

BASHIR AHMED (Born 1953)

Lahore was for centuries a flourishing centre of miniature painting. Three eminent elderly artists were working in this style in the early years of Pakistan: Ustad Haji Mohammad Sharif, Ustad Shujaullah and Ustad Aftab Ahmed Khan. They died, respectively, in 1978, 1980 and 1984.

Today four of their pupils are keeping the traditions of this art alive in Lahore. They are Bashir Ahmed who teaches this art in the National College of Art, Lahore; Khalid Saeed Butt who teaches his subject in the Punjab University Fine Arts Department, Lahore; Salahuddin, who used to work in the Lahore Museum; and Shakeel Ahmad, who practices the art privately. A fifth artist, who also works in Lahore and teaches art in the Queen Mary's College for Women, is Munira Alam.

Bashir Ahmed is the most prolific and significant artist out of all of these.

- *Miniature painters, 'Painters of Pakistan'* by S.Amjad Ali

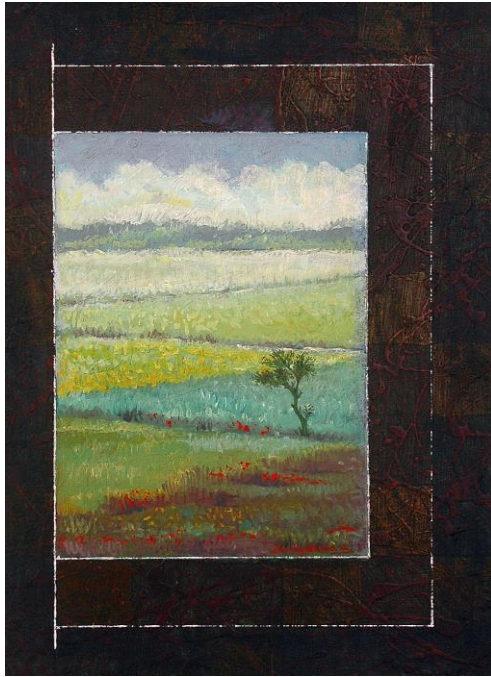
Bashir Ahmed has also undergone the discipline required of a miniature painter. He has made bolder attempts to break through the conventional format in order to express the 'miniature' in terms of tone and new materials rather than surface decoration.

- *Winds of change, 'Painting in Pakistan'* by Ijaz Ul Hassan



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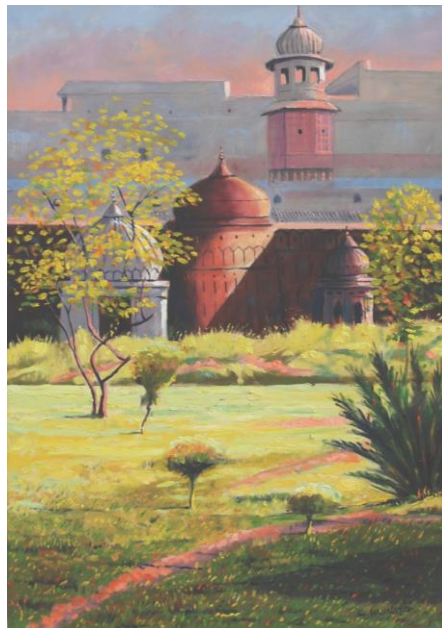
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GHULAM MUSTAFA (Born 1952)

Graduating in Fine Arts from the National College of Arts, Lahore, in 1974, Ghulam Mustafa had already gained recognition when he was awarded a special prize for a landscape painting in oils at the 1978 Punjab exhibition of paintings and graphic arts.

His prime love has been landscape painting and he is one of the distinguished groups that flourish in Lahore but unlike many others he has steered clear of the influence of senior artist Khalid Iqbal

- Landscape painters, 'Painters of Pakistan' by S.Amjad Ali



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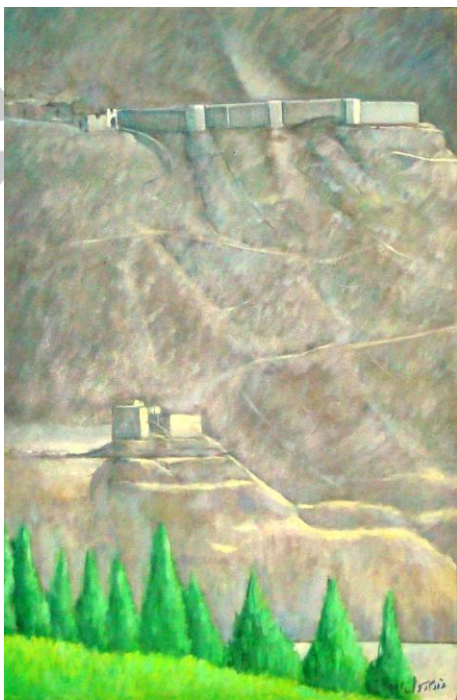
GHULAM RASUL (1942 - 2009)

Dr. Ghulam Rasul is a prolific painter who has been associated with the Pakistan National Council of the Arts, gradually rising to the position of its Director General. Ghulam Rasul has effectively used the element of design in his work often subordinating volume and perspective to the need for balance of surfaces and harmony of design.

– *Paintings at Alhamra, '50 years of Lahore Arts Council'* by Dr. Mussarat Hassan

Ghulam Rasul did his masters in fine arts from Punjab University in 1964, and was an assistant associate professor in the department. He qualified for the Master's degree in print-making and painting from North Illinois University in 1972. He joined the PNCA in 1974 and has held the position of its joint Director-General. It was in America that he learnt the rudiments of Minimalism as well as Japanese block-print, which contributed to yet another pictorial profile of rural Punjab. Ghulam Rasul said that he developed a simple style in reaction against Moyene Najmi and Raheel Akbar.

- *The ideological divide, 'Image and Identity'* by Akbar Naqvi



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IJAZ UL HASSAN (Born 1938)

Ijaz Ul Hassan had teachers like Moyene Najmi and Khalid Iqbal during his school days. He has a history of more than forty years of painting behind him. In his early years he seems to have been influenced by Gauguin, but he was experimenting all the time. He used his immense sense of design and colour to paint very effective pictures with a sharp political and social comment. But political changes in the country restricted open expression and he had to resort to symbols for expressing ideas. He is among the few painters whose early stylization of form gave way to realism. He has a passion for public art and one of his main ambitions is to paint huge pictures in public places which the common man can see regularly. One of the big murals to be made in recent times is the huge ceramic mural that he made for the Alhamra Arts Council in which he experimented with the tiles mosaic method that had been used as wall decoration since the Mughal times. He has over the years made many huge paintings which are breathtakingly beautiful and have been much appreciated.

– Paintings at Alhamra '50 years of Lahore Arts Council' by Dr.Mussarat Hassan



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JAMEEL AHMED (Died 1982)

....Another painter who made quite a stir was the self-taught landscape painter, Jamil Jhuggiwala, who came from Karachi's jhuggi, or refugee settlement of ramshackle huts. He has developed his own style of drip-and-dribble a la Jackson Pollock under instruction from a visiting American artist who was also said to be the muse of Gulgee.

- Karachi Artists, 'Image and Identity' by Akbar Naqvi

It was in June, 1960 that Jameel hit the headlines. The papers were full of stories of the new artist discovered in the slums of Karachi. Some good-hearted people helped him with painting material so that he did not have to draw with charcoal taken from the hearth on which his meals were cooked, or to paint with juices pressed from leaves and flowers...

Jameel's love of nature took him to Bengal (then East Pakistan where he wandered in the Sunderbans. He was enamored of the long thin curved boats that looked like the crescent moon and which were seen on all the rivers and lakes of the region. He painted this subject on many canvases and the massing of these crescent shapes gave a marked design quality to the picture....

Jameel had to bear serious hardships and a grave tragedy towards the end of his life. He did not live long enough to benefit by the boom that took place in the art world of Karachi in the mid-eighties, otherwise the propitious circumstances could have led to much greater development of his art. He died in the early 80s and no one has yet filled the void he left in Karachi of a dedicated painter of landscapes in oils.

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KHALID IQBAL (Born 1929)

Khalid Iqbal has always been a believer in representational painting and asserts that we have a different situation here and should not follow Western concepts of art unthinkingly because there is no similarity of attitudes. European art was a revolt against their old society and its value system, 'whereas our modern painting is based on looking at reproductions'. 'There is nothing of the spirit--It is opposite of revolt. It is a part of obedience,' Khalid Iqbal paints through a process of acute observation and an understanding and feeling for his subject matter. He is one of the few painters who have been painting in Lahore for more than forty years. He left the Punjab University in the late sixties and joined the National College of Art as a Head of their Fine Arts Department. Over the years he has produced fewer portraits, but his landscapes have unfailingly given a lot of pleasure to the connoisseurs of painting.

– *Paintings at Alhamra '50 years of Lahore Arts Council'* by Dr. Mussarat Hassan

Khalid Iqbal's influence on painting in Lahore has been profound. He has purged landscape painting of anecdote, sentimentality and academism, and given it its proper status. He is responsible for a whole school of landscape painters in Lahore who have slowly evolved their distinct styles. His chaste stylistic approach, the manner in which he maps-out his subject and allows individual elements to develop simultaneously, growing into a unified whole, have also influenced some of our abstract painters. This is, for example, evident in Shakir Ali's criss-cross hatchings, lateral brush-strokes, and the general treatment of the picture-surface of his later works.

– *Pursuit of the real, 'Painting in Pakistan'* by Ijaz Ul Hassan

Khalid Iqbal painted many excellent portraits and still lifes in the earlier part of his long career as an artist but for about two decades now, he has been devoting himself wholly to landscape painting.

His special talent in this field won early recognition, for he recalls with pride that he won a prize for landscape painting at the Slade School of Art, London, in 1954, when he was a student there.

His earliest education in art was at the Fine Arts Department of the Punjab University from where he obtained the degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts in 1949.

The Head of the Department was Anna Molka Ahmed who encouraged her students to paint realistic landscapes of the villages around Lahore. But if one sees the landscapes painted by some of her earliest students of those days, such as Anwar Afzal, Naseem Anwar and Saeeda Karim, one finds that these are really detailed descriptions of rural life. They show the huts, the cattle, the carts, and the villagers at work and the children at play, more as juxtaposition than as composition!

Khalid rebelled against this anecdotal and minutely descriptive style of landscape painting. His later education at the Slade School of Art, 1952 to 1955, again was realistic but a simple, austere and undecorative kind of realism. The Head of the School was Sir William Coldstream who belonged to a group of artists called the "Euston Road Group", which included Victor

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Pasmore, Claude Rogers and others. They avoided the mannerisms of modern art and painted everyday life with cool objectivity.

On return from London in 1955, Khalid again joined the Fine Arts Department as a Senior Lecturer and very soon he developed a style of his own in landscape painting, which he practices to this day.

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SHAHID JALAL (Born 1948)

Is one of the outstanding members of the Association who has no art qualification from any institution and has therefore not been mentioned in their context. He has developed a style of his own which is executed with thick impasto brush strokes, the surface being further divided to form a subtle pattern in his patiently executed landscapes, in which the sunlight and shadows are the other striking elements of the larger design

– Paintings at Alhamra '50 years of Lahore Arts Council' by Dr.Mussarat Hassan

There is nothing casual or even offhand in his work. Both the subject and the style are neat, orderly, planned, precise and refined, like the artist himself.

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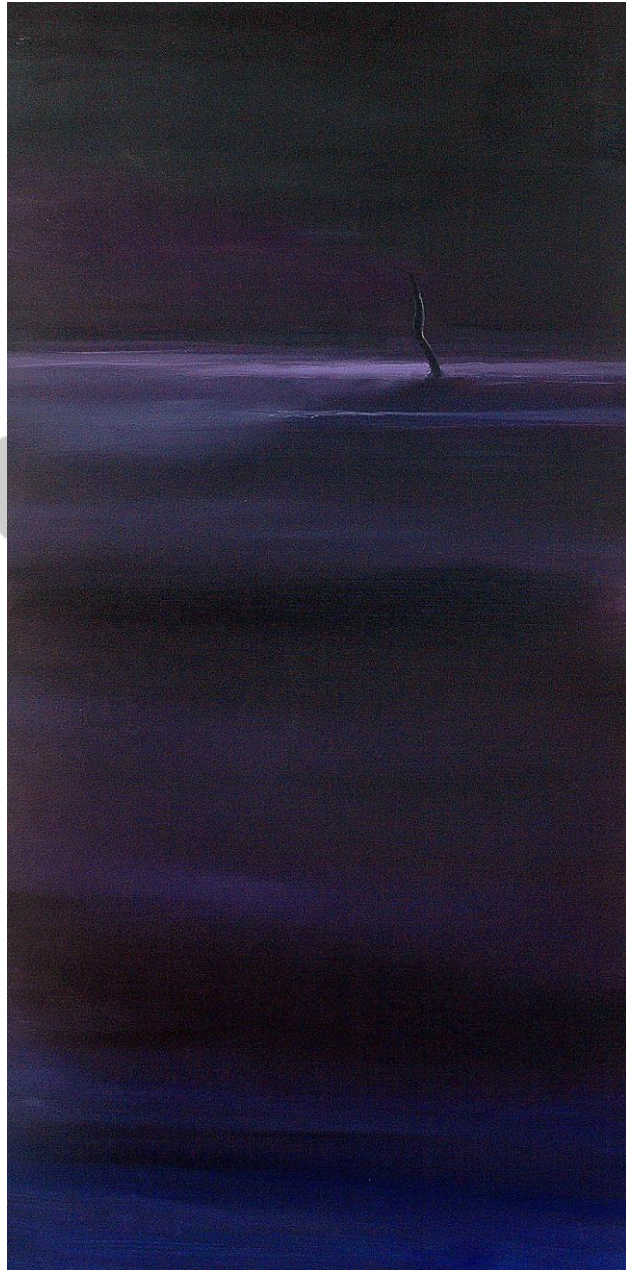
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ZARAH DAVID (Born 1944)

Artist and musician, Zarah David is the daughter of the legendary master artist and art educator Anna Molka Ahmed and Sheikh Ahmed - leading painters of Pakistan. Zarah was married to the famous artist Colin David. She has a master's degree in Fine Arts from the Punjab University, Lahore and has been painting and exhibiting in major exhibitions in Pakistan. Zarah David has a long established career and is known for her surreal landscapes. She is currently working as curator as well as teaching singing and music in various schools for the last 50 years.



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ZULFIQAR ZULFI (Born 1963)

Zulfiqar Zulfi was born in Dera Ghazi Khan. He is a realistic painter of landscapes and is known for his use of light in Punjab countryside scenery paintings. Zulfiqar Zulfi is a Design graduate from National College of Arts, Lahore in 1989. He has participated in a number of group exhibitions in Pakistan and abroad. His work features prominently in the following permanent collections: Governor House, Punjab Assembly, Administrative Staff College, National Institute of Public Administration, American Consulate, Lahore; Governor House, Nathia Gali; National Art Gallery, Islamabad; President House, Turkey.

"Zulfiqar Ali Zulfi is a painter of the landscape genre with two decades of painting to his credit. In Zulfi's paintings it appears we are all observers. Often standing on the threshold of light. Almost grisaille in his approach to the media, he is a master of chiaroscuro, mornings are cloaked with mist, the tall trees dramatic, leafless silhouettes." - **Marjorie Husain**





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ZULQARNAIN HAIDER (Born 1939)

Zulqarnain Haider has had the benefit of the best art education at Lahore and Paris. For the last thirty years he has been teaching and practicing art in Lahore where he is one of a group of distinguished landscape painters that include Khalid Iqbal, Ijaz ul Hassan, Iqbal Ahmad, Shahid Jalal, Mohammad Nazir and others.

He paints the countryside surrounding Lahore where the land spreads flat for miles, covered with field or fallow and here and there a tree or two or a thin clump of trees. Of these the commonest varieties are the small thorny kikar and the flowering acacia, with a slight build and sparse foliage, as well as the ubiquitous sheesham or tahli, with thin tall trunks and more dense foliage.

A student of the Punjab University and the Fine Arts Department has been a student of Khalid Iqbal and as such a deeply committed artist who believes in realistic representation of all elements. He is a brilliant draftsman and studied drawing at the Beaux Art in Paris for over four years. His paintings were initially very similar to Khalid Iqbal's work, but he has evolved a visual vocabulary over the years that can be distinguished from that of his teacher

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THE GOLDEN COLLECTION

Bashir ahmed | Ghulam mustafa | Ghulam rasul | Ijaz ul hassan
Jameel ahmed | Khalid iqbal | Shahid jalal
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