

BE(COMING) THE MUSEUM

ALI ARSHAD

Nafees (Refined Soliloquy)

Glass, water, marble and fish, 2023.

The objects in Lahore Museum are often lost in their geographical and archeological compartmentalization. Locked behind glass cabinets, the intricacies of their iconography goes unnoticed and the conversations among them remain unheard. Addressing specifically the details of one relief sculpture, this work is materialised as a dialogical soliloquy between the museum and the enculturation of Miracle of Sarasvati displayed in the Gandhara Gallery.

Ali Arshad incorporates the attributes of Ashtamangala (a spiritual set of eight symbols which are utilized in multiple cultures) to bring certain elements of this ancient artifact to life. The interplay between the emblems of a lotus flower and goldfish, which can be seen in many artifacts across the Gandhara and the Hindu, Buddhist and Jain galleries, is a longing for a future beyond the limitations of social structures. A future informed by the light and knowledge disseminating from culture to culture.

About the Artist:

Ali Arshad is a trans-disciplinary artist based in Lahore. Arshad received his BFA from Beaconhouse National University. He uses text, research data, earthworks and new media in his practice to address the role of gender, spirituality and other socio-cultural disparities in contemporary art.

MORE INFORMATION ON THE ARTIST AND THE BE(COMING) THE MUSEUM PROJECT CAN BE FOUND HERE:

