Pakistan. My work highlighted the beauty of waterfalls, lakes, valleys, and village life, painted in vibrant colors and expressive brushstrokes.



MORE DETAILS ABOUT EXHIBITION



(8) A TRIBUTE TO KASHMIR (MOFA)

SCULPTURE (2022)

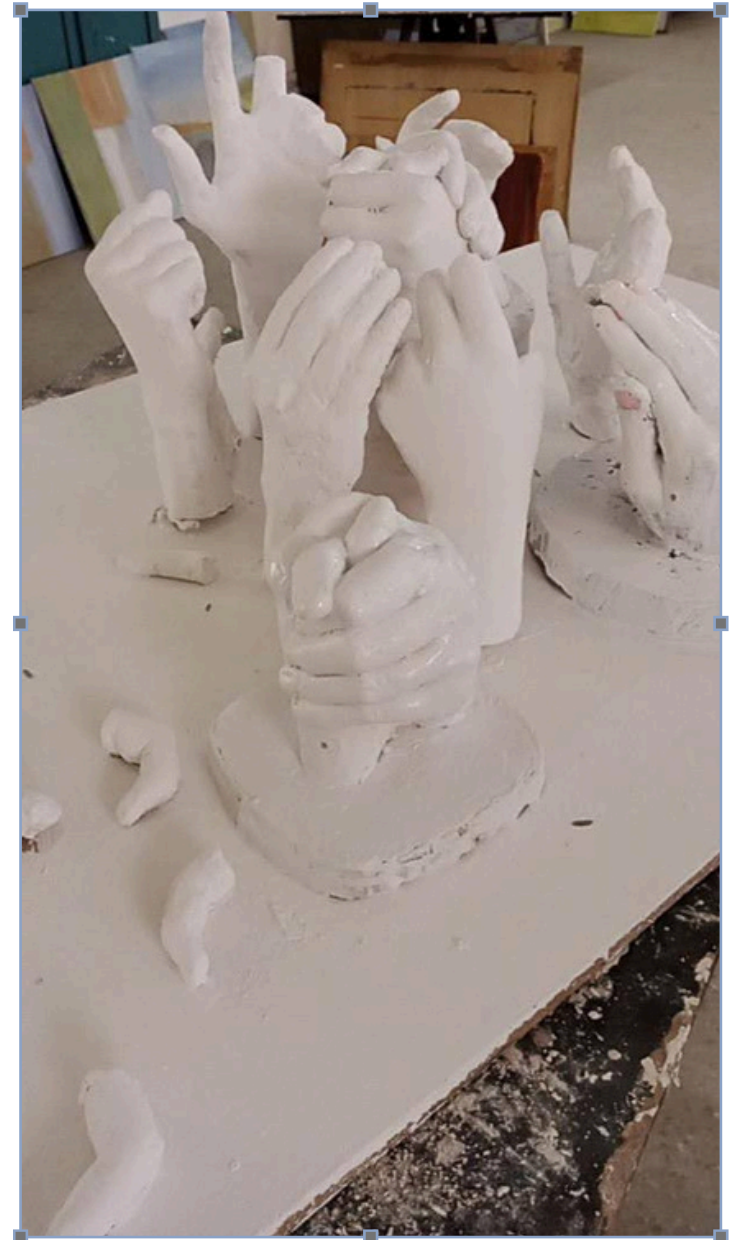
Exhibited at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad (Acknowledged by Foreign Minister, Shah Mahmood Qureshi, 2022)

The exhibition received special acknowledgment from the Foreign Minister, Shah Mahmood Qureshi. His recognition underscored the exhibition's contribution to promoting a positive image of Pakistan on the international stage, celebrating the nation's creative spirit and the enduring connection between art, identity, and nature.

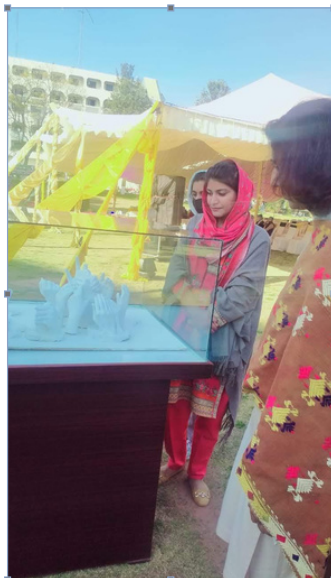


MORE DETAILS ABOUT EXHIBITION

This sculpture embodies the symbolic power of unity and collective strength, serving as a visual metaphor for resilience and togetherness. The intertwined hands rise upward in a unified gesture, representing the shared determination and enduring spirit of the people of Kashmir. Each hand, distinct in form and texture, signifies individual identity and contribution yet together they create a single, harmonious structure. This composition emphasizes that true strength does not lie in isolation, but in the collective will of individuals who stand together for a common purpose.



MORE DETAILS ABOUT EXHIBITION



(9) “AGES” THEMED EXHIBITION

**OIL ON CANVAS | 24 X 35
INCHES (2022)**

Exhibited in ‘AGES’ exhibition at the Rawalpindi Arts Council in 2022.

The exhibition presented a series of paintings exploring themes of time, memory, and the beauty of Pakistan’s landscapes.

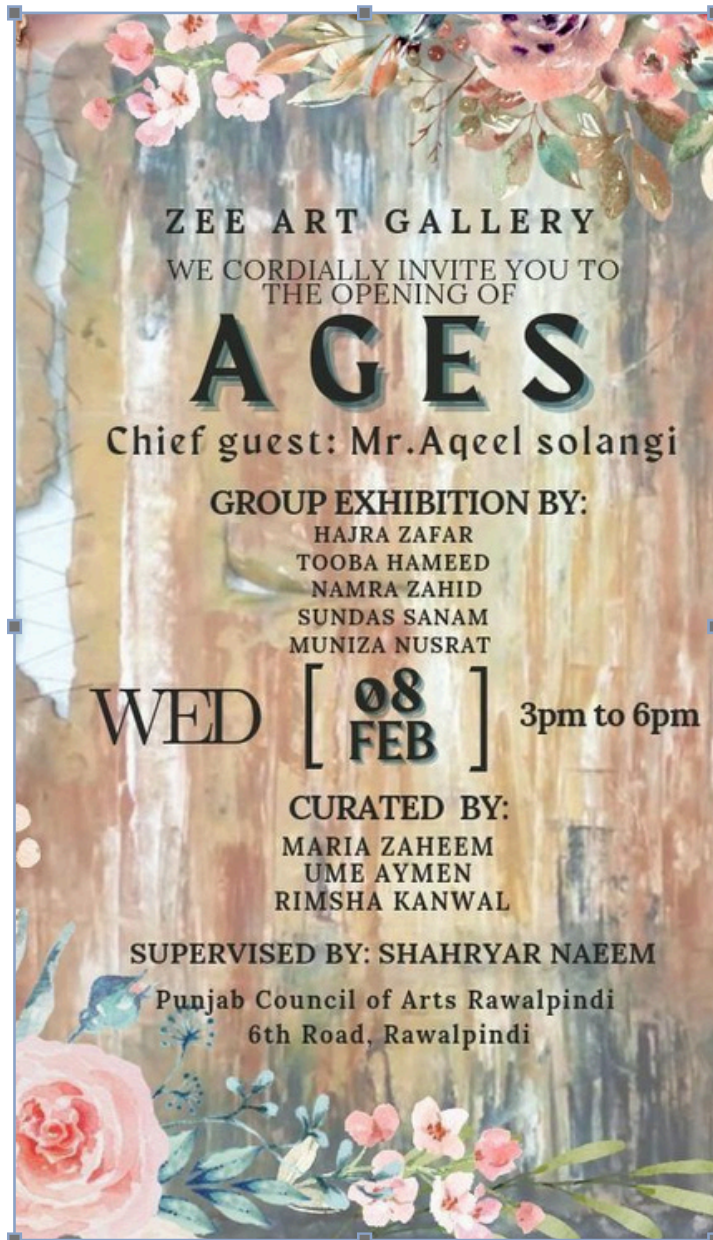
The exhibition received appreciation from visitors and fellow artists. Senior artist Aqeel Solangi attended the event and praised my dedication to promoting the cultural and natural heritage of Pakistan.



MORE DETAILS ABOUT EXHIBITION



MORE DETAILS ABOUT EXHIBITION



MORE DETAILS ABOUT EXHIBITION



MEDIA COVERAGES

AUTHORITY

TV Today (PAK)

Zafar Iqbal (Director of Kashmiri Productions UK CIC)

Mayor of Bolton (UK)

Salford University (UK)

Kashmiri Productions (UK)

Asian Leader Newspaper (UK)

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA Pak)

Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA)

Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MOFA Pak)

TV TODAY

SOCIAL MEDIA LINK

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1743oFyX1Q/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

I am truly honored that TV Today featured my exhibition in their news bulletin. This recognition not only highlighted my work but also provided an opportunity for it to reach a wider audience beyond the exhibition space. Such media coverage plays a vital role in bringing visibility to artistic practices, and I am grateful that my creative journey was acknowledged on such a significant platform.



ZAFAR IQBAL

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS



<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/17DFPk8P1j/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1ByGCAVdTF/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

I am deeply thankful to Mr. Zafar Iqbal, Director of Kashmiri Productions UK CIC, for sharing my exhibition on his social media platforms and extending his kind support. His acknowledgment not only amplifies the visibility of my work but also encourages me to continue my artistic journey.

MAYOR OF BOLTON

SOCIAL MEDIA LINK



**Councillor David Chadwick -
Westhoughton South · Following**

21h · 🌐

KASHMIRI PRODUCTIONS AT THE LIGHT CINEMA

Tonight we were invited to the Light Cinema to see short films celebrating the cultures of the Pakistani and Kashmiri communities. We had a most wonderful welcome and were introduced to Maria Zaheem, a fine arts graduate who had painted some lovely nostalgic scenes depicting her Kashmir homeland.

The festival has already been to Rochdale, Birmingham and Luton and will soon be in Bradford. We are truly privileged to have seen these films in Bolton.



<https://www.facebook.com/share/1DV2GuSm9b/?mibextid=wwXIfr>

I feel honored that the Mayor of Bolton attended my exhibition and graciously shared it on his official page. This acknowledgment carries immense value for me, as it not only highlights my work on such a respected civic platform but also reflects the importance of supporting the arts within the community. This recognition inspires me to move forward with greater passion and dedication in my artistic journey.

SALFORD UNIVERSITY

SOCIAL MEDIA LINK



Salford Alumni

37m · 🌐



Join alumnus Zafar at the PAK Film Festival at The Light Cinema in Bolton 📍. Enjoy films showcasing Pakistani, Kashmiri, and Rochdale culture, along with an art installation by Maria Zaheem. The festival is on 29 September, and tickets are free at the door on a first-come, first-served basis!

<https://www.facebook.com/share/168UfB2Y4d/?mibextid=wwXlfr>



I am delighted to share that the University of Salford featured my exhibition on their official social media platforms. Being acknowledged by my alma mater is truly meaningful, and I am deeply grateful for this recognition, which not only celebrates my artistic journey but also strengthens my connection with the institution that laid the foundation of my career.

KASHMIRI PRODUCTIONS

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS



<https://www.instagram.com/kashmiriproductions/>

https://www.tiktok.com/@zafariqbal_vlogz?_t=ZN-904sQexEGnu&_r=1

I am sincerely grateful to Kashmiri Productions for featuring my exhibition on their social media platforms and extending their support to my artistic journey. Their recognition not only helps in bringing my work to a wider audience but also encourages me to continue my creative path with greater passion.

ASIAN LEADER NEWSPAPER

NEWSPAPER LINKS



<https://asianleader.co.uk/new-south-asian-visual-artist-has-arrived-in-manchester-to-create-and-exhibit-the-beauty-of-pakistan-and-kashmir/>

https://fliphtml5.com/vxbbt/gbuw/Asian_Leader_616/



I am truly grateful to Kashmiri Production for featuring my exhibition on their social media platforms. Their acknowledgment not only enhances the visibility of my work but also inspires me to keep moving forward with dedication.

NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS



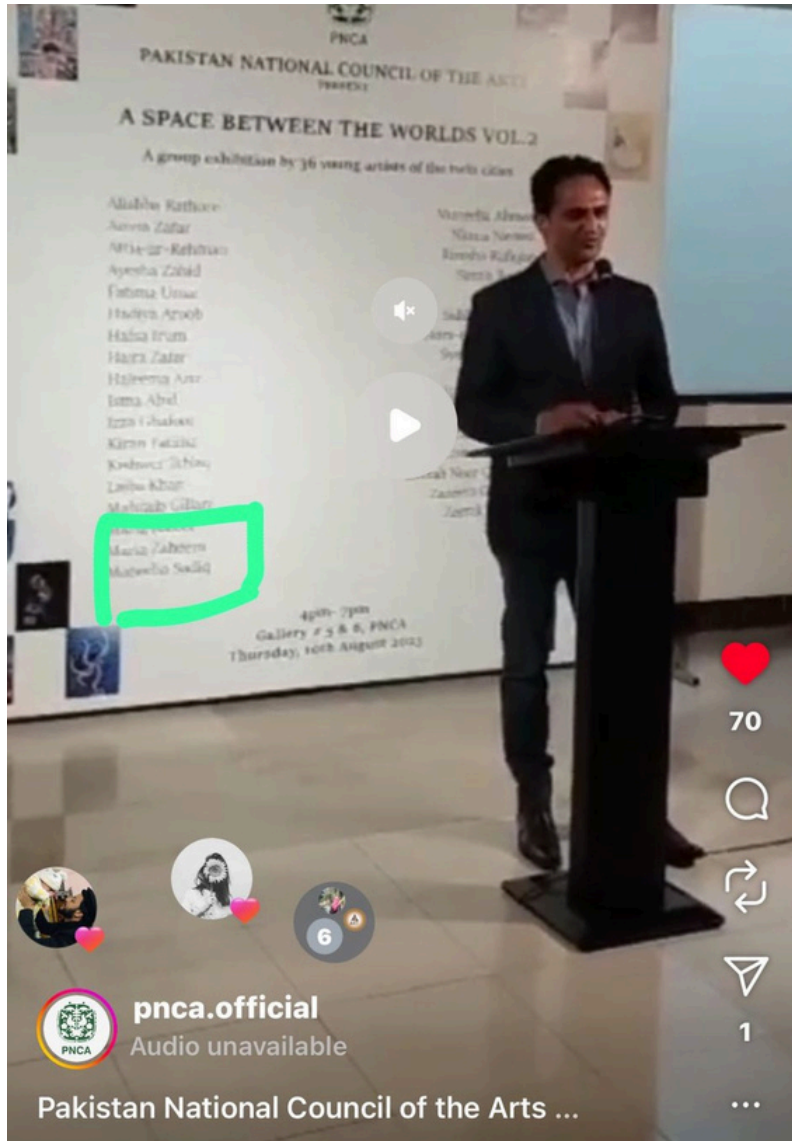
<https://www.instagram.com/p/CuUjABbMgLj/?igsh=MTVwY2dhdGZ1Mmt4bQ==>

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/CwKsQGLe5c/?igsh=end2eHV4eGo4MjFw>

I am honored to have been part of the exhibition organized by NDMA. I am also deeply grateful that NDMA highlighted the exhibition on their official social media. Such acknowledgment motivates me to continue my artistic journey.

PAKISTAN NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ARTS

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS



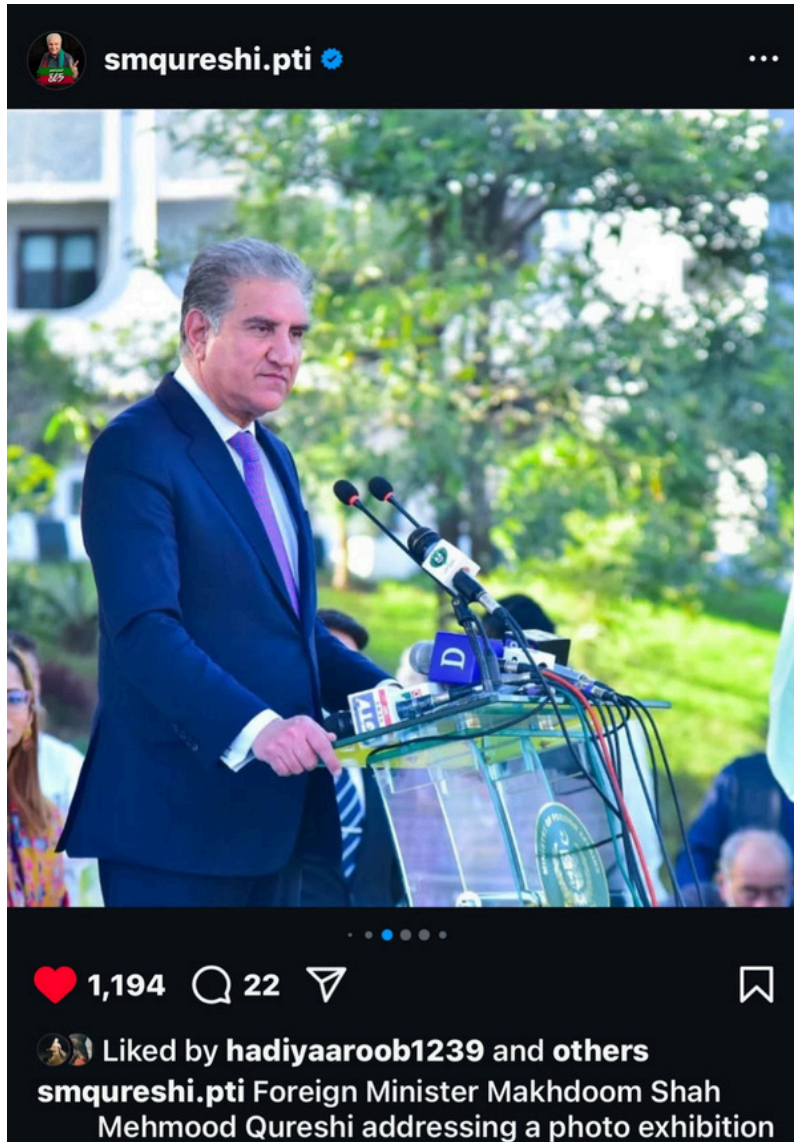
<https://www.instagram.com/reel/Cvy2DZpu5ax/?igsh=MXBtOXpjaTRvMjZsYQ==>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CvrZLYBsZzO/?igsh=dDRkbWJtdmNxY25w>

I am sincerely thankful to PNCA for organizing the exhibition and for featuring it on their official social media platforms. Their efforts in providing such a meaningful space for artists to showcase their work.

MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS



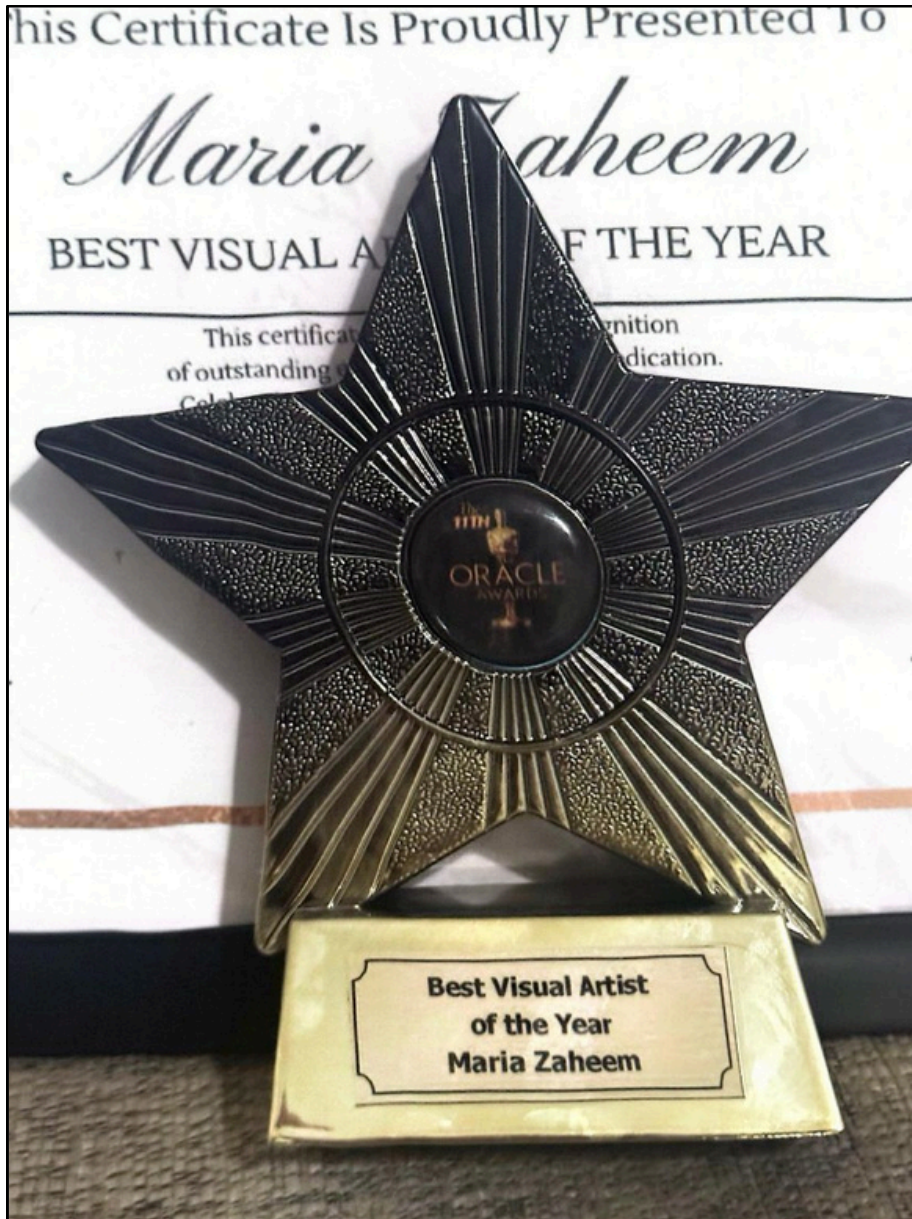
https://www.instagram.com/p/CZzg4qIISSb/?img_index=4&igsh=bjcycWVhdmpsbDN5

I am truly thankful to Ex Foreign Minister of Pakistan for attending the exhibition and for featuring it on his official social media platforms. His recognition and support provide a valuable platform for artists to share their work with a wider audience and I feel honored that my artistic journey was highlighted through such an esteemed platform.

CERTIFICATES

AUTHORITY
ORACLE AWARD SHOW (UK)
PAK Film Festival (UK)
Rawalpindi Art Council (Art Competition)
Pakistan Mountain Festival (Live Painting Competition)
National Accountability Bureau (NAB Painting Competition)
GGHS School Rawalpindi (Extra Curricular Activities)

ORACLE AWARD SHOW



I'm truly honored to have received the "Best Visual Artist of the Year" award at the Oracle Award Show (UK) 2025, along with a certificate recognizing my artistic contributions.



PAK FILM FESTIVAL (UK)



Honored to receive a certificate for exhibiting my artwork at The Light Cinema, Bradford (UK) and Bolton (UK) on 17th and 29th September 2025.

RAWALPINDI ART COUNCIL

Received a certificate for exhibiting my artwork in the 'AGES' Exhibition held at the Rawalpindi Arts Council in 2022. It was a wonderful opportunity to share my work with a wider audience.



PAKISTAN MOUNTAIN FESTIVAL

I participated in the Pakistan Mountain Festival, an event dedicated to celebrating the cultural, environmental, and natural significance of Pakistan's mountainous regions.



NATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY BUREAU



I participated in the poster-making competition organized by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and awarded by a certificate

GGHS SCHOOL RAWALPINDI



Honored to receive a certificate for exhibiting my artwork at The Light Cinema, Bradford (UK) and Bolton (UK) on 17th and 29th September 2025.

RECOMMENDATION & REFERENCE LETTERS

AUTHORITY	DATED
Kashmiri Productions (UK)	02-10-2025
Longsight Art Space (UK)	02-10-2025
Punjab Council Of The Arts Rawalpindi (Pak)	12-09-2025
Rawalpindi Women University (Pak)	27-08-2025
Aqeel Ahmed Solangi (Senior Visual Artist & Educator)	14-08-2025
Nukta Studio (Pak)	03-08-2025
Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA)	21-07-2025
Explorer Group of Colleges (Pak)	18-07-2025

KASHMIRI PRODUCTIONS

ZAFAR IQBAL

DIRECTOR AND FOUNDER OF THE
PAK FILM FESTIVAL UK AND
KASHMIRI PRODUCTIONS UK CIC

He kindly provided a reference for my artistic work. I contributed to the festival as part of a project, where my artwork was displayed and recognized. He personally reviewed my work and acknowledges my contributions to promoting Pakistani and Kashmiri culture through visual arts.



Thursday 2 October 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Maria Zaheem – Visual Artist

This letter is to provide our support towards Maria Zaheem's application for the UK Global Talent Visa under the Arts and Culture route.

We have known Maria for couple of years and have witnessed first-hand her extraordinary talent, unwavering dedication, and visionary approach to visual arts.

Her work stands out not only for its technical excellence but also for its profound cultural significance and emotional depth. Maria's artistic practice embodies a rare combination of creativity and cultural insight, making her a distinctive voice within the South Asian art community.

Maria has consistently demonstrated exceptional skill in her medium, coupled with a commitment to advancing the cultural dialogue between South Asia and the UK. Her work captures the essence of heritage, identity, and contemporary experience, contributing powerfully to the multicultural fabric of the UK's arts landscape.

We commissioned her on a volunteer basis to produce a selection of landscapes/painting to be used as part of PAK Film Festival and her exhibition titled 'Landscapes of Pakistan & Kashmir' was well received by the attendees of the festival. Beside the festival we also organised her exhibition at two other different venues one in Manchester and one in Bradford again due to her popular demand.

Maria Zaheem possesses the talent, ambition, and professionalism required to make a significant and lasting impact on the UK's cultural and artistic sectors. Based on feedback/demand of her creation we look forward to commission her for a national tour (paid) next year. Her potential to enrich the arts community here is immense, and we wholeheartedly endorse her application for the Global Talent Visa.

Please feel free to contact us should you require any further information.

Kind regards,

Zafar Iqbal

Company Director

Kashmiri Productions UK CIC, 20 Newbold Hall Drive, Rochdale, OL16 3AJ

E: mrzi@hotmail.co.uk

Mobile: 07730004498

Company number 15042576

LONGSIGHT ART SPACE

SAMAN RIZWAN

DIRECTOR OF LONGSIGHT ART SPACE, MANCHESTER

She kindly provided a reference for my artistic work. I exhibited my paintings at Longsight Art Space in October 2025, where my work was well received by the audience and notable figures, including MP Afzal and a local councillor. Saman Rizwan personally reviewed my practice before issuing the reference letter.



Longsight Art Space 89 Northmoor Road,
Manchester, M12 5RT
longsight.cas@gmail.com
+447852509215

Date: 02/10/25

Letter of Support:

To whom it may concern

This letter is to confirm that Ms. Maria Zaheem, a Pakistani-born visual artist currently based in the UK, has been associated with Longsight Art Space.

Maria Zaheem is an emerging artist whose practice focuses on landscape painting inspired by the cultural and natural beauty of Pakistan and Kashmir. Her work in oil and acrylic on canvas reflects a deep connection to nature, identity, and heritage.

She exhibited her paintings with us at Longsight Art Space, Manchester, in October 2025, where her artworks were well received by the audience and local art community. Through her participation, Maria demonstrated not only her technical skills but also her ability to communicate cultural narratives to the local audience.

We recognise her as a dedicated and talented artist who has consistently contributed to the promotion of cross-cultural artistic exchange. Her vision to represent Pakistan's landscapes and cultural richness to global platforms is commendable.

We are confident that Maria Zaheem will continue to make significant contributions to the arts and we fully support her application for the UK Global Talent Visa (Arts & Culture route). For any further information, please feel free to contact us.

Saman Rizwan
Director
Longsight Art Space

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Saman Rizwan".

PUNJAB COUNCIL OF THE ARTS RAWALPINDI

MUHAMMAD SHAKOOR

DIRECTOR OF THE PUNJAB
COUNCIL OF THE ARTS,
RAWALPINDI

He kindly provided a reference for my artistic work. I have actively participated in multiple exhibitions and art competitions organized by the Council, and he personally reviewed my work before issuing the reference letter.



Government of The Punjab
Information & Culture Department
PUNJAB COUNCIL OF THE ARTS, RAWALPINDI
Cultural Complex, Cricket Stadium Road, Shamsabad, Rawalpindi,
Ph: 051-9292105, Fax: 051-9292106 Email: racrawalpindi@gmail.com



No.PUCAR/RWP/Misc/2025/336

Dated: 12th September 2025

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

It is to certify that Ms. **MARIA ZAHEEM D/O ZAHEEM HUSSIAN** having CNIC # 37405-7175596-2 resident of H # DK-937, Mohallah Dhok Paracha Satellite Town, Rawalpindi is a professional artist of the region She has been associated with the field of Fine Arts since 2 years. She is professionally very versatile, talented and well experienced.

We wish success in her future pursuit.


(MUHAMMAD SHAKOOR)
Director

RAWALPINDI WOMEN UNIVERSITY

SHRISH JAMIL

RAWALPINDI WOMEN UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVE

She kindly provided a reference for my artistic work. During my graduation, I participated in university-led projects, including a wall painting project and various painting competitions. They personally reviewed my work and recommend that I continue pursuing and developing my artistic practice.

 **RAWALPINDI WOMEN UNIVERSITY**
ADMIN OFFICE
Ph: 051-9290842
Web: www.rwu.edu.pk

To Whom It May Concern

I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation for Ms. Maria Zaheem, an exceptionally talented visual artist and my former student at Rawalpindi Women University, where she completed her BS in Fine Arts (2019-2023) under my supervision.

During her time at the university, Maria consistently demonstrated outstanding creativity, dedication, and passion for visual arts. Her work reflects a deep connection with the aesthetic beauty of Pakistan and Kashmir, and she possesses a unique ability to translate landscapes, cultural heritage, and nature's serenity into captivating visual narratives.

Beyond her academic contributions, Maria has also showcased her work in various art exhibitions, including notable platforms. Her paintings have been recognized and appreciated by fellow artists, media outlets, and the public alike. Maria's artistic vision and commitment to cultural promotion make her an outstanding candidate for opportunities at the international level.

I strongly recommend Ms. Maria Zaheem for the UK Global Talent Visa (Arts & Culture), as I firmly believe she has the potential to represent Pakistan's artistic identity on a global stage. Her participation in international exhibitions and cultural platforms will contribute to strengthening the image of Pakistani art and culture worldwide.

Should you require any further information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
Sahrish Jamil
Lecturer
Rawalpindi Women University
Sahrish.jamil@f.rwu.edu.pk


Sahrish Jamil
Lecturer
Department of Fine Arts
Rawalpindi Women University
27/9/2025

AQEEL AHMED SOLANGI

AQEEL AHMED SOLANGI

A RENOWNED VISUAL ARTIST AND PROFESSOR AT PNCA

He kindly provided a reference for my artistic work. He was the chief guest at my exhibition and I have also participated in workshops at his studio. He has personally reviewed my work, including my exhibitions and studio projects, and has provided the reference to endorse my skills, creativity, and contributions to contemporary visual arts.

Dated: August 14, 2025

To Whom It May Concern

Subject: Recommendation for Ms. Maria Zaheem – UK Global Talent Visa (Arts & Culture Route)

It is my pleasure to write this recommendation for Ms. Maria Zaheem, a talented visual artist from Rawalpindi, Pakistan. I had the opportunity to view her work during a public exhibition at the Rawalpindi Arts Council, where I was invited as the Chief Guest.

As a senior Pakistani artist and educator, I am regularly invited to inaugurate exhibitions and serve as Chief Guest at galleries across the country. Through these engagements, I have encountered the work of many emerging artists, and Ms. Zaheem's artwork stood out for its refined technique, cultural depth, and strong sense of composition.

I believe she possesses both the skill and the vision to contribute meaningfully to the international art scene, and I am confident she will represent Pakistan's artistic heritage with distinction. I fully support her application for the UK Global Talent Visa (Arts & Culture).

Please feel free to reach out to me for any further information.

Sincerely,



Aqeel Ahmed Solangi
Senior Visual Artist & Educator
Contact Information: 0092 301 4430556
aqeelsolangi@gmail.com

NUKTA STUDIO

MUHAMMAD SAJJAD AKRAM

A SENIOR ARTIST OF PAKISTAN FROM NUKTA STUDIO

He kindly provided a reference for my artistic work. I have collaborated with him on project and he has also been my professor. He has personally reviewed my work and recognizes my skills, creativity, and professional commitment in visual arts.



TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I am writing to provide a personal reference for Ms. Maria Zaheem, a talented visual artist whom I have known personally and professionally for the past few years. As the founder of Nukta Studio and an active member of the art community in Pakistan, I have had the opportunity to observe Maria's artistic journey closely. Her commitment to the fine arts—particularly in painting the natural beauty and cultural heritage of Pakistan is both inspiring and commendable. Her unique artistic voice and her dedication to landscape and mural work reflect a deep connection to her roots and creative vision.

Maria is not only a skilled artist but also a sincere, hardworking individual with a passion for bringing Pakistani art to international platforms. Her consistent growth, originality, and professionalism make her a strong candidate to represent Pakistani art and culture globally.

I fully support Maria's application for the UK Global Talent Visa (Arts & Culture Route) and believe she has the potential to make meaningful contributions to the global art scene. I am confident she will be a positive representative of our country's rich artistic tradition.

Warm regards,



Muhammad Sajjad Akram
Founder, Nukta Studios
Email: nuktastudios7@gmail.com
Phone: +92 333 5496206
Date: 03 August 2025

PAKISTAN NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ARTS

MARIAM

DIRECTOR VISUAL ARTS DIVISION,
PAKISTAN NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
ARTS

Mariam Ahmed is the Director of Visual Arts Division at PNCA. She curated the Young Artist Exhibition where my work was showcased. She is endorsing my application based on my creativity, originality, and growing recognition in the national art community.



PAKISTAN NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE ARTS
Government of Pakistan
National History & Literary Heritage Division
National Art Gallery, Sector F-5/1, Islamabad, Pakistan.
Ph: - 051-9218552, 9205273-4 ext. 226 Fax: 051-9205392
Email: nag.vadevents@gmail.com



Dated: 21-07-2025

To Whom It May Concern

This is to formally confirm that Ms. Maria Zaheem participated in the Young Artist Exhibition held at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) on 10 August 2023 in Islamabad.

The exhibition was a professionally curated public event attended by a diverse audience including art enthusiasts, public figures, celebrities, and media representatives. Ms. Zaheem's artwork was showcased alongside other emerging artists, reflecting her creativity and dedication to the visual arts.

Her work demonstrates originality and a deep connection to the cultural heritage of Pakistan. Ms. Zaheem's participation in this prestigious event highlights her growing recognition within the national art community.

We are confident that Ms. Zaheem possesses the talent and vision to make a significant contribution to the international art scene and to promote the beauty of Pakistani culture abroad.

For any further information or clarification, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Mariam Ahmed

Director VAD

Pakistan National Council of the Arts

Contact: nag.vadevents@gmail.com , 051- 9218552

EXPLORER GROUP OF COLLEGES

MUHAMMAD BILAL AZAD

Principal of Explorer College, Jinnah Garden, Islamabad

He kindly provided a reference acknowledging my participation and achievement in the Painting Competition held at the college on 25th March 2025. I secured 2nd position in the competition, demonstrating creativity, artistic skills, and dedication. The college has issued this letter to formally recognize my achievement and encourage the continuation of my artistic practice.



Explorer To Your Dreams

EXPLORER GROUP OF COLLEGES
JINNAH GARDEN CAMPUS

Ref. No: Ex/C/009
Date: 18 July 2025

APPROVAL LETTER

Subject: Participation and Achievement in Painting Competition

This is to proudly certify that Maria Zaheem has participated in the Painting Competition held at Explorer College on 25th March 2025.

We are pleased to announce that she secured 2nd Position in the competition, displaying exceptional creativity, artistic skills, and dedication. This remarkable achievement is highly commendable and reflects her passion for the arts.

The college appreciates her efforts and encourages continued participation in co-curricular activities to foster talent and confidence.

We wish her all the best in future endeavors.

Principal

Principal
Explorer College
Jinnah Garden, Islamabad

Near Society Office Main Markaz Jinnah Garden Islamabad
0316-7651033, 0342-1704577, Email:explorergroupofcolleges@gmail.com

CONTACT DETAILS

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**THANK
YOU**