

## QATAR MUSEUMS UNVEILS UNPRECEDENTED

### EXHIBITION OF VISUAL ARTS AND ARCHITECTURE FROM PAKISTAN

*"MANZAR: Art and Architecture from Pakistan 1940s to Today," on display at the National Museum of Qatar, features more than 200 artworks showcasing modern and contemporary arts and architecture from Pakistan over the past eight decades*



Image Credit: Farida Batool, *Nai Reesan Shehr Lahore Diyan*, 2006  
Lenticular print, 81.2 x 162 cm, Private collection  
(The title translates as "There is no match for the city of Lahore".)

**DOHA, QATAR, 5 November 2024** - Qatar Museums has opened *MANZAR: Art and Architecture from Pakistan 1940s to Today*, a first-of-its-kind exhibition commemorating the diverse work of painters, photographers and architects who have shaped the narratives, histories, and contemporary perspectives of Pakistan's cultures since the 1940s. This major showcase is organised by the future Art Mill Museum and presented in collaboration with the National Museum of Qatar, the nation's preeminent institution for art and culture, which hosts the exhibition. The presentation is on view from 01 November 2024 until 31 January 2025

Designed by renowned architect Raza Ali Dada, the exhibition is titled *MANZAR*. Derived from Arabic, the word "Manzar" in Urdu translates to a scene, view, landscape, or perspective, capturing the extraordinary vitality of the diverse art scenes in Pakistan and its diasporas.

The Amir His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Chairperson of Qatar Museums, and His Excellency Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, inaugurated the exhibition, alongside Catherine Grenier, Director of Concept of the Art Mill Museum and the curatorial team.

With more than 200 works, comprising paintings, drawings, photographs, videos, sculptures, installations, tapestries and miniatures, as well as commissioned works by artists and architects, *MANZAR* unfolds across twelve sections. The exhibition reveals how artists responded to and reimagined international modernist movements, offering a unique insight into Pakistan's rich

artistic and architectural landscape. This is made possible by unprecedented loans from public institutions in Pakistan, including the Alhamra Art Museum in Lahore and the Pakistan National Council of the Arts in Islamabad, private collections from Pakistan, Dubai, London, and New York, as well as works from Qatar Museums collections.

The artists and architects featured in *MANZAR* include Hamra Abbas, Zainul Abedin, Bani Abidi, Meher Afroz, Zubeida Agha, Mohammed Abdul Ahed, Anna Molka Ahmed, Roohi Ahmed, Madiha Aijaz, Zahoor ul Akhlaq, David Alesworth, Habib Fida Ali, Khadim Ali, Shakir Ali, Rasheed Araeen, Sophia Balagamwala, Murtaja Baseer, Farida Batool, Huma Bhabha, Noorjehan Bilgrami, Ustad Allah Bakhsh, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Yaminay Chaudhri, Ruby Chishti, Abdur Rahman Chughtai, Nayyar Ali Dada, Iftikhar Dadi, Elizabeth Dadi, Colin David, Constantinos A. Doxiadis, Michel Ecochard, Iqbal Geoffrey, Amin Gulgee, Ismail Gulgee, Arif Hasan, Salima Hashmi, Lucien Hervé, Aisha Abid Hussain, M. F. Husain, Ali Imam, Muzharul Islam, Shalalae Jamil, Ayesha Jatoti, Ayaz Jokhio, Mahbub Jokhio, Louis Kahn, Aaejay Kardar, Durriya Kazi, Ali Kazim, Aisha Khalid, Naiza Khan, Saba Khan, Karachi Lajamia (Shahana Rajani & Zahra Malkani), Yasmeen Lari/Heritage Foundation of Pakistan, Mariah Lookman, Arif Mahmood, Basir Mahmood, Marvi Mahzar, Imran Mir, Medhi Ali Mirza, Quddus Mirza, Kamil Khan Mumtaz, Murad Khan Mumtaz, Asma Mundrawala, Huma Mulji, Richard Neutra, Seema Nusrat, Ahmed Parvez, Ayessha Quraishi, Imran Qureshi, Rashid Rana, Fazal Rizvi, Lala Rukh, Sadequain, Anwar Saeed, Anwar Said, Shahid Sajjad, Sadia Salim, Seher Shah, Saira Sheikh, Anwar Jalal Shemza, Shahzia Sikander, F. N. Souza, Edward Durell Stone, Adeela Suleman, Abdullah M. I. Syed, Risham Syed, Mohammad Ali Talpur, Salman Toor, Omer Wasim, and Zarina.

This groundbreaking exhibition brings to light lesser-known global art histories and demonstrates how they weave into broader social and cultural trends. The themes range from nation-building and regionalism to the politics of land and water, emphasising the connection between Pakistan's cultural heritage and contemporary practices. The exhibition hopes to connect with and pay tribute to the many communities in Qatar who have origins in this part of the world and act as a bridge between different cultures.

The exhibition is curated by Caroline Hancock, Art Mill Museum Senior Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art; Aurélien Lemonier, Art Mill Museum Curator of Architecture, Design and Gardens; and Zarmeene Shah, independent curator, writer and Director of Graduate Studies at the Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture (IVS) in Karachi, with Art Mill Museum Senior Exhibition Project Manager Aebhrich Coleman.

A vibrant public programme featuring performances, talks, screenings and other events will accompany the exhibition. Members of the public can view newly commissioned indoor and outdoor installations and explore contemporary projects, which are centred around sustainability and ecologies.

Complementing the exhibition were two public talks on 1 November 2024 featuring renowned artists, architects, and historians. The first, *The Evolution of Visual Art in Pakistan*, was a conversation between Zarmeene Shah (co-curator of Manzar) and prominent artists and practitioners from Pakistan, including Naazish Ata-Ullah, Iftikhar Dadi, Mariah Lookman and Quddus Mirza. The panel explored the diverse narratives showcased within the exhibition,

including the historical context of Pakistani visual arts, the impact of globalisation on contemporary artists, and how they engage with international audiences.

The second, *Exploring Architectural Facets of Pakistan* covered a range of themes, including the coexistence of tradition and modernity in contemporary architectural practices, the response of architects to environmental challenges, and the interplay between urban development, and cultural heritage in shaping Pakistan's architectural landscape. It was moderated by architecture historian Sean Anderson, and featured architects Maria Aslam, Nayyar Ali Dada, Marvi Mazhar, and Kamil Khan Mumtaz.

The 312-page exhibition catalogue (featuring 500+ illustrations and designed by Kiran Ahmad) is published by the Art Mill Museum on the occasion. The catalogue will include essays by major art and architectural historians, educators and artists and architects from Pakistan and beyond.

*MANZAR: Art and Architecture from Pakistan 1940s to Today* is presented as part of the Fall/Winter 2024-2025 Season of Qatar Creates, a platform dedicated to amplifying the voices of Qatar's creative industries and promoting cultural activities within the country.

Discover the full cultural offering in Doha this season through Qatar Creates' impressive lineup of exhibitions, events and experiences at <https://events.qacreates.com/>.

The National Museum of Qatar is closed every Tuesday. For exhibition details, ticket bookings, and visiting hours, please visit: [nmoq.org.qa/en/calendar/manzar-exhibition/](https://nmoq.org.qa/en/calendar/manzar-exhibition/).

### **Exhibition Catalogue**

#### ***Manzar: Art and Architecture from Pakistan, 1940s to Today***

Edited by Caroline Hancock, Aurélien Lemonier and Zarmeene Shah

Authors: Sean Anderson, Rasheed Araeen, Naazish Ata-Ullah, Iftikhar Dadi, Catherine Grenier, Caroline Hancock, Salima Hashmi, Hasan-Uddin Khan, Nighat Said Khan, Karachi LaJamia Aurélien Lemonier, Mariah Lookman & HM Naqvi, Akbar Naqvi, Adnan Madani, Quddus Mirza, Murad Khan Mumtaz, Fazal Rizvi, Zarmeene Shah, Anooradha Iyer Siddiqi & Vazira Fazila-Yacoobali Zamindar

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Design: Kiran Ahmed

Publishing and distribution: Qatar Museums Doha, Qatar

Silvana Editoriale Milano, Italy

The catalogue can be purchased online at <https://inq-online.com/books> and in the museum shops at the Museum of Islamic Art, National Museum of Qatar and Mathaf.

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### **About Qatar Museums**

Qatar Museums (QM), the nation's preeminent institution for art and culture, provides authentic and inspiring cultural experiences through a growing network of museums, heritage sites, festivals, public art installations, and programmes. QM preserves and expands the nation's cultural offerings, sharing art and culture from Qatar, the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia (MENASA) with the world and enriching the lives of citizens, residents, and visitors.

Under the patronage of His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, and led by its Chairperson, Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, QM has made Qatar a vibrant centre for the arts, culture, and education in the Middle East and beyond. QM is integral to the goal of developing an innovative, diverse, and progressive nation, bringing people together to ignite new thinking, spark critical cultural conversations, and amplify the voices of Qatar's people. Since its founding in 2005, QM has overseen the development of museums and festivals including the Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) and MIA Park, Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, the National Museum of Qatar (NMoQ), 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum, QM Gallery Al Riwaq, QM Gallery Katara, the Tasweer Qatar Photo Festival, and Design Doha. Future projects include Dadu: Children's Museum of Qatar, Art Mill Museum, Qatar Auto Museum and the Lusail Museum.

Through its newly created Creative Hub, QM also initiates and supports projects—such as the Fire Station Artist in Residence, the Tasweer Qatar Photo Festival, M7, the creative hub for innovation, fashion and design, and Liwan Design Studios and Labs—that nurture artistic talent and create opportunities to build a strong and sustainable cultural infrastructure.

Animating everything that Qatar Museums does is an authentic connection to Qatar and its heritage, a steadfast commitment to inclusivity and accessibility, and a belief in creating value through invention.

## **About Art Mill Museum**

Completing a cultural district that already comprises the Museum of Islamic Art, MIA Park and the National Museum of Qatar, the Art Mill Museum is designed by ELEMENTAL, led by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Alejandro Aravena. A signature public garden is designed by VOGT Landscape Architects, led by Günther Vogt. A creative village for arts, crafts and design will provide recreational, learning and production resources for the general public and for the creative communities of Qatar and beyond. The future Art Mill Museum will house an exceptional and international art collection assembled over the past 40 years, with multidisciplinary works of great diversity dating from 1830 to the present. In a main building of 80,000 square meters (including 23,000 square meters of gallery spaces), the Art Mill Museum will offer visual art icons as well as architecture and design, films and film props, fashion, crafts, and much more. A pioneering institution in the non-Western world, it will represent the modern and contemporary arts of all regions of the globe on an equal basis, engaging local and international audiences alike through multiple narratives of art history. The museum concept has been developed by art historian and museum director Catherine Grenier and the prefiguration team.

## **About National Museum of Qatar**

The National Museum of Qatar (NMoQ) preserves and celebrates the history of Qatar. It engages with its present and inspires the country's ambitions for the future. The Museum, which opened in March 2019, gives voice to the country's culture and heritage through artefacts, oral histories, music, films, and artworks. The NMoQ takes the visitor on an immersive and multisensory journey of its 1.5 km thematic and chronological galleries. The iconic building, designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Jean Nouvel, is inspired by the desert rose and comprises of large interlocking disks of different diameters and curvatures that surround the restored historic palace of the late Sheikh Abdullah bin Jassim Al Thani, ruler of Qatar (1913–1949).

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