

## **Seher Shah**

Pakistani contemporary artist

**Born** in Karachi, Pakistan, 1975.

The artist lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

### **Education**

1998 Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI. Bachelor of Architecture, Bachelor of Fine Arts.

1993 Fiorella LaGuardia, High School of the Arts and Performing Arts, New York, NY.

With her unique combination of architecture and drawing, Seher Shah's monochromatic works done with graphite and gouache on paper and her montaged photographs are nuanced plays of the notions of public and private. Her hybridised cityscapes are a comment on the domination imposed by brutalist architecture on social life. Shah's use of archival images, geometric forms and religious symbols as a permutation of personal nostalgia and spatial memory alters the nationalist and religious framework of viewing art works.

### **Selected Exhibitions**

#### **Solo**

##### **2013**

"30 | 60 | 90", Jhaveri Contemporary, Mumbai, India.

"Constructed Landscapes", The Contemporary Austin, TX.

##### **2012**

"Radiant Lines", Nature Morte, Berlin, Germany.

##### **2011**

"Object Anxiety", Scaramouche, New York, NY.

##### **2009**

"Paper to Monument", Nature Morte, New Delhi, India.

##### **2008**

"Jihad Pop", Bose Pacia Gallery, New York, NY.

##### **2007**

"Black Star", Momenta Art, Brooklyn, NY.

#### **Group**

## **2013**

“Observing Ratios”, The James gallery.

“Mondo Utah; Soft Brutalism”, Matthew Antezzo and Seher Shah, Utah Museum of Contemporary Art.

“Drawing Biennial”, Drawing Room, London, U.K.

“Decenter: An Exhibition on the Centenary of the 1913 Armory Show”, Abrons Art Center, New York.

“Exhibition without Objects”, Khoj International Artists Association, New Delhi, India.

## **2012**

“Brute Ornament”, Kamrooz Aram and Seher Shah, Green Art gallery, Dubai. U.A.E.

“Radical Terrain”, Rubin Museum of Art, New York.

“The Phenomenal World”, Otto Zoo Gallery, Milan

“Cardinal Meridians: New Geometries of the Infinite”, Lakereen gallery, Mumbai, India.

“Intersections on paper”, Sherin Najjar gallery, Berlin, Germany.

“Cynical love: Life in the everyday”, KNMA, New Delhi, India.

“Lines of Control”, Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, New York

## **2011**

“Manual for Treason: Artist projects”, Sharjah Biennial X publication.

“Drawing 2011: Biennial”, Drawing Room, London, U.K.

“Taking Sides”, Paddle 8, New York, NY.

“Positions: GBG gallery, Zurich, Switzerland.

“Drawn from Life: Green Cardamom Project”, Abbot Hall Art Gallery, Cumbria, U.K.

“Eccentric Architecture”, Queen’s Museum of Art, New York.

## **2010**

“Uber Wut / On Rage, House of World Cultures”, Berlin, Germany.

“Spiral Jetty”, Nature Morte, New Delhi, India.

“Alternative Cartographies”, Headlands Center for the Arts Project Space, Sausalito, California.

## **2009**

**"Public Collective: Projects for a small world". Artist projects.**

"Herd Thinner", Charest Weinberg, Miami, Florida.

"How Nations are Made: Green Cardamom project", Cartwright Hall, U.K.

"The Last Sessions", Flemish Cultural Center, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

"Jameel prize", Victoria and Albert Museum, London, U.K.

"Art Basel", Bose Pacia and Nature Morte, Basel, Switzerland.

"Armory Art Fair", Bose Pacia and Nature Morte, Basel, Switzerland.

"Bad Moon Rising", Galerie Sans Titre, Brussels, Belgium.

"Lines of Control", Third Line gallery, Dubai, U.A.E, VM gallery, Karachi, Pakistan and Green Cardamom, London.

"Infinite Possibilities", Momenta Art, Brooklyn, NY.

**2008**

"The Labyrinth Wall: From Mythology to Reality", Exit Art, New York, NY.

"Sub-Architecture continental", Galerie Alain le Gaillard, Paris, France.

"Empire and Its Discontents", Tufts University at the Aidekman Arts Center.

"The Gift: New Acquisitions", Queens Museum of Art, New York.

"21: Selections of Contemporary Art", Brooklyn Museum, New York.

"Drawing Space", Green Cardamom, London, U.K.

"NY/LA", Gallery Barry Keldoulis, Sydney, Australia.

"FIAC", Grand Palais & Louvre.

"Zoo", London.

"Showcase Singapore", Nature Morte, Singapore.

"Art Basel", Bose Pacia & Nature Morte, Basel

**2007**

"Generation 1.5, Queens Museum of Art", New York.

"Zeichnungen, Conceptual and concrete drawings", Gallery Gisele Linder, Basel, Switzerland.

"The Devotee Exhausts the Forces of Activity", Gallery Barry Keldoulis, Sydney, Australia.

“Art Basel Miami Beach”, Bose Pacia & Nature Morte, New York. Generation 1.5, Queens Museum of Art, New York, NY,

“Summertime”, Gallery Gisele Linder, Basel, Switzerland

“Group Summer Exhibition”, Nature Morte, New Delhi, India

“Changing Climate”, Abrons Art Center, New York, NY

## **2006**

“In a State of Emergency: Women, War and the Politics of Urban Survival”, SAWCC Visual Arts Annual Exhibition, New York

“Liverpool Biennial”, The Independents, International Digital Art, Liverpool, U.K

“Fatal Love: Radical political art from South Asia”, Queen’s Museum of Art, New York.

“29th Small Works Exhibition”, Washington Square East Gallery, New York

## **2005**

“Solo series”, 526 Open, Chelsea Arts Building, New York

## **2004**

Group drawing exhibit at Galapagos Art Space, Williamsburg, New York

“Art Students League group show”, New York

Williamsburg: Kent Avenue Open Studios, New York

## **1998**

B.E.B Team Room Exhibit, Providence, Rhode Island

## **Art Fairs**

### **2010**

Art Basel, Bose Pacia + Nature Morte, Basel, Switzerland

### **2009**

Art Basel, Bose Pacia + Nature Morte, Basel, Switzerland

Armory Art Fair, Bose Pacia + Nature Morte, New York

### **2008**

FIAC, Grand Palais & Louvre, Paris, France

Zoo, London, UK

Showcase Singapore, Nature Morte, Singapore

Art Basel, Bose Pacia + Nature Morte, Basel, Switzerland

## **2007**

Art Basel Miami Beach, Bose Pacia + Nature Morte, Miami, Florida

New Art Dealer's Alliance, Momenta Art, Miami, Florida

Gulf Art Fair, Bose Pacia + Nature Morte, Dubai, U.A.E

Armory Art Fair, Bose Pacia + Nature Morte, New York, NY

## **Awards**

### **2009**

Victoria & Albert Museum: Jameel prize artist talk, London. U.K.

## **Publication**

Kamrooz Aram and Seher Shah. *Brute Ornament*. Edited by Murtaza Vali,  
With contributions by Shumon Basar, Media Farzin, Alan Gilbert and Murtaza Vali  
Green Art Gallery, Dubai, U.A.E, 2012.

## **Video**

### **2013**

"24 Hour Time-Lapse of Object Repetition (Line to Distance)", The Contemporary Austin

## **SEE MORE**

### **Texts**

**Exhibition Catalogue** 'Women, War and the Politics of Urban Survival', November, 2006

**Review** Siddhartha Mittar, 'Sepia Mutiny (blog) In a State of Emergency', November, 2006

**Review** New York Magazine, 'Best of the Armory Show- A Fine Art Browser', February, 2007

**Review** Art India, 'State of Emergency', February, 2007

**Review** Tara Kyle, Bilal Qureishi, Ahmed Shihab-Eldin, 'Defining Middle Ground, The Next Generation of Muslim New Yorkers, March, 2007

**Review** Charles Bonenti 'Berkshire Regal', 'How Fair thou Art' March 2007

**Review** Kunstmagazin, Annette Hoffmann, 'Eine Zeichnung kommt selten allein', Regioartline, March 2007

**Review** ArtInfo News, Judd Tully, 'Gulf Art Fair', March, 2007

**Review** Queens Tribune, Juliet Werner, 'Queens Museum meets Generation 1.5', June, 2007

Flavorpill NYC, Cultural Events across Music, Art and Film, July, 2007

**Review** Art Papers, Lara Kristin Lentini, 'Changing Climate', July/ August 2007

**Review** Time Out Delhi, Sonal Shah, Review for Nature Morte, July, 2007

**Review** Art Concerns, Aakansha Rastogi, Freedom of Interpretation, August, 2007

**Review** Pol Oxygen Magazine, Kellie Holt, 'Shah Thing'-New Art and Innovation from around the Globe, Issue 22, August, 2007

**Review** The New York Times, Martha Schwendener, 'Generation 1.5', Art in Review, Friday, August 24th, 2007

**Review** Surya Singh, Of 'Different' Classes, (Matters of Art.com), September 25th, 2007

**Review** Ego Magazine, Jihad Pop, August, 2007

**Review** John Hill, A Daily Dose of Architecture, Jihad Pop, (blog), September 9th, 2007

**Review** The New York Times, Holland Cotter, Art in Review, 'Seher Shah-Jihad Pop', September 28th, 2007

**Review** Bidoun, Manjula Padmanabhan, Nature Morte Exhibit Review, Fall, 2007

Elle Girl Magazine (Korea), New Artist Profile, January, 2008

**Review** Art US, Foundation for International Art Criticism, Yaelle Amir, 'Jihad Pop', Issue No. 21, January, 2008

**Review** Frieze Magazine, Emerging Artists of 2007, Issue 112, January, 2008

**Review** Phillip Art expert, Collins, Veronica, 'Jihad Pop', February 11th, 2008

**Catalogue** Jihad Pop, Bose Pacia exhibition, March, 2008

**Catalogue** Drawing Space, Green Cardamom, July, 2008

Schauffhausen new acquisitions publication, Hallen fur Neue Kunst, September, 2008

**Review** Empire and its Discontents, Tufts University publication, forward by Amy Schlegal, September, 2008

**Review** The Boston Globe, Cate McQuaid, 'Empire', Art Review, October, 2008

**Review** The Khaleej Times, Maria Waqar, 'Looking Beyond the Lines of Control', Int'l News, December, 2008

Gulf News, Leyla Haroon, Form and Colour of Divided destinies, January, 2009

**Catalogue** Line of Control, forward by Hammad Nasar, February, 2009

Sophia Money-Coutts, The National, Aligning the Debate, February, 2009

**Review** Frieze Magazine, Elize Williams, Lines of Control, March, 2009

**Interview** Interview Magazine, Armory Selects, March, 2009

Generation 1.5, Publication, Queens Museum of Art, June, 2009

Public journal: projects for a small world, Curated by Gregory Burke and Christine Davis, June, 2009

Printed Matter: Nominated for Artist award, June 2009

**Not sure** Katherine Brooks, 10 International Artists to Watch in 2013, Huffington Post, January 2013

**Review** Holland Cotter, South Asia through Modernist Binoculars, New York Times Art Review, December 2012

**Review** Aparna Sharma, Lines of Control, Leonardo Journal / MIT Press : Society for the Arts, Sciences and Technology, September 2012

**Review** Kaelen Wilson Goldie, Crumbling the Antiseptic Beauty, Bidoun, Summer 2012

**Interview** Sehba Muhammad, Interview on Radiant Lines at Nature Morte Berlin, July 2012

**Interview** Irina Makarova, Seher Shah covers New Ground with Constructed Landscapes and Radical Terrain, August 2012

**Review in German** Carolin Wurfel, 'Form Folgt Funktion', Vogue Germany, June 2012

**Review** Martin Herbert, Now See This, Art Review, 2012

**Review** Dina Ibrahim, Critics pick, 'Brute Ornament', Artforum, 2012

**Review** Christopher Lord, 'Exhibition examines Ornamental Art', The National, 2012

**Page not available** Newsweek, 100 Women who Matter, April 2012

**Review** Ibraaz Plaform 003: 'Seher Shah's Brute Ornament drawings', 2012

**Review** John Haber, 'The Idea of Manhattan; Lothar Osterburg, Seher Shah and Paul Graham', Haber Art Reviews, 2012

**Review** Elena Glasberg and Jasbir Puar, 'Lines of Control, Seher Shah's Fearless Symmetries', Art India, 2011

**Essay** Bakirathi Mani, 'Archives of Empire: Seher Shah's Geometric Landscapes', Social Text, Fall Issue, 2011

**Review** Jyoti Dhar, 'Monuments of the Mind', Art Asia Pacific, 2011

**Review** Valerie Smith, 'Seher Shah', On Rage, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin 2011

**Essay** Karen Kurczynski, 'Drawing is the New Painting', Art Journal, 2011

**Review** ART India, Assembling Authority, Structuring Power, Meera Menezes, 2010

**Review** Natasha Buruah, 'Monuments in Paper', Artslant web, 2010

**Review** TAKE on Art, Seher Shah: Black-Light Landscapes, Alexander Keefe, 2010

**Review** Jane Mikkelson, 'Paper Cult' Time Out Delhi, 2009

**Review** Martha Schwendener, 'Generation 1.5', The New York Times, 2007

**Review** Holland Cotter, Critics Pick, "Seher Shah-Jihad Pop", The New York Times, 2007

**Book** Christian Rattemeyer. *Vitamin D2: New Perspectives in Drawing*, Phaidon Press, 2013

**Book** Iftikhar Dadi and Hammad Nasar. *Lines of Control: Partition as a Productive Phase*, Green Cardamom, London, U.K. and Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, New York, 2012.

**Book** Sarah Suzuki. *What is Print? Selections From The Museum Of Modern Art*, 2011.

**Book** Cordula Hamschmidt, Susan Stemmler and Valerie Smith. *On Rage/Uber Wut*, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, Germany, 2010.

**Book** Gregory Burke and Christine Davis *Public Journal: Projects for a Small World*, 20th Anniversary edition of Artist Projects, 2009

**Book** Hammad Nasar. *Lines Of Control*, Green Cardamom, London, U.K. and the Third Line, Dubai. U.A.E, 2009.

**Book** Tom Finkelpearl and Valerie Smith. *Generation 1.5*, Queens Museum of Art, New York, 2008



**Book** Peter Nagy and Tom Finkelpaerl. *Jihad Pop*, Bose Pacia, New York, 2008.

**Essay** Hammad Nasar, 'Drawing Space' Green Cardamom, London. U.K., 2008.

**Book** Rhonda Saad and Amy Schlegel. *Empire and Its Discontents*, D.A.P. Tufts University, Medford, MA, 2008

## Videos

**Interview** Seher Shah, "21: Selections of Contemporary Art from Brooklyn Museum", 2009.

**Interview** "Radical Terrain: Seher Shah on Landscapes", Rubin Museum of Art, 2013.

**Interview** Seher Shah, A Wok of Persol, 2010.

**Interview** "Interviews with the Finalists for V&A's Jameel Prize", Victoria & Albert Museum, 2009.

**Interview** "Herd Thinner" by Curator David Hunt. Art Basel, 2009.

## Images

**Seher Shah.** Detail of *Mammoth: Aerial Landscape Proposals* ( Untitled 11), 2012, 21 digital archive prints, 17.5 x 13 inches.

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**Seher Shah.** *Study for a Totem*, 2012, graphite on paper, 66 x 6 inches.

**Seher Shah.** *Unit Object (u block)*, 2011, graphite and gouache on paper, 72 x 104 inches.

**Seher Shah.** *Unit Object (wall)*, 2011, graphite and gouache on paper, 72 x 104 inches.

**Seher Shah.** *Unit Object (plane shift)*, 2011, graphite and gouache on paper, 72 x 104 inches.

**Seher Shah.** *Unit Object (hanging block)*, 2011, graphite and gouache on paper, 72 x 104 inches.

**Seher Shah.** *Unit Object (plane perspective)*, 2011, graphite and gouache on paper, 72 x 104 inches.

**Seher Shah.** *Capitol Complex*, 2012, collage on paper, 11 x 14 inches.

**Seher Shah.** *Emergent Structures: Relative Noise*, 2011, graphite and gouache on paper, 72 x 72 inches.

**Seher Shah.** *Emergent Structures: Planar Landscape*, 2011, graphite and gouache on paper, 72 x 108 inches.

**Seher Shah.** *Emergent Structures: Capital Mass*, 2011, graphite and gouache on paper, 72 x 72 inches.

**Seher Shah.** *Unit Object (bent)*, 2011, graphite and gouache on paper, 22 x 30 inches.

**Seher Shah. *Unit Object (block)***, 2011, graphite and gouache on paper, 22 x 30 inches.

**Seher Shah. *Unit Object (plane)***, 2011, graphite and gouache on paper, 22 x 30 inches.

**Seher Shah. *Unit Object (planes)***, 2011, graphite and gouache on paper, 22 x 30 inches.

**Seher Shah. *Unit Object (sink)***, 2011, graphite and gouache on paper, 22 x 30 inches.

**Seher Shah. *Object Relic (Unite d'Habitation)***, graphite and gouache on paper, 72 x 104 inches.

**Seher Shah. *Untitled(Wall)***, graphite and gouache on paper, 72 x 72 inches.

**Seher Shah. *Cross Section Scheme***. from the ***Manual for Treason***, Sharjah Biennial publication, 2011, Digital print, 14 x 19 inches.

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**Seher Shah. *Cross Section Scheme***. from the ***Manual for Treason***, Sharjah Biennial publication, 2011, Digital print, 14 x 19 inches.

**Seher Shah. *Hinterland Structures: Observation Tower***, 2011, duratran in wood light box, 5 x 7 x 3.25 inches.

**Seher Shah. *Hinterland Structures: Silo***, 2011, duratran in wood light box, 5 x 7 x 3.25 inches.

**Seher Shah. *Hinterland Structures: Trailer Hill***, 2011, duratran in wood light box, 5 x 7 x 3.25 inches.

**Seher Shah. *Hinterland Structures: Native Trailer***, 2011, duratran in wood light box, 5 x 7 x 3.25 inches.

**Seher Shah. *Hinterland Structures: Open Lines***, 2011, duratran in wood light box, 5 x 7 x 3.25 inches.

**Seher Shah. *Hinterland Structures: Observation Tower***, 2011, duratran in wood light box, 5 x 7 x 3.25 inches.

**Seher Shah. *Hinterland Structures: Flag Structure***, 2011, duratran in wood light box, 5 x 7 x 3.25 inches.

**Seher Shah. *Hinterland Structures: Shed Church***, 2011, duratran in wood light box, 5 x 7 x 3.25 inches.

**Seher Shah. *Hinterland Structures Installation***, 2011, duratran in wood light box, 5 x 7 x 3.25 inches.

**Seher Shah. *Monument Wall***, 2009, graphite and gouache on paper, 30 x 20 inches.

**Seher Shah. *Object Repetition (line to distance)***, 2011, 480 cast hydrocal objects with ink, dimensions variable.

**Seher Shah. *Structured Landscape***, 2011, 6-color screenprint, somerset satin radiant white paper, 500gsm, 23 x 17.5 inches.

**Seher Shah. *The Concrete Oracles***, Portfolio of 8, 2008 Archival giclee prints, 13 x 19 inches.

**Seher Shah. *Mirror Spectacle***, 2010, Archival giclee print, 58 x 120 inches.

**Seher Shah. *Ornamental Age*** series, 2009, Archival giclee prints, 30 x 20 inches.

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Seher Shah. *Geometric Landscapes and the Spectacle of Force*, 2009, Archival giclee print, 58 x 120 inches.

Seher Shah. *Paper to Monument I*, 2009, Graphite and gouache on paper, 50 x 108 inches.

Seher Shah. *Paper to Monument II*, 2009, Graphite and gouache on paper, 80 x 100 inches.

Seher Shah. *Monumental Fantasies*, 2008, Graphite, gouache and ink on Nocciola murillo paper, 13 x 19 inches.

Seher Shah. *Surface to Monument drawings*, 2009, Graphite and gouache on paper, 30 x 20 inches

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Seher Shah. *Black Cube Drawings*, 2007, graphite and gouache on paper, 20 x 30 inches.

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**Seher Shah. *Interior Courtyard I*, 2006, Graphite on paper, 50 x 120 inches.**

**Seher Shah. *Kaaba 3*, 2006, Graphite on paper, 50 x 120 inches.**

**Seher Shah. *Interior Courtyard II*, 2007, Graphite on paper, 80 x 120 inches.**

**Seher Shah. *The Black Star Project*, 2007, Portfolio of 25, archival giclee prints, 7 x 7 inches each.**

**Seher Shah. *The Black Star*, 2007, Portfolio of 12, archival giclee prints, 11 x 19 inches.**

**Seher Shah. *Crossing the Rubicon*, 2007, Portfolio of 6, Archival giclee prints, 11 x 19 inches.**

**Seher Shah. *Islamica Fantastica*, 2007, Graphite on paper, 80 x 120 inches.**

## **Art Terms**

**Brutalist Architecture**

**Monochromatic**

**Perspective**