



A Wanderer's Archive

Shanzay Subzwari | Shameen Arshad



GALLERY

Shameen Arshad



My work is about the fluid nature of identity and the ever-evolving nature of being “Pakistani”. It stems from a confused sense of self and convoluted ideas of ownership and belonging stemming from a culture always in flux. I present “Pakistani” as a concoction of the east and west - a chaotic, rich, and emergent identity.

I contemplate it by deliberating over our tumultuous history, enduring legacies of colonialism, cultural imperialism, and transgenerational trauma. Based on my experiences of living in both Pakistan and the UK, I create images that represent layers of time, space, and emotional states that reveal the fragile condition of our present haunted by our turbulent pasts.

Furthermore, I illustrate the feeling of living in the gap between two worlds - residing in a no man’s land, unable to call any place home. The images reveal stories and feelings of a perpetual vagabond, a sense of detachment, loss, uncertainty, anger and Hiraeth for one’s home country’s glorious past.

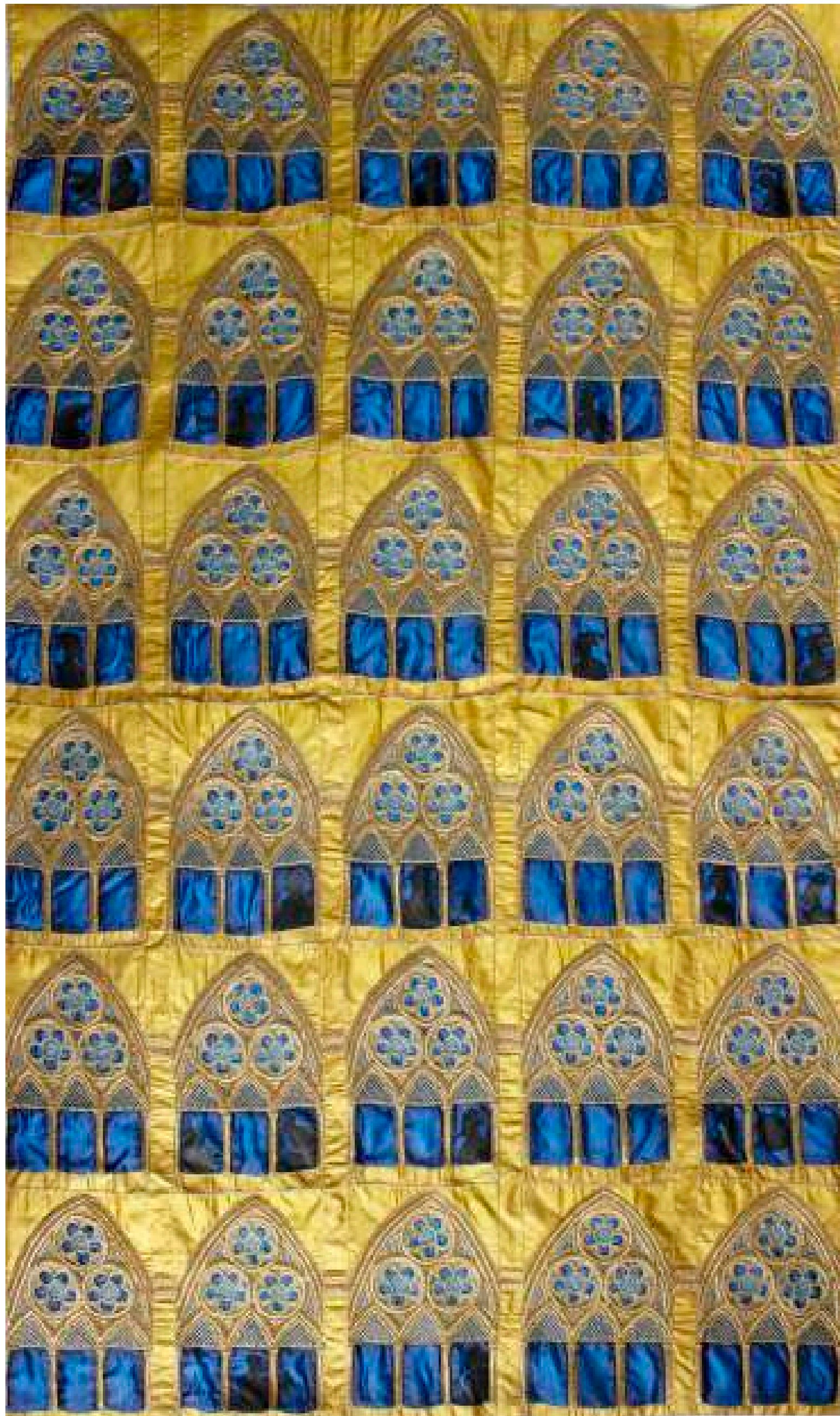


The Plague

Embroidery and fabric paint on jacquard fabric

40 x 52 inches

2023



They're Everywhere

Fabric paint and hand embroidery on printed silk

26.5 x 41 inches

2023



Borrowed Waters

Applique and hand embroidery on velvet fabric

34.2 x 84 inches

2023



Of Lifetimes

Fabric paint and acrylics on velvet fabric

45 x 62.5 inches

2023

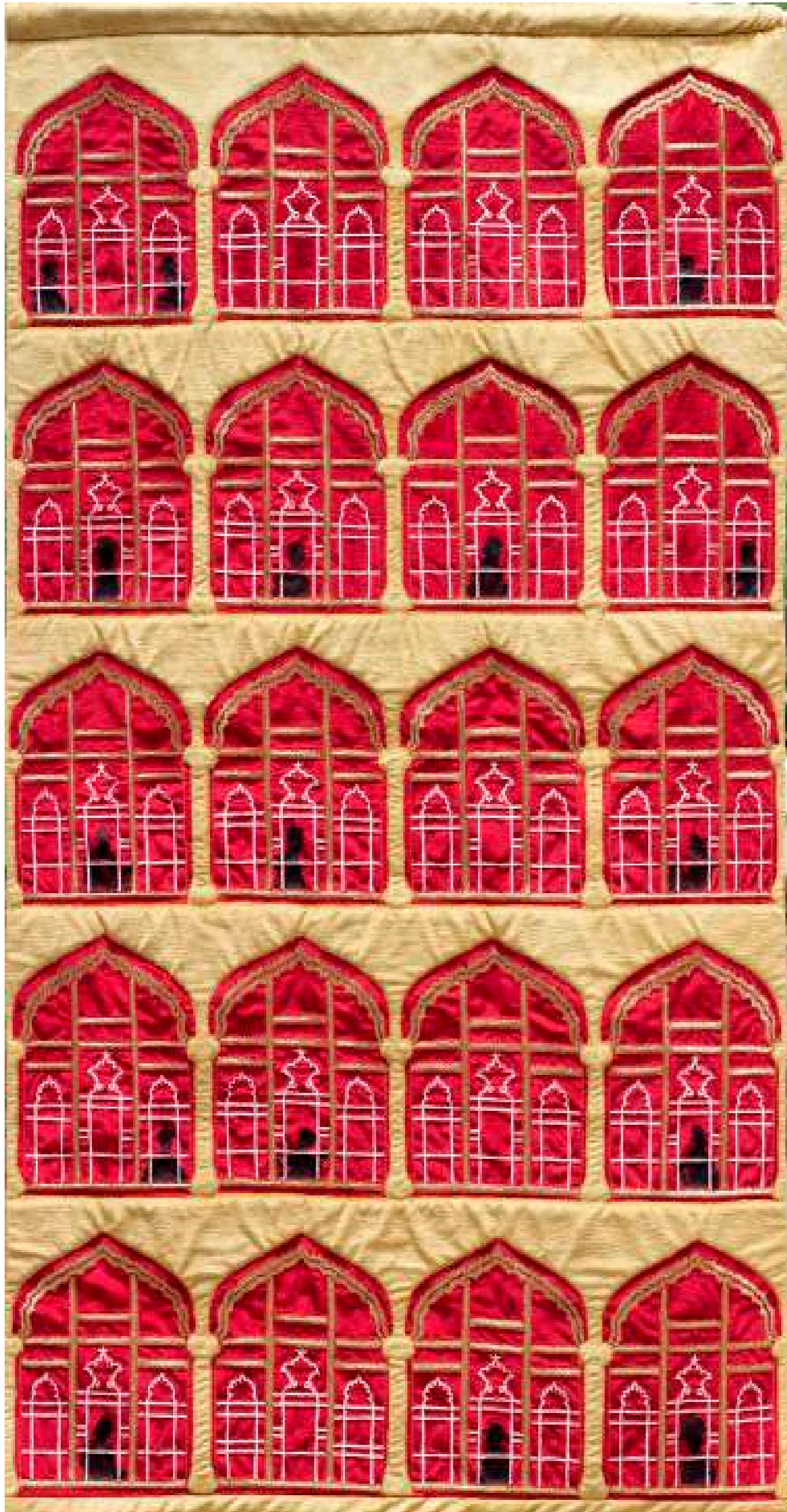


The Maneater's Victim

Applique, beads and hand embroidery on velvet

96 x 54 inches

2022



They're Everywhere II

Fabric paint, applique and hand embroidery on velvet fabric

30.2 x 53.2 inches

2023

Shanzay Subzwari



Influenced by my training in Mughal Miniature painting and inspired by popular culture, my artwork explores socio-political themes. I utilise elements from currency notes as a foundation, allowing me to construct my ideas within a contextual framework. While my exhibition at Koel Gallery in 2021 explored the darkness of a post-Covid world, my latest body of work denotes new beginnings and hope.

Symbolically, I incorporate the lotus, phoenix, and butterfly to represent re-awakenings and rebirth, while simultaneously addressing broader issues. My aim is to provoke critical thought and stimulate dialogue, encouraging viewers to reflect on the complexities of our society which is influenced by our past, and its potential for transformation.



A Gift from Heaven
Gouache on archival print
5 x 3 inches
2023

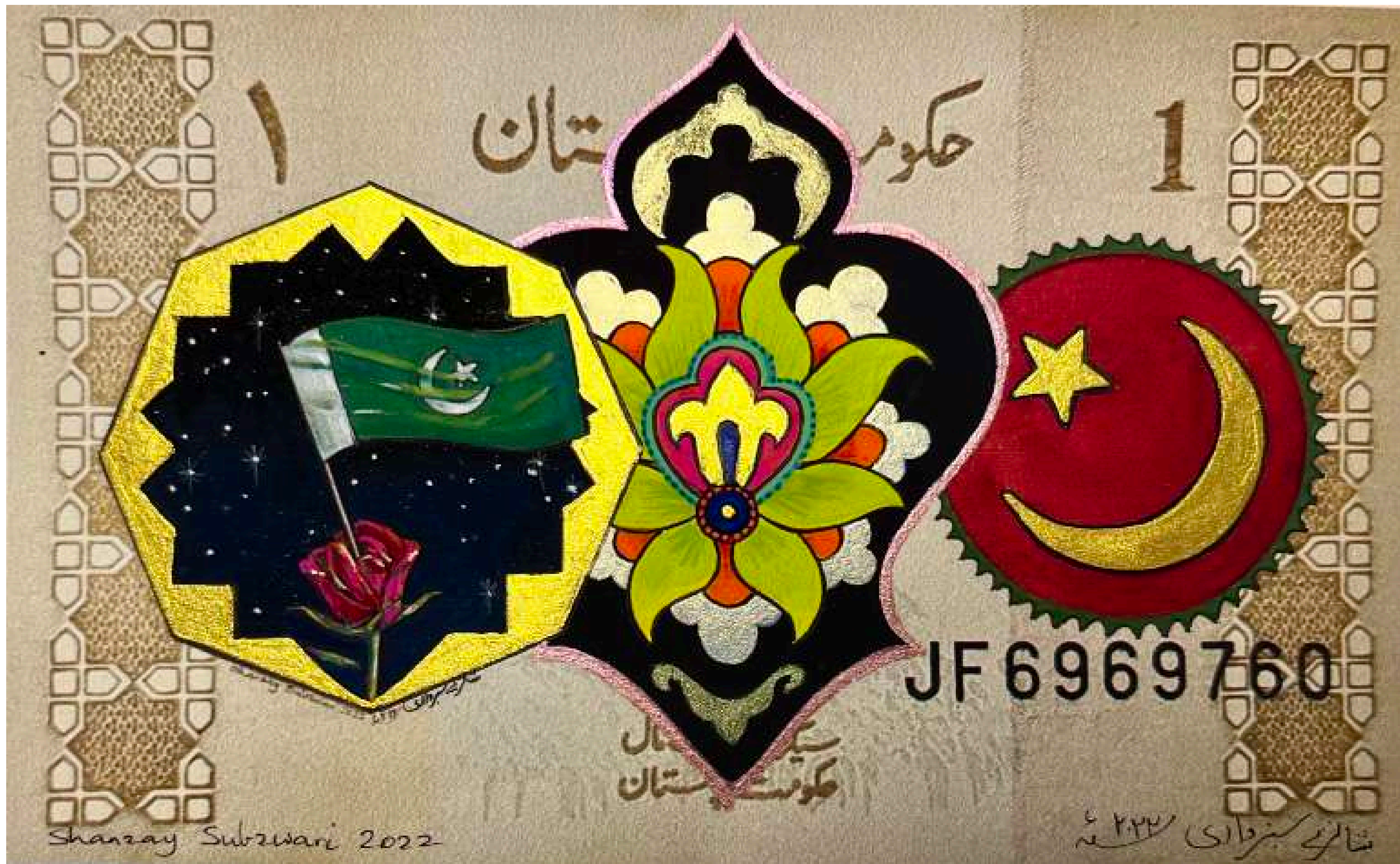


A New Life

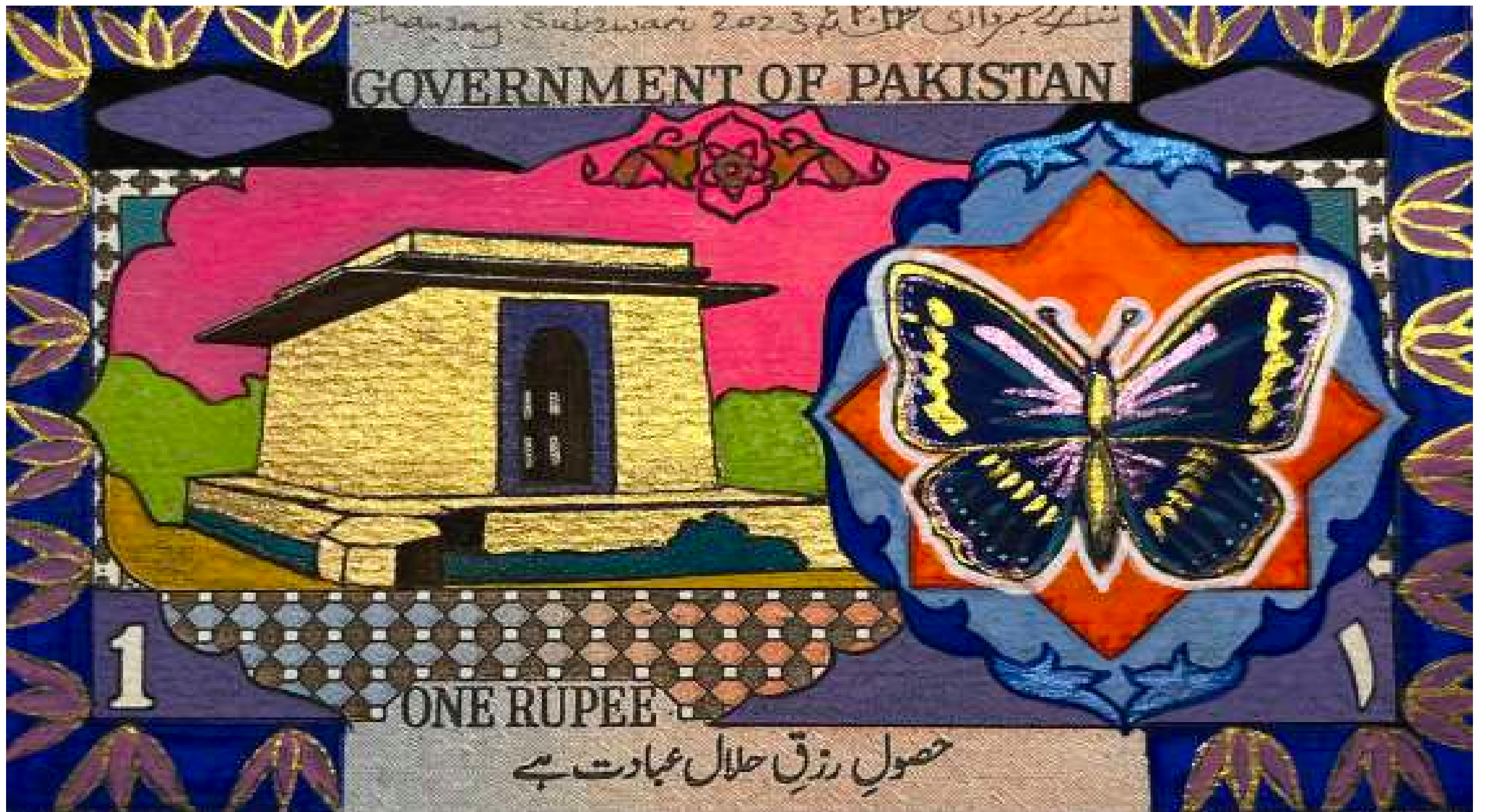
Gouache on archival print

18 x 10 inches

2023



Aisi Zameen Aur Aasmaan
Gouache on archival print
5.5 x 3.75 inches
2023



Blossoming

Gouache on archival print

4.2 x 2.8 inches

2023



Darkness Is Your Candle IV

Gouache on archival print

5.2 x 2.7 inches

2022

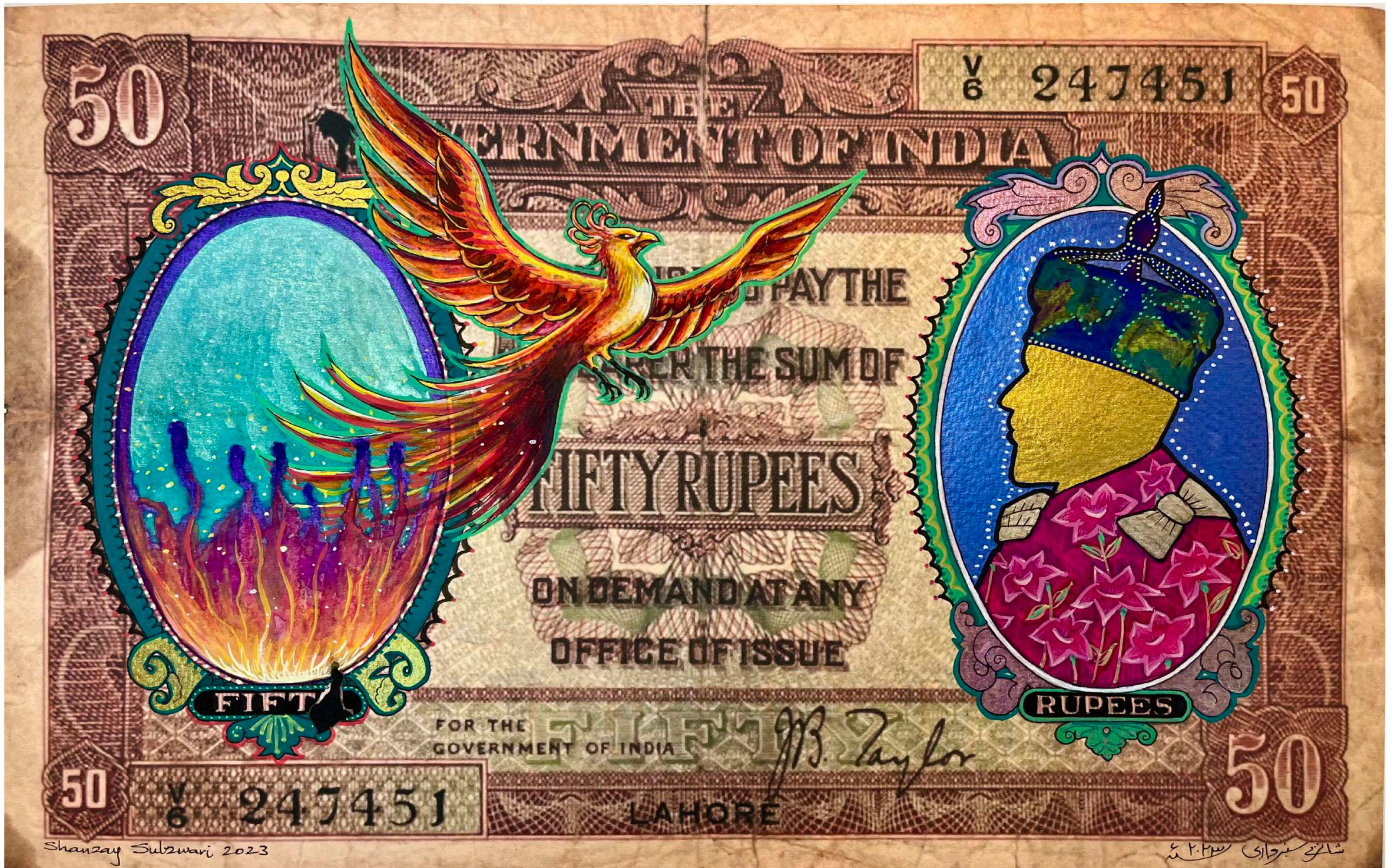


Enlightenment

Gouache on archival print

9.5 x 7.5 inches

2023



Rise from The Ashes
Gouache on archival print
13 x 8.5 inches
2023



Spread Your Wings

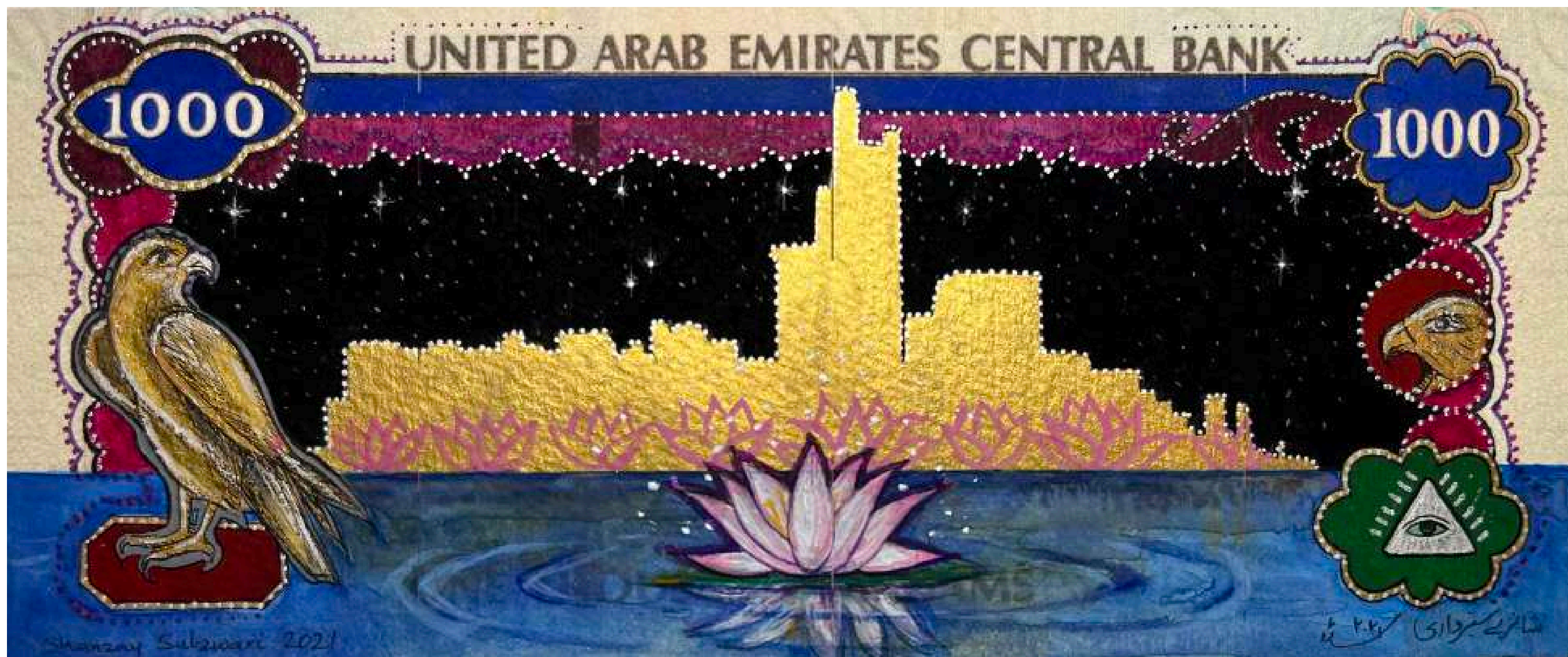
Gouache on archival print

18 x 7.8 inches

2021



As The Tale Was Told
Gouache on Arches paper
60 x 40 inches
2023



The Kingdom of Glitter II

Gouache on archival print

6.5 x 2.75 inches

2021



The Peacock Dance
Gouache on archival print
9 x 5.75 inches
2023



The Raj and The Empire IV

Gouache on archival print

10 x 6.5 inches

2023



The Secret Tale

Gouache on archival print

18 x 7.8 inches

2023



Your Destiny

Gouache on archival print

5.2 x 2.7 inches

2023

Shameen Arshad

Shameen Arshad is an Islamabad-based Visual Artist and Writer. She completed her Fine Arts (BFA) undergraduate degree from the National College of Arts, Lahore (2015) and a MA Painting degree with Honors at the Wimbledon College of Art (UAL) as a Chevening Scholarship recipient.

Shortly after completing her undergraduate degree Shameen began her curatorial practice, first as a Gallery Coordinator at AQS Gallery followed by the role of Assistant Curator at Khaas Gallery, Islamabad, before moving up to the role of Gallery Curator at Khaas. She has served as an Art Critic for publications such as Art Now Pakistan, The Missing Slate and Youlin Magazine.

She has also served as a fourth-year Instructor at the National College of Art, Rawalpindi. Currently, she is working as a full-time Artist. She has exhibited nationally and internationally, most recently at Nunnery Gallery (London), Dominion gallery (Lahore), Artsoch Contemporary (Lahore), Sanat Initiative (Karachi), VM Gallery, (Karachi) and Art Chowk (Karachi).

Shanzay Subzwari

Shanzay Subzwari is a visual artist, art educator and art writer who works with contemporary miniature painting, video and papercutting. She completed her BFA with distinction (dissertation) and the Academic Excellence in Fine Art Prize from Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, Karachi, and pursued an MFA with overall distinction from London Metropolitan University, on the British Chevening Scholarship (2019-2020).

Shanzay has exhibited in the UK, USA, Italy, Turkey and Pakistan. She was part of the British Council-sponsored UK-Wales exhibition/artist exchange titled 'Flow'. Between 2016-2020 she participated in the Festival Belluard Bollwerk in Switzerland, the SAARI artist residency in Finland and the GC Dean's Seminar in Spain. She had an Art x Fashion collaboration with Sadaf Fawad Khan Bridals and her Video Art commission for Platform Asia, funded by Arts Council England, was selected for Film Festivals in Pakistan and the UK. Shanzay's work has been acquired by the South Asian Institute, Chicago, the AAN Collection and the Furqan Ahmed Collection in Pakistan, among other notable collections. She currently hosts The Art Lounge Talks on Instagram Live and hosted the Nigaah Art Awards in 2023.



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