

BE(COMING) THE MUSEUM

WARDAH NAEEM BUKHARI

Aesthetic Hybridity in Mughal Paintings

Digital print on canvas and machine embroidery in silk and metallic threads with silver and gold leaf,
2023..

Wardah Naeem Bukhari's work is inspired by a series of Mughal miniature paintings from the collection of the Lahore Museum. She investigates the rich and layered language of ornamented miniature painting borders, and their far-reaching influence on indigenous visual vocabulary; the colors and motifs meticulously placed in these borders can be seen in the vernacular of everyday aesthetics today, such as the ornamentation found in architecture, textiles, or objects of daily use. This ornamental sensibility and color palette are still indigenous to South Asian identity.

As opposed to Eurocentric ideals that create a distinction between arts and craftsmanship or contemporary debates that divide digital and traditional art practices, Bukhari explores an alternate path. By interchanging pigment and paint with mediums associated with mass production, she draws parallels between the meticulous steps present both in traditional and digital miniatures. Although miniature painting techniques retain their original vocabulary, their materiality, aesthetic and narrative functions continue to shape-shift and evolve.

About the Artist:

Wardah Naeem Bukhari is an interdisciplinary artist based in Lahore. She earned her PhD in Art & Design from PUCAD, Lahore. Her work explores the history, aesthetics and evolution of traditional art practices in reference to today's visual culture.

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

