



K O S M O S  
material metamorphosis

Muhammad Umar  
Rabia Ali

24 October - 8 November, 2023



KOEL

GALLERY







## Muhammad Umar

Muhammad Umar is a jewelry artist and an academic based in Pakistan. With an undergraduate degree from the National College of Arts, and a Master's degree in Contemporary Art for Educators (MCAE) from the University of Sydney, Australia, he completed his MPhil in Art and Design Education from the Pakistan Institute of Fashion and Design, Lahore. Currently he is serving the Gems and Jewelry Design Department, Pakistan Institute of Fashion and Design, Lahore, as an Assistant Professor and Course Coordinator.

Umar has held a number of exhibitions at national and international levels. He is interested in studying the object and its interpretation in daily life. His lucid narrative relays the story of each material used and each object made through the lens of personal experiences. While nuances of materials and dialogues in the interstices attract attention to each piece of both the casual observer and the keen, critical eye, the cadenced forms only yield their meanings to those who care to read them as a chapter of art history.

# Artist Statement

*“In the ever-evolving realm of contemporary jewelry, I invite you to embark on a captivating journey through the "KOSMOS. Material Metamorphosis" This exhibition showcases the culmination of my unwavering passion for jewelry, culled from years of dedication to the craft. Comprising a dazzling array of 66 rings, this collection is a testament to my unceasing exploration and experimentation with diverse materials.*

*In each ring, I have sought to challenge the conventions of traditional jewelry-making, pushing the boundaries of what is possible in the realm of wearable art. These rings are not merely accessories but rather an embodiment of my artistic philosophy a fusion of creativity, innovation, and storytelling. Every ring is one of a kind and there is no other like it.*

*The materials I have employed span a spectrum of possibilities, from the time-honored elegance of precious metals and wood to unexpected, unconventional elements. Through the artistry of metalsmithing, enameling, casting, turning, fabrication, carving, engraving, kundan setting and inlay, I have breathed life into materials such as reclaimed wood, ebony wood, mother of pearl, sterling silver, moonstone, and even gold. Each piece carries with it a narrative, a dialogue between the material's origin and its transformation into a piece of wearable art.*

*"KOSMOS. Material Metamorphosis" is an invitation to contemplate the interplay between form and function, as well as the intrinsic value of the materials themselves. These rings are not mere adornments; they are conduits of expression, evoking emotions, memories, and stories. They celebrate the inherent beauty of each material while challenging our perceptions of jewelry's traditional norms.*

*As an established artist in the realm of contemporary jewelry, I am committed to pushing the boundaries of this art form .Each ring in this exhibition is a testament to my relentless pursuit of innovation and my deep reverence for the profound connection between jewelry and the human experience. These rings transcend the boundaries of time, culture, and tradition, offering us a glimpse into the evolving tapestry of human creativity.”*



Wire Sketch 39 - 2021  
Gold plating on Copper  
29 mm X 25 mm X 13 mm



Wire Sketch 1 - 2022  
Silver plated copper  
37 mm X 31 mm X 25 mm



Wire Sketch 14 - 2022  
Silver and Gold-plated copper  
40 mm X 21 mm X 5 mm



Wire Sketch 13 - 2022  
Silver and Gold-plated copper  
40 mm X 21 mm X 5 mm





Organic Odyssey 1 - 2022  
Sheesham Wood  
31 mm X 48 mm X 4 mm



Organic Odyssey 2 - 2022  
Sheesham Wood  
37 mm X 22 mm X 6 mm



Organic Odyssey 3 - 2022  
Sheesham Wood  
51 mm X 34 mm X 5 mm



Organic Odyssey 4 - 2022  
Sheesham Wood  
30 mm X 21 mm X 6 mm



Organic Odyssey 5 - 2022  
Sheesham Wood  
37 mm X 26 mm X 5 mm



Organic Odyssey 8 - 2022  
Sheesham Wood  
40 mm X 21 mm X 5 mm



Organic Odyssey 7 - 2022  
Sheesham Wood  
20 mm X 21 mm X 3 mm



Organic Odyssey 9 - 2022  
Sheesham Wood  
52 mm X 25 mm X 7 mm



Organic Odyssey 9 - 2019  
Sheesham Wood, Lapiz Lazuli  
74 mm X 26 mm X 7 mm





Organic Odyssey 3 - 2022  
Sheesham Wood  
51 mm X 34 mm X 5 mm





Carrier 1 - 2021  
Copper, Enamel, Sheesham Wood  
58 mm X 42 mm X 42 mm



Carrier 2 - 2021  
24 K Gold Kundan setting, Quartz, Sheesham Wood  
55 mm X 40 mm X 40 mm



Carrier 3 - 2022  
Sheesham Wood, Mother of pearl  
55 mm X 40 mm X 40 mm



Carrier 4 - 2022  
Purple Wood, Copper  
54 mm X 21 mm X 21 mm





Silver Whisper 1 - 2022  
Sterling silver  
27 mm X 20 mm X 9 mm



Silver Whisper 2 - 2020  
Sterling Silver  
31 mm X 21 mm X 12 mm



Wire Sketch 2 - 2019  
Sterling silver  
25 mm X 19 mm X 17 mm



Wire Sketch 3 - 2019  
Sterling silver  
28 mm X 22 mm X 20 mm



Wire Sketch 9 - 2020  
Sterling Silver  
31 mm X 25 mm X 5 mm



Cut and paste - 2020  
Sterling Silver  
19 mm X 19 mm X 8 mm



Blue - 2021  
Sterling Silver, Lapis Lazuli  
24 mm X 21 mm X 8 mm



Blue Square - 2022  
Sterling silver, Lapis Lazuli  
25 mm X 19 mm X 17 mm





Bloom - 2017  
Sterling Silver Moonstone  
27 mm X 18 mm X 18 mm



**Antique Allure - 2022**  
Ebony Wood, Mother of pearl, Sterling Silver  
44 mm X 20 mm X 35 mm



**Techno 2 - 2020**  
Sterling silver, Ebony wood, brass  
25 mm X 22 mm X 14 mm



**Rotation - 2020**  
Sterling Silver, Brass, Ebony Wood  
27 mm X 25 mm X 5 mm



**Wooden Gem - 2022**  
Ebony Wood, Copper, Sterling Silver  
28 mm X 22 mm X 18 mm

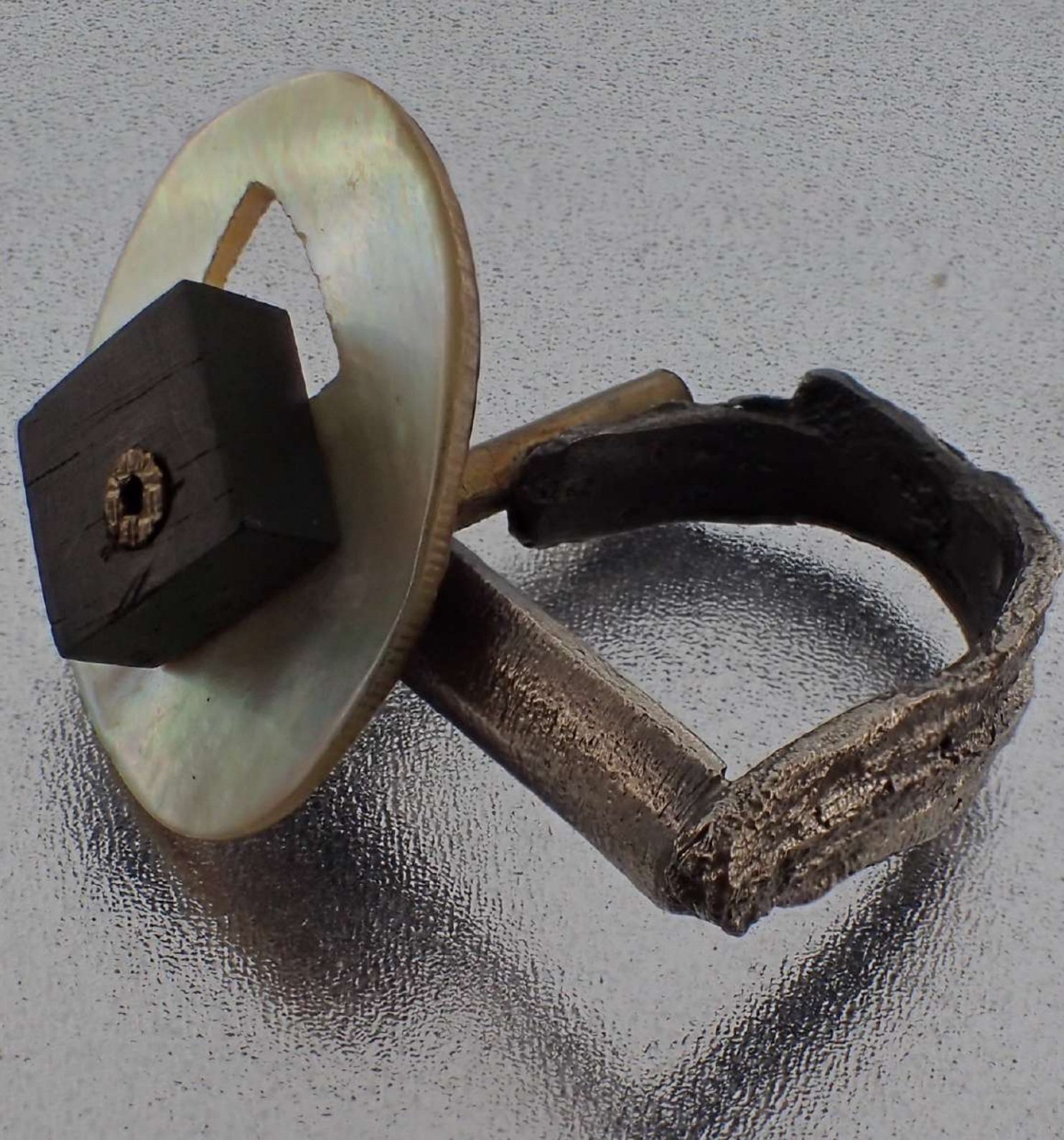


**Black - 2022**  
Ebony Wood, Sterling Silver  
31 mm X 74 mm X 6 mm



**Organic Odyssey 10 - 2020**  
Amber Wood  
26 mm X 25 mm X 22 mm





Black and white - 2021  
Sterling Silver, Mother of Pearl, Ebony Wood, Brass  
39 mm X 28 mm X 5 mm





Ripple Effect 1 - 2023  
Sterling Silver, pearl  
24 mm X 22 mm X 4 mm



Ripple Effect 2 - 2023  
Sterling Silver, pearl  
26 mm X 24 mm X 4 mm



Hollow ring - 2022  
Sterling Silver  
31 mm X 25 mm X 5 mm



Half moon - 2018  
Sterling Silver  
24 mm X 24 mm X 5 mm





Invader - 2018  
Sterling Silver  
24 mm X 63 mm X 27 mm





Enamel Elegance 2 - 2019  
Sterling Silver, Enamel  
38 mm X 21 mm X 17 mm



Enamel Elegance 3 - 2019  
Sterling Silver, Enamel  
36 mm X 27 mm X 27 mm



Enamel Elegance 4 - 2019  
Sterling Silver, Enamel  
31 mm X 26 mm X 27 mm



Enamel Elegance 5 - 2021  
Sterling Silver, Enamel  
25 mm X 29 mm X 29 mm



Enamel Elegance 6 - 2019  
Sterling Silver, Copper, Enamel  
37 mm X 27 mm X 19 mm



White and Yellow - 2019  
Sterling Silver, Enamel  
24 mm X 31 mm X 27 mm





Enamel Elegance I - 2020  
Sterling Silver,  
Gold leaf, Enamel



Eternal Embrace 1 - 2022  
Sterling Silver  
6 mm X 21 mm X 7 mm



Eternal Embrace 2 - 2020  
Sterling Silver  
23 mm X 23 mm X 14 mm



Infinity 1 - 2018  
Sterling Silver  
26 mm X 20 mm X 10 mm



Infinity - 2018  
Sterling Silver  
26 mm X 26 mm X 10 mm





Memory of Tree 1 - 2021  
Sterling Silver  
33 mm X 21 mm X 3 mm



Moon and tree - 2019  
Sterling Silver  
26 mm X 21 mm X 6 mm



Memory of Tree 2 - 2021  
Sterling Silver  
39 mm X 28 mm X 5 mm



Bloom 1 - 2021  
Sterling Silver  
27 mm X 20 mm X 15 mm



Lost and found - 2022  
Sterling Silver  
32 mm X 21 mm X 6 mm



Memory 2 - 2020  
Sterling Silver  
30 mm X 20 mm X 10mm





A walk in a jungle - 2022  
Sterling Silver  
25 mm X 18 mm X 20 mm





Tangled pair - 2020  
Sterling Silver  
22 mm X 22 mm X 2 mm



Techno I- 2018  
Sterling Silver  
25 mm X 24 mm X 10 mm



Flower Ring - 2019  
Sterling Silver  
30 mm X 20 mm X 20 mm



Oval - 2020  
Sterling silver  
25 mm X 22 mm X 5 mm





Sculpted Serenity 1 - 2022  
Copper, Mother of Pearl  
35 mm X 25 mm X 23 mm



Memory 1 - 2020  
Brass, Copper, Mother of pearl  
22 mm X 22 mm X 15 mm



Covid Ring - 2020  
Brass  
80 mm X 24 mm X 3 mm



Sculpted Serenity 2 - 2022  
Copper, silver  
30 mm X 25 mm X 20 mm





Craft or not -2020  
Pure silver inlay in copper  
26 mm X 26 mm X 10 mm





## Rabia Ali

Ali was born in 1992 (Karachi Pakistan). Currently, she resides in Surrey, UK.

Ali is a visual artist and a curator who has participated in several art exhibitions and has showcased her work in Pakistan, Hungary, Turkey, Nepal, and South Korea.

Recently, she was part of a collaborative residency in Turkey hosted by Tasarım Bakkalı and Tab Residency, to conceptualise an artist zine titled 'SIYAH'. Ali has been part of curatorial projects and was an Assistant Curator for Karachi Biennale 2019 (Pakistan's largest contemporary art event). Ali has been featured in 'Lines of Sand, Contemporary Art from Pakistan', a publication by Imago Mundi Luciano Benetton Foundation in Italy.



# Artist Statement

*“Hiraeth; often described as nostalgia or a deep longing for a place or time that may never have existed, or that may have existed only in one's memories or imagination.*

*With her oeuvre, Rabia Ali scrutinizes the intricacies of the human mind and its ability to rewrite and reinterpret past recollections. Dwelling over the inconsistency of memory, she explores the connection between human imagination and the abstract landscapes of the past, exploring emotions of a deep longing and nostalgia.*

*Memories are intrinsic and inherently flawed fragments of information. As they fail to exhibit the past with true and limpid clarity, imagination fills in the cracks. These deep-rooted imaginative impressions that occur within our subconscious mind, have the ability to reshape themselves in accordance to events and experiences that one encounters throughout their life, touching upon the complexity of the human experience. The mind possesses the ability to generate false, psychic occurrences, giving rise to the understanding of impermanence, transience and a distinct feeling of missing something irretrievably lost – a unique blend of place, time and people that can never be recreated.*

*Through her work, the artist explores the realms of imagination, dreams and the fallible nature of memories, attempting to understand why memories fluctuate and inviting viewers to reflect on their own journeys and the threads of longing that weave through their lives. Like ghosts, the shapes, colors and feelings of the past are translucent, shifting erratically with the passage of time. Events in the past, in their truest sense, are lost, as they move forth through time, subject to imaginative reconstructions.*

*Through texture and investigation of color, Ali's intimate navigation of the pathways between imagined memory and the present, bring to light concepts of transience, delusion and subliminal fantasy.*

*Each piece in the exhibition captures the essence of "hiraeth" – a deep yearning for a place, a time, or a sense of belonging that may be elusive. A journey into the landscapes of the soul, evoking the gentle ache of nostalgia and the bittersweet remembrance of moments lost.”*



**Nobody is Home - 2023**  
Enamel on Canvas  
24x36 Inches





**That Eerie Feeling - 2023**  
Enamel on Canvas  
24x36 Inches



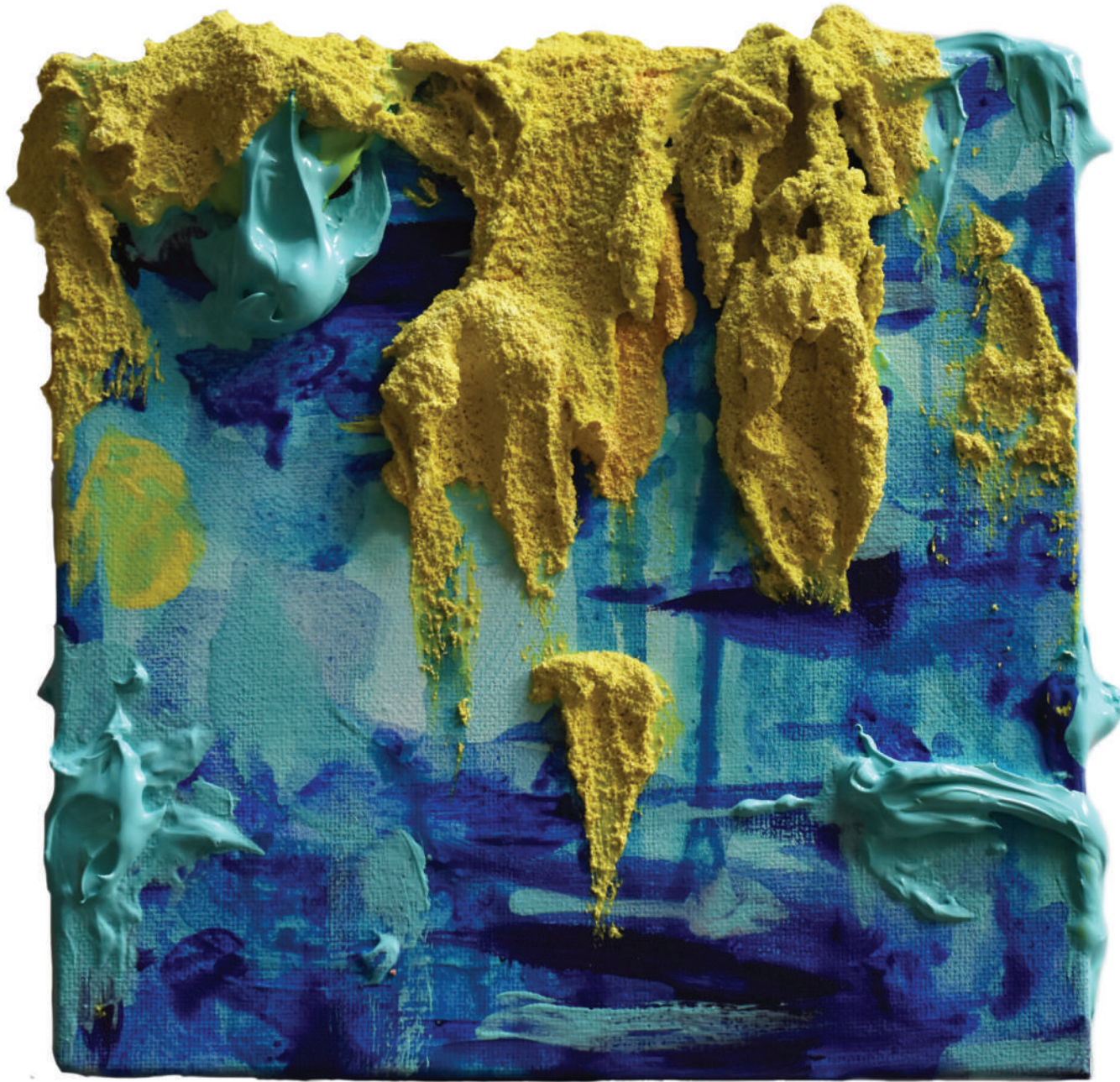
**Small Episodes of Deja Vu - 2023**  
Enamel on Canvas  
48x72 Inches





An Excerpt From My Diary - 2023  
Acrylic on Canvas  
8x8 Inches





The Monster in My Attic - 2023  
Acrylic on Canvas  
8x8 Inches





If I Vanish - 2023  
Acrylic on Canvas  
9x9 Inches



**Missing Persons - 2023**  
Enamel on Canvas  
36x36 Inches





**Hiraeth - 2022**  
Enamel on Canvas  
34x46 Inches



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