

HAMRA ABBAS

Born 1976, Kuwait

Lives and works in Lahore, Pakistan

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

2025 Garden Reimagined, PILOT, Istanbul, Turkey

2024 Canvas Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan

Pilot Gallery, 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

Fragments of Folklore, JAX District, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

4th. Contemporary Istanbul Bloom, PILOT, Lütfi Kırdar International Convention and Exhibition Center, İstanbul, Turkey

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, İstanbul, 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, İstanbul, 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

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

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, PhotoEspaña 2011, Museo Colecciones ICO, Madrid, Spain

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

PILOT

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
KOVİDEO, 1st Durban Video Festival, 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
Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi, UAE
Devi Art Foundation, Gurugram, India
Dubai Collection, Dubai, UAE
EXPO 2020, Dubai, UAE
Farjam 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
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