

Newsletter

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Lahore Arts Council



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Book Launching Ceremony

By Farzana Aqib

The Lahore Arts Council (Alhamra) hosted book launch event of five English and Urdu Poetry books authored by Farzana Aqib at Alhamra Art Gallery, the Mall. The Federal Minister for Education, Mr. Shafqat Mehmood was the Chief Guest at the event. The books included "Mohabat Ki Bhala Kab Umar Hoti Hai", "Tumharay Sath Phir Ji Lein Gay", "Caramel Sunset", "Blue Monday of Love", and "I don't write life right itself". The event was attended by the former cricketer "Aqib Javed" and many other dignitaries from the fields of literature and poetry.



Arjumand Painting Awards 2021

An art Exhibition and the 6th Award ceremony of "Arjumand Painting Awards 2021" was held at Alhamra Art Gallery, the Mall. The event was organized in collaboration with the Gallery 6. This year the Gallery 6 received 192 entries. Around 82 entries were selected for the first phase of the Exhibition. The President of Dabistan-e-Iqbal, Mr. Mian Iqbal Salahuddin was the chief guest at the event who distributed prizes among the winners. A total of six prizes were awarded to the winners; the first prize was 3 Lac rupees, second was 2 Lac rupees, third was 1 Lac rupees, and three merit prizes were also given worth 50,000 rupees each. The jury included eminent artist such as RM Naeem, Ali Azmat, Muhammad Zeeshan, Sana Arjumand, and Irfan Gul Dahri.



ARJUMAND
PAINTING
AWARD 2021



The Grandeur Attack

The Lahore Arts Council hosted yet another one of its kind event of mounting up of an Art Sculpture utilizing a Dual-Edge Taxidermy titled as The Grandeur Attack-A Courageous & Majestic Swoop of Imperial Eagle on Indian Rock Python by Prof. Dr. Aurangzeb Hafi at Alhamra Art Gallery, the Mall. The show was inaugurated by Shah Nasir, the Senior UN Strategic Officer, who highly appreciated Dr. Aurangzeb's Work. This state-of-the-art, thematic sculpture was a prime-sized eagle of the South Asian region. The artwork became the center of attention for the visitors who immensely praised the work of Dr. Aurangzeb.



Drama Festival 2021

The Lahore Arts Council will be organizing a ten-day-long Drama Festival 2021 from August 05 to 14, in which a variety of theatre groups will present their dramas/plays. This event is an annual tradition at the Alhamra Arts Council. The purpose of organizing this festival is to bring a change in the form of entertainment and drama after the year-long lockdown because of COVID-19. All these dramas will be open to the general public with strict implementation of COVID-19 SOPs.



History of Alhamra Arts Council

Alhamra is a beautiful building made of red bricks. Alhamra is an Arabic word. The literal meaning of word Alhamra is woman in red cloths. This building is located on Shahrah Quaid-e-Azam previously known as Mall Road. Alhamra Arts Council is an art and cultural complex. The one of Pakistan's renowned architect Nayyer Ali Dada designed this complex. The project of Alhamra Arts Council started in 1970. Initially Nayyer Ali Dada had to design a 100-seat multi-purpose auditorium. Completion of auditorium was done in 1979. After that, the Art Council was taken under by the government agency called Lahore Art Council and it administered the other three following stages of project.



Other four structures of administrative offices and art gallery exhibition were opened in 1984. A 450-seat theater attached with the auditorium was opened in 1985 and a lecture and recital hall of 250-seat was completed in 1992. Lahore can be said the cultural heart of Pakistan and Alhamra is the cultural heart of Lahore. Since the time of its inception, Alhamra has come forward as a center of cultural activities in Lahore. Many activities are held at the Alhamra Art Council. There is not even a single day when no activity is being conducted at Alhamra. It is the busiest and most popular place for the art lovers. The auditoriums are used for different kinds of activities. Basically these auditoriums are for the theaters organized by the different theater groups. Folk, sufi, humorous and musical theaters are organized here. Musical concerts are also arranged here. Many debating societies use these auditoriums to organize their debating competitions. Other family functions and ceremonies by the different institutes are also held here. Many renowned politicians also delivered their political speeches here. Art gallery of Alhamra Art Council is used for the purpose of exhibitions. Artists display their paintings and pieces or art like sculptures here to get the appreciation of their imagination and observation that they painted on the canvas and that is being reflected through their other pieces of art from the people who visit this gallery.

Renowned photographers and students as well exhibit the world that they have captured in the lens of their camera. An academy is also established for the students who are interested in field of arts. In this academy students learn how to play different musical instruments, how to sing, how to dance, how to paint different mediums. In short, it can be said that Alhamra Art Council truly is a place for the art lovers from where anyone can get training, buy paintings, listen music etc.



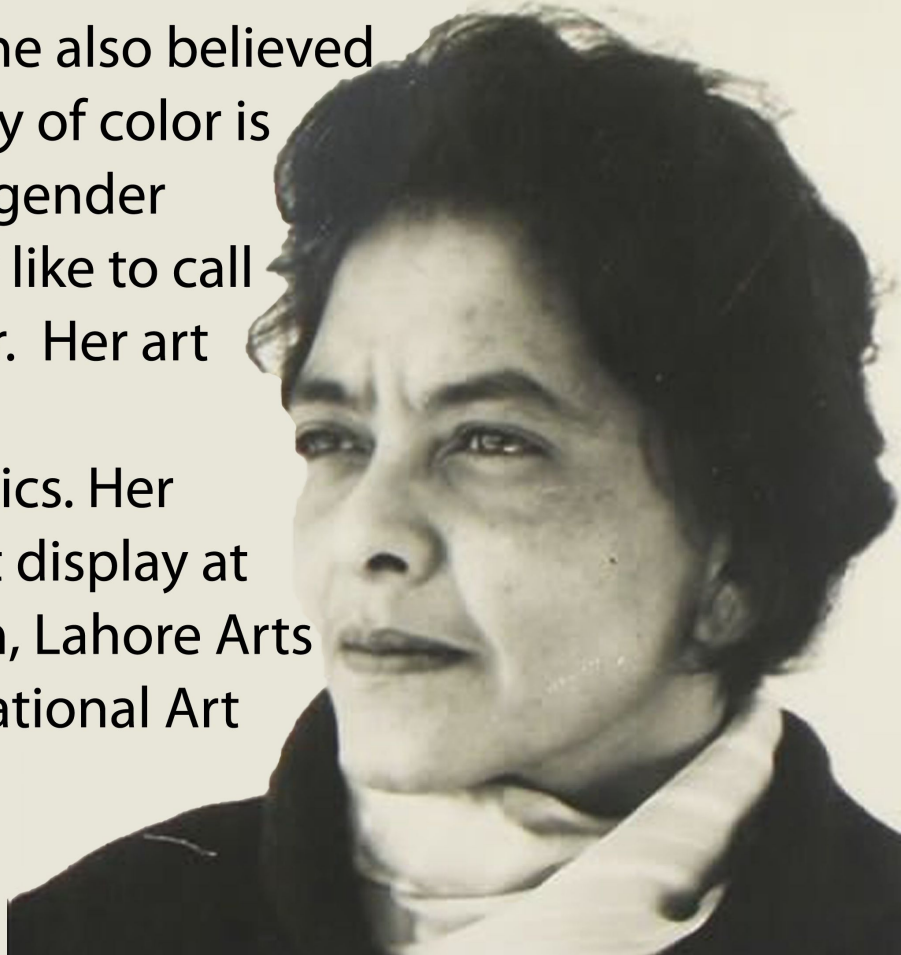


المتحف

Art Museum

ZUBEIDA AGHA

Zubeida Agha is considered among the pioneers of modern art in Pakistan. Initially she studied Philosophy from Kinnaird College for Women and started her journey in 1940s when after graduation she worked with painter B. C. Sanyal in Lahore from 1944 – 1946. She took inspiration from western artists Picasso and Mario Perlinger (former student of Picasso). Later she went to Saint Martin School of Arts, London (1950) and also joined Ecole des Beaux-Arts, Paris (1951). Her paintings provoke viewers into thoughts as she transformed her surroundings into creative imaginations and surreal angles. She reworked the figures several times to achieve a shape that is unique and simple and capture the rhythm of movement and the mood of her subject. She selected colors to lend truthfulness and depth of meaning. She also believed that sensitive delicacy of color is somehow related to gender although she did not like to call her a feminist painter. Her art first baffled and later overwhelmed art critics. Her work is in permanent display at Alhamra Art Museum, Lahore Arts Council and at the National Art Gallery, Pakistan



National Council of Arts where these paintings serve as inspiration and to educate future generations. She is the recipient of Pride of Performance award, (1965). Pakistan post issued a Rs. 40 sheet let of stamps, (2006) to posthumously honor 10 painters including Miss Agha, born in 1922 and died in 1997.



‘Two Sister’
Oil on Board
60 x 93 cm
1955



‘Tea Pot’
Oil on Board
60 x 93 cm
1954

A close-up photograph of a brown leather book cover. The cover features intricate embossed designs, including a large central floral motif and a decorative border. A fountain pen with a silver and black patterned barrel and a green feather is resting diagonally across the cover. The text "BOOKS & AUTHORS" is printed in white capital letters in the lower right corner. The book is placed on a surface with a colorful floral pattern, and some dried leaves are scattered around it.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

Book: 101 Tales of a Fabled City

Author: Majid Shaikh

The book Lahore; 101 Tales of the Fabled City is a collection of selected columns of Majid Shaikh which were published in the Sunday edition of Daily Dawn for at least Two decades. The tales cover range of topics and eras, starting from Buddhism to British, and from saints to rogues. The tales are a mixture of facts, mythology and folklore. That is the beauty of tales, to be taken as living history transmitted through oral tradition, and lived through experience. These are less academic and more emotional, less formal and more sentimental and less restricted and more fluid. But the tales are significant as they represent people's aspirations. No one can tell exact stories of Madhu-Lal Hussain or Bibi Pak Daman but one can tell the devotion people have with these for centuries and the emotions these evoke which are above the cast and creed, faith and tribes and color and class. How long have Lahore been here? Majid Shaikh traces an old town Salutra which was then transformed by two sons of Ram; Lahu and Kasu who founded Lahore and Kasur respectively. He ascribes special place to river Ravi as mythological river alongwith Sarwawati which figures in Hindu Veda and on whose banks the mythological wars were fought between the new religion and old warriors. How far these myths are true is of course open to discussion. Then Lahore escaped the Greek forces and became a realm of Chandrugupta and Samnudrgupta's

empire finally taken over by white huns and finally under Rajput ruler Jai Pal and son Annad pal. Jai pal, is regarded by Majid shaikh as the greatest and the most honorable of Lahori rulers who after being defeated by Mehmood Ghaznavi committed 'johar' or self immolation right outside Mori gate of walled city. The place is still present. Malik Ayaz of the Mehmood-Ayaz fame was the first Muslim governor of Lahore and is buried here too, followed by the slave king Qutab u din Aibak who is also buried in Lahore, along with Jehnagir and Noor Jahan. But the ruler to be called as Prince of Lahore was Dara Shikoh, who loved and was loved by Lahore.

Source: <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/35487215-lahore>

Abdul Majid Sheikh

LAHORE

101 TALES OF A FABLED CITY



The stories are endless, for Lahore is that one ancient city of the sub-continent mentioned in the Ramayana and the Mahabharata. It was the city the Moghals loved most leaving behind there almost half of the historic monuments of that age. It was also the place where the British collected to retake Delhi in the Mutiny of 1857. One outcome of this turmoil was the invention of the Club Sandwich, produced by the thousands in military canteens as men collected to fight it out once and for all. Over time it became a city of culture and learning, of poets, painters and writers, of gardens and tea houses, of cafes and eateries.

That Rama's wife dwelled on the mound that today houses the Lahore Fort, or in the nearby forest in the hermit Valmiki's hut, is documented. Her son Lava formally founded the habitation on the mound away from the torrid floods of the Irawati, now called the Ravi, or so it is alleged, and his name stuck to be that of the city itself. The other son Kasu had the nearby town of Kasur named after him. But then Lahore existed even before Rama and Sita, a small village called Salatura, where men of great substance produced classical works of mathematics and Sanskrit grammar, monumental works that proved to be the building blocks of modern knowledge. On the banks of the river Ravi the Hindu religion also took shape.

Over time Lahore has represented almost every major religion. It was once a Buddhist city, a Jain city, a Hindu city, a Muslim city, a Sikh city, and then the British worked hard to convert it into a city for everyone. It is a city that swings between tranquility and turmoil, with periods of peace and militancy, for both amazingly exist often at the same time.

The flavor of the history of Lahore just cannot be understood without dwelling on the people, places, things and faces of the city. That is why I have collected, from a fairly large collection, just 101 short pieces of this fabled city. My purpose is to take you on a journey that will find its own special place in your mind's eye. Such is the lure of this fabled city.