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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

- 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

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

