

TASEES  
تاسیس

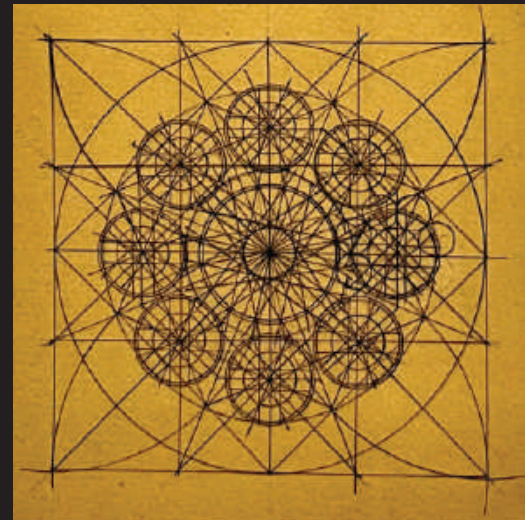
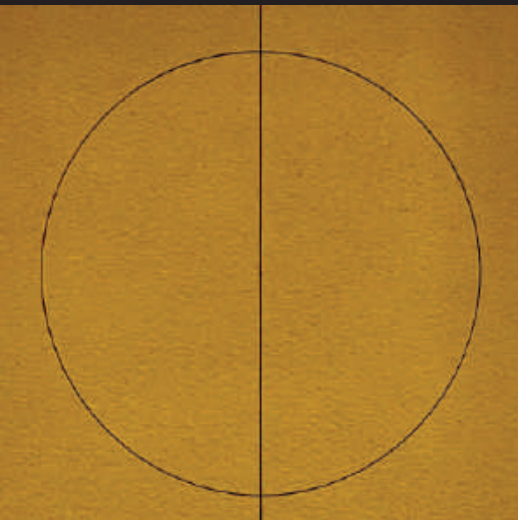
Curated by  
Arshad Faruqi

GRADUATES OF  
VM CENTRE OF TRADITIONAL ARTS

Alefiya Abbas Ali  
Amna Fraz  
Dilshad Asif  
Fatimah Agha  
Kaneez Fatima  
Khalifa Shujaiddin  
Mehrin Haseeb  
Maryam Cheema  
Saman Ansari  
Sana Habib

Opening  
November **14, 2023** | 4-7 pm  
Continues until November **29.**





Progression Drawings  
Alefiya Abbas ali



## Alefiya Abbas Ali

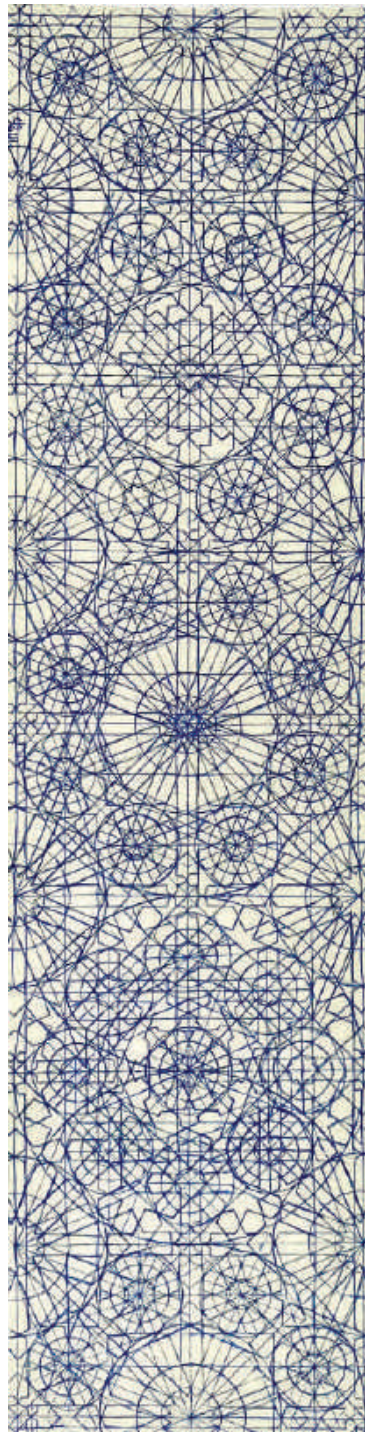
Alefiya is an accomplished artist from Karachi, who holds a fine arts degree and a postgraduate diploma in traditional Islamic arts.

*“I view the pilgrimage ritual of Tawaf as similar to the creation of geometric patterns. The construction process of a pattern from the origin circle to complex, interconnected shapes, symbolises the journey from nothingness to wholeness. The continuous repetition of geometric patterns is akin to a form of Zikr, a mirror to the underlying order of the universe. Marked by patience, devotion, skill, and an intimate connection to the spirit. ”*



**Insha I 2023**

Handmade Lapis pigment  
on Arches Paper  
10x24 inches

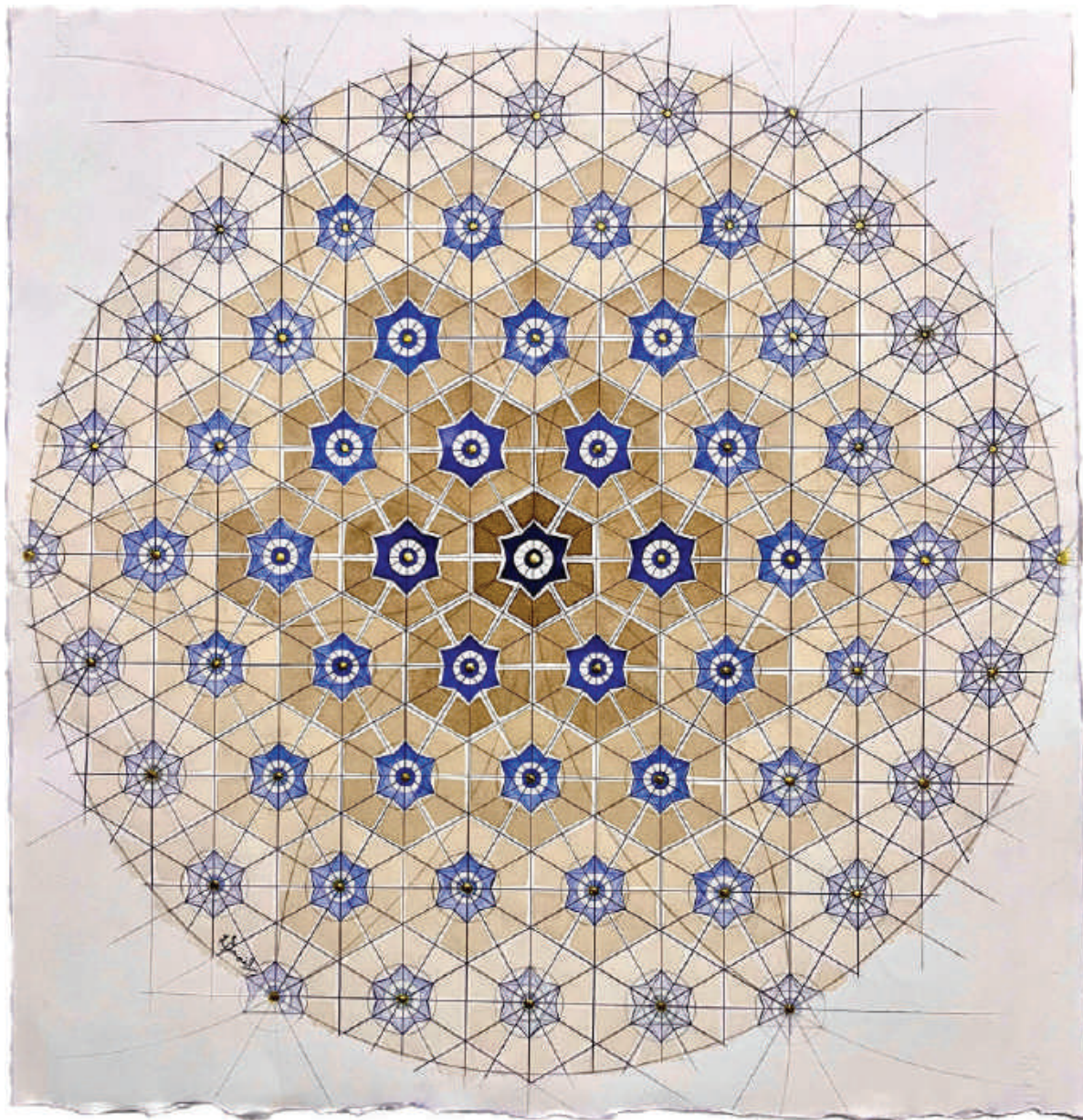


**Insha II 2023**

Handmade Lapis pigment  
on Arches Paper  
10x24 inches

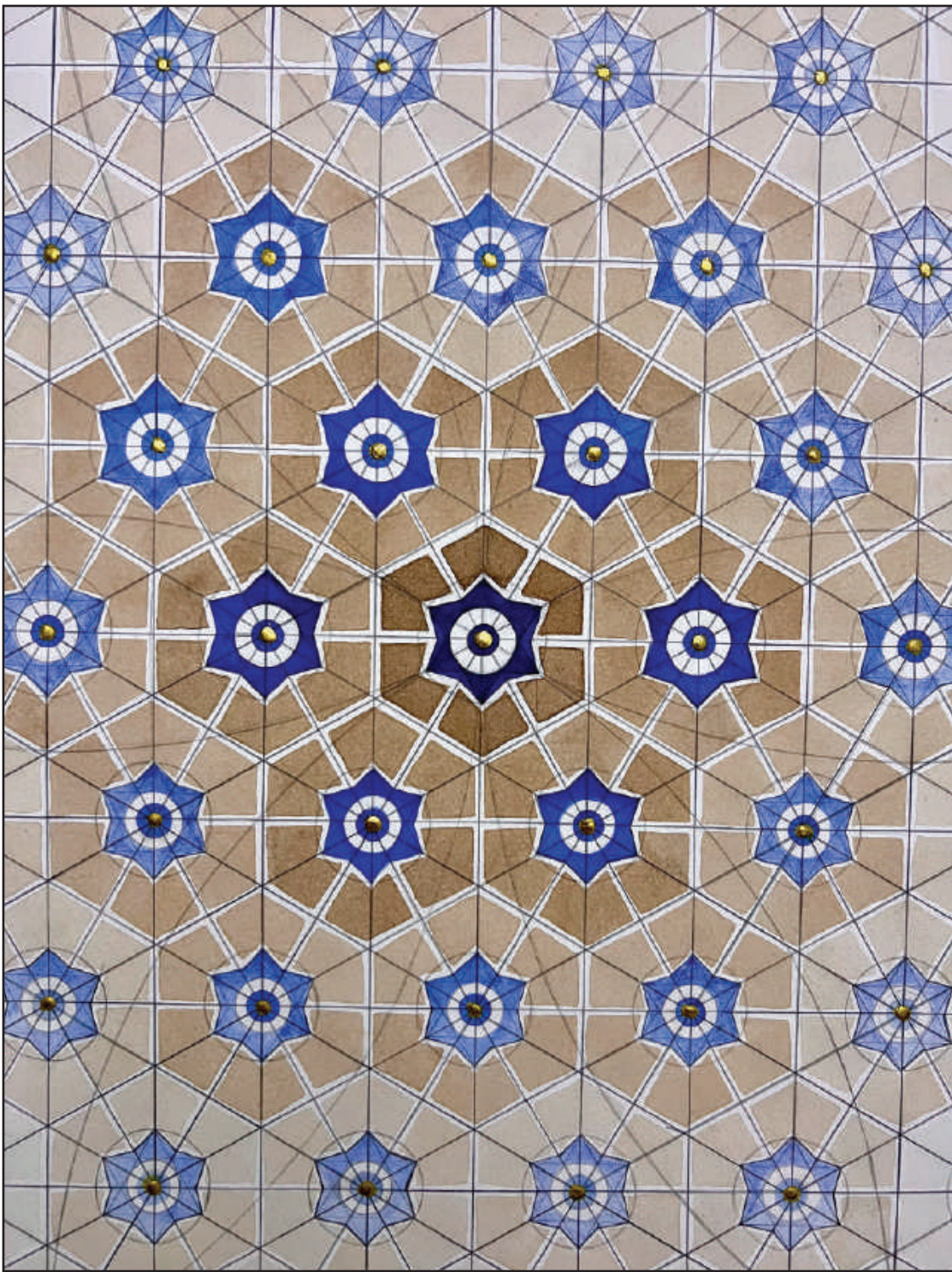


**Insha I, II**  
Detail



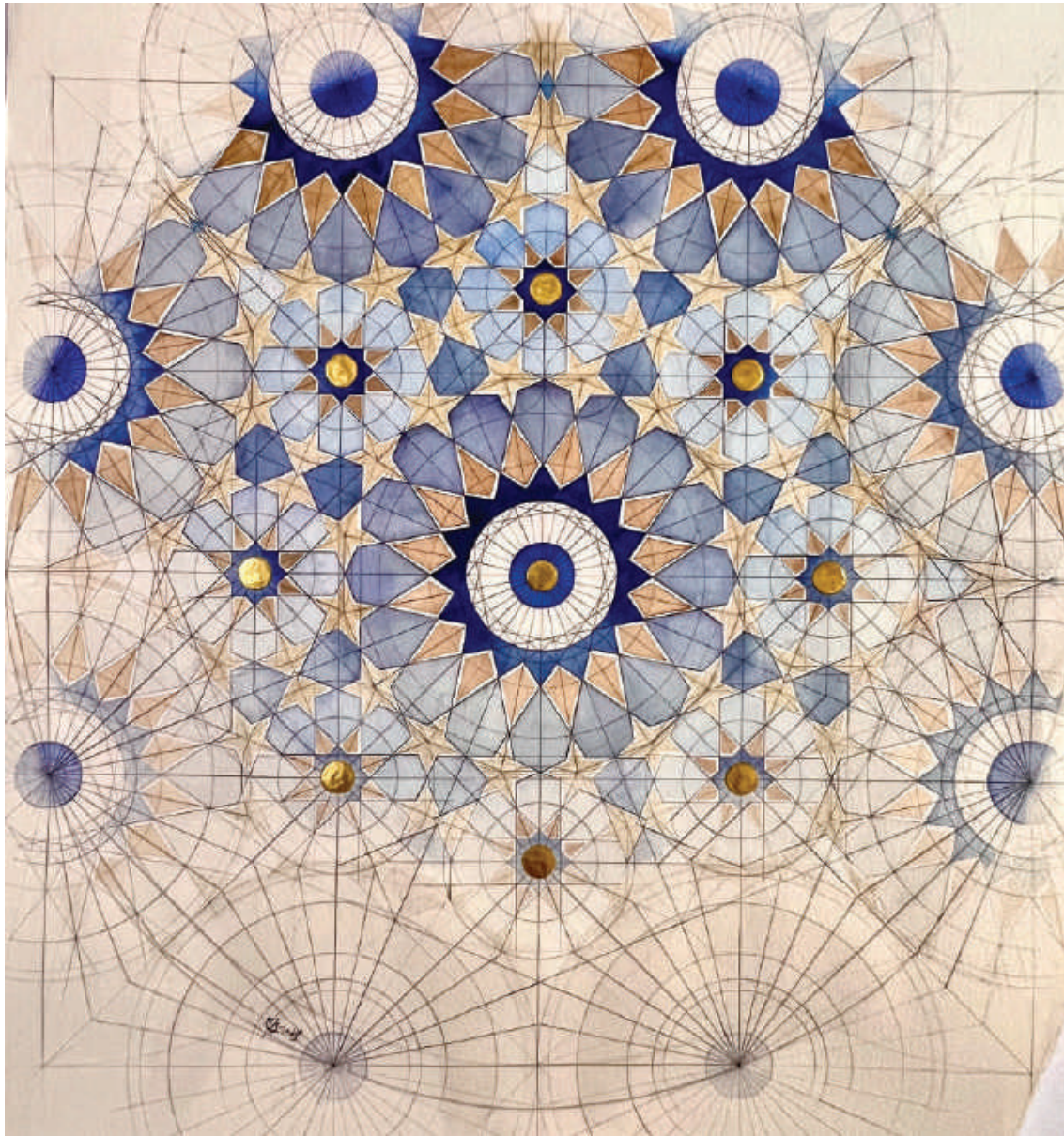
**Najm 2023**

Handmade indigo and walnut ink, 24ct Gold gilding on Arches paper  
28x28inches



**Najm**  
Detail



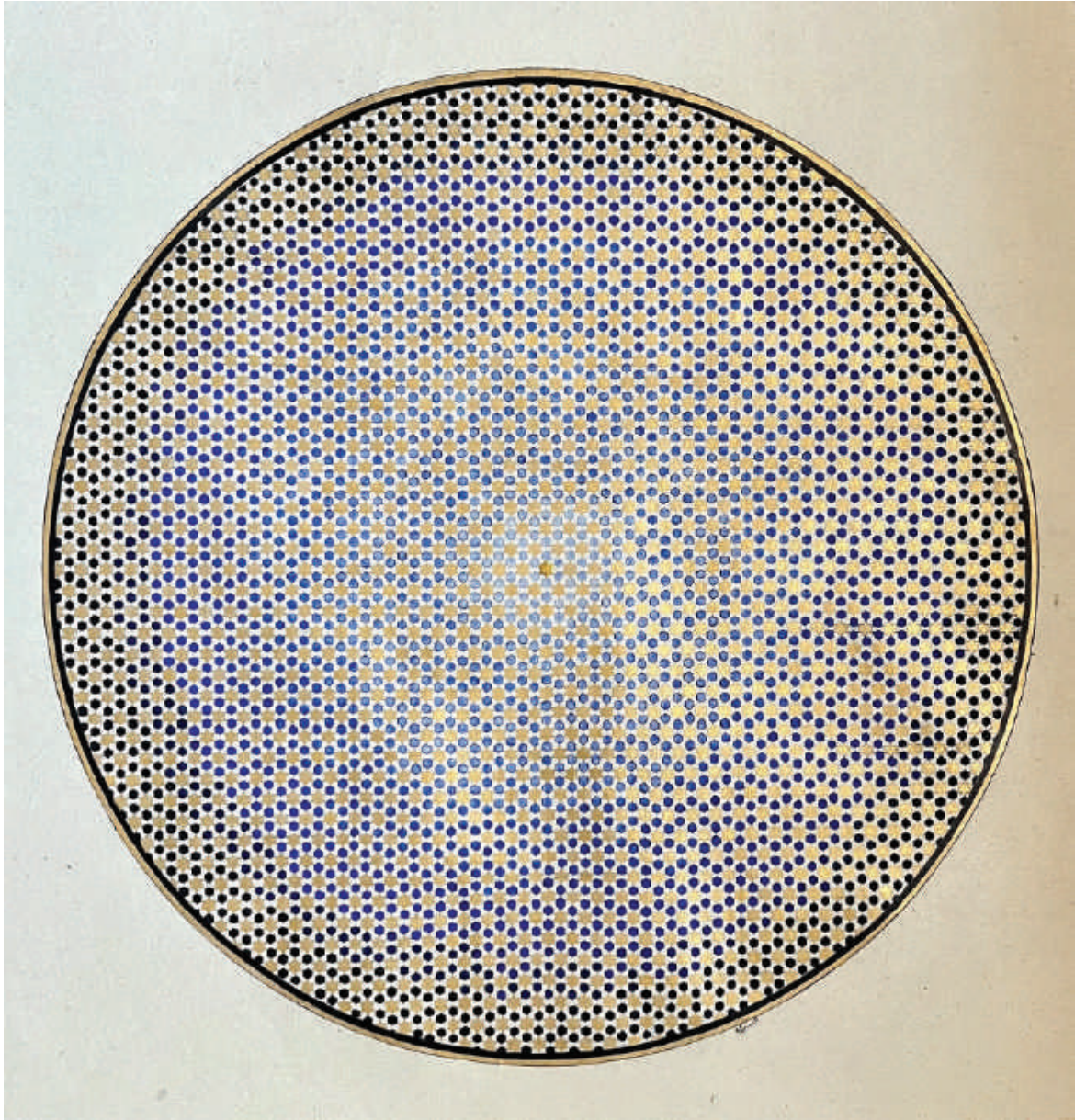


**Quba 2023**

Handmade indigo and walnut ink,  
24ct Gold gilding on Arches paper  
28 x 28 inches

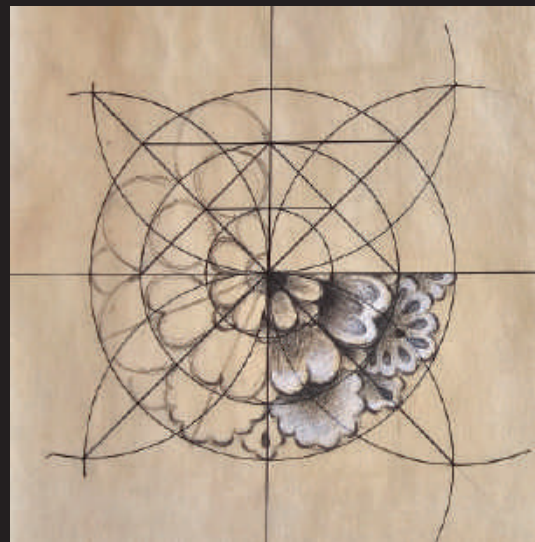
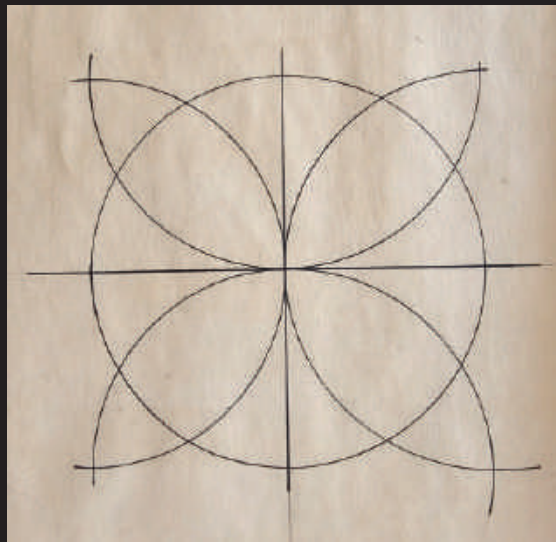
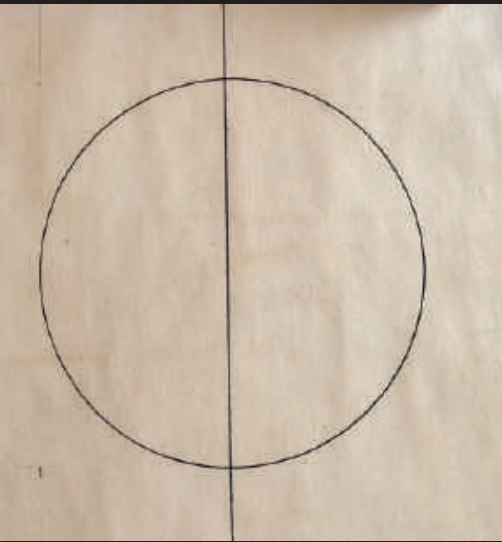


**Quba**  
Detail



**Wajd 2023**

Handmade lapis, coal black paint and 24ct Shell Gold on Hemp paper  
27 x 27 inches



Progression Drawings  
Amna Fraz



## Amna Fraz

Amna graduated from the National College of Arts and has also studied with the Prince's School of Traditional Arts. She works primarily in egg tempera, using natural pigments, which she makes using sources available to her in the environment around her.

*“My work brings to light the concepts of alchemy and the elemental bond between nature and art, showcasing the transformative power of natural materials when refined and channelled into artistic expression. Nature is elementally present in my paintings - visible not only in the subject matter but also in the use of colour made from rocks, precious and semi-precious stones, flowers and vegetable skins. Looking at my paintings is very much about understanding their methodology. They are an invitation to immerse in the vibrancy and purity of colors, connection and craftsmanship.”*



**Stone Etchings 2023**

Handmade paints on tea stained and sized paper  
58 x 45.5 inches



**Untitled 2020**  
Handmade paints on tea stained  
13 x 13 inches



**Echoes Revisited I 2023**

Egg tempera using handmade natural pigments (azurite, malachite, vermillion, indigo), 24ct gold and tin leaf on canvas.

30 x 56 inches





**Echoes Revisited I 2023**  
Detail



**Echoes Revisited I 2023**  
Detail

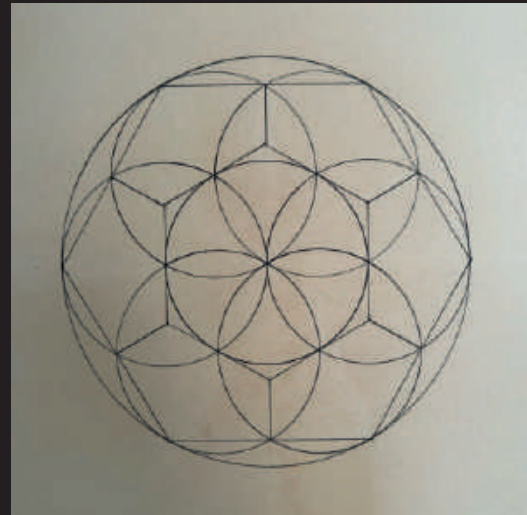
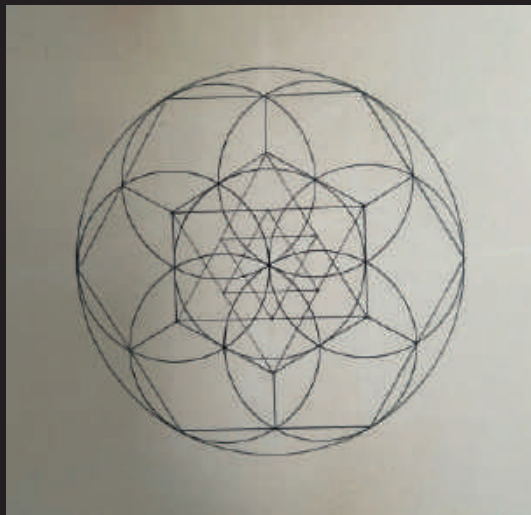
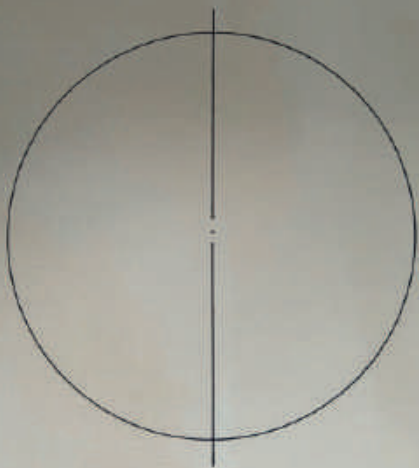


**Echoes Revisited II 2023**

Egg tempera using handmade natural pigments (azurite, malachite, vermillion, indigo), 24ct gold and tin leaf on canvas  
30 x 56 inches



**Echoes Revisited II 2023**  
Detail



Progression Drawings  
Dilshad Asif



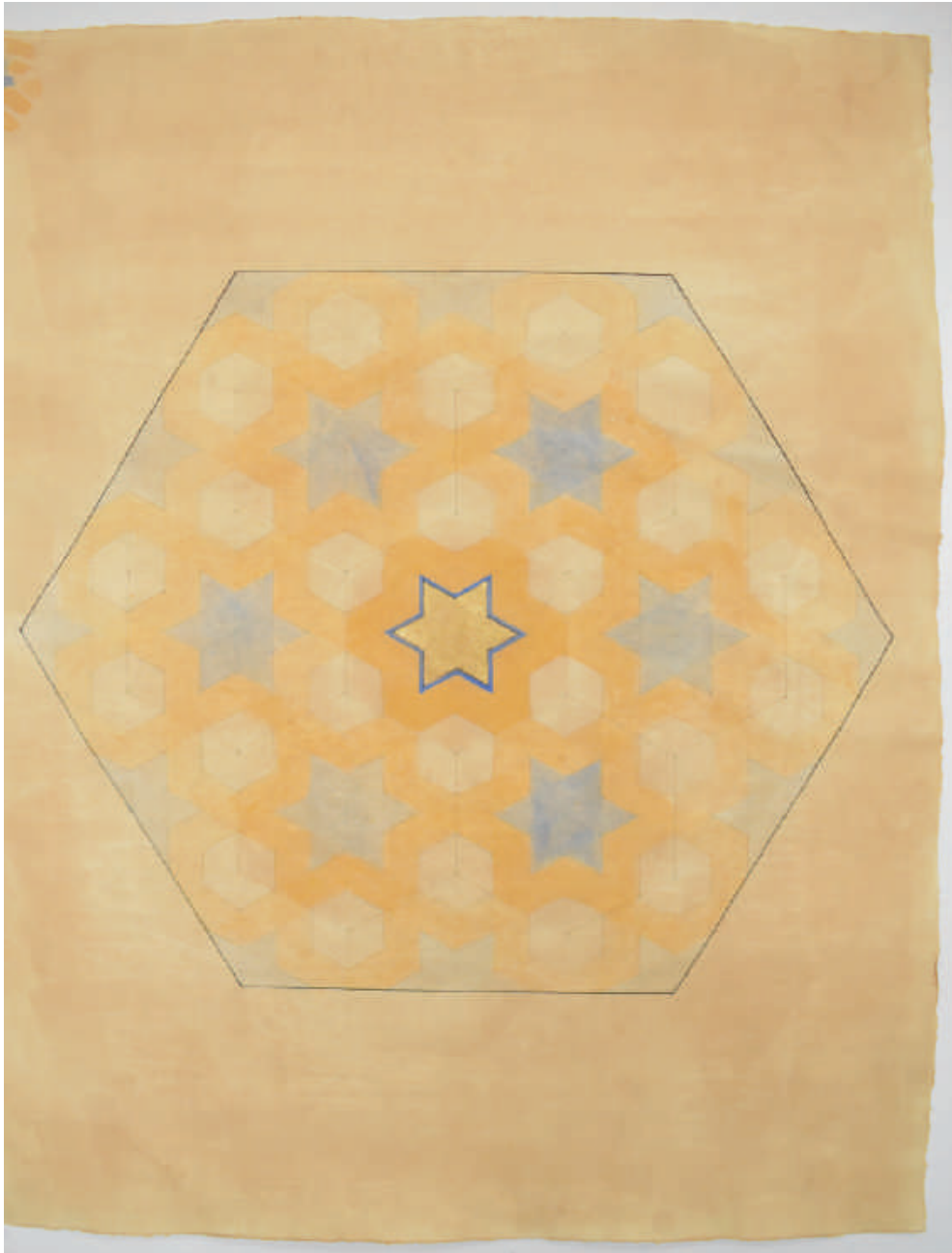
## Dilshad Asif

Dilshad Asif relocated from District Nawab Shah in Sindh to Lahore to study Ceramic Design at the Pakistan Institute of Fashion and Design, before enrolling in the Traditional Arts program at the VM Centre for Traditional Arts.

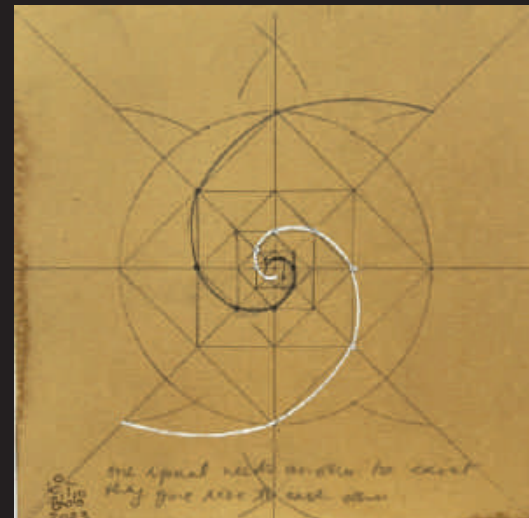
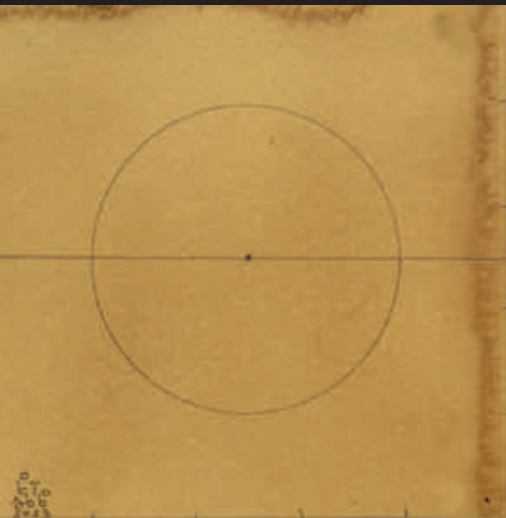
*“My work reflects the minute attention to detail that entails working with geometry. Each line, each angle, each shape takes on the responsibility to abut and meld into the next. Without this precision, geometry falls apart, pieces held together fall apart, structures fall apart. The beauty of geometry lies in its ability to transcend the very ephemeral nature of things that fall apart, by holding all that is fragile in a container - firmly, delicately, organically. ”*



راہیں **Rahain I 2023**  
Gouache on paper  
23 x 33 inches



راہین Rahain II 2023  
Gouache on paper  
23 x 33 inches



Progression Drawings  
Fatimah Agha

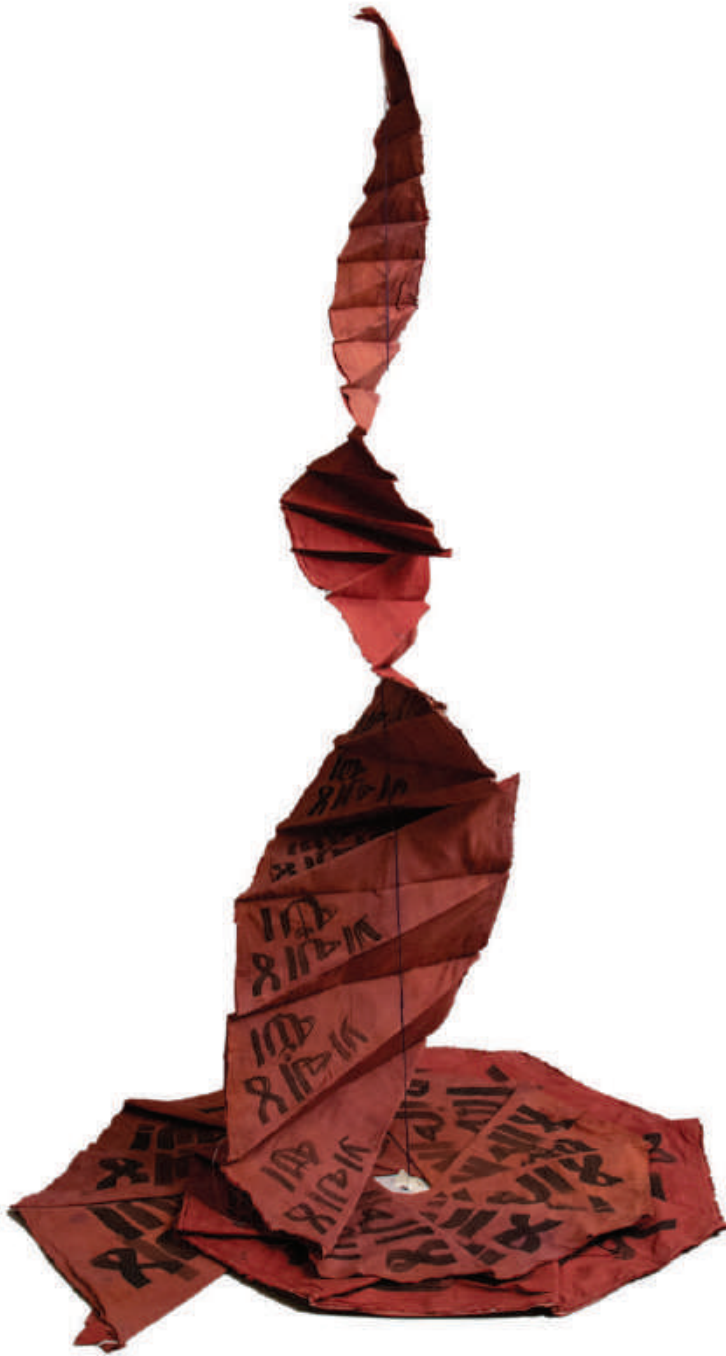




## Fatimah Agha

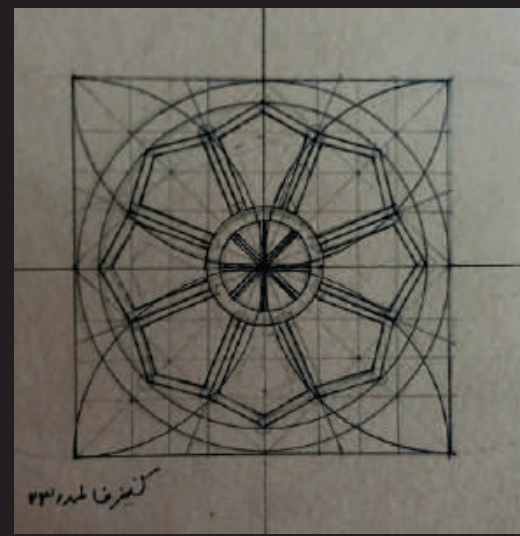
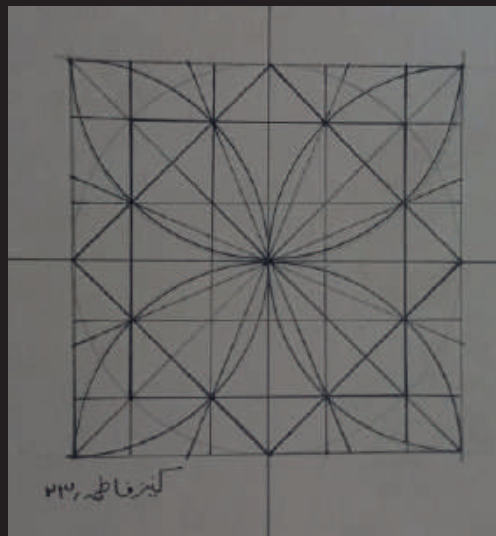
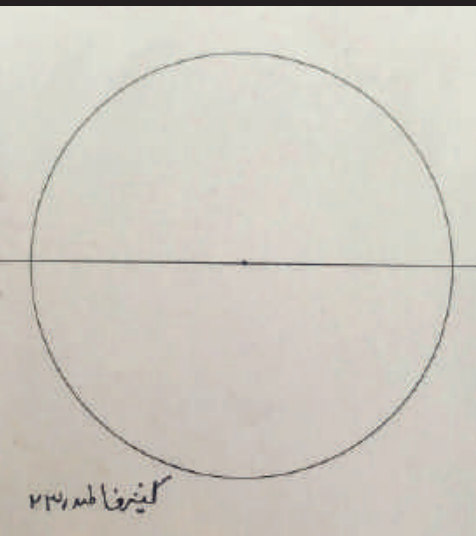
Fatimah completed her one-year diploma in Islamic Traditional Arts from VMCTA, an Art School affiliated with the Prince's School of Traditional Arts, in 2019.

*"Inspired by Karen Armstrong's 'The Spiral Staircase', my work is a similar invitation to consider our life journey - neither straightforward, nor linear, always ascending towards inner unveiling and ultimately drawing closer to the Beloved. The materials used in this installation are all natural and handmade - locally sourced cotton fabric has been assembled over sheets of stiff paper to create ascending ladders. The shape speaks to a spiritual adventure of awakening and enlightenment. The medium reminds us how important our connection to the earth and its offerings remains, whatever the journey and whatever its ultimate quest. "*



**Tabqaat Al Nafs: Levels of soul 2023**

7 Hanging Installations on pure cotton fabric  
Hand dyed in vegetable dyes, Calligraphed with  
lamp black and limestone.  
Size Variable



Progression Drawings  
Kaneez Fatima



## Kaneez Fatima

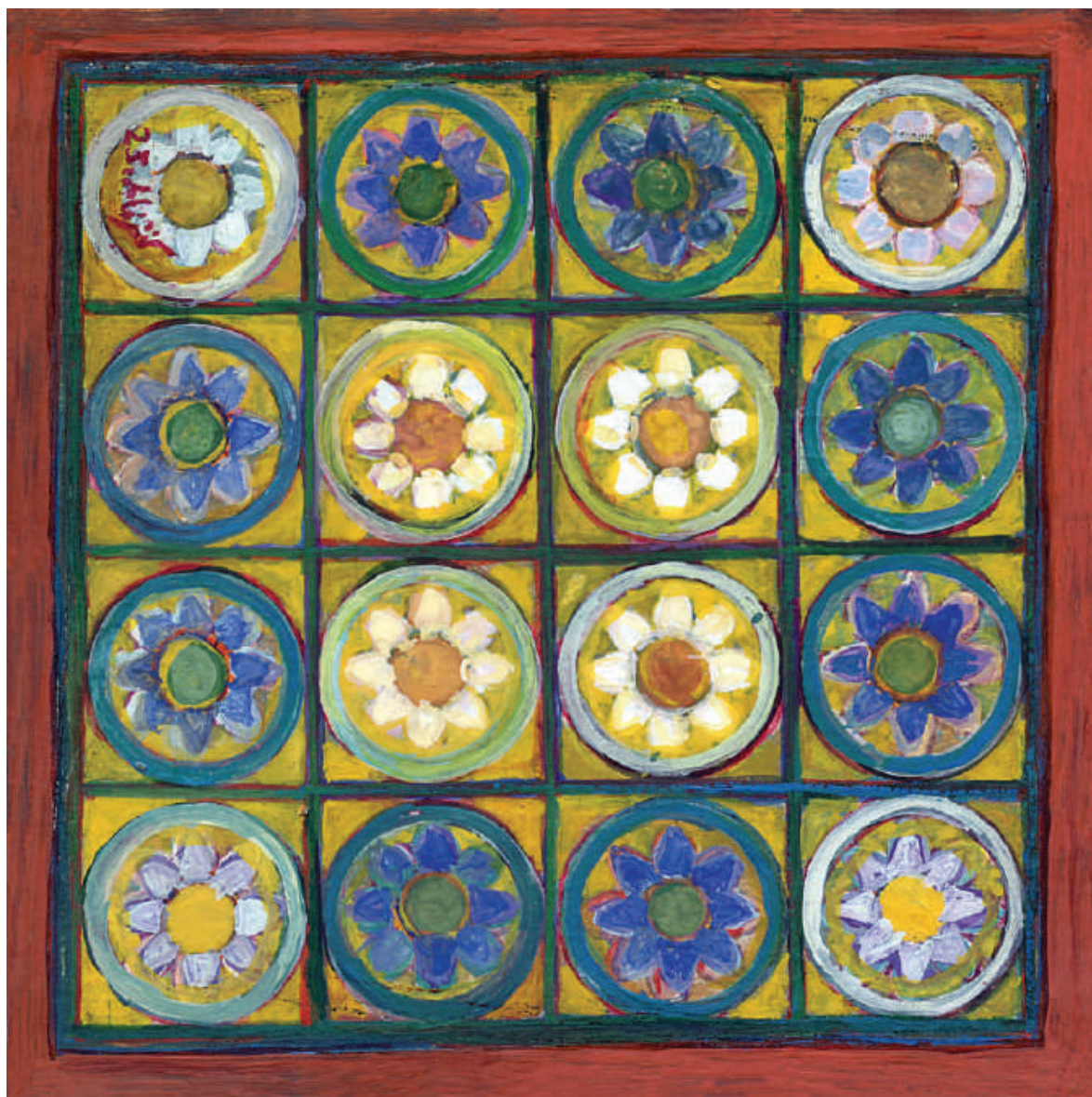
Kaneez Fatima is an experienced artist with a Diploma in both Fine Arts as well as traditional art.

*“My work is inspired by, and rooted in, nature. I work with geometric motifs and the contrasts they inherently represent: life and death, growth and destruction, simplicity and complexity. Our lives are subsumed by patterns - they surround us physically, in all of the natural world, and they lay down the guiding principles for how our lives unfold, age to age, season to season. A seamless yet obvious movement from the shape of one moment to the next, observed, witnessed and experienced in the stroke of my brush. ”*



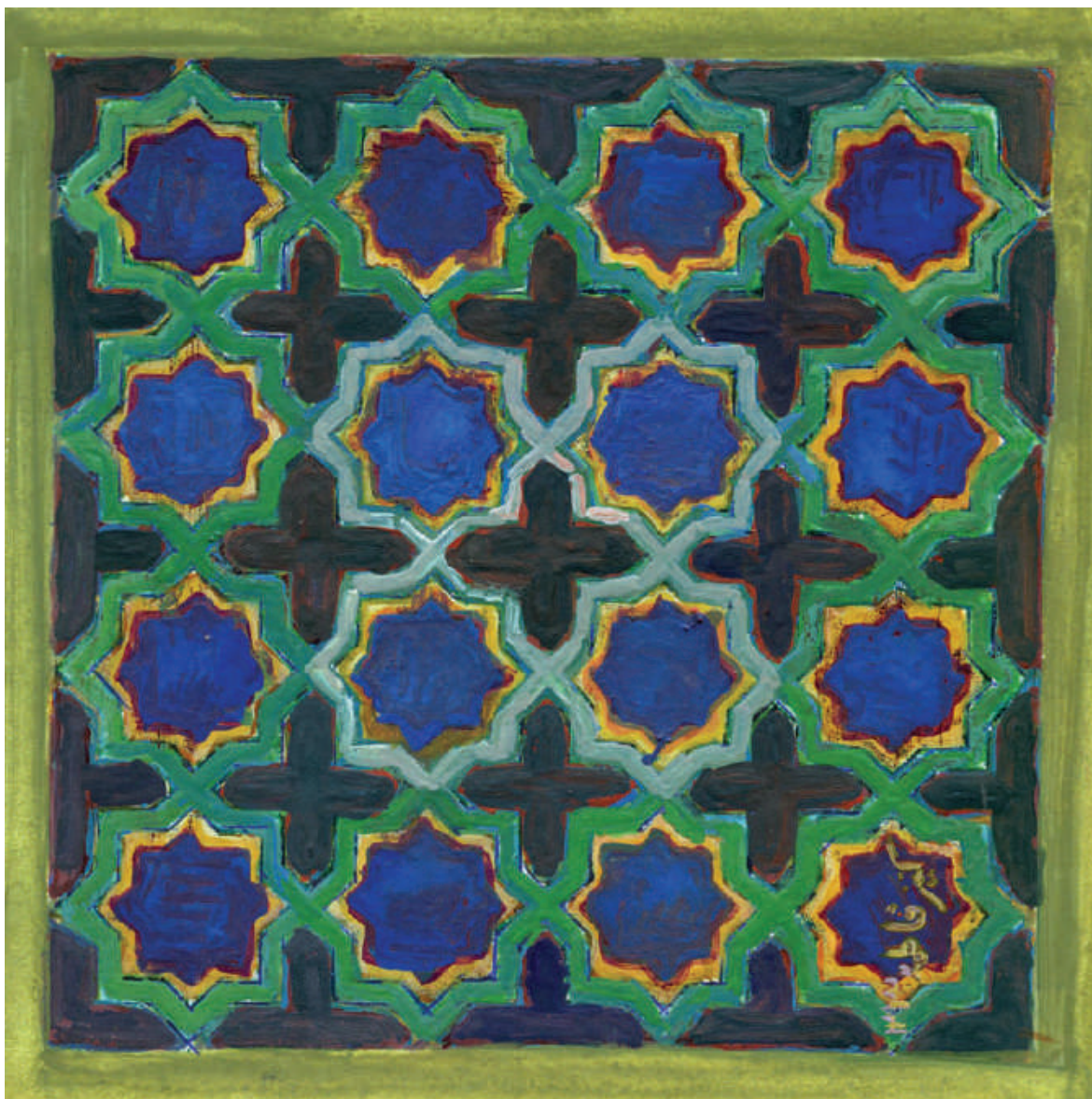
**Untitled I 2023**

Gouache on watercolor paper  
10 x 10 inches



**Untitled II 2023**

Gouache on watercolor paper  
10 x 10 inches



**Untitled III 2023**

Gouache on watercolor paper  
10 x 10 inches

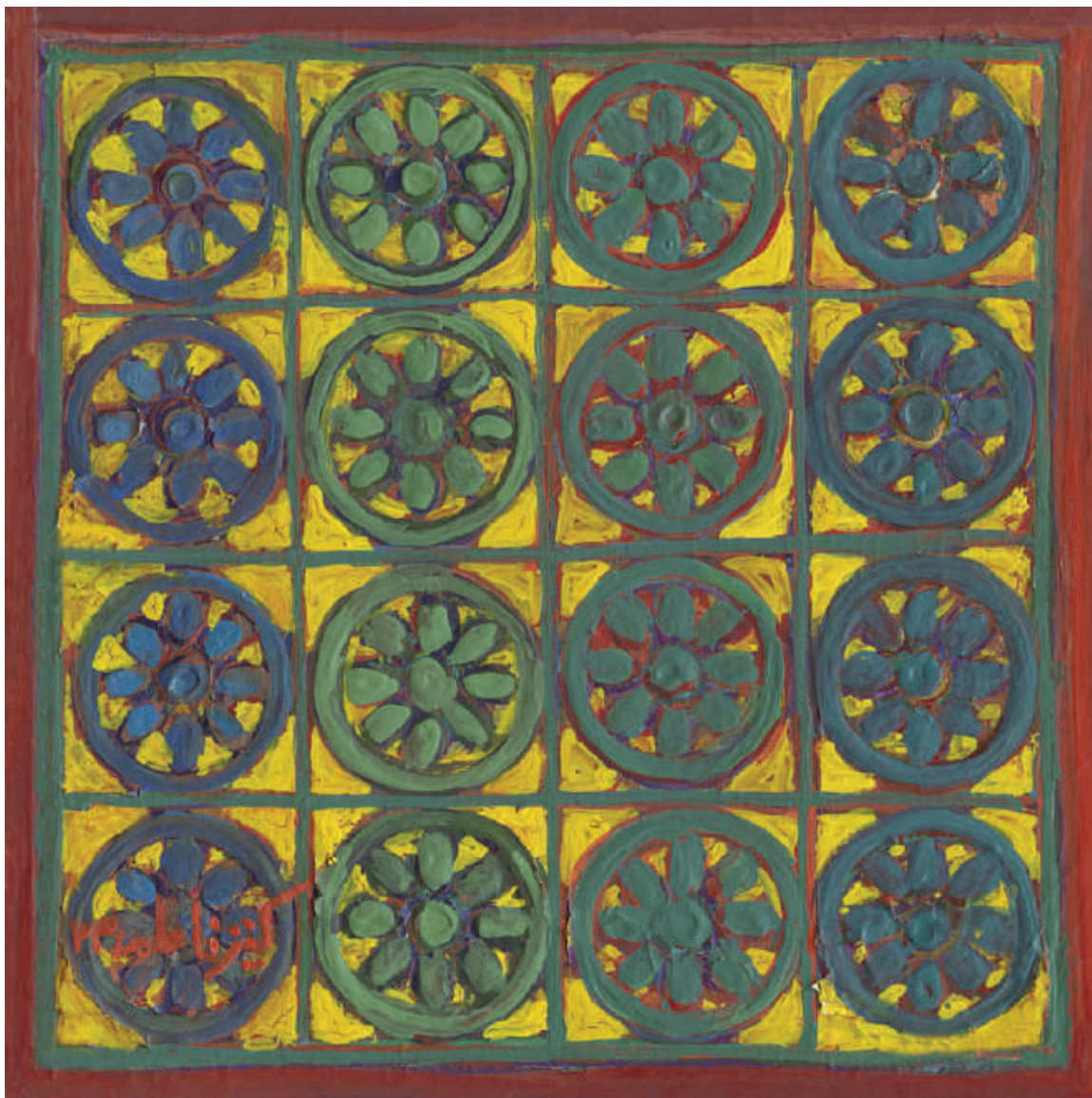


**Untitled IV 2023**

Gouache on watercolor paper

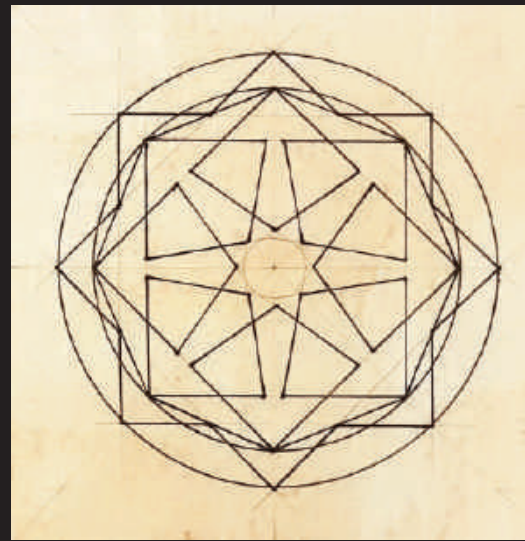
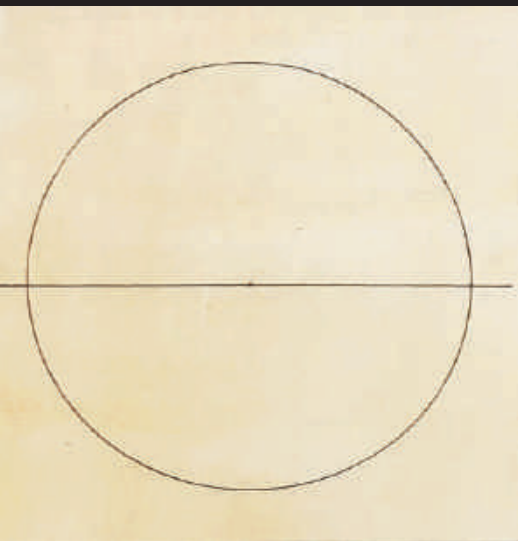
10 x 10 inches





**Untitled V 2023**

Gouache on watercolor paper  
10 x 10 inches



Progression Drawings  
Khalifa Shujauddin



## Khalifa Shujauddin

Shuja is a visual artist with a traditional arts training background and twelve years plus of related work experience, including his time at the Visual Studies Department, Karachi University.

Shuja started working with wood when he was eight. Subsequently, wood has become his primary medium of expression and a springboard for experimentation in other media. .

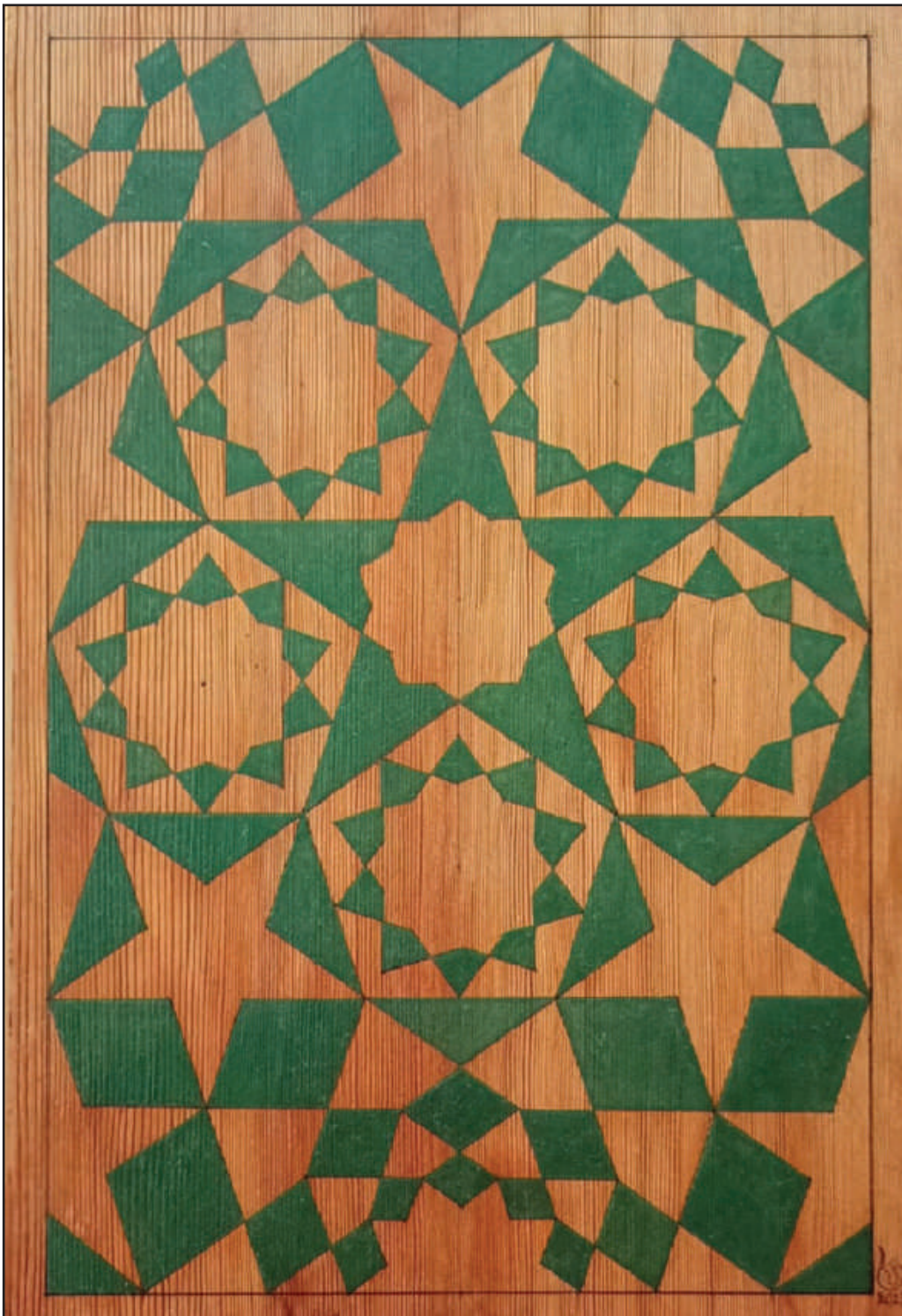
*“My artwork reflects upon the eclectic nature of geometric design and other motifs found at the Makli necropolis. I employ a range of media, to showcase an eclectic, synergized take on traditional geometry with a contemporary twist. My work attempts to reinvigorate techniques which are now less practiced, such as egg tempera and wood panel painting, in conjunction with gouache, water color and natural pigments. It also addresses the contemplative nature of the Makli necropolis through the symbolic use of color, texture, image and geometry. Blues, greens, and earthen tones feature prominently, representing contemplation, life, and death. The titles given to the artworks too are carefully considered prompting the viewer to adopt a contemplative mood. ”*



**Earth Whites & Turquoise Hues 2019**

Egg Tempera on Gesso Panel

18 x 18 inches



**Five-Fold Reflection 2023**

Gouache, Watercolour, Natural Raw  
Pigment, Gum Arabic, beeswax, linseed  
polish and walnut oil on wood.  
13 x 9 inches

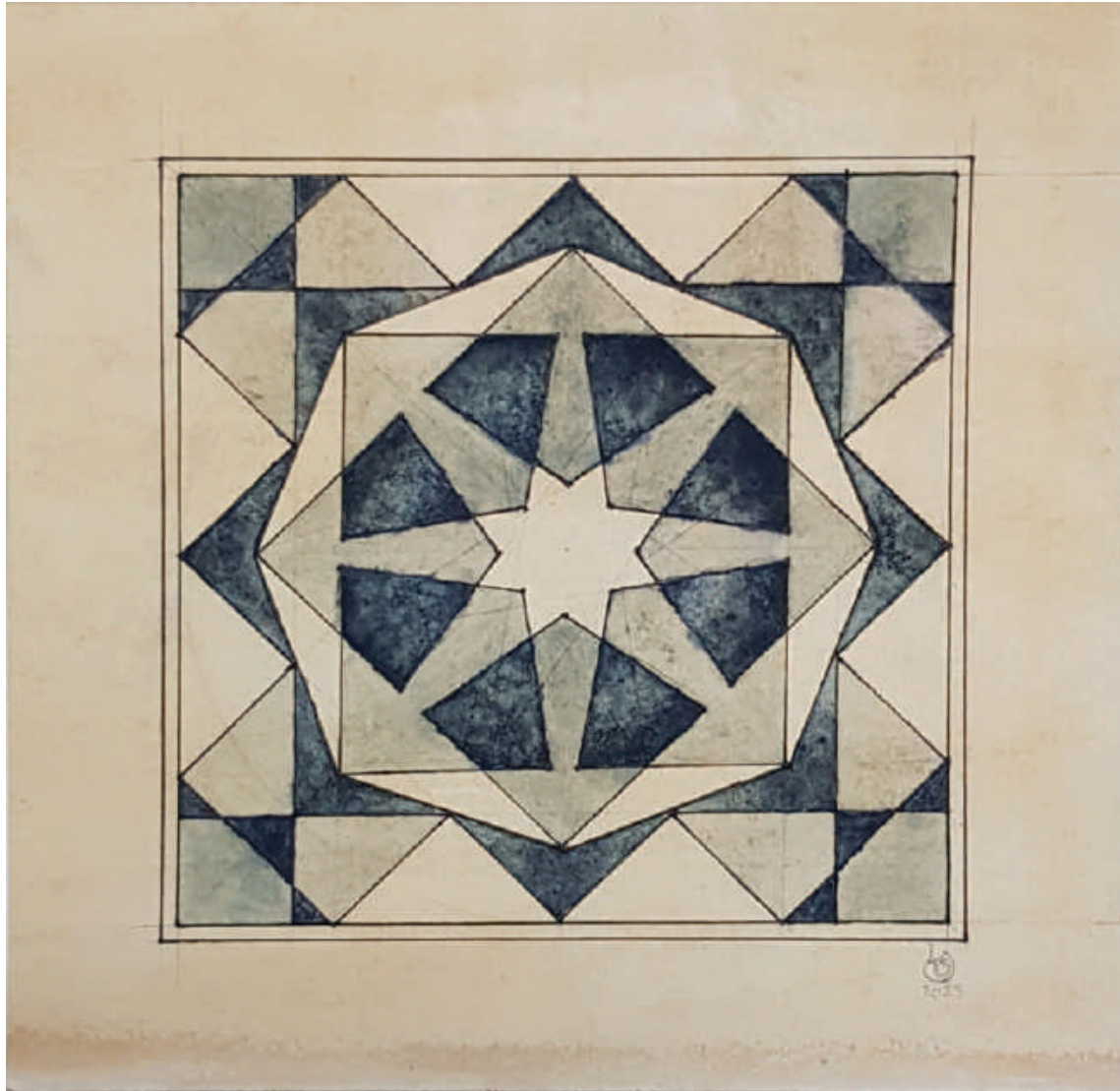


**Jharoka 2020**

Tea stain, Gouache, Water colour &  
Pen on Cold-pressed Canson 300gms  
18.75 x 14.25 inches



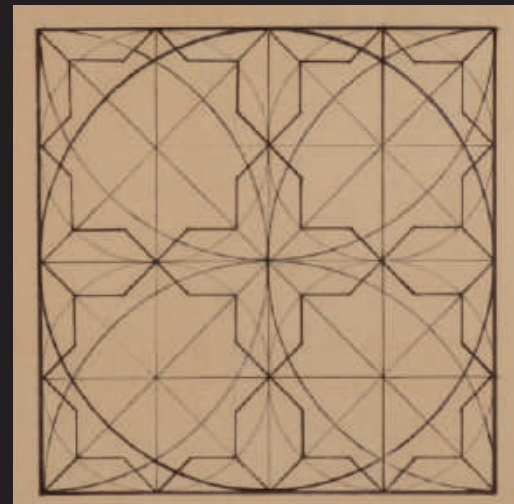
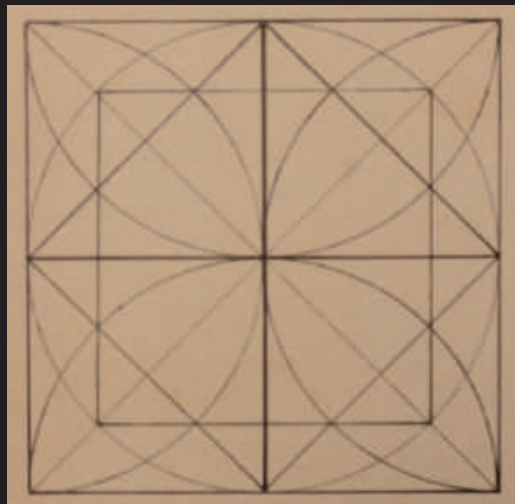
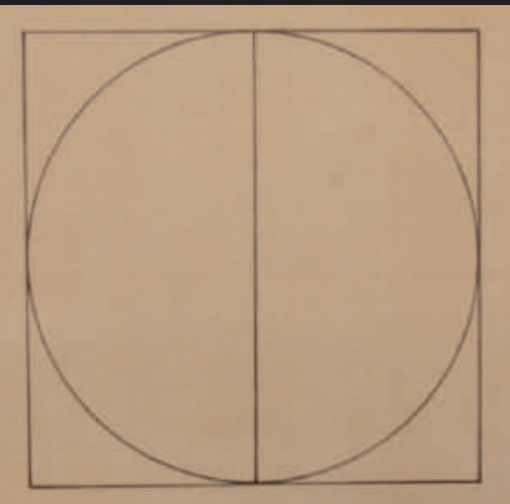
**Sea, Sky and a Grain to Stand On 2023**  
Gouache, Watercolour, Natural Raw  
Pigment, Gum Arabic, beeswax, linseed  
polish and walnut oil on wood.  
13 x 9 inches



**Terrestrial, Celestial Indigo 2023**

Watercolour (Natural Indigo Pigment), Tea Stained, Pencil, Pen & Ink on 300g Canson.  
7.5 x 7.5 inches





Progression Drawings  
Mehrin Haseeb



## Mehrin Haseeb

Mehrin is a visual artist, with an MFA and a Diploma in traditional art. She is currently pursuing an MPhil in Art and Design at the Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture.

*“The eight fold design motif used in my work is often referred to as the ‘Breath of the Compassionate.’ Within the contours of its lines there is movement, as if the geometry itself breathes. This, to me, is reminiscent of the circumambulations of the stars in the night sky. The shades of blue are familiar, cooling, resting - a gentle reminder of the kashikari indigenous to the region. My work explores the possibility of endless tessellations and connections in the journey towards the beloved. ”*



**Constellation 2023**

Graphite, Gouache and Watercolour on Paper.

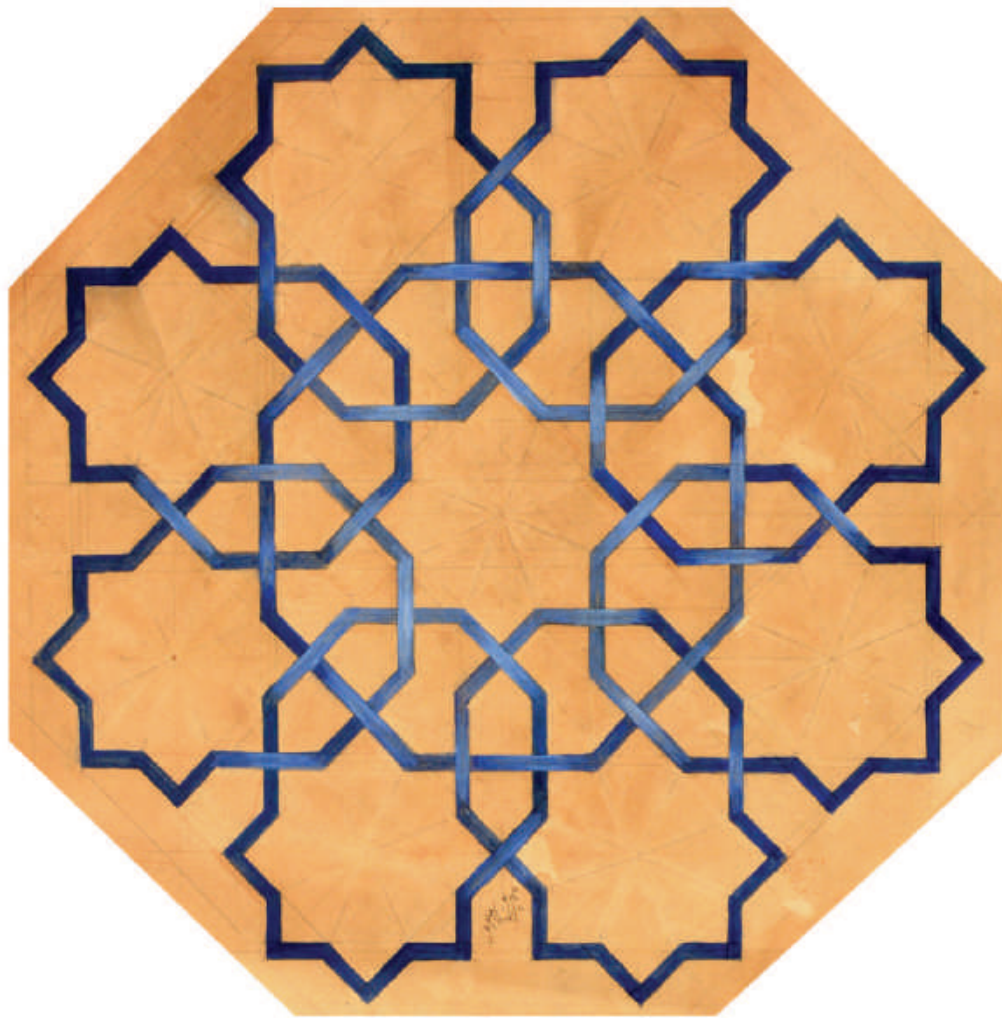
12 x 16 Inches



**Luminescence I 2023**

Graphite, Gouache and Watercolour on Paper.

16 x 24 Inches



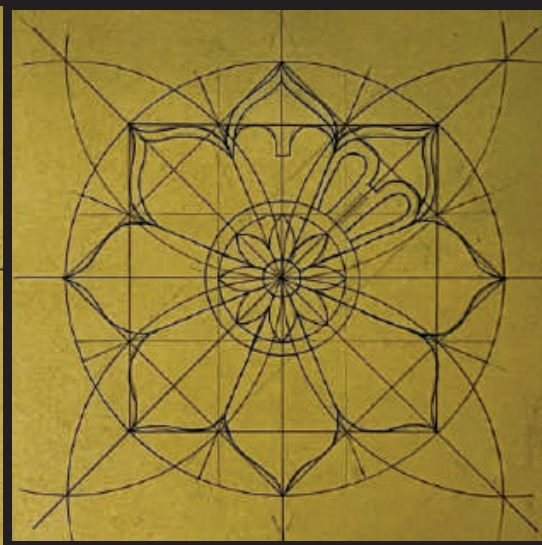
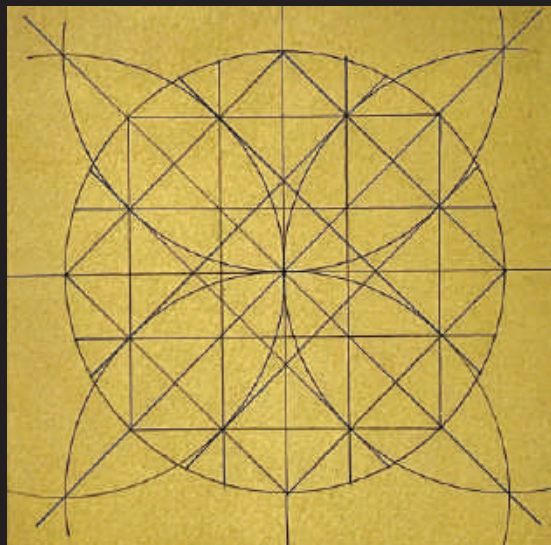
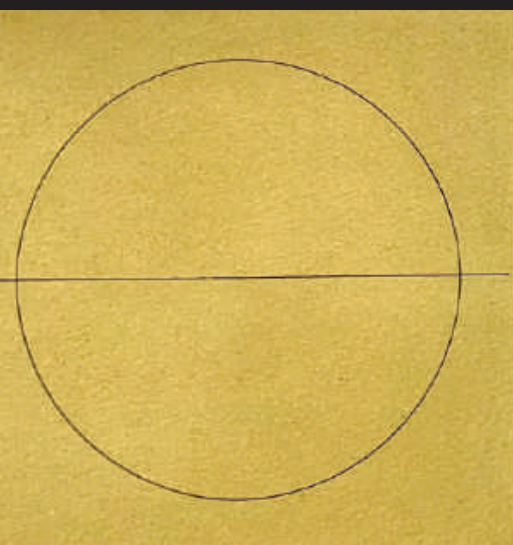
**Luminescence II 2023**  
Graphite, Gouache and Watercolour on Paper.  
18 x 18 Inches



**Luminescence III 2023**

Marquetry with wood veneers on plywood.

18 x 18 Inches



Progression Drawings  
Maryam Cheema

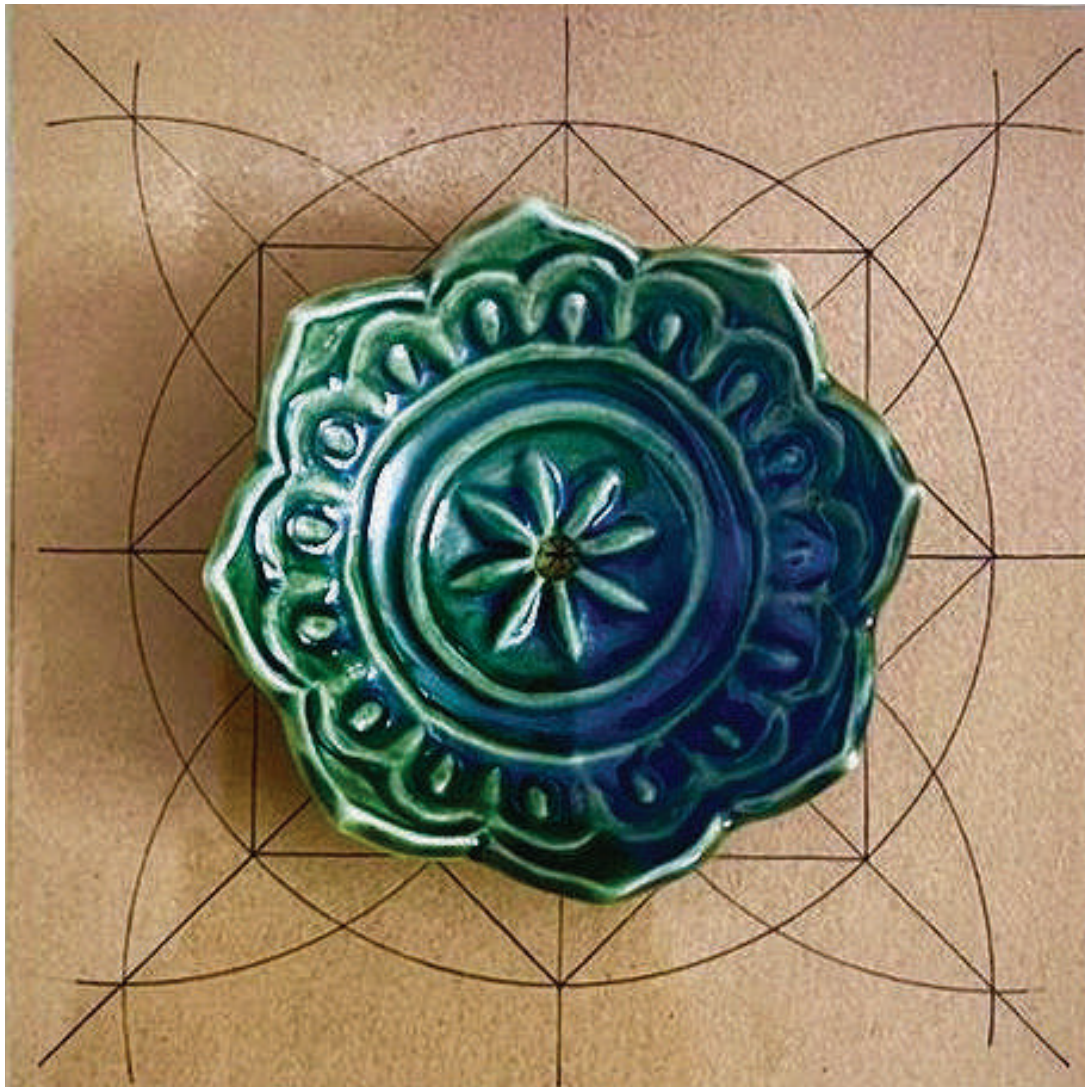


## Maryam Cheema

Maryam Cheema has a Master's in Multimedia Arts from the National College of Arts and a Diploma in Traditional Arts from VM Centre for Traditional Arts. Her first love is ceramics, a medium she dedicates herself to through her porcelain line Mary Pots. Maryam is also a practicing psychotherapist.

*"My artwork explores the profound concepts of life and death and the enduring legacies beyond the physical realm. It reinforces the concepts of life, death and what persists beyond our bodily existence. My ceramic installation "باقى Remains" bears witness to the language of the universe and the beauty of design. The art I produce encourages us to ponder the ephemeral nature of power and material possessions, raising questions regarding the prioritisation of that which is truly important. "*





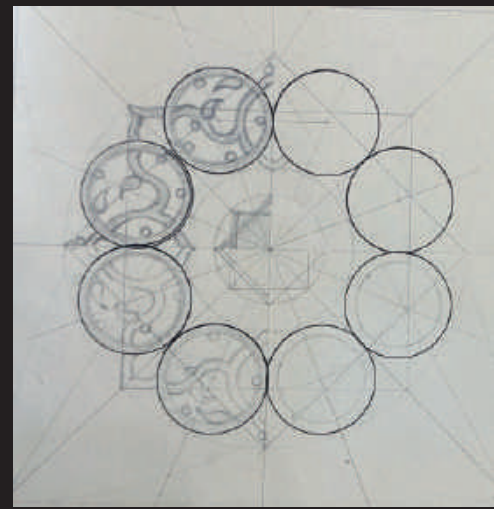
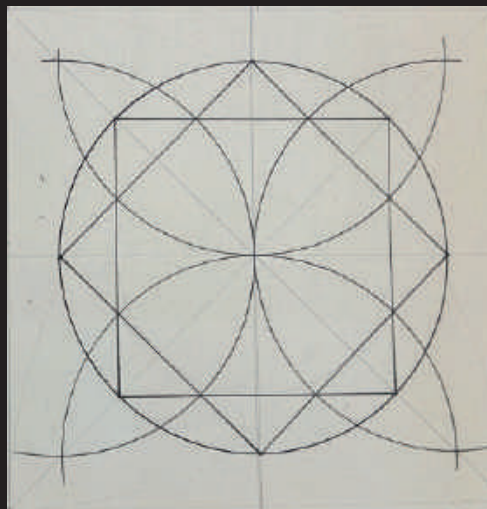
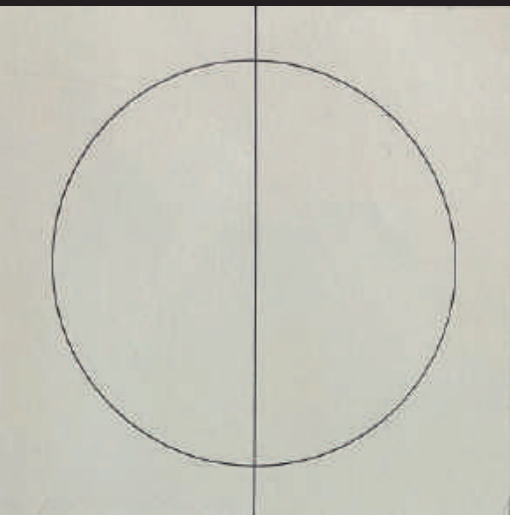
**Gul-e-Baqi I 2023**

Graphite and ink on tea stained archival paper with glazed ceramic eight-fold flower.  
11 x 11 inches



**Remains 2023**

Glazed ceramic pieces on natural wood with copper and steel.  
Height: 5 feet, Width: 4 feet approx



Progression Drawings

Saman Ansari



## Saman Ansari

Saman is a graduate of the National College of Arts, Lahore who went on to study the traditional arts from the VMCTA, Karachi, an outreach program by the Prince's Foundation School of Traditional Arts, London. Saman works on traditional ceramics in gold and practices 'Tezhip' (illumination with gold), egg tempera and watercolor paintings.

*"My work uses a singular pattern from makli that lies within a larger painting. Complete but somewhat disconnected, incorporating different elements from disparate sources - in the way that my own life contains memories of places and people across the many places I have lived. My work also explores my own abilities and limitations as someone who works with visual challenges. Traditional art requires a commitment to precision and perseverance that cannot be paralleled, even in digital art. My work is a reminder of the determination and persistence present in the human spirit. "*



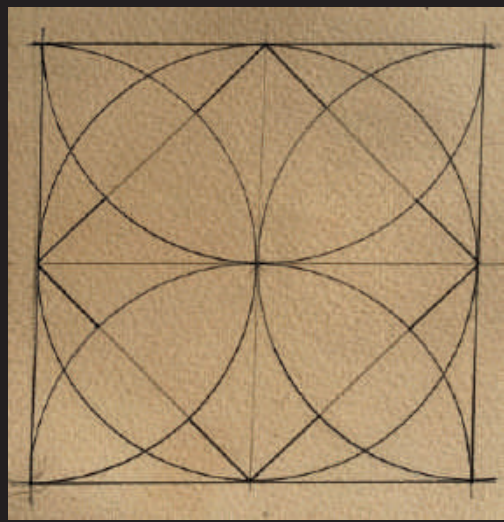
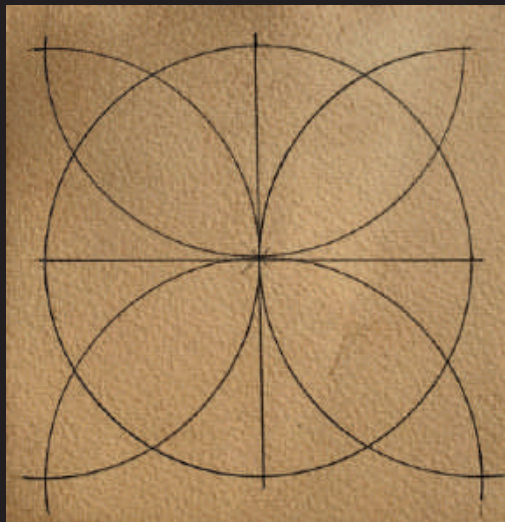
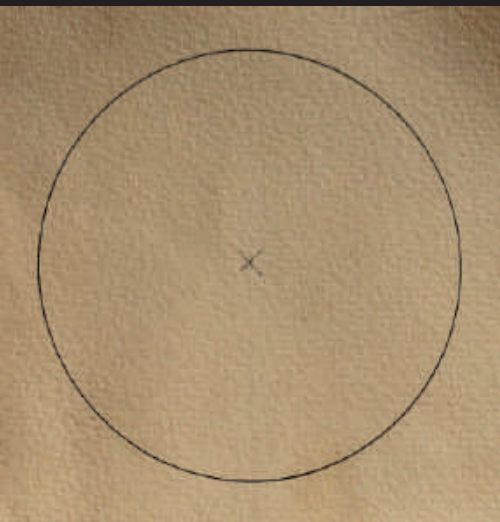
**Existence 2023**

23ct gold, malacite, lapis lazuli  
and other natural pigments  
on paper.  
11.5 x 17 inches



**Connection 2023**

23ct gold, lapis lazuli  
and other natural pigments.  
11.5 x13.5 inches



Progression Drawings  
Sana Habib



## Sana Habib

Sana Habib has a background in art history and a diploma in the traditional arts from vmcta. She is also a practicing psychotherapist.

*"I discovered Islamic geometry as an art form very late in life, but as I delve into the exploration of patterns and pattern making I am beginning to understand that not only art, but life itself is guided by ratio and proportion. My struggles with pencil and paint brush stem from my inexperience with both, but my love for the colours and shapes of nature keeps bringing me back. Always aware that I am merely an instrument - relevant only to the moment in which I exist, open to whatever may manifest. "*





**Grounding in Greens 2022**  
Mixed media on paper  
18 x 18 inches

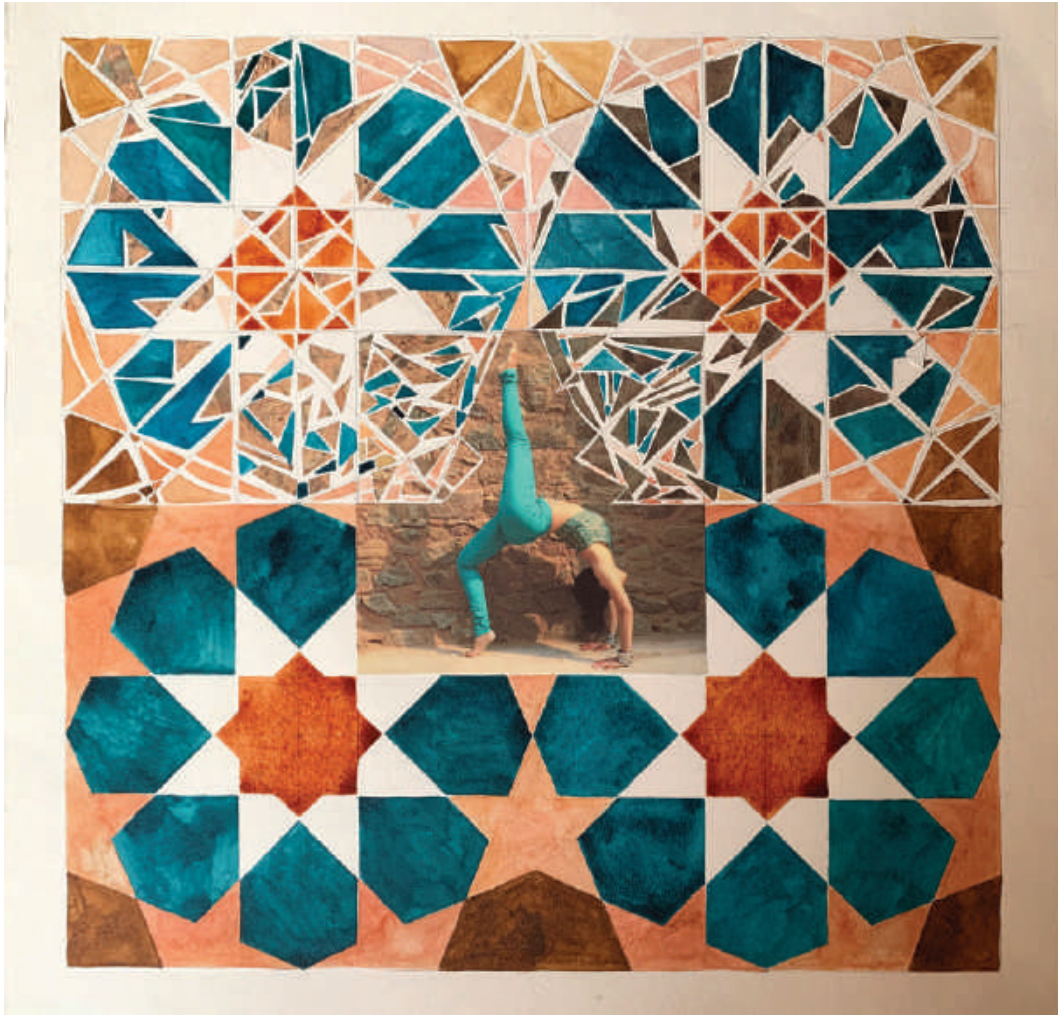
\* The photograph in the painting was taken by Rajesh Ramakrishnan, a photographer based out of Delhi, as part of an ongoing collaboration on a series of works combining photography, yoga and geometry.



**Grounding in Purples 2022**

Mixed media on paper  
18 x 18 inches

\* The photograph in the painting was taken by Rajesh Ramakrishnan, a photographer based out of Delhi, as part of an ongoing collaboration on a series of works combining photography, yoga and geometry.



**Grounding in Teals 2022**

Mixed media on paper  
17.5 x 17.5 inches

\* The photograph in the painting was taken by Rajesh Ramakrishnan, a photographer based out of Delhi, as part of an ongoing collaboration on a series of works combining photography, yoga and geometry.



**Grounding in Yellows 2022**

Mixed media on paper  
17.5 x 17.5 inches

\* The photograph in the painting was taken by Rajesh Ramakrishnan, a photographer based out of Delhi, as part of an ongoing collaboration on a series of works combining photography, yoga and geometry.



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