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lawrie shabibi

## HAMRA ABBAS

Born 1976, Kuwait  
Lives and works in Lahore, Pakistan

### BIOGRAPHY

Hamra Abbas's artistic practice draws inspiration from the concept of a garden—an emblem of ecology, environment, and a metaphorical allusion to the garden of paradise. This evolution reflects a deeper connection to her surroundings, entwining her art with themes of nature and the environment. Her new body of work blossoms with cascading waterfalls, towering trees, and intricate depiction of flowers, each element a part of her garden, whether standing individually or interwoven in larger, harmonious compositions. These patterns—reminiscent of Mughal gardens and the vibrant colors emblematic of the region's rich culture—adorn the marble inlays, evoking a sense of serenity and wonder. At the heart of it all lies something deeply intimate and autobiographical, where every creation springs forth from a personal narrative, inviting viewers into the artist's inner world.

### EDUCATION

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| 2004 | Meisterschüler, Universitaet der Kuenste, Berlin, Germany   |
| 2002 | MA, Visual Arts, National College of Arts, Lahore, Pakistan |
| 1999 | BFA (Sculpture), National College of Arts, Lahore, Pakistan |

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

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| 2024 | Canvas Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan<br>Pilot Galerie, Istanbul, Turkey |
| 2023 | Frieze Seoul 2023, Seoul, South Korea                                |
| 2023 | <i>COLOR / GARDEN</i> , Lawrie Shabibi, Dubai, UAE                   |
| 2020 | <i>Every Colour is a Shade of Black</i> , COMO Art Museum, Lahore    |
| 2019 | <i>Open Cube</i> , Lawrie Shabibi, Dubai, UAE                        |

- Gardens in Which Rivers Flow: Plastic Flowers and Everyday Miracles*, Art Dubai with Canvas Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- 2017 *Colour*, Canvas, Karachi, Pakistan
- 2016 *Bodies*, Lawrie Shabibi, Dubai, UAE
- 2015 *But Can You Show this in Pakistan?*, PILOT, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2014 *Kaaba Picture as a Misprint*, Lawrie Shabibi, Dubai, UAE
- 2013 *Hamra Abbas: Wall Hanging*, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston, Massachusetts, USA
- 2012 *City and the Everyday*, PILOT, Istanbul, Turkey  
*Idols*, Jhaveri Contemporary, Mumbai, India  
*Idols*, Canvas, Karachi, Pakistan
- 2011 *Cities, Green Cardamom*, London, UK
- 2010 *Cityscapes*, OUTLET, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2009 *Video Art* by Hamra Abbas, Babusch Project Space, Berlin, Germany
- 2008 *Adventures of the Woman in Black*, Green Cardamom, London, UK  
 New works by Hamra Abbas, NCA Gallery, Rawalpindi, Pakistan  
*God Grows on Trees*, Schultz Contemporary, Berlin, Germany  
 Hamra Abbas, Zahoor-al-Akhlaq Gallery, NCA, Lahore, Pakistan
- 2006 Hamra Abbas, Dorothea Konwiarz Stiftung Galerie, Berlin, Germany  
*Lessons on Love*, Rohtas 2, Lahore, Pakistan

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *By the Movement of All Things*, Lawrie Shabibi, Dubai, UAE  
*Shadows - Art Here 2025*, Richard Mille Art Prize, Louvre Abu Dhabi, UAE  
*Fragments of Folklore*, JAX District, Saudi Arabia  
*Form and Rhythm*, Sotheby's Dubai, UAE  
 Art Basel Hong Kong, Lawrie Shabibi Gallery booth, Hong Kong
- 2024 *The Lahore Biennale*, Lahore, Pakistan  
*MANZAR: Art and Architecture from Pakistan 1940s to Today*, National Museum of Qatar, Museum Park Street, Doha, Qatar
- 2023 *Brand New Ancients*, Misk Art Institute, Riyadh, KSA  
*STILL, LIFE! MOURNING, MEANING, MENDING*, 21c Museum Hotel in Bentonville, Arkansas, USA
- 2022 *Art Mill Museum 2030*, Al Najada Heritage House #15, Doha, Qatar.

- 2021      Public Art Programme, EXPO 2020, Dubai, UAE  
*Precaution*, ARTER, Istanbul, Turkey  
*Tonight No Poetry Will Serve*, Barefoot Gallery, Colombo
- 2020      *We Do Not Dream Alone*, Asia Society Triennial, New York, NY, USA  
*Miniature 2.0*, Pera Museum, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2019      *Gateway: Fragments, Yesterday and Today*, Abu Dhabi Art Fair, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
2nd Karachi Biennale, Bagh Ibn e Qasim, Karachi, Pakistan  
*She Persists*, Palazzo Benzon, Venice, Italy  
*MATERIALIZE*, Lawrie Shabibi, Dubai, UAE
- 2018      Art Dubai Contemporary, with Lawrie Shabibi, Dubai, UAE  
1st Lahore Biennale, Pakistan  
*Global Control and Censorship*, Galeria Arsenal, Bialystok, Poland
- 2017      *Witness*, 1st Karachi Biennale, Karachi, Pakistan  
*Sanctuary*, FOR-SITE Foundation, San Francisco, USA  
*Insights*, Art Basel Hong Kong, with Lawrie Shabibi, Hong Kong  
*The Making of an Institution*, NTU CCA, Singapore
- 2016      *Text Edit*, Manhattan Bridge Anchorage, Brooklyn, New York, USA  
Accademia di Brera, Milan, Italy  
*do-it*, Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, UAE
- 2015      *And Nothing but the Truth: Parrhesia II*, KOEL Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan  
Art Dubai Contemporary, with Lawrie Shabibi, Dubai, UAE  
Istanbul. *Passion, Joy, Fury*, MAXXI, Rome, Italy  
*Globale: Global Control And Censorship*, ZKM | Zentrum für Kunst und Medien, Karlsruhe, Germany  
*ALL ABOUT THESE... LADIES AND GENTLEMEN*, Gallery on the move, Cologne, Germany  
*What is Home?* Pump House Gallery, London, UK  
*The Body And Other Small Tales*, Thessaloniki Centre of Contemporary Art, Thessaloniki, Greece
- 2014      *Whorled Explorations*, Kochi-Muziris Biennale, Kochi Island, India  
*UNTITLED* Art Fair, with Lawrie Shabibi and Copperfield gallery, Miami Beach, Florida, USA  
Abu Dhabi Art, with Lawrie Shabibi, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
*The Shade of the Moon*, Changwon Sculpture Biennale, Changwon, South Korea  
*The Importance of Staying Quiet*, Yallay Gallery, Hong Kong  
*Censorship*, The 7th Move on Asia, Alternative Space Loop, Seoul, South Korea  
*ALL ABOUT THESE... LADIES AND GENTLEMEN*, Soma Mexico DF, Mexico City, Mexico  
*LIEBE / LOVE*, Wilhelm-Hack-Museum, Ludwigshafen am Rhein, Germany

- 2013 The 2013 DeCordova Biennial, DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, Lincoln, USA  
*Signs Taken in Wonder*, Kunstverein Hannover, Hannover  
*ECHOES: Islamic Art and Contemporary Artists*, The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas, USA  
*Signs Taken in Wonder: Searching for Contemporary Istanbul*, MAK, Vienna Austria
- 2012 The Collectors Show: Chimera, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore
- 2011 *Medi(t)ation – 2011 Asian Art Biennial*, National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taichung, Taiwan  
*Home Spun*, Devi Art Foundation, Gurgaon, India  
*Everyday Miracles (Extended)*, Walter and McBean Galleries, SFAI, San Francisco, California, USA  
*Sympathy for the Devil*, Vanhaerents Art Collection, Brussels, Belgium  
*The Power of Doubt*, PhotoEspana 2011, Museo Colecciones ICO, Madrid, Spain  
Guangdong Times Museum, Guangzhou, China
- 2010 *The Rising Tide: New Directions in Art from Pakistan 1990-2010*, Mohatta Palace Museum, Karachi, Pakistan  
*UNERWARTET/UNEXPECTED*, Kunst Museum, Bochum, Germany  
*ResembleReassemble*, Devi Art Foundation, Gurgaon, India  
*Beyond the Page: The Miniature as Attitude in Contemporary Art from Pakistan*, Pacific Asia Museum, Pasadena, California, USA
- 2009 *Aluminium*, 4th International Biennial of Contemporary Art, Baku, Azerbaijan  
2nd International Incheon Women Artists' Biennale, Incheon, South Korea  
*Everyday Miracles (Extended)*, Walter and McBean Galleries, SFAI, San Francisco, California, USA  
*Everyday Miracles (Extended)*, REDCAT, Los Angeles, California, USA  
*Hanging Fire*, Asia Society Museum, New York, New York, USA  
*Read*, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada  
*Mashq*, Green Cardamom, London, UK  
Jameel Prize, Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK  
International Artists' Workshop, *PRAXIS: Art in Times of Uncertainty*, 2nd Thessaloniki Biennale, Greece  
*Anomalies*, Rossi & Rossi, London, UK  
*Starring the Artist*, Indus Valley School Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan  
*Provisions for the Future*, 9th Sharjah Biennale, Sharjah, UAE

- 2008 *Recently Seen and Admired*, Galerie Kunstagenten, Berlin, Germany  
*The Audience and the Eavesdropper: New Art From India and Pakistan*, Phillips de Pury & Company, London, UK  
*Drawn From Life*, Green Cardamom, London, UK  
*Buffaloes in Combat*, Scotiabank Nuit Blanche, Toronto, Canada  
*Farewell to Post-Colonialism*, 3rd Guangzhou Triennial, Guangdong Museum of Art, Guangzhou, China  
*Crossroads*, Elementa Art Gallery, Dubai, UAE  
*In-Situ*, Shake Before Use, ARTIUM de Alava, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain
- 2007 *Not Only Possible But Also Necessary-Optimism In The Age Of Global War*, 10th International Istanbul Biennial, Istanbul, Turkey  
*Urban Myths and Modern Fables*, UTS Gallery, Sydney, Australia  
Inaugural show, National Art Gallery, Islamabad, Pakistan  
*Contemporary Art from Pakistan*, Thomas Erben, New York, New York, USA  
*Politics of Fear*, Albion Gallery, London, UK
- 2006 *Zones of Contact*, 15th Biennale of Sydney, Sydney, Australia  
*Beyond the Page*, Asia House, London and Manchester Art Gallery, UK  
Open day, Vasl International Artists Workshop, Gadani, Pakistan
- 2005 *Zeitsprünge Raumfolgen*, ifa Galerie, Berlin, Stuttgart, Germany  
*Full House*, Künstlerdorf Schöppingen, Schöppingen, Germany  
Meisterschueler Prize Winners of UdK, Galerie Michael Schultz, Berlin, Germany  
KOVIDEO, 1st Durban Video Festival, Mumbai, India  
*Beyond Borders*, Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai, India
- 2004 Meisterschueler Prize Exhibition, Universitaet der Kuenste (UdK) Berlin, Berlin, Germany  
*Aarpaar 3*, Lahore and Karachi, Pakistan, Mumbai, India  
*Miniature from Pakistan*, Fukuoka Museum of Asian Art, Fukuoka, Japan  
*Open Studios*, Triangle Artists' Workshop, Brooklyn, New York, USA  
8th Symposium Junge Kunst, Guetersloh, Germany  
*FreiRäume*, A Project by FreiStil e.V., Berlin, Germany  
*Love It or Leave It*, 5th Cetinje Biennial, Cetinje, Montenegro Creative  
Insecurity, Harbourfront Centre, Toronto, Canada Meisterschueler Exhibition, Universitaet der Kuenste (UdK) Berlin, Germany  
*Along the X-Axis: Digital Art From India and Pakistan*, New Delhi, India  
*Playing with a Loaded Gun*, Kunsthalle Fridericianum, Kassel, Germany
- 2003 Junger Westen 2003, Kunsthalle Rechlinghausen, Rechlinghausen, Germany

## **PUBLIC COLLECTIONS**

Art Jameel Collection, Dubai, UAE

Borusan Foundation, Istanbul, Turkey

British Museum, London, UK  
Burger Collection, Hong Kong  
CC Art Foundation, China  
Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi, UAE  
Devi Art Foundation, Guragon, India  
Dubai Collection, Dubai, UAE  
EXPO 2020, Dubai, UAE  
Farjam Collection, Dubai, UAE  
Ishara Art Foundation and the Prabhakar Collection, Dubai, UAE  
Kadist Collection, Paris, France  
King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture (Ithra), Saudi Arabia  
Kiran Nader Museum of Art, New Delhi, India  
Koç Foundation, Istanbul, Turkey  
21c Museum Hotel, Louisville, Kentucky, USA  
Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas, USA  
Pacific Asia Museum, Pasadena, USA  
Qatar Museums, Qatar  
Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada  
The Long Museum, China  
USA Art In Embassies Collection, USA  
Vanhaerents Art Collection, Brussels, Belgium  
Zayed National Museum, UAE

## **AWARDS**

2021	Asia Arts Future, Asia Arts Game Changer Awards India
2019	Artist in Residence, Civitella Ranieri Foundation, Umbertide, Italy
2016	Artist-in-Residence, The Marble House Project, Dorset, Vermont, USA
2015	Nanyang Technological University CCA Singapore Residencies: Insights, Nanyang, Singapore
2011	Abraaj Capital Art Prize Winner, Dubai, UAE
2010	Triangle Artist Residency, Brooklyn, New York, USA

- 2009 Jury Prize, Sharjah Biennial 9, Sharjah, UAE
- 2006 Residencies at Gasworks, Victoria & Albert Museum and Green Cardamom, London, UK
- 2005 Scholarship, Dorothea Konwiarz Stiftung, Berlin, Germany  
Residence scholarship, Kuenstlerdorf Schoeppingen, Schoeppingen, Germany
- 2004 Meisterschüler Prize, Universität der Künste (UdK) Berlin, Germany  
Triangle Artists' Workshop, Brooklyn, New York, USA  
8th Symposium Junge Kunst, Guetersloh, Germany
- 2003 Fellowship Award, artist-in-residence, Vermont Studio Center, Vermont, USA  
DAAD Scholarship, Germany

