

GOWEN CONTEMPORARY

GENEVA, Switzerland

DRAWING NOW,

The Narrative by Waseem Ahmed

Paris, le Carreau du Temple & Espace Communes

26 – 30 March 2014

For *Drawing Now*, Gowen Contemporary proposes a solo exhibition by Pakistani artist Waseem Ahmed. The exhibition presents the artist's most recent works after his first seminal trip through Europe in 2013. Ahmed's work had been exhibited at Gowen Contemporary in its 2010 group show *Have I Ever Opposed You? New Art from India and Pakistan* and in 2013 in a solo show entitled *Pious Fear*.

Waseem Ahmed is considered among the finest of Pakistani miniaturists. His extraordinary series of miniatures, executed in the traditional miniature technique, touch upon both contemporary and highly topical issues. Embracing an unprecedented scale for miniatures and going through many visual traditions that criss-cross the political and geographical boundaries of Pakistan, Ahmed re-develops, re-interprets and innovates the traditional form of miniature art to invent a new visual language, rooted in tradition but of the here and now.

Ahmed joins thus a number of South Asian artists that use tradition as a means towards innovation. "*The very tradition of miniature painting, particularly the Mughal style which is promoted as Pakistan's cultural heritage, has become the inspiration for some of the most radical contemporary art work in Pakistan today.*" (Virginia Whiles) (*)

Waseem Ahmed was born in 1976 in Hyderabad, Pakistan. He lives and works in Lahore. He studied at the National College of Arts in Lahore. Since 1993 Ahmed has been extensively exhibited in museums and galleries in Pakistan, Australia, Greece, France, India, Japan, Nepal, Switzerland, Turkey, UK. His works can be found in important private and public collections, such as the Asian Art Museum Berlin; the British Museum London; the Virginia Whiles Collections, UK; the Anupam Podar Collections, India; the Salima Hashmi, Pakistan. Ahmed will be the first artist in residency at the Asian Art Museum Berlin participating in the Humboldt Lab project this Autumn. The project will include a solo show by Ahmed curated by Martina Stoye at the end of his residency.

(*) The present text contains quotations from C.A. Xuan Mai Ardia, 'What is... contemporary South Asian miniature art? Art Radar explains', *Art Radar Asia*, 8.12.2013

GOWEN CONTEMPORARY Sàrl

Registered office and mailing address: place du Grand-Mézel 2-4, 1204 Genève

Gallery: 4 rue Jean-Calvin, 1204 Genève

Tel: +41 (0) 22 700 30 68 / Mob: +41 (0) 79 330 17 54 / E-mail: info@gowencontemporary.com

www.gowencontemporary.com