

Muzzumil Ruheel

b. 1985, Lahore, Pakistan · Lives and works in Karachi
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Muzzumil Ruheel is a Karachi-based visual artist whose work moves between fact and fiction, often using stories and observations to open new ways of seeing. He began his journey as a traditional calligrapher before studying Visual Art at Beaconhouse National University, and over the years has developed a practice that is both rooted in his context and far-reaching in its scope. He has presented solo exhibitions across Pakistan, the UK, Germany, the UAE, India and the USA, and his work has been shown at major national and international platforms including the Young Moscow Biennale, Colombo Art Biennale, Lahore Biennale, Karachi Biennale, Cairo Documenta, Kunsthalle Darmstadt, Kaladham Museum, Wip Konsthall, Museo Diocesano Carlo Maria Martini, Kunstraum Kreuzberg/Bethanien, Universität der Künste Berlin, Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, Glynn Vivian Art Gallery, Art Dubai and India Art Fair. His works are part of important private and institutional collections worldwide, and his practice has been featured in leading art publications.

EDUCATION

BFA, Beaconhouse National University, Lahore, 2009
Bachelor of Arts (Journalism and Political Science), Government Degree College, Lahore, 2005
Traditional training in Urdu, Persian and Arabic calligraphy 2001-2005

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

A quiet wildness, Daniel und die Kunst, Hamburg, 2026
The wild in our mouths, Canvas Gallery, Karachi, 2025
Khayal / Imagine, curated by Saima Zaidi, Khaliq Dina Hall, Numaish, Karachi, 2024
on Emptiness, The Friday Gallery, Los Angeles, 2024
Speechless, Canvas Gallery, Karachi, 2024
We shall meet here, Coburg, Germany, 2023
Choose your words carefully, Canvas Gallery, Karachi, 2023
The Pauses, Onewall, 1×1 Gallery, Dubai, 2021
A Guide to Nonsensical Dreams, Canvas Gallery, Karachi, 2021
Confessions of the wait, 1×1 Gallery, Dubai, 2020
Misunderstandings, Canvas Gallery, Karachi, 2019
Baaton Se Baat Nikalti Hai, Tarq, Mumbai, 2018
Point of No Return, Rohtas Gallery, Lahore, 2018
Hearsay, Canvas Gallery, Karachi, 2017
Lost in His Own Garden, Grosvenor Gallery, London, 2016
The Alternate Life of Lies, Canvas Gallery, Karachi, 2015
And His Beard Grew and Grew and Grew, Rohtas Gallery, Lahore, 2015
But Some of Them Never Happened?, Canvas Gallery, Karachi, 2014
The Social “Animals”, Koel Gallery, Karachi, 2013
It’s Only Words, Rohtas Gallery, Lahore, 2012
I Do Not Quote From Scriptures; I Simply See What I See, V.M. Gallery, Karachi, 2011

BIENNALES, FAIRS & FESTIVALS

Crafting the Contemporary, London Design Festival, London, 2024
Design Summit, Lahore, 2024
35th Design Days, Coburg, Germany, 2023
Red, Grosvenor Gallery, Art Dubai, Dubai, 2023
Hims Academy, Schloss Eyrichshof, Germany, 2022
Meeting Point, India Art Fair, Delhi, 2022
Delhi Contemporary Art Week (DCAW), Delhi, 2021
Between the Sun and the Moon, Lahore Biennale 02, Lahore, 2020
India Art Fair, Tarq, Delhi, 2020
Exit Strategy, PNCA, Islamabad Art Festival, Islamabad, 2019
In other wor(l)d (solo), Canvas Gallery, Art Dubai, Dubai, 2019
The Quantum City, International Public Art Festival, Karachi, 2019
India Art Fair, Tarq, Delhi, 2019
In between the lines (solo), Canvas Gallery, Art Dubai, Dubai, 2018
Witness, Karachi Biennale, Karachi, 2017
Imago Mundi Project, Venice Biennale, Venice, 2017
Open the Door, PGIAR, Colombo Art Biennale, Colombo, 2016
Letter of Apology, Abhisaran Booth, India Art Fair, Delhi, 2015
Pastures Still Green, IV Young Moscow International Biennial, Moscow Museum of Modern Art, Moscow, 2014
Sindh Art Festival, Frere Hall, Karachi, 2014
Still Exotic, collaborative project with Mohamed Abdelkarim, Cairo Documenta, Cairo, 2010
Bastakiya Art Fair, Dubai, 2009

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

Tigers & Dragons, curated by Zehra Jumabhoy, Glynn Vivian Art Gallery, Swansea, Wales, UK, 2025
The Written Image, curated by Sydney Barofsky, South Asia Institute, Chicago, USA, 2025
Spring Contemporary [RED], Grosvenor Gallery, London, 2025
Dialogues Across Time, curated by Saira Danish Ahmed, Chawkandi Art Gallery, Karachi, 2025
Knowledge of the Ancients, curated by Zahra Khan, Barkat Ali Hall, Lahore, 2024
DHARTI DHAR DHAR DHARKE GI, curated by Salima Hashmi, COMO Museum, Lahore, 2024
Crafting the Contemporary, Numaish, Mohatta Palace Museum, Karachi, 2024
Volume of Air, curated by Ahmed Faizan Naveed, Haam Gallery, Lahore, 2024
Suno (Listen), 1x1 Gallery, Dubai, 2024
Olive Branch, curated by Nafisa Rizvi, Koel Gallery, Karachi, 2024
Modern and Contemporary, Grosvenor Gallery, London, 2023
Animalia, curated by León Krempel and Ismail Mukadam, Kunsthalle Darmstadt, Germany, 2023
Event, Memory, Metaphor, curated by Anish Gawande, Tarq, Mumbai, 2022
Re-examine / Retrace, AAN Gandhara Art Space, Karachi, 2021
Navigating Geometries, Tarq, Mumbai, 2020
Tapestry of Fading Gardens, 1x1 Gallery, Dubai, 2020
Pioneer Artist Residency III, Canvas Gallery, Khushaab, 2019
Art for Education, Museo Diocesano Carlo Maria Martini, Milan, 2018
Multiple Narratives, Grosvenor Gallery, London, 2018
Layering the City, Siddhartha Art Gallery, Kathmandu, 2017
Digging Deep, Crossing Far, Kunstraum Kreuzberg/Bethanien, Berlin, 2016

In Letter and Spirit, Tarq, Mumbai, 2016
Mohatta Palace Museum, Karachi, 2015
Letter of Apology (performance), OPJ Museum, Vijayanagar, collateral event of the Kochi-Muziris Biennale, 2014
Letter of Apology, Kaladham Museum, Vijayanagar, 2014
Present Re-Inventions, Grosvenor Gallery, London, 2014
International Emerging Artist Award Show, Dubai, 2014
Shape, Pattern and Form, Art Factum, Beirut, 2014
Crossing Over, Gallery Latitude 28, New Delhi, 2013
Stop-Look-Listen, Canvas Gallery, Karachi, 2013
Seven, Full Circle Gallery, Karachi, 2012
Text Me, Lawrie Shabibi Gallery, Dubai, 2012
Band Baaja Baraat, Indus Valley School of Art & Architecture, Karachi, 2012
Items of Dual Use, V.M. Gallery, Karachi, 2011
Items of Dual Use, Wip Konsthall, Stockholm, 2011
Vasl Rohtas Rawan International Artists' Residency Show, Rohtas I, Islamabad, 2011
Combinations, Canvas Gallery, Karachi, 2010
Canvas Gallery, Karachi, 2009
Space Invader Show, Aicon Gallery, London, 2009
Beaconhouse National University Degree Show, Alhamra Art Gallery, Lahore, 2009
Through Other Eyes, Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, Coventry, 2009
Through Other Eyes, Glynn Vivian Art Gallery, Swansea, 2009
Media as a Medium, Universität der Künste (UdK), Berlin, 2008
Moti Roti 360° 60 x 60 Secs, by Moti Roti, Pakistan, India and UK, 2008
Envoy of Wisdom, National Art Gallery, Islamabad, 2008

WORKSHOPS, RESIDENCIES & PROJECTS

House of Spider Silk, curatorial project with The Friday Gallery, Los Angeles, 2026
Jhulay Lal, Crafting the Contemporary, in collaboration with Irene Albino, Numaish, Karachi, 2024
Pioneer Artist Residency III, Khushaab, 2019
Transcendence, curatorial project, Sanat Gallery, Karachi, 2014
Abhisaran JSW Residency, Vijayanagar, India, 2014
Vasl International New Media Artists' Workshop, Karachi, 2012
Vasl Rohtas Rawan International Artists' Residency, Islamabad, 2011
Media as a Medium Workshop, Lahore and Berlin, 2008
Architectural Calligraphy Workshop, Anjuman-e-Memran, Lahore, 2004
Calligraphy Workshop, National College of Arts, Lahore, 2002

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS & PRESS

'Double Dealing in the Art of Words', Noor Butt, The Karachi Collective, 2026
'Reimagining the Art of Qur'anic Calligraphy in Contemporary Pakistan', Ambreen Shehzad Hussaini, University of Victoria, 2025 (featuring Muzzumil Ruheel as a principal case study)
'Artist as Storyteller', Amra Ali, DAWN, 2025
'Reading Between the Lines', Amra Ali, DAWN, 2024
'Encryption, Decryption: The Politics of Language', Zohreen Murtaza, The Karachi Collective, 2023
'The Power of Language', Peerzada Salman, DAWN, 2023
'Disappearing Tongues', Quddus Mirza, Encore, The News, 2023

'When It Comes to Tech-Art', Mint Lounge, 2022
 'Art Divvy Conversation with Muzzumil Ruheel', 2021
 'Loss and Tension in the Exploration of Text in/as Image in Pakistani Art', Zohreen Murtaza, The Karachi Collective, 2021
 'A Guide to Nonsensical Dreams', Maha Minhaj, The Karachi Collective, 2021
 'At This Still Point of Time', Amra Ali, DAWN, 2021
 'Construction and Confinement', Ranjit Hoskote, Tarq Artist Talk, 2020
 'Failure to Communicate', Salwat Ali, DAWN, 2019
 'Language at Hand', Quddus Mirza, The News, 2019
 'Linguistic Misgivings', Peerzada Salman, DAWN, 2019
 'Multitudes of Perspectives', Nadeem Zuberi, The News, 2019
 'Art Dubai Again', ArtNow Pakistan, 2019
 'Art Dubai 2019 Review', Zena Khan, Hello Magazine, 2019
 'Pakistan's Radioactive Decade: An Informal Cultural History of the 1970s', 2019
 'Play of Words', Sanjana Srinivasan, Art India Magazine, 2019
 'Art with Urdu Calligraphy', Zahra Amiruddin, The Hindu, 2019
 'The Letter is Enough After All', (catalogue), Gemma Sharpe, Tarq, 2019
 'Meet the 40 Artists Under the Age of 40', Vogue India, December 2018
 'In Between the Lines', (catalogue), Art Dubai, 2018
 'Hearsay', Numair A. Abbasi, ArtNow Pakistan, 2017
 'The Nature of Truth', Nimra Khan, DAWN, 2017
 'Multiple Notions', Nadeem Zuberi, Business Recorder, 2017
 'Hearsay, Not Hearsay', Peerzada Salman, DAWN, 2017
 'A Picture in Words', Samar Faisal Zia, Herald, 2016
 'Lost in His Own Garden', Saima Munawar, ArtNow Pakistan, 2016
 'In Letter and Spirit', (catalogue), Ranjit Hoskote, Tarq, 2016
 'The Beauty of Letters', Huzan Tata, Verve Magazine, India, 2016
 'Love Letters', Kimberly Garza, KimGarza Magazine, Berlin, 2016
 'The Eye Still Seeks', Salima Hashmi, 2015
 'Written in Beauty', Shruthi Srinath, Deccan Herald, 2015
 'Abhisaran', (catalogue), India, 2015
 'Present Re-Inventions', ArtNow Pakistan, 2014
 'Piecing It Together', Maryam Usman, The Express Tribune, 2014
 'Transcendence', (catalogue), 2014
 'Social Animals', M. Saeed Kureshi, DAWN, 2013
 'The Caricatures of Social Animals', Veera Rustomji, DAWN, 2013
 'Crossing Over', Ilena Bose, The Wall Art Magazine, New Delhi, 2013
 'No Ordinary Language', Maureen Korp, Guerilla Magazine, Issue 34, 2012
 'Exploring Language and Text Through Art', Khaleejjesque, 2012
 'The National', Abu Dhabi, 2012
 'Artist Talk', Lawrie Shabibi Gallery, Dubai, 2012
 'New Perspectives, Newer Possibilities', Gemma Sharpe, Herald, 2012
 'Vasl Workshop', Eman Mahmud, ArtNow Pakistan, 2012
 'The Secret of Words', Aasim Akhtar, The Friday Times, 2011
 'Artist Talk', Rohtas Rawan Studio, Islamabad, 2011
 'Items of Dual Use', (catalogue), V.M. Gallery and Wip Konsthall, Stockholm, 2011
 'Is This the Helmet of Mambrino?', Gemma Sharpe, Shifter Magazine, 2010
 'Through Other Eyes', (catalogue), Herbert Art Gallery, Coventry, 2009
 'Parallel Lines', (catalogue), Bradford City Art Gallery and Museum, 2008

'Art for the Sake of the People', Quddus Mirza, The News, 2007
'Source of Inspiration', Farida Batool, 2006
'Tantalizing Text', Saira Dar, The Nation, 2006
'Modern Calligraphers, Makhzan-e-Khatati', Khurshid Gohar, 2006