


REALMS OF INTIMACY

MINIATURIST PRACTICE FROM PAKISTAN



The practice of Mughal miniature painting began in the 16th century. It was an art form marked by a meticulous attention to minute detail, lush jewel tones, epic subject matter, and diminutive scale. As the Mughal Empire fell into decline, so did this style. Today we are experiencing a renaissance for this mode of artistic expression. This is in large part due to the National College of Art in Lahore, Pakistan (NCA) which revived this practice into a relevant contemporary art form. By taking the miniaturist practice that had been reduced to something copied for the tourist trade and infusing it with individual thought and contemporary subject matter it breathed new life into this ancient technique.

In the 1990s the program found its stride and began producing important contemporary artists, many of whom are featured in this exhibition—Ambreen Butt, Faiza Butt, Imran Qureshi, Nusra Qureshi and Saira Wasim. While the artists all studied for a period at the NCA, they currently live in different places around the world. The artists are all greatly influenced by their current location and address the political, social and cultural reality of both Pakistan and their present environment. Through beauty these artists ask difficult questions and confront us with the realities of the world we live in. Realms of Intimacy explores how miniaturist painting evolves as it is brought into different contexts as well as how its stylistic foundation may be adapted through different artistic visions.

Realms of Intimacy: Miniaturist Practice from Pakistan is organized by the Contemporary Arts Center and curated by Justine Ludwig.

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