

CURATORS NOTE

Once Upon a Time" explores the power of image making as a storytelling medium. Through a selection of photographic works and video art, the exhibition invites visitors to embark on a journey of discovery, where they will encounter images that reveal stories of wonder, love, tragedy, and hope. The exhibit surveys an image whether moving or still as a physical manifestation of an artist's relationship with their tool and medium. An image derived through the lens is a peculiar form of magic realism that emerges from the works on view, coupled with a renewed belief in art as a tool for mythmaking. The artists in "Once upon a time" share an interest and fascination for personal and visionary languages. Departing from nostalgia and story telling, artist's rediscover their practice as an art maker by re-visiting the world around them. The work on display will demonstrate how lens can be used to evoke emotion. provoke thought, and inspire imagination.



Laiba Aslam

The closest thing to the body, especially the skin is textiles; the skin and the textile share an intimate connection because of this contact that occurs. The project is an ongoing exploration into the materiality of textiles, especially when it gets in contact with the body. The creative practice focuses on looking at the transitionary phase of textile being an inanimate object to textile being a living thing through its contact with the body. The emphasis is on the material memory in the form of ephemeral impressions of the textile surfaces that are left onto the skin through the intimate contact of the two; changing the context by adding permanence to an impermanent phenomenon. In this project, the focus is to capture the process of textile being an inanimate object becoming alive through its contact with the body -giving temporary life to it by marking its territory onto the body through ephemeral imprint that it leaves. Through this intimate contact, happens the exchange between the two, the skin embodies the textiles, and the textiles becomes skin. The experimental photo series not only look at the body as a subject, but also as a material, and a medium.





IMPERMANENT BODY 21.5" X 29.5" UNIJET RL LED UV 2023 PKR 80,000





Embodied Body I & II 13''x 21.5" Uvijet RL LED UV Curable Ink on Fineface Canvas 2023

PKR 65,000



Omer Bashir

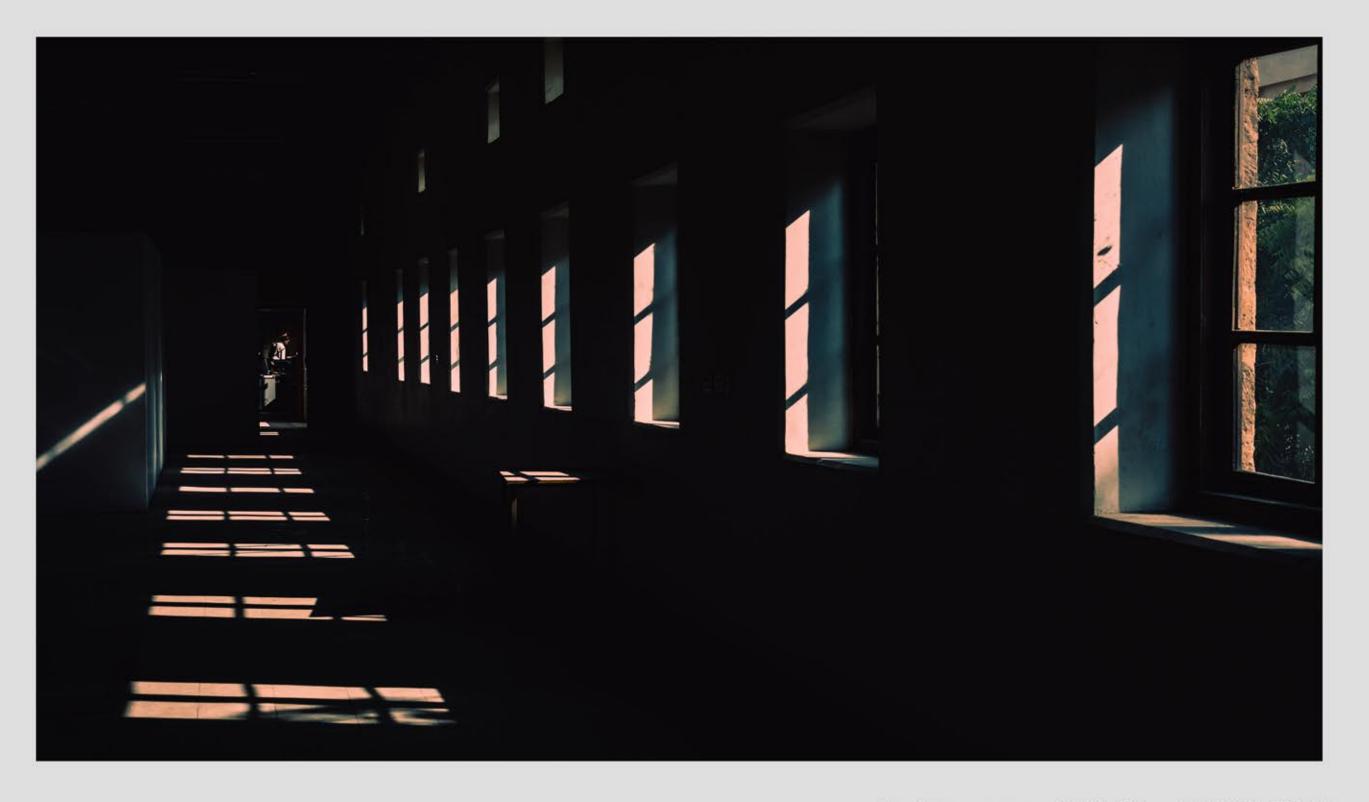
As a photographer and filmmaker based in Karachi, Pakistan, my work is driven by a passion for documenting everyday life in this bustling port city. Drawing on my background in journalism, I strive to capture the essence of Karachi and the many socio-economic complexities that come with life in a big city.

I believe that art has the power to promote understanding and connection between individuals from different cultures and backgrounds. By sharing my perspective on Karachi through my lens, I hope to offer viewers a window into the lives of the city's inhabitants and contribute to a deeper appreciation of the rich diversity of our world.





Abyss 36" X 48" UNIJET RL LED UV 2023 PKR 80,000



Daytime runner 36" X 48" UNIJET RL LED UV 2023 PKR 80,000



Perserverance 16"x 9" Uvijet RL LED UV Curable Ink on Fineface Canvas



The other side 16"x 9" Uvijet RL LED UV Curable Ink on Fineface Canvas

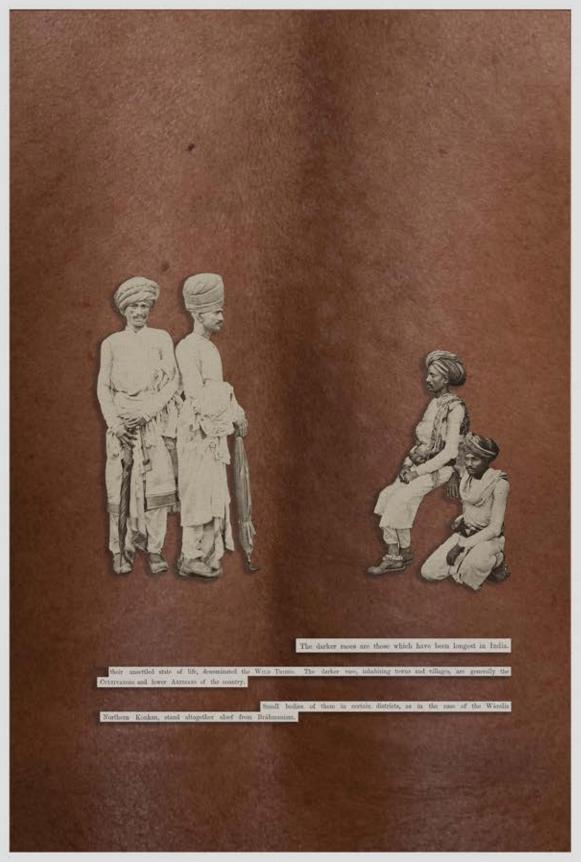


Waleed Zafar

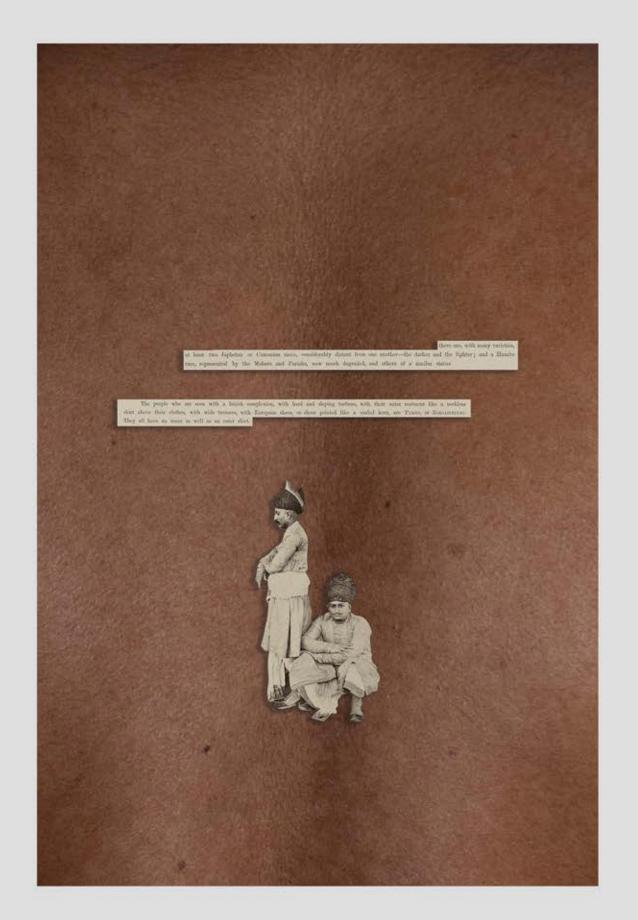
My practice is an exploration of South-Asian identity based on historical, socio-political and genetic markers. South-Asia as a region comprises of multiple ethnic, religious, racial and caste groups. Looking into racial politics in South-Asia, my work explores the semiotics of skin colour as a primary visual signifier of human identity. Researching skin colour and representation in Indian art history, my work tries to piece together how caste systems in India, Colonial ethnography and historic migrations are interrelated in creating a complex networks of identities. Drawing upon historic archives, art and ethnographic documents, my work spans multiple timeframes, from the earliest migrations to colonial history. The resulting research helps contextualise contemporary politics in the region and provides basis for why certain structures for identity have formed. The basis of my research interest is to contextualise my own identity within South-Asia. Coming for a family background that is heavily influenced from colonial politics, I have felt the need to look at history to understand my own position within the complex web of South-Asian identity which in turn informs my artistic practice.

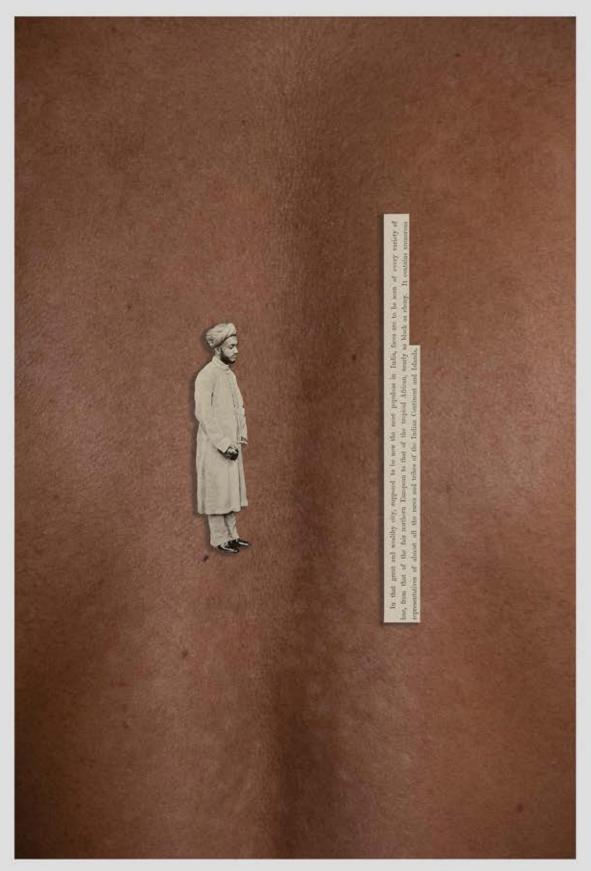




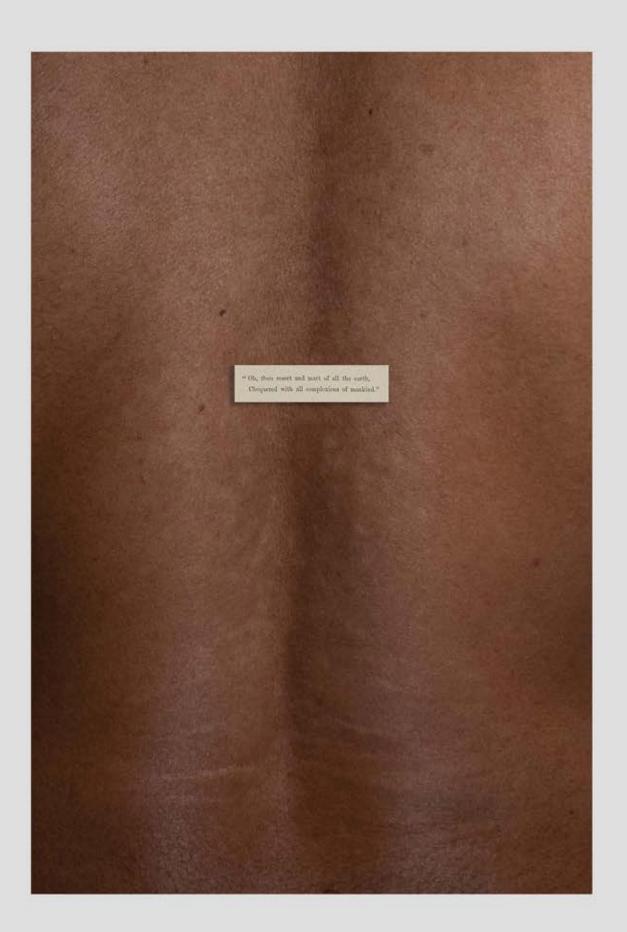


Now where do they stand? 16" X 25"





Now where do they stand? 16" X 25"





MUHAMAMD AZEEM

As an artist, my work is rooted in the philosophy of nihilism the belief that life has no inherent meaning or purpose. In exploring this concept, I am drawn to the creation of tragedy the exploration of the darker aspects of the human experience and the ways in which we grapple with our own mortality.

My photography delves into the darker aspects of the human condition, exposing the raw emotions and vulnerabilities that come with confronting our own mortality. Through my work, I aim to create a sense of discomfort and unease, challenging viewers to confront the uncomfortable truths that lie at the heart of the nihilistic worldview.

At the same time, I am deeply interested in the creative process and the ways in which we can find purpose and fulfillment in the act of creation itself. My photography explores the ways in which beauty can emerge from tragedy, even in a world that is ultimately devoid of meaning.

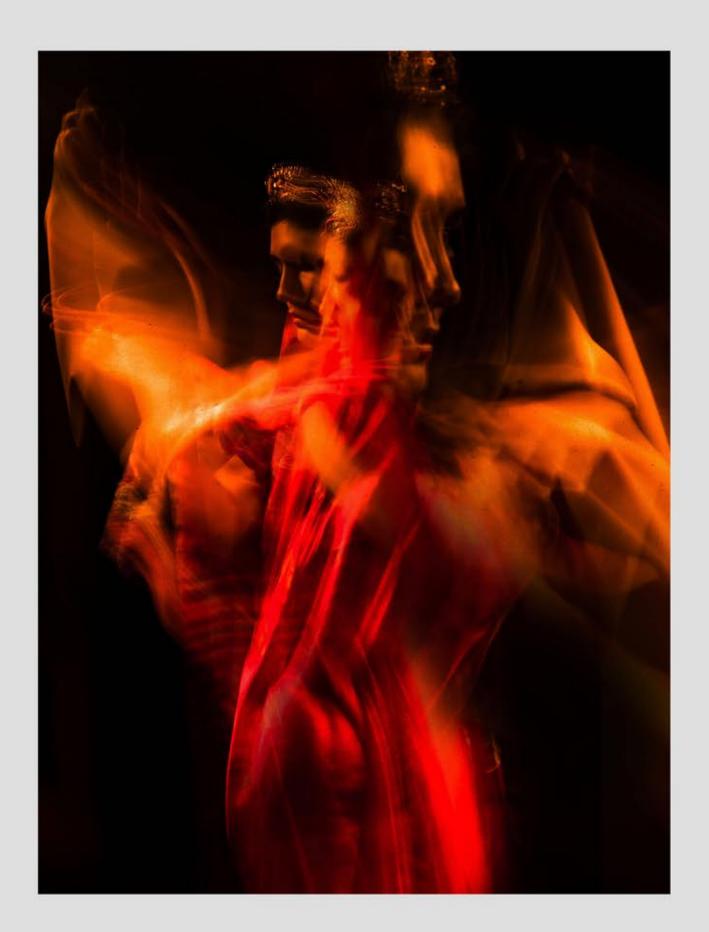






Puer aeternus 20" X 30" Digital print on photopaper 2023 PKR 45,000







Sheherezade el moumni Berdai

Growing up in Morocco shaped me to see the beauty in banality and in chaos. There is rhythm, story, and character in everything. I think of my photo-taking as a form of rebellion; showing my appreciation for details by capturing moments one usually walks past without a thought.

Shooting medium format and 35mm, as well as developing and scanning film myself, is my valued discipline as it makes the process more intimate, experimental, and one on one with my art. It has encouraged me to trust my visual intuition and not stick to a single look as well. Taking photographs stems from a deep curiosity - what resonance is there when capturing something ordinary in an unordinary way? I still cannot put into words why exactly I take photographs. My thought process fast forwards to a click. There is no feeling to impose on the viewer. I prefer to share the freedom of appreciating naive, layered, anomalous moments with my audience.





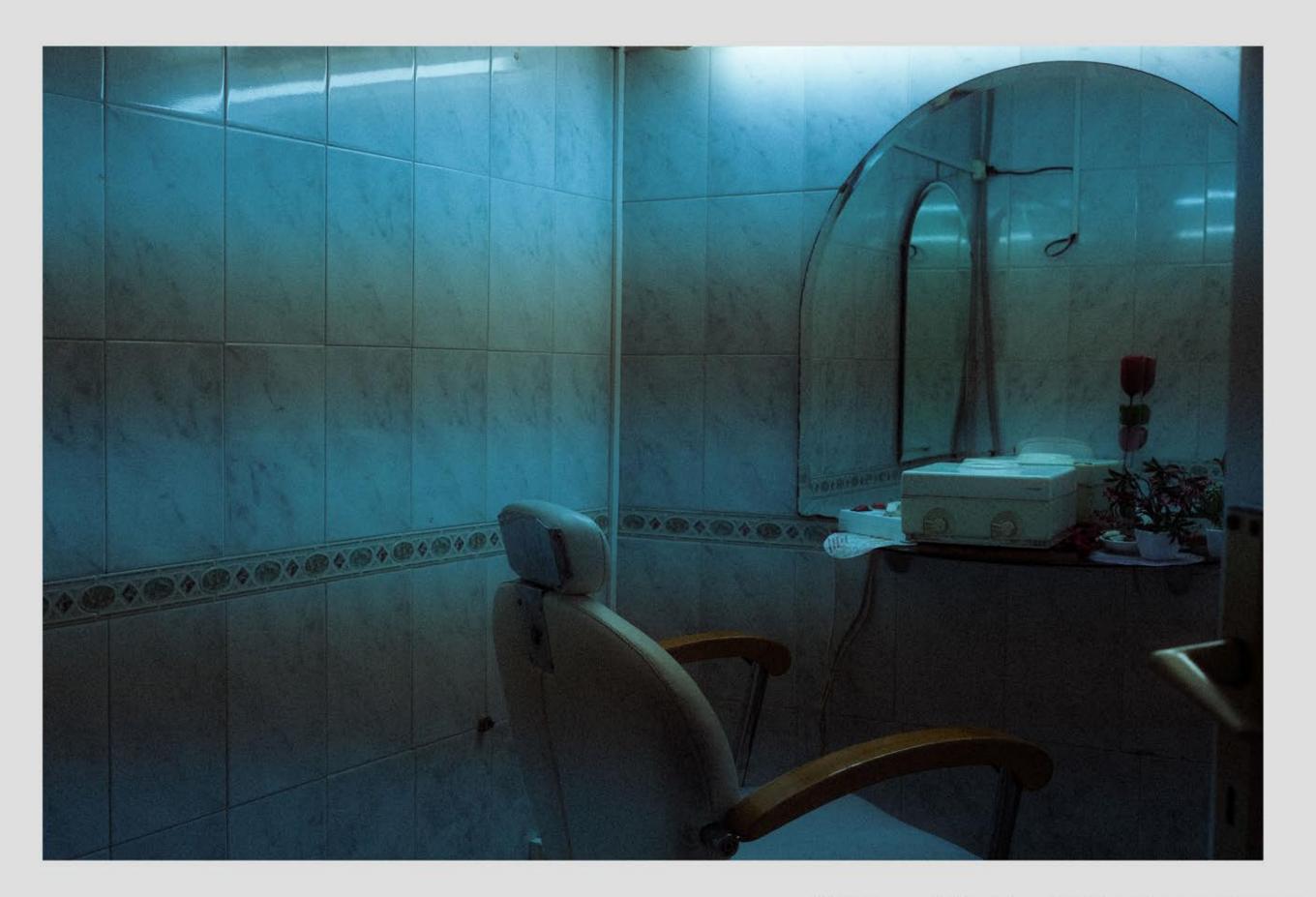




Immeresed



Ants 16" X 20" Digital print on photopaper 2023 PKR 40,000







Hira Noor

My work explores narratives. It dictates an emotion often taking inspiration from current events. Each image presents a highly intense and dramatized visual centered around figures. I base my work on narratives told by my subjects each series is a visual depiction of a tale told by each individual.

The intensity of an event may vary from a world pandemic to a small argument between two people. No matter how small or big the impact, my visuals solely focus on how and what my subjects felt in the moment. All my photographs are staged and planned.



You want it darker

25" X 18"

Digital print on photopaper







Jaffar Raza Jafri

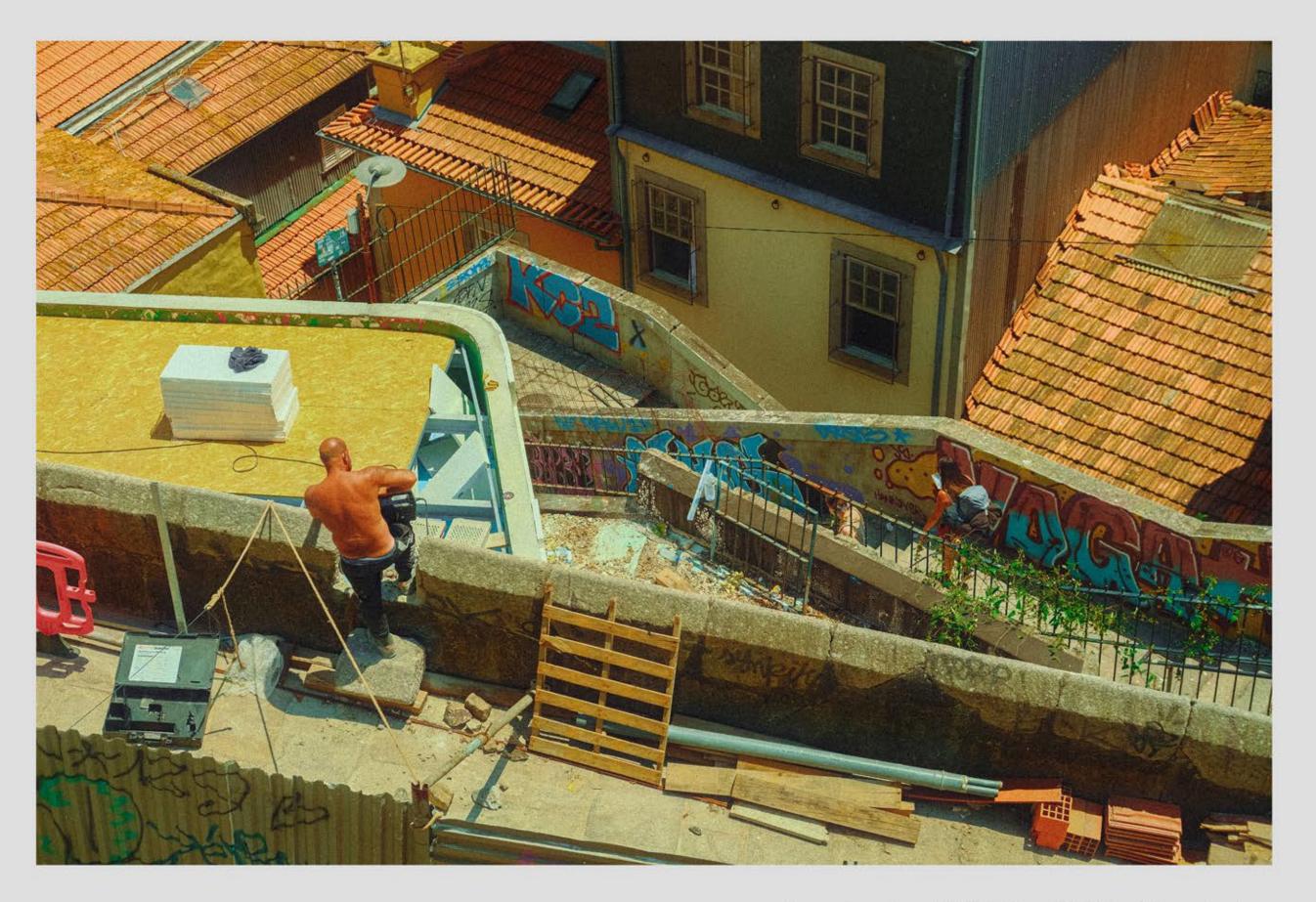
In this series, I focused on capturing candid moments between people, without showing their faces. By intentionally not focusing on their individuality, I hope to shift the focus from the individual to the environment and the relationships between people. These connections are often more interesting than the individuals themselves, and by capturing them in the moment, I hope to give the viewer a glimpse into the everyday moments that make up our lives.

This anonymity can also serve to create a sense of universality in the images. By not revealing individual identities, the photographs can represent a larger group or community, and the viewer can project their own experiences and emotions onto the scene.

Ultimately,

I see anonymity as an important tool in my work, allowing me to capture candid moments that are both visually compelling and emotionally resonant. Through my photography, I am to celebrate the beauty in the mundane and everyday.





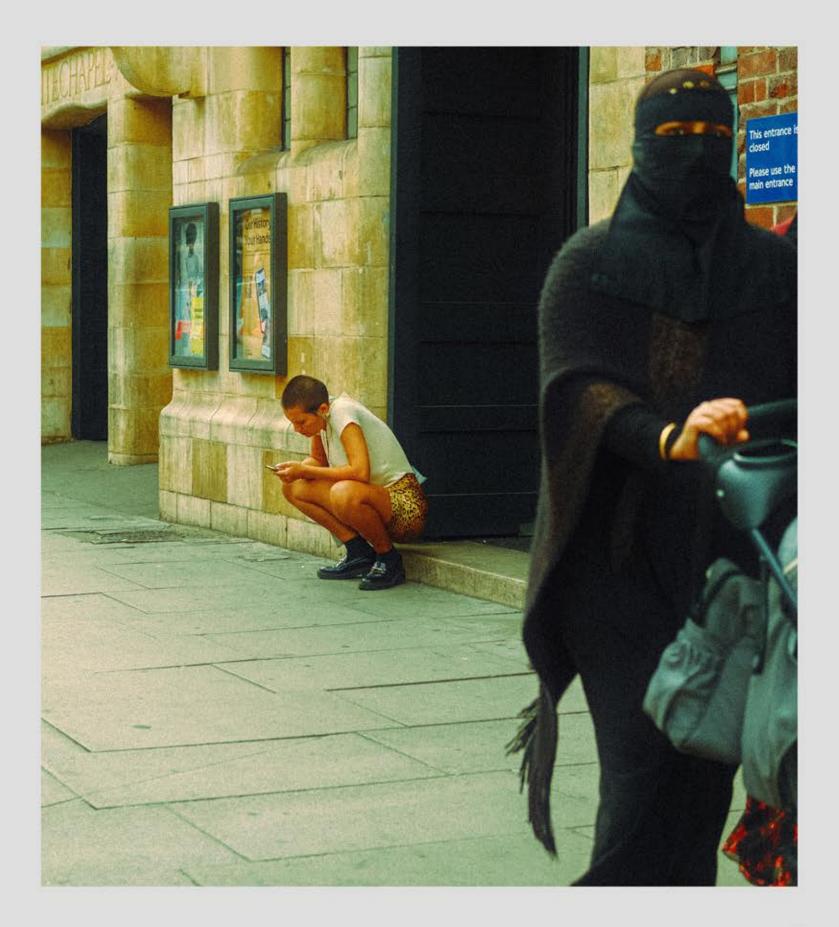


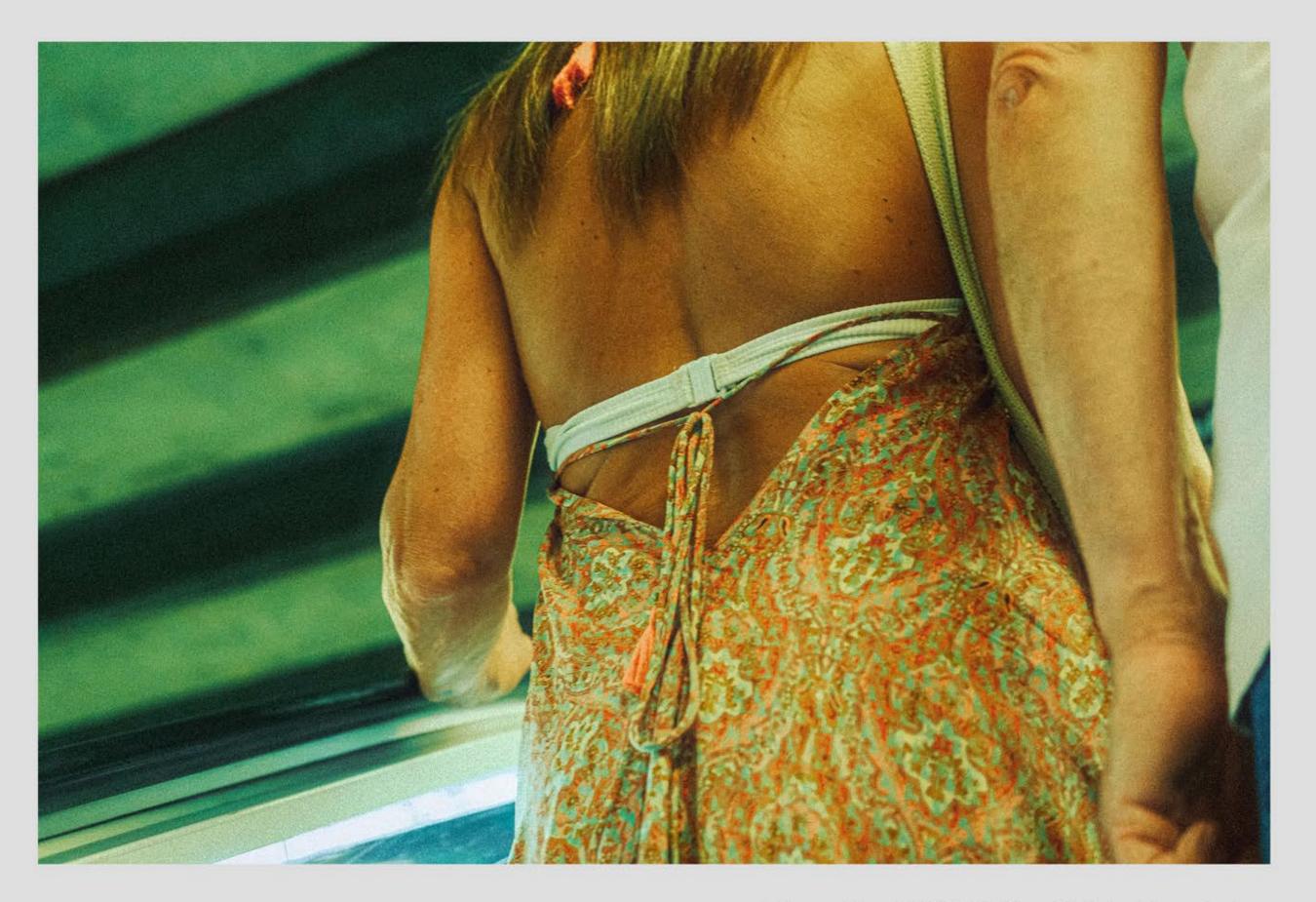
Roadside legs 17.5" X 11.5" Digital print on photopaper



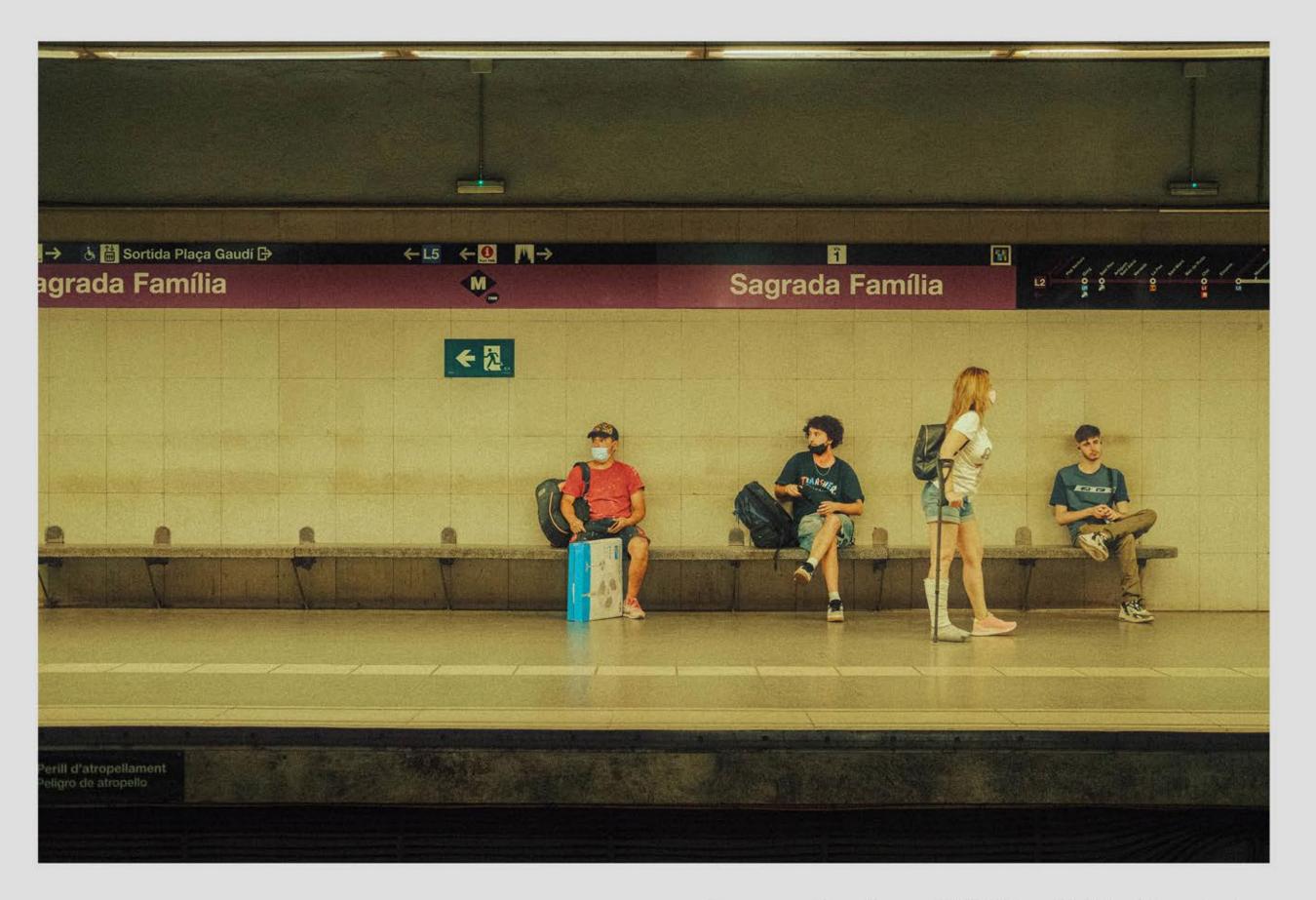


Curbside romance 8.5" X 5.5"





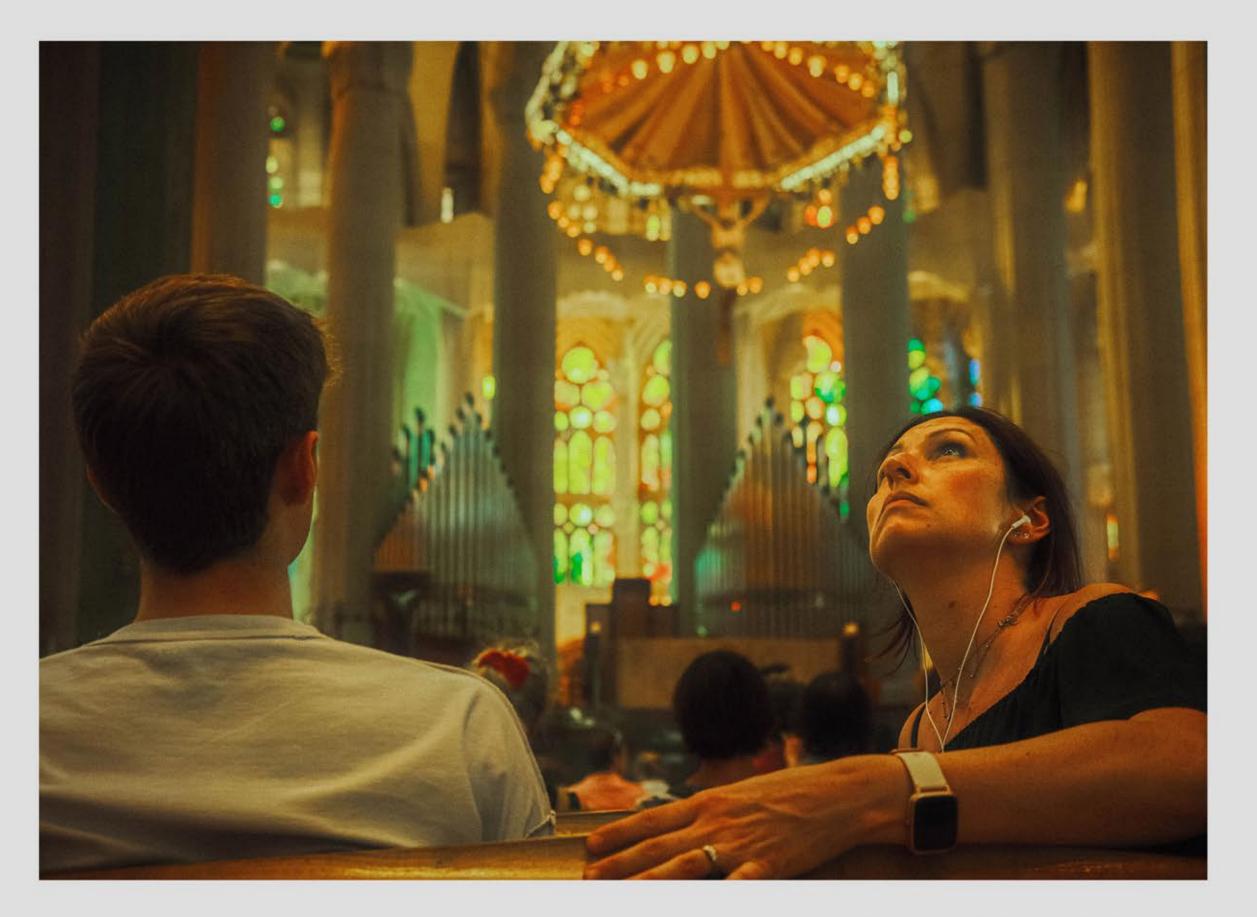
Subway skin 15.5" X 10.5" Digital print on photopaper







Red handed 8.5" X 5.5" Digital print on photopaper





Fatima Butt

My art is driven by a deep curiosity about the intersection between the past and present. My culturally diverse upbringing and constant travel led me to question the line between fact and fiction. I use old materials and memories to connect the past and present, bringing narratives to life through recollection. In my process, I recreate past situations, isolating them from the present, and time plays a crucial role in shaping the authenticity of a memory. I often incorporate cultural elements into my work, visually conveying wordplay and language. My biggest challenge is bringing fantastical ideas to life in a realistic and tangible form, and each piece is defined by an intensive process of experimentation. Through my art, I aim to offer viewers a glimpse into the complex nature of memory and perception.





Odd feeling, i guess 12"x 18"





Ali Shariq

Ali Shariq's work questions the structure of our reality through the trajectory of perception, employing simple yet unique analogies to approach questions of perception and reality. His practice is an intersection of the multidisciplinary mode of working and the outcome is expansive, ranging from text to sound, installations, mixed media paintings, videos and photography. His investigations create new debates on the spirit of truth and never cease to question what appears obvious and definitive. He cultivates the oppositional thinking that distinguishes the fixed from new possibilities by comparing and correlating phenomenon, people and their surroundings.



The Man, The Balloon, And the walk in the perimeter of square

Video projection 2023 Request for price

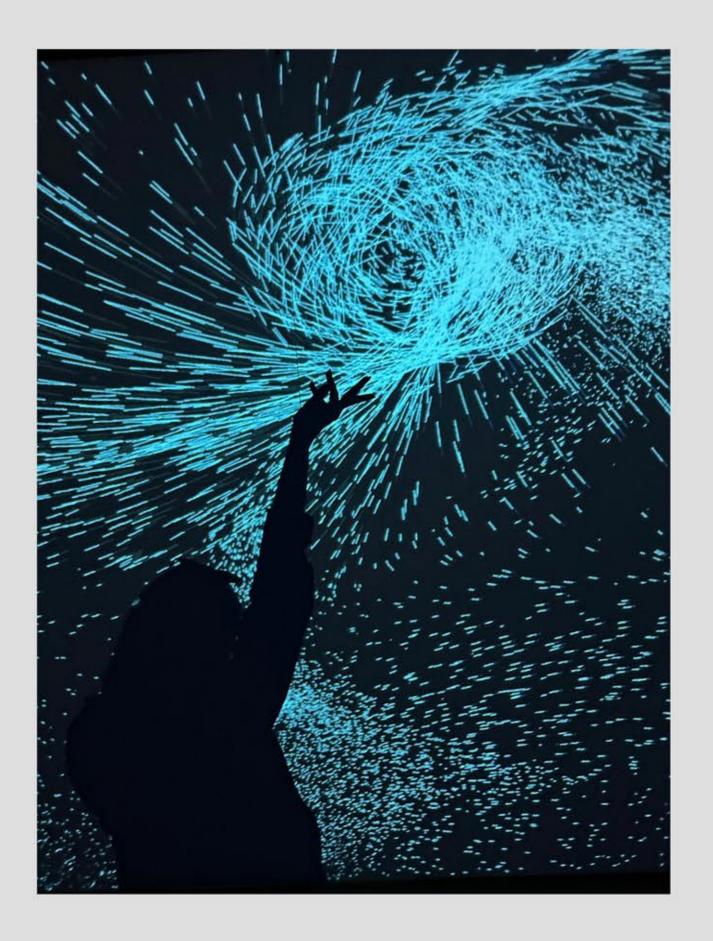


Zainab Saleem

Being is an immersive and interactive experience designed to captivate the essence of a human's deeper and darker self. A passageway between our inner realm and physical existence. The visions connect you to something beyond the bounds of visionary capacity. It isolates you to visualise magnitude of disorder within you brought on by obstacles in the outside world. It encourages you to reassess the value we place to the materiality of world to a point where it deepens the crack between us in our own self and creates loss of self. We let the world be the driver of our narrative.

We need to understand and see the impact of disharmony and rediscover ourself within the disorder. We need to realign to our core and find harmony within all the tangible and intangible world. We are beyond our name and form







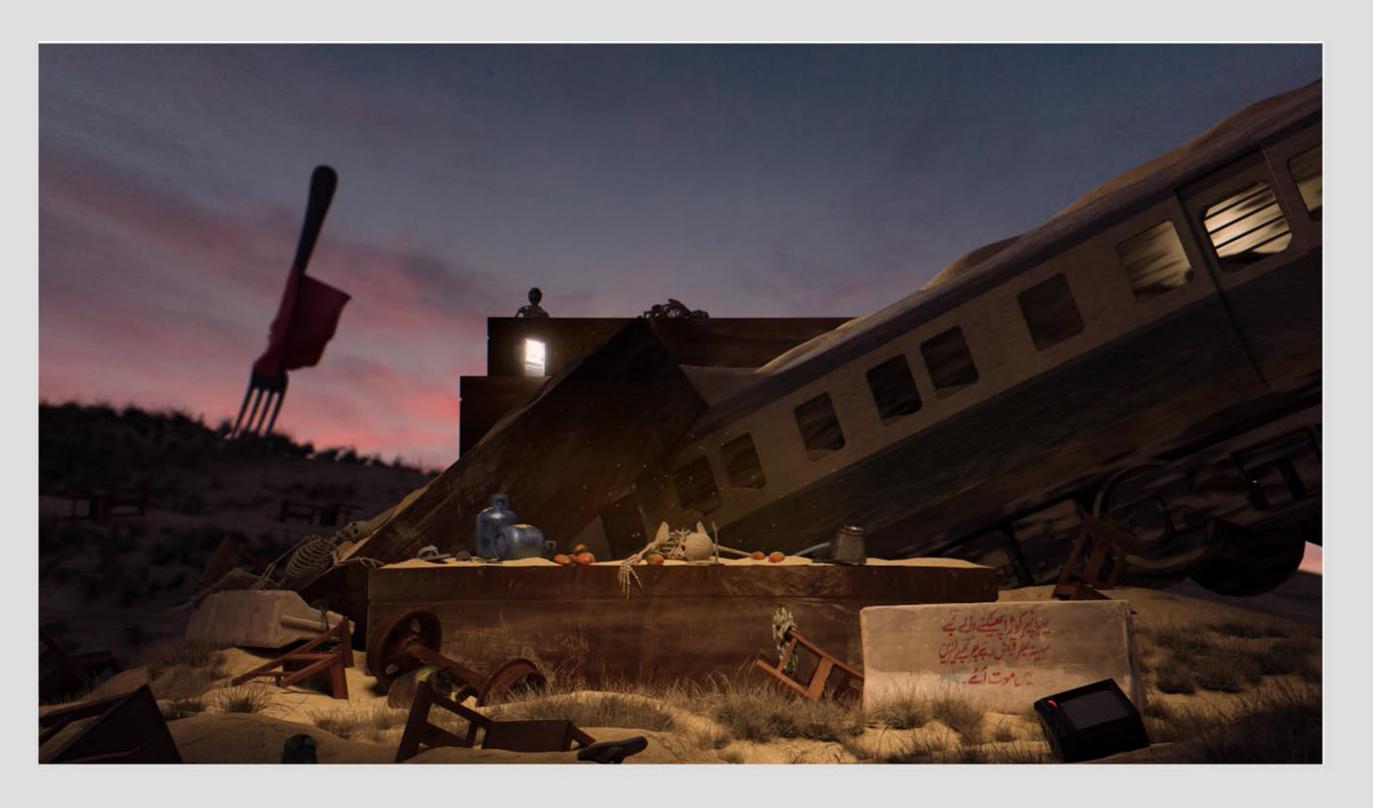
Abdul Hadi

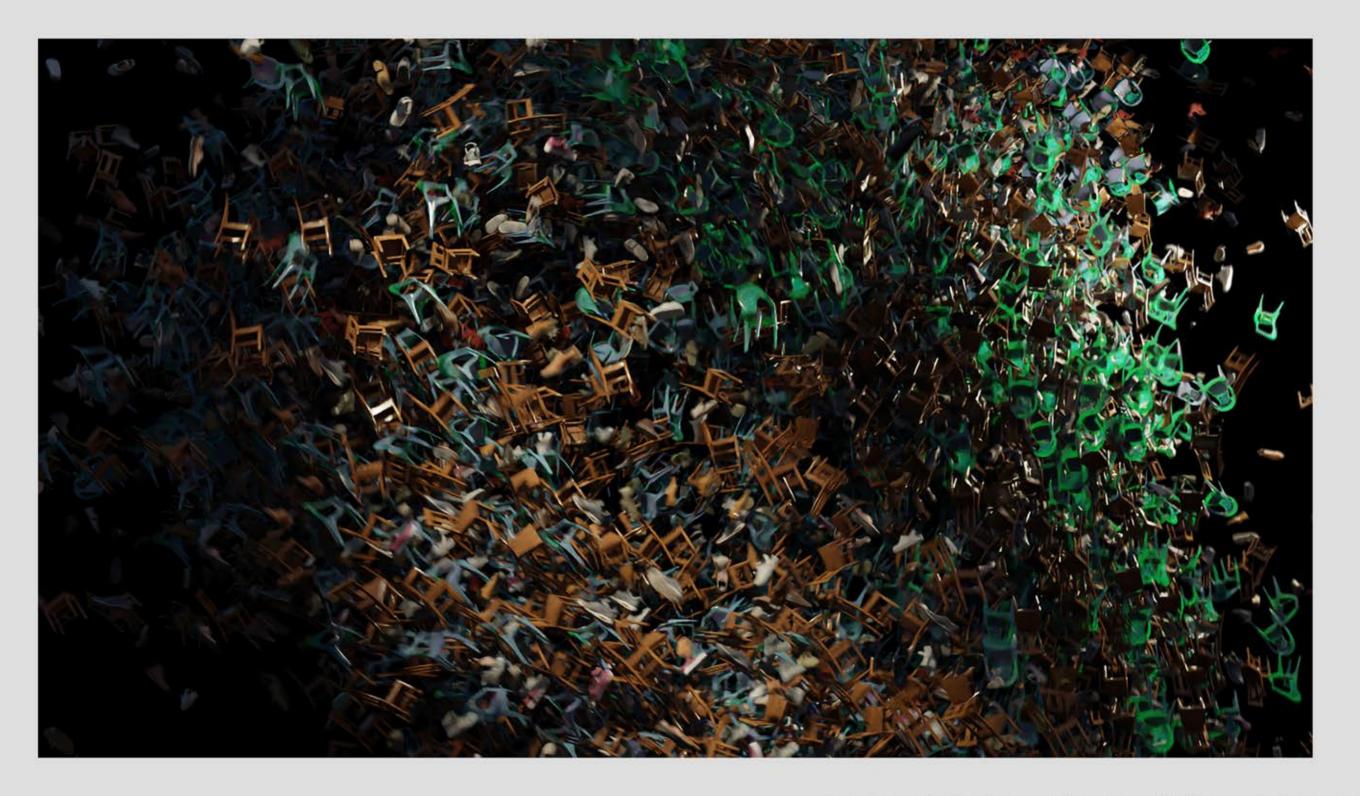
My work is focused on animation as a medium to explore the significance of ubiquitous everyday objects. Through the use of multiple objects as symbols, I create narratives that revolve around themes such as proletariat, protest, and political satire. These objects are metaphors for censorship and corruption, allowing me to delve into the complexities of these

issues through visual storytelling.

By combining elements from Lahore and the geography of lower Punjab, along with an absurd audio narrative, I create surreal imagery that challenges traditional interpretations of reality. My goal is to push the boundaries of animation as an art form and provoke critical thought about social and political issues. Through my work, I aim to inspire viewers to question the status quo and imagine new possibilities for the world around us.









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