

The works in this exhibition are the culmination of a year long process of engagement with the immigrant women community of Kitchner, Waterloo and Cambridge, Canada. This body of works integrates my personal narrative with the findings of the interactive workshops, performances and interviews.

'*Sabz Bagh*' (the grass is greener) represents people who migrate from other countries to Canada in search of opportunities and for a better life. I question the contradictions in one's behaviour and relationships during the many new situations in this journey. These could initiate from the need of basic necessities or disorientation or can be situational or caused by many individual factors, and at times can even lead to violent and abusive behaviours.

Considering myself as a new immigrant and a female artist in the Diaspora, I want to highlight the difficulties of immigrant women in the region. I feel that women moving from different countries, in particularly South Asian countries, face more challenges because of a contrasting cultural norms. Many time this struggle is frustrating because of lack of education, language barriers, struggle to balance home chores with jobs, leading to issues of abuse or domestic violence. I want to highlight this issue publicly by incorporating my thoughts through my art practice.

I have traced this path in my work through the idea of impermanence. How ideals fade into a blur. A blur which resembles a jungle of hope through the metaphor of an Iris flower.

Sumaira Tazeen
2019