

GOWEN CONTEMPORARY

GENEVA, Switzerland

Beirut Art Fair, Lebanon

Solo exhibition by Waseem Ahmed

15-18 september 2016

Booth C1 - BIEL Hall 2

Waseem Ahmed, *Untitled*, 2016, pigment color on Archival Vasli Paper, 178 x 119.5 cm



Ahmed was born in Hyderabad, in the southern part of Pakistan. His family migrated from India to Pakistan during partition in 1947. His considerable talent led him North, to the prestigious National College of Arts in Lahore, where he suffered the severity of elitist and archaic teaching methods. Today however, the artist is a key player on the scene of contemporary miniature painting. 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). Ahmed’s inspiration mostly comes from classical and traditional eastern and western art as well as from common people around him with whom he interacts daily. As he writes: *“I observe how these people change with changing (social, religious and political) times. I also try to create an understanding between thinking of intellectuals and common people I come across in my everyday life. Presently, my work is more focused on the current social and political issues faced by the Islamic world and to which I am an eye witness on daily basis.”*

Waseem Ahmed 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. Gowen Contemporary, who is the only representative gallery of the artist in Europe, held exhibitions by Ahmed in 2010, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016. Ahmed’s 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 was the first artist in residency at the Asian Art Museum Berlin participating in the Humboldt Lab project in 2014-2015. The project included a solo show by Ahmed curated by Martina Stoye at the end of his residency. The artist was nominated to the Sovereign Asian Art Prize in 2012 and 2013 and the Jameel Prize in 2011 and 2012.

GOWEN CONTEMPORARY Sàrl

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