

4A CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY ASIAN ART

NAEEM RANA
NUSRA QURESHI
THE WAY YOU LOOK AT ME
8 July - 20 August 2011
Opening Event: Friday 8 July 6-8pm



4A

4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art is pleased to present The Way You Look At Me, a unique collaboration between Nusra Qureshi and Naeem Rana, two internationally recognised artists from Pakistan who moved to Melbourne in 2001.

Nusra Qureshi is part of a generation of traditionally trained artists who have revived and innovated Mughal miniature painting through the incorporation of contemporary ideas, a transition in scale and new subject matter, whilst Naeem Rana combines the art of traditional Urdu calligraphy with popular culture and advertising in a digital space. Both their practices reflect on contemporary society, culture and politics.

The Way You Look At Me, takes place over two floors over 4A with new work developed especially for this exhibition. Central to the show are ideas of looking and being looked at and feelings of invisibility in adopted spaces. The ground floor galleries will come alive with site-specific works, including a digitally printed large scale wallpaper, and a new work by Naeem Rana commissioned specifically for 4A's front window (the Urdu text translates as: 'my shadow will be with you') This work is constructed entirely within the digital space, incorporating poetry based on classical Urdu poems to express loss and the experience of living in adopted places.

The exhibition will also include a 13 metre digital print by Nusra Qureshi's 25 x 1333 cm digital print, combining the eyes of women from Mughal miniature painting, advertising and women from her own circle of friends. The eye is a central motif in her work, one which relates not only to superstition and omens but intimacy, metaphors of love, surveillance and vision, trickling down to the doe eyed heroines in twentieth century Indian cinema.

Aaron Seeto, Director of 4A says "The Way You Look At Me, is a major mid-career project presented by 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, which focuses on the work of internationally important artists living in Australia. We have chosen these artists because they represent contemporary Pakistani art, which is relatively unknown and unfamiliar to Australian audiences".



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Open 11am-6pm, Tuesday - Saturday, closed public holidays

Image: Naeem Rana
MERA SAYA SAATH HO GA (my shadow
will be with you) 2011
189 x 248 cm
Digital print on vinyl

The Asian-Australian Artists Association is supported by



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4A is an initiative of the Asian Australian Artists Association Inc. We gratefully acknowledge our Principal Patrons: Geoff and Vicki Ainsworth, Daniel and Lyndell Droga and Kerr and Judith Neilson; Patrons: Richard Funston, John Lam-Po-Tang and Johnson Pilton Walker; Benefactors: ARTOCELL; Lisa Paulsen; Dr Gene and Brian Sherman AM; Matthias Arndt; Friends: Brooke and Steve Aitken and Ari Droga. The assistance of the Commonwealth Government through the Australia Council, its funding and advisory body; the NSW Government through Arts NSW and the City of Sydney.

About the Artists

Nusra Qureshi and Naeem Rana have been included in major international exhibitions as well as seminal surveys of contemporary Pakistani Art. Nusra Latif Qureshi has exhibited in the 53rd Venice Biennale, Italy (2009), 5th Asia Pacific Triennial at the Queensland Art Gallery (2006), Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Japan (2005). Her work has been shown internationally across Europe, US and India and is held in the collection of the MCA Sydney, Queensland Art Gallery, Fukuoka Art Museum among others. In Sydney her work has been shown at Sherman Galleries and Gallery Barry Keldoulis. She completed a Master of Fine Art from the Victorian College of the Arts in 2002.

Naeem Rana trained in the Nastalique style in Urdu calligraphy, traditional techniques passed down from his father. He has exhibited at the OZAsia Festival, Adelaide, UTS Gallery. His work is held in private collections in Pakistan, India, Australia, USA and UK. He completed a Graduate Diploma in Visual Art from the Victorian College of the Arts in 2001.

For media enquiries and for further information please contact Yu Ye Wu 0432 810 388 media@4a.com.au



IMAGE: Nusra Qureshi, detail of Sensual Dimensions (2011) Digital print on paper, 25 x 1333cm. Courtesy of the artist.