

IMRAN CHANNA

LOST PAGES FROM *ONE THOUSAND AND ONE NIGHTS*

18th - 28th October 2021

CANVAS

GALLERY



Artist Statement

Lost pages from *One Thousand and one Nights*

Using Aby Warburg's theory of the endless persistence of images as a point of departure, this current body of work explores the idea of visual and material pasts and their ghostly manifestations.

The use of ancient pasts as a tool has been prevalent in nationalist rhetoric to claim territorial and cultural identities. Today, looking for forgotten, hidden, and exotic objects from distant pasts has become increasingly popular among contemporary visual arts practices.

The emphasis on romanticising ruins deadens the philosophical discourse, and here I would like to present two models for contemplation. First, the mummy in a museum; a historical object removed from its context and placed inside a new construct. Second, books such as *History of the World in 1000 Objects* provoke heterogeneity by isolating historical objects and putting them into a blank space that generates a fictional environment.

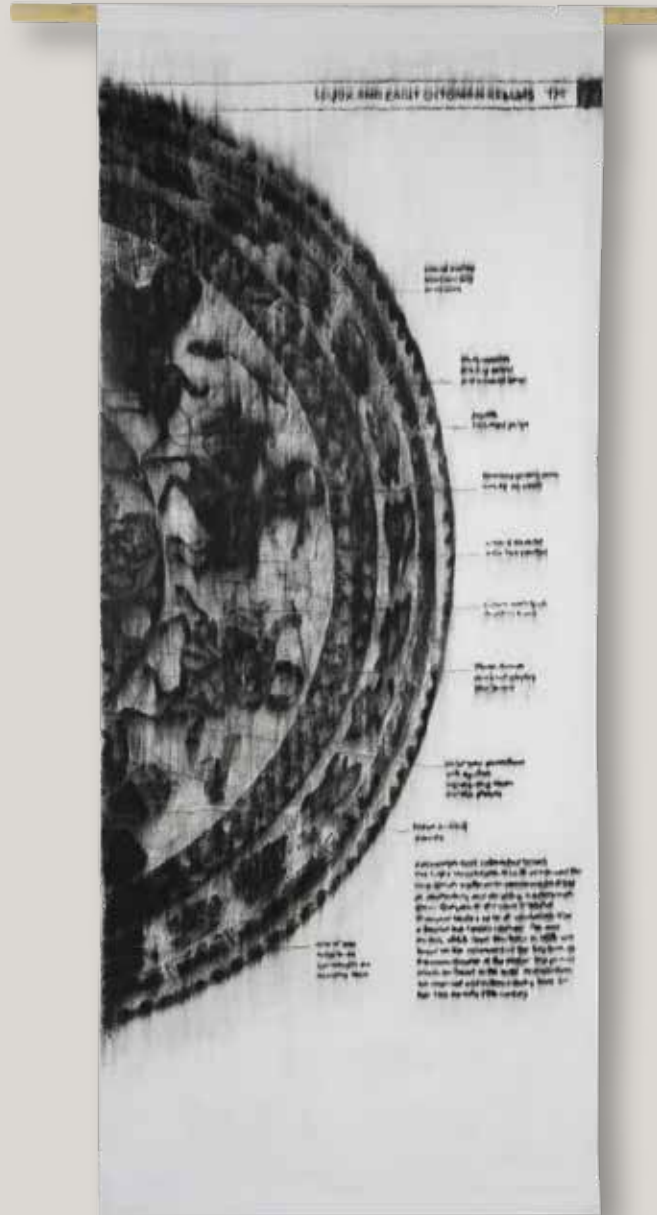
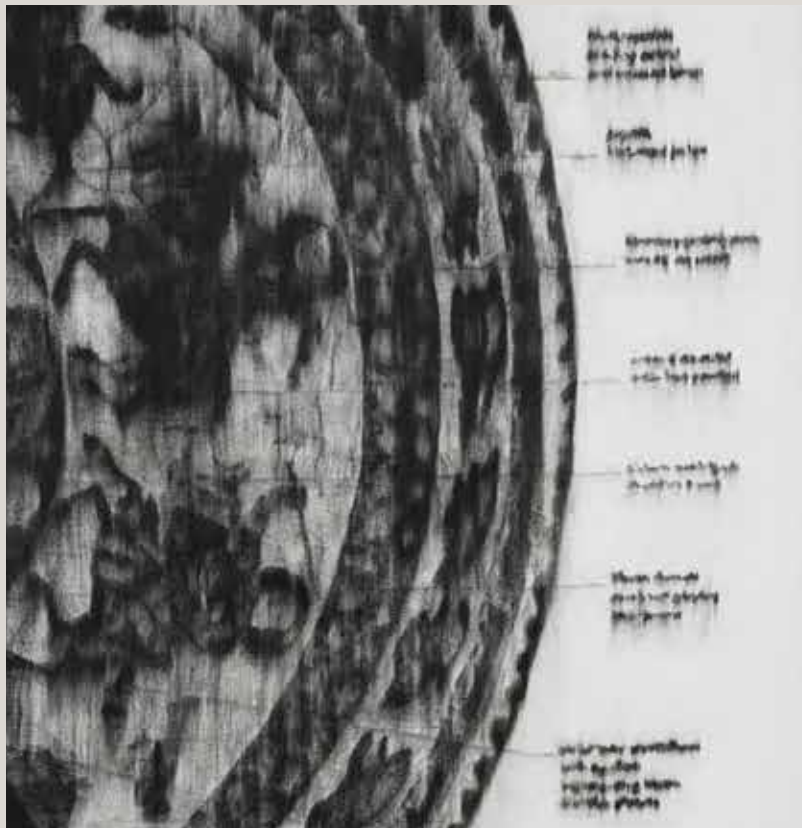
A similar kind of fictionalisation and romanticisation can be seen in popular folktales such as *One Thousand and One Nights*, where phantom effects are achieved by altering the actual order of reality, which makes it hard to distinguish reality from a dream.

The objects presented in this exhibition are my attempt to highlight captive and possessed objects. These are chosen from different periods and unified through shared materiality and mediums.

This entire body of work rejects the linearity of history, and the reincarnated objects point towards what Agamben would call 'a double anachronism of time'.

Removing them from their original context and placing them into a void, these objects now float like *Metroids* in space. Held together by the exhibition's mechanism, these objects will ultimately travel in separate directions where new identities and backgrounds will be assigned to them, which I have no control over.

Imran Channa



Title: Lost Pages II
 Medium: Charcoal, Eraser on Canvas
 Size: 87 x 36 Inches
 Year: 2021



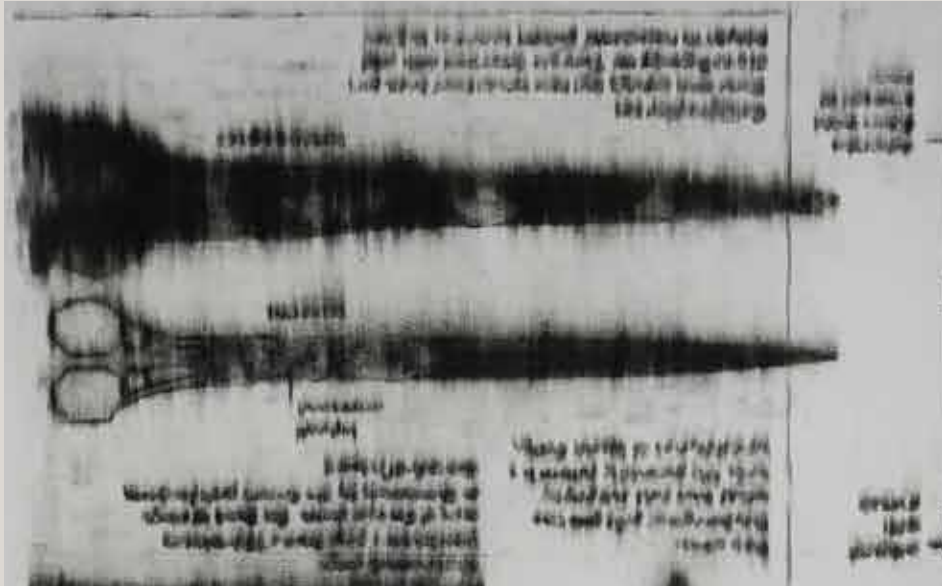
Title: Lost Pages III
Medium: Charcoal, Eraser on Canvas
Size: 87 x 36 Inches
Year: 2021



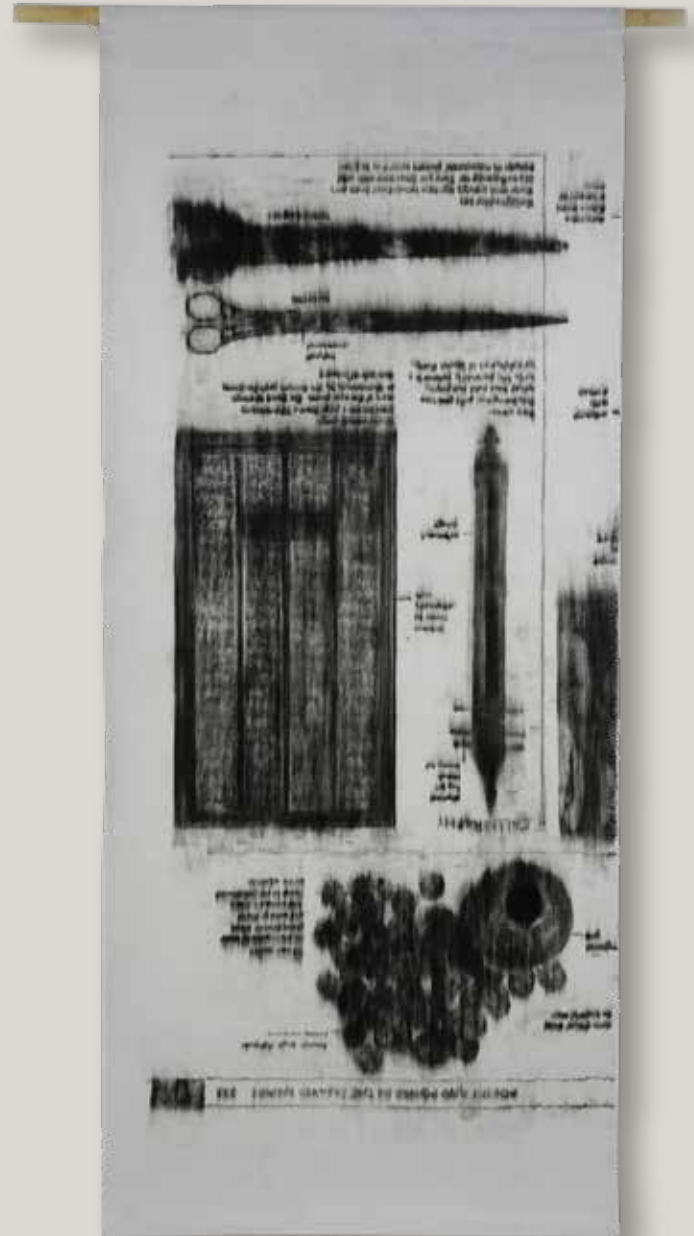


Title: Lost Pages IV
 Medium: Charcoal, Eraser on Canvas
 Size: 87 x 36 Inches
 Year: 2021



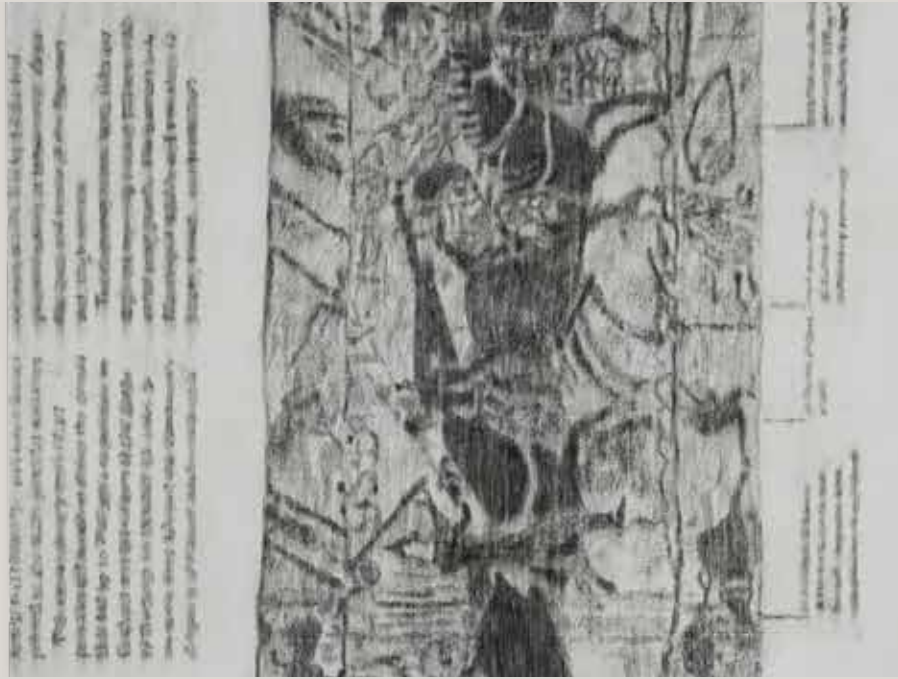


Title: Lost Pages V
Medium: Charcoal, Eraser on Canvas
Size: 87 x 36 Inches
Year: 2021

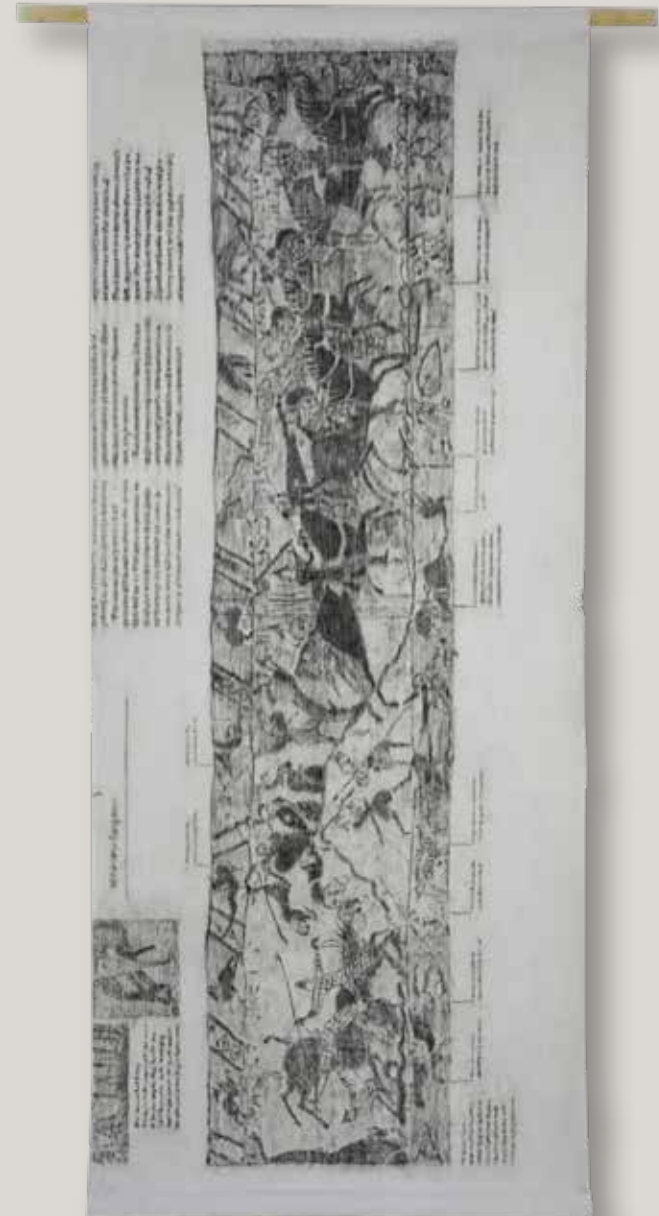




Title: Lost Pages VII
 Medium: Charcoal, Eraser on Canvas
 Size: 87 x 36 Inches
 Year: 2021



Title: Lost Pages VIII
Medium: Charcoal, Eraser on Canvas
Size: 87 x 36 Inches
Year: 2021





Title: Sleeping Beauty I
Medium: Fiberglass, Gold Pigments
Edition: 1/10 + 1 AP
Size: 10 x 14 x 6 Inches
Year: 2021



Title: Sleeping Beauty II
Medium: Fiberglass, Gold Pigments
Edition: 1/10 + 1 AP
Size: 14 x 8 Inches
Year: 2021



Title: Sleeping Beauty III
Medium: Fiberglass, Gold Pigments
Edition: 1/10 + 1 AP
Size: 13 x 29 x 3 Inches
Year: 2021



Title: Sleeping Beauty IV
Medium: Fiberglass, Gold Pigments
Edition: 1/10 + 1 AP
Size: 37 x 14 x 1 Inches
Year: 2021



Title: Sleeping Beauty V
Medium: Fiberglass, Gold Pigments
Edition: 1/10 + 1 AP
Size: 18 x 8 x 1 Inches
Year: 2021



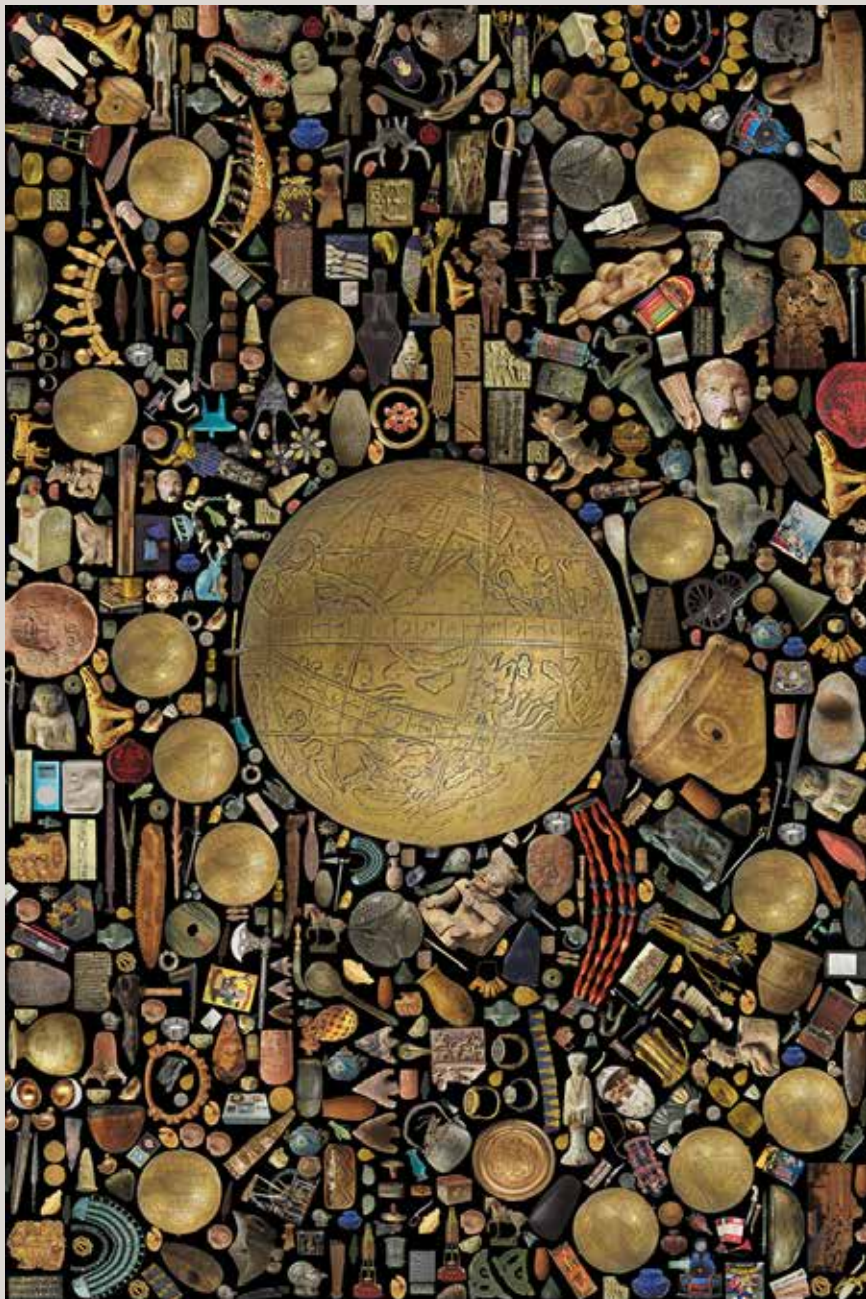
Title: Sleeping Beauty VI
Medium: Fiberglass, Gold Pigments
Edition: 1/10 + 1 AP
Size: 15 x 3 Inches
Year: 2021



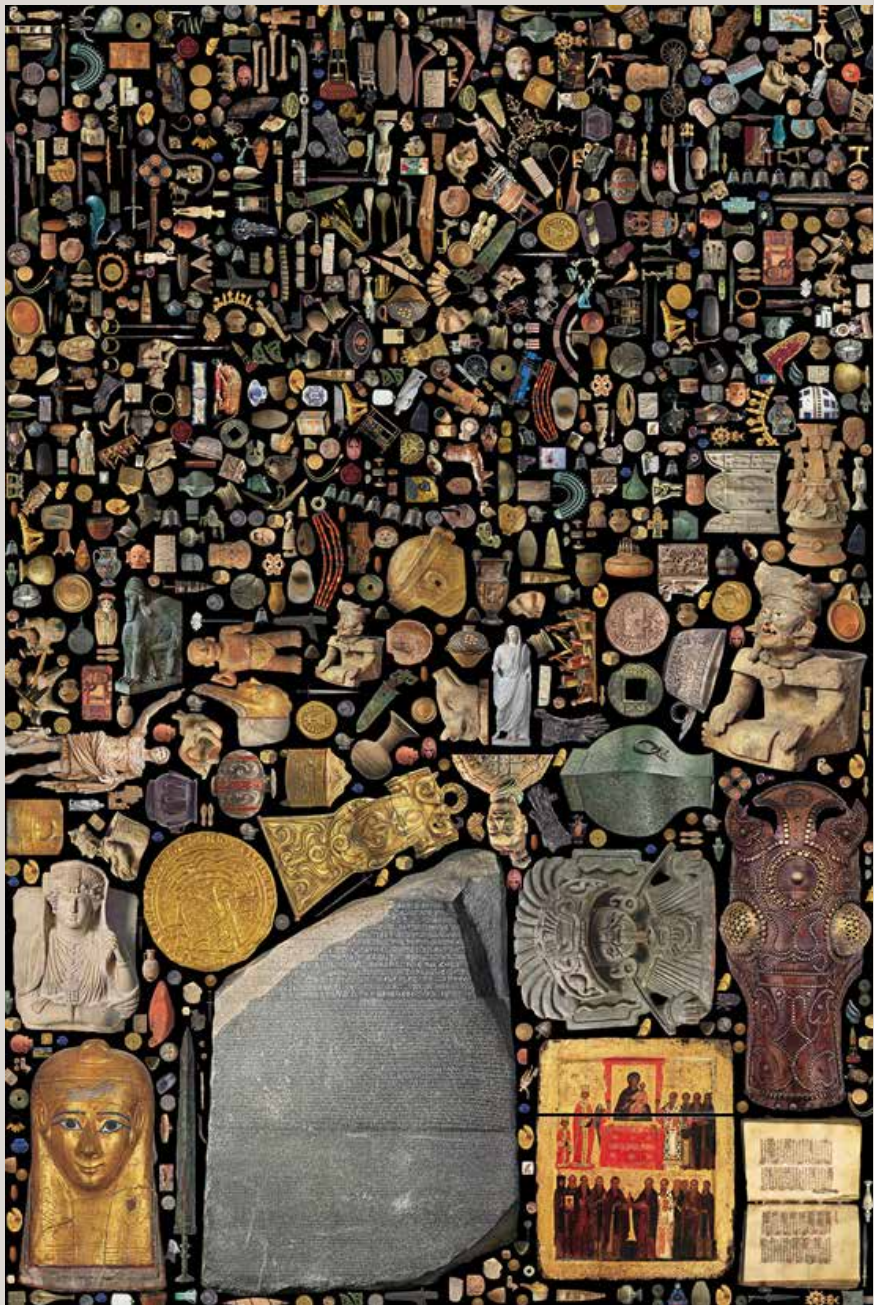
Title: Sleeping Beauty VII
Medium: Fiberglass, Gold Pigments
Edition: 1/10 + 1 AP
Size: 18 x 9 x 5 Inches
Year: 2021



Title: Sleeping Beauty VIII
Medium: Fiberglass, Gold Pigments
Edition: 1/10 + 1 AP
Size: 11 x 5 x 3 Inches
Year: 2021



Title: The Order of Objects I
Medium: Inkjet Print on Paper
Edition: 1/5 + 1 AP
Size: 41 x 27 Inches
Year: 2021



Title: The Order of Objects II
Medium: Inkjet, Print on Paper
Edition: 1/5 + 1 AP
Size: 41 x 27 Inches
Year: 2021



Title: The Order of Objects III
Medium: Inkjet Print on Paper
Edition: 1/5 + 1 AP
Size: 41 x 27 Inches
Year: 2021



Title: The Order of Objects IV
Medium: Inkjet Print on Paper
Edition: 1/5 + 1 AP
Size: 41 x 27 Inches
Year: 2021

Profile

Imran Channa is a Pakistani visual artist who lives and works between the Netherlands and Pakistan. He holds a BFA in Painting (2004) and an MA (Hons.) in Visual Arts (2008) from the National College of Arts Lahore, Pakistan. Channa's work focuses on archaeology, mythical narratives, and the construction of history. His work has been extensively shown worldwide in numerous exhibitions in the Netherlands, UK, Germany, USA, Belgium, Switzerland, France, Israel, UAE, Algeria, Hong Kong, Singapore, India, and Pakistan.

He has been awarded prestigious fellowships at Akademie Schloss Solitude, Stuttgart in Germany (2019-2020), the Harvard University South Asia Institute, Cambridge, Massachusetts, US (2018), Jan van Eyck Academie, Maastricht, Netherlands (2016-2018), and the Gasworks residency in London (2011).

He has served as an assistant professor at the Department of Fine Arts at the National College of Arts, Lahore (2007-2016) and is the recipient of the "Award of Excellence" by the Artists Association of Punjab at the Alhamra Art Council, Lahore, PK (2013) and the "Werkbijdrage Bewezen Talent" (2018-2021) by Mondriaan fonds, Netherlands.

He is currently an Artist in residence, creating new work for the EYE Filmmuseum, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

EDUCATION

- 2016-17: Jan van Eyck Academie, Maastricht, NL.
2008: MA [Hons.] Visual Arts (National College of Arts), Lahore, PK.
2004: Bachelor of Fine Arts. [Painting] 1st (National College of Arts). Lahore, PK.
2000: Intermediate. (G.M.S.C) Hyderabad, PK.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2021: Guest Teacher (PhD in practice) at College of Art and Design, University of Panjab, Lahore, PK.
2021: Guest Teacher at Kinnard College for Women, Lahore. PK.
2021: Guest Teacher at Institute of Art and Design, University of Sindh, Jamshoro, PK.
2017-18: Guest Teacher at HKU - Beeldende Kunst, Utrecht, NL.
2007-16: Assistant Professor in Department of Fine Arts at National College of Arts, Lahore, PK.
2015-16: External examiner and juror for final graduation show at Kinnard College for Women in Lahore, PK.
2015: Conducted 2 weeks workshop with fine arts students at Institute of Art & design, Jamshoro, Sindh, PK.
2015: External examiner for Centre of Excellence Art & Design Jamshoro, Sindh, PK.
2012-09: Conducted workshops of conceptual development for final year painting students at Centre of Excellence Art & Design Jamshoro, Sindh PK.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2021: "A Promised Land" EYE Filmmuseum, Amsterdam, NL. (Upcoming 14th of December).
2019: "Dust to Dust" at Kang Contemporary Gallery, Berlin, DE.
2018: "Pasts in Particles" at Twelve Twelve Gallery, Den Haag, NL.
2018: "Holy Water" Open Studios 2018, at Jan van Eyck Academie, Maastricht. NL
2017: "Light on the Fringe of Time" Open Studio at Jan van Eyck Academie, Maastricht. NL.
2015: "Enclosure/Erasure", solo show at Koel Gallery Karachi, PK.
2013: "Age of Mythology" with XVA gallery at Art Basel HK 2013. HK
2012: "Lik Likoti" at Canvas Gallery Karachi, PK.
2011: "The Memory is The Message" at XVA gallery Dubai, UAE.
2010: "Badshahnama" at Tmproject Gallery Geneva, CH.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2019: "Neighbourhoods and Communities" Sommerfest, at Akademie Schloss Solitude, Stuttgart, DE.
2019: "Engaging with Histories" at Akademie Schloss Solitude, Stuttgart, DE.
2019: "Badshahnama" 2 Person Show at XVA gallery Dubai, UAE.
2019: "Mera Safar" Koel Galleery Karachi, PK.
2019: "Common Border" Ch: 1. Sanat Gallery Karachi. PK.
2018: "within /without" Asia House London.UK.

2018: "Seen Unseen" Kasteel Oud-Rekem, BE.
2018: Video screening and artist Talk Kino @ NEST. Den Hague, NL.
2018: "Revelation: Reclaiming South Asian Narratives" exhibition and seminar at Harvard university, South Asia Institute, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA.
2018: "Changing Places" Phoenix, Leicester, UK.
2017: "The Materiality of the Invisible" at Marres, Centre for Contemporary Culture Maastricht, NL.
2017: "The Great Wall" Karachi Biennale, PK.
2017: "Changing Places" Osterley Park and House, London, UK.
2017: "Changing Places" Hastings Museum & Art Gallery, UK.
2017: "Changing Places" Cliffe Castle Museum, Keighley, UK.
2017: "Changing Places" Film and Video Umbrella touring exhibition at The House Mill London, UK.
2017: "Taqseem" koel gallery Karachi, PK.
2016: "The Materiality of the Invisible #01" at Jan Van Eyck Academie, Maastricht, NL.
2016: "Hopes of Paradise", with Canvas Gallery Karachi Displayed at Grosvenor Gallery London. UK.
2016: "Vanishing Point" Artport, Tel Aviv, IL.
2016: "IFAA Contemporary Project Phase I" at Solutions! Musee de L'Art et de l'Espace, Paris, FR.
2015: "The Lay of the Land", at Gallery Latitude 28, New Delhi IND.
2015: "And Nothing But The Truth: Parrhesia II", at Koel Gallery, Karachi, PK.
2015: Art15 London, with Khaas Gallery, UK.
2014: "SINDH Reverberating sounds echo through the dessert" at Koel Gallery, Karachi, PK.
2014: "Along with Anwar", group show at Zahoor-ul-Akhlaq Gallery, NCA, Lahore, PK.
2014: "I.D" at the Islamabad Literature Festival 2014 by MyArtWorld gallery, Islamabad, PK.
2014: "Stet", at LLF, Alhamra art Gallery, Lahore, PK.
2014: "Sindh Art Fest" 2014, with Canvas Gallery Karachi at frère hall J, Karachi, PK.
2013: Asian Art Fair, London with Joost van den Bergh, UK.
2013: Bonhams London: Charity Auction of Pakistani Art by Rising Pakistan, UK.
2013: "Paper" group show at XVA gallery Dubai, UAE.
2013: 27th Annual exhibition of Punjab art association at Alhamra Arts Council, Lahore. (awarded the award of excellence), PK.
2012: NCA Faculty show at Zahoor-ul-Akhlaq gallery National College of Arts, Lahore, PK.
2012: "Attaining Heights" group show at VM art gallery Karachi, PK.
2012: "Soul searchers" 3 persons show at Rohtas gallery Islamabad, PK.
2012: "Band Baaja Baraat" with Canvas Gallery Karachi displayed at IVS gallery Karachi, PK.
2011: "The Return" 3rd International Festival of Contemporary Art at (MOMA). Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Algiers. DZ.
2011: Open Studio at Gasworks Studio, London, UK.
2011: Contemporary Istanbul, Istanbul, TR.
2011: "After All" at Royat gallery Lahore, PK.
2011: Finalist exhibition of "The sovereign Asian Art prize 2010", at The Rotunda, Exchange Square, HK.
2011: "Contemporary Shahnama, millennium painting Exhibition" traveling show at NCA in Lahore, PK.
2011: "Common Threads: Contemporary Art from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iran and Pakistan". Xerxes gallery with NMart gallery at the Bastakiya at the Heritage House Gallery. Duabi, UAE.
2010: "Contemporary Shahnama, millennium painting Exhibition" at The Prince's Foundation Gallery, London, UK.

- 2010: "The Rising Tide", curated by Naiza Khan at Mohatta Palace Karachi, PK.
- 2010: The sovereign Asian Art prize finalist exhibition, ARTSPACE at Helutrans, SG.
- 2010: Slick 2010. Art fair, Paris. FR.
- 2010: "Creating Common wealth", at Ragini Gallery, New Delhi, IND.
- 2010: Exhibition of Finalist for The sovereign Asian Art prize 2010, ARTSPACE at Helutrans, SG.
- 2010: "Fatah Je Asay Pasay", with Green Cardamom at V.M Art Gallery Karachi, Sindh Museum Hyderabad, PK.
- 2010: "Structures Within An Intervention" at The Guild Art Gallery, New York, USA.
- 2010: "Making of The History" Two person show at Canvas Gallery Karachi, PK.
- 2010: "The Havelian Express" 3 person show at CAIS Gallery, HK.
- 2009: "Tradition & Tension" 4 person show at Art Scene Gallery Karachi, PK.
- 2009: "Patrons Of "Oh My God! I Can Buy Art!" at Grey Noise gallery Lahore, PK.
- 2009: "Redo Pakistan". Deptford X festival London, UK.
- 2009: "Redo Pakistan" Group show in the form of symposium at Alhamra art council Lahore, PK.
- 2009: "Between Black & White" 4 person show at Canvas Gallery Karachi, PK.
- 2009: "Redo Pakistan" a traveling show (Karachi, Lahore, Pakistan, England, UK, Dhaka. Bangladesh) arranged by Other Asias, a London based organization at Shanakhit Festival 2009 Karachi, PK.
- 2009: "Starring: The Artist" at Indus Valley Gallery Karachi, PK.
- 2008: Degree show at Zahoor-ul-Akhalq Gallery National college of Arts, Lahore, PK.
- 2008: Young artist exhibition at Alhmara Art Council Lahore, PK.
- 2007: "Dropping Tears Together" an anokha laadla collective live art performance at Alhamra Art Council Lahore, PK.
- 2006: "Places Real and Imagined" at Alhamra Art Gallery, Lahore, PK.
- 2005: "Art Aid" at Convention Center Islamabad, PK.
- 2005: "Voices" Group Exhibition by Pakistan Development Forum Islamabad, PK.
- 2005: "Emerging Talent" at V.M Art Gallery Karachi, PK.
- 2005: "Memories" Degree Show at National College of Arts Lahore, PK.

RESIDENCIES/ FELLOWSHIPS

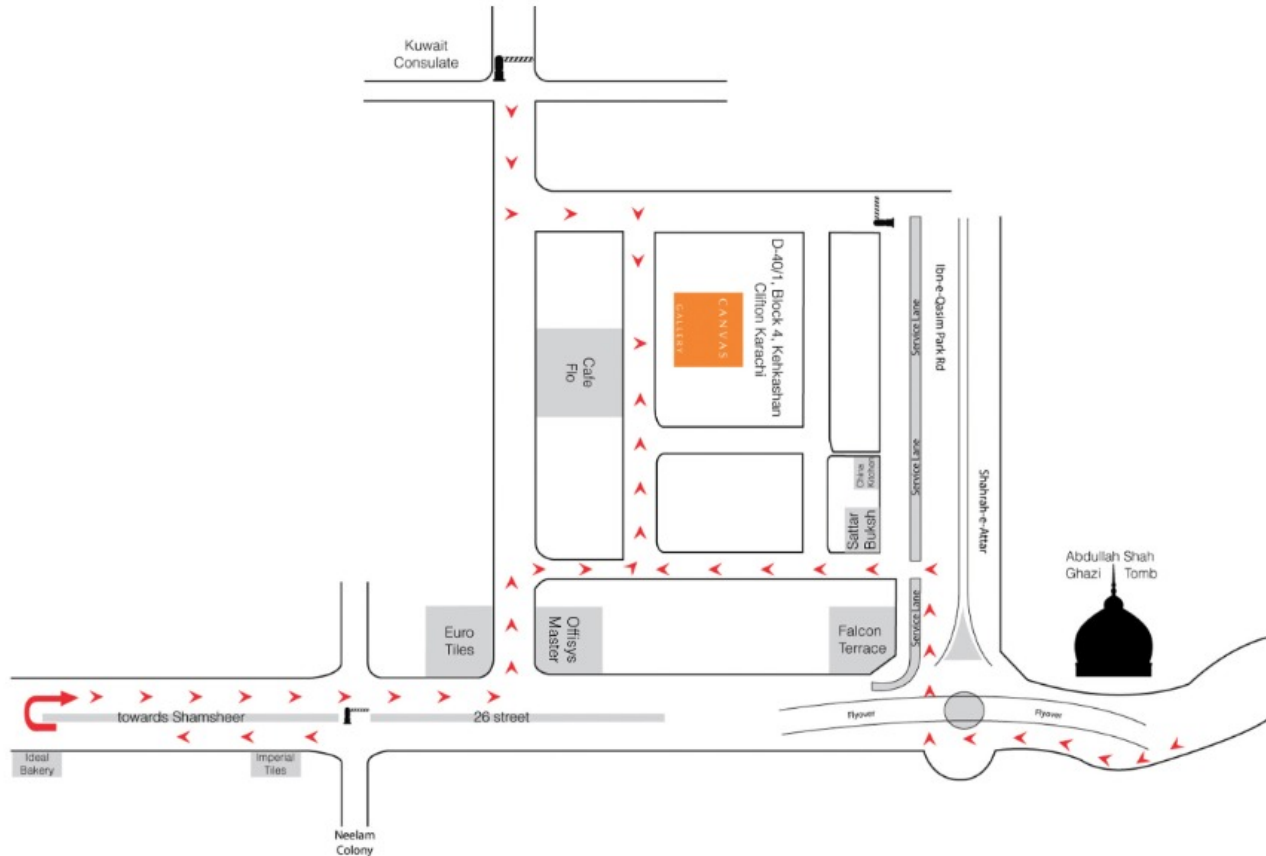
- 2021: Artist-in-Residence at EYE Filmmuseum, Amsterdam, NL.
- 2019-20: Fellowship at Akademie Schloss Solitude, Stuttgart, DE.
- 2018: Fellowship at Harvard University South Asia Institute, Massachusetts, Boston, USA.
- 2016-17: Fellowship at Jan van Eyck Academie, Maastricht, NL.
- 2011: Artist-in-Residence at Gasworks residency, London, UK.

AWARDS & PRIZES

- 2018-21: Recipient of “Werkbijdrage Bewezen Talent” by Mondriaan Fonds. Amsterdam, NL.
- 2013: Awarded the " Award of Excellence" by AAP Lahore, PK.
- 2011: Selected for the Charles Wallace Trust & Gasworks, artist in residency in London, UK.
- 2010: Finalist for the Sovereign Asian Art Prize 2010, HK.
- 2003-04: Merit scholarships at National College of Arts Lahore, PK.
- 1999: 1st Prize in painting competition on celebrity of artist A.K Sheikh at Sindh Museum Hyderabad, PK.
- 1999: Won an award in painting competition at Khana-e-Farhang Iran, PK.

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