

valentinabonomoartecontemporanea

Shahzia Sikander

MINIPHILIA

3 October – 25 November

2 October 2006 at 19,30 conference at Temple University Rome

PRESS RELEASE

On **Tuesday 3 October at 19.00** at the exhibition space of the cultural association **valentinabonomoartecontemporanea** at via del portico d'Ottavia 13, the show of artist Shahzia Sikander will be inaugurated. Two videos and ten works of gouache on paper, all created in 2006 and some made specifically for this exhibition space, will be exhibited.

The artist specializes in miniature painting in the traditional Indian and Persian style, re-elaborating images and styles of an art form strongly conserved and stylistically rigorous and impersonal, and develops a very personal pictorial dimension that mixes and creates a coexistence between the memories of life experiences, reflections on Islamic feminine identity, and the emphasis and creativity of subjective Western experiences: in this way the artist transports miniature painting into the universe of contemporary art. Sikander uses art as a medium to explore individuality, culture and geography: through experimentation, performance, frescoes and installations, the artist seeks to identify the possible channels of exchange and interaction between the Hindu and Muslim religions, drawing upon their numerous iconographic repertoires, both linguistically symbolic and figurative, to then melt into a unique and new image.

Sikander affirms that “the juxtaposition and mixing of the Hindu and Muslim iconographies is a parallel between the histories of India and Pakistan.” In this way the histories interweave, the worlds open in equilibrium and create an engaging union of colors and ideas: a hidden Muslim dialogue with the many-armed goddess emerges, the borders disappear, and the differences are enriched.

In occasion of the show **Monday 2 October at 19.30** the artist will speak at **Temple University Rome**, Lungotevere Arnaldo da Brescia 15, 00196 Roma.

Born in Lahore in 1969, the artist followed several courses of study at the National College of Arts in her birth city, during which she learned the technique and history of miniature painting. The artist went on to complete a degree at Rhode Island School of Design, after which she moved to New York where she now lives and works. In the course of her career the artist has received many awards including the “Honorary Artist Reward” from the Pakistani Ministry of Culture and the National Council for Art. In 2006 the artist also won the prestigious McArthur “Genius” Award.

In collaboration with Nicole Mathysen-Gerst.

The show was organized in collaboration with the **Ambasciata del Pakistan**.



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Hours of Operation: Mon-Sat 15,30-19,30

or by appointment