



MAHREEEN ZUBERI

Mahreen Zuberi

March 10 - April 24, 2021

ANITA ROGERS GALLERY

www.anitarogersgallery.com



Malween Zubati 2005

Cover: *The Red Remodelled*. 2005. Gouache on wasli. 10.25" x 6.25"
Opposite: *The Red Remodelled (II)*. 2005. Gouache on wasli. 10.25" x 6.25"



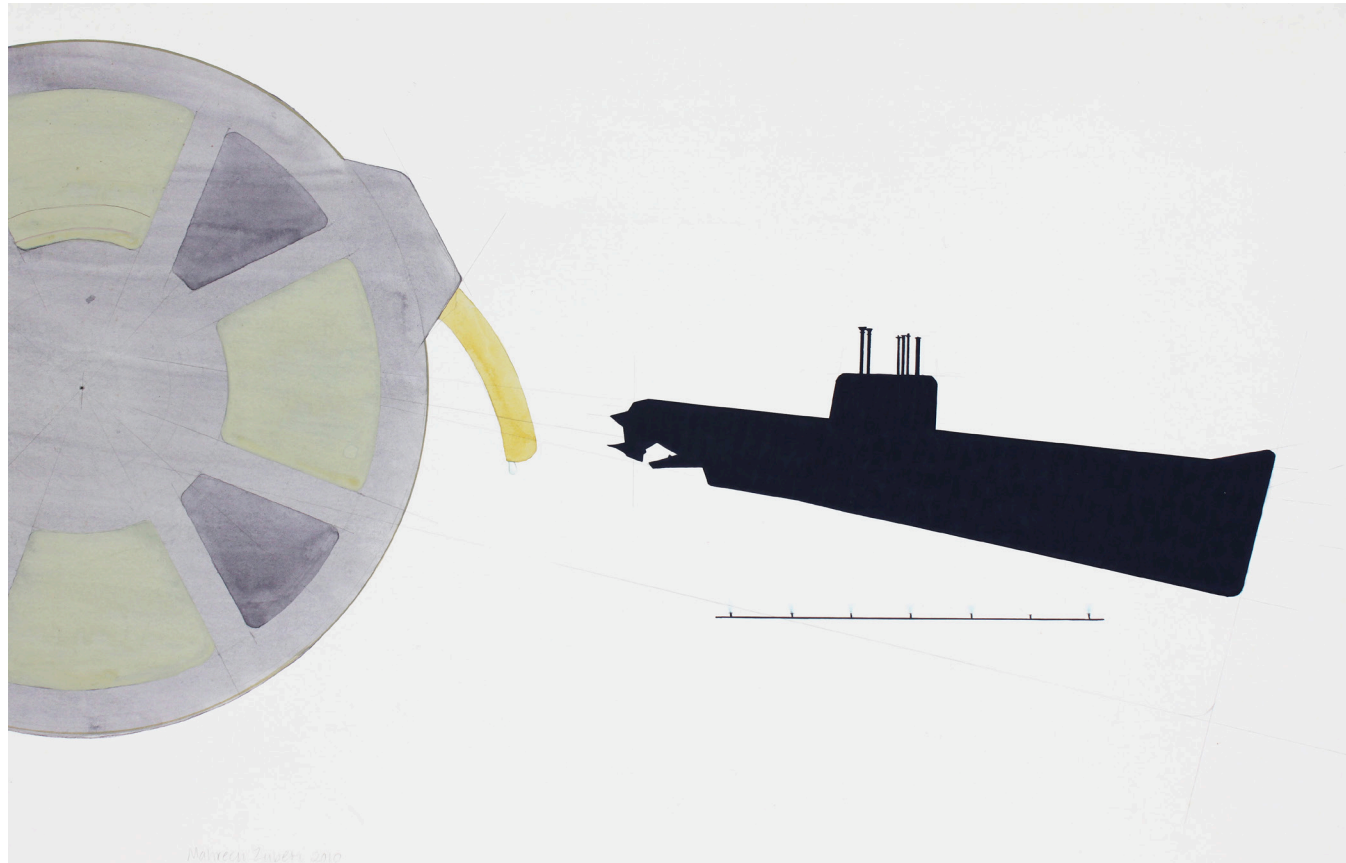
Above: *The Red Remodelled*. 2005. Gouache on wasli. 10.25" x 6.25"
Opposite: *Untitled*. 2004. Gouache on wasli. 11" x 6.8"



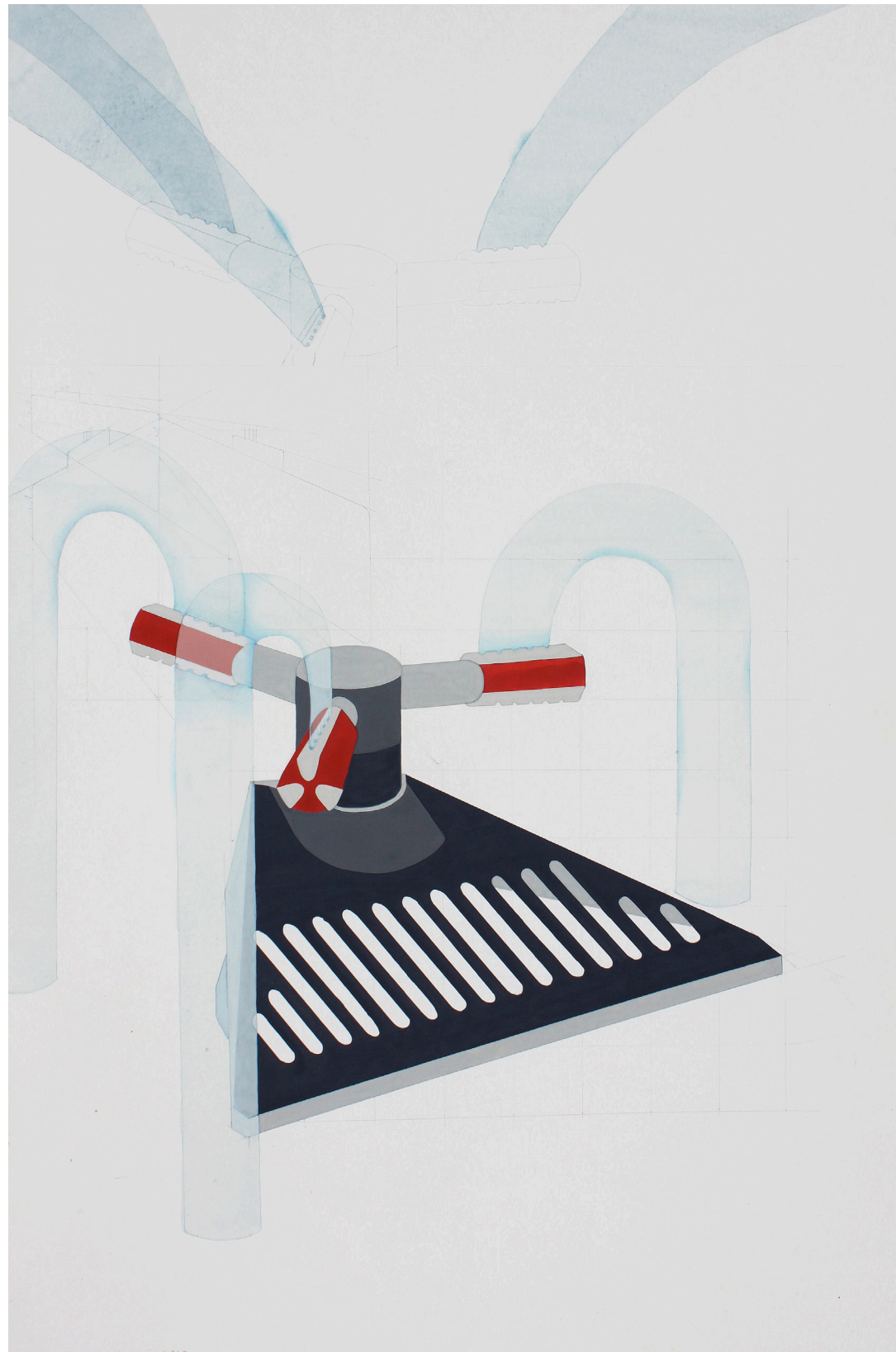
The scale of most of the works is not very large. I enjoy the intimacy I have with the works particularly because of this scale. The process of painting in gouache is a slow and repetitive one. You need to build the painted surface in very thin layers to finish with a smooth coat. This process allows me to enter the works and forge a connection with each piece.

-Mahreen Zuberi

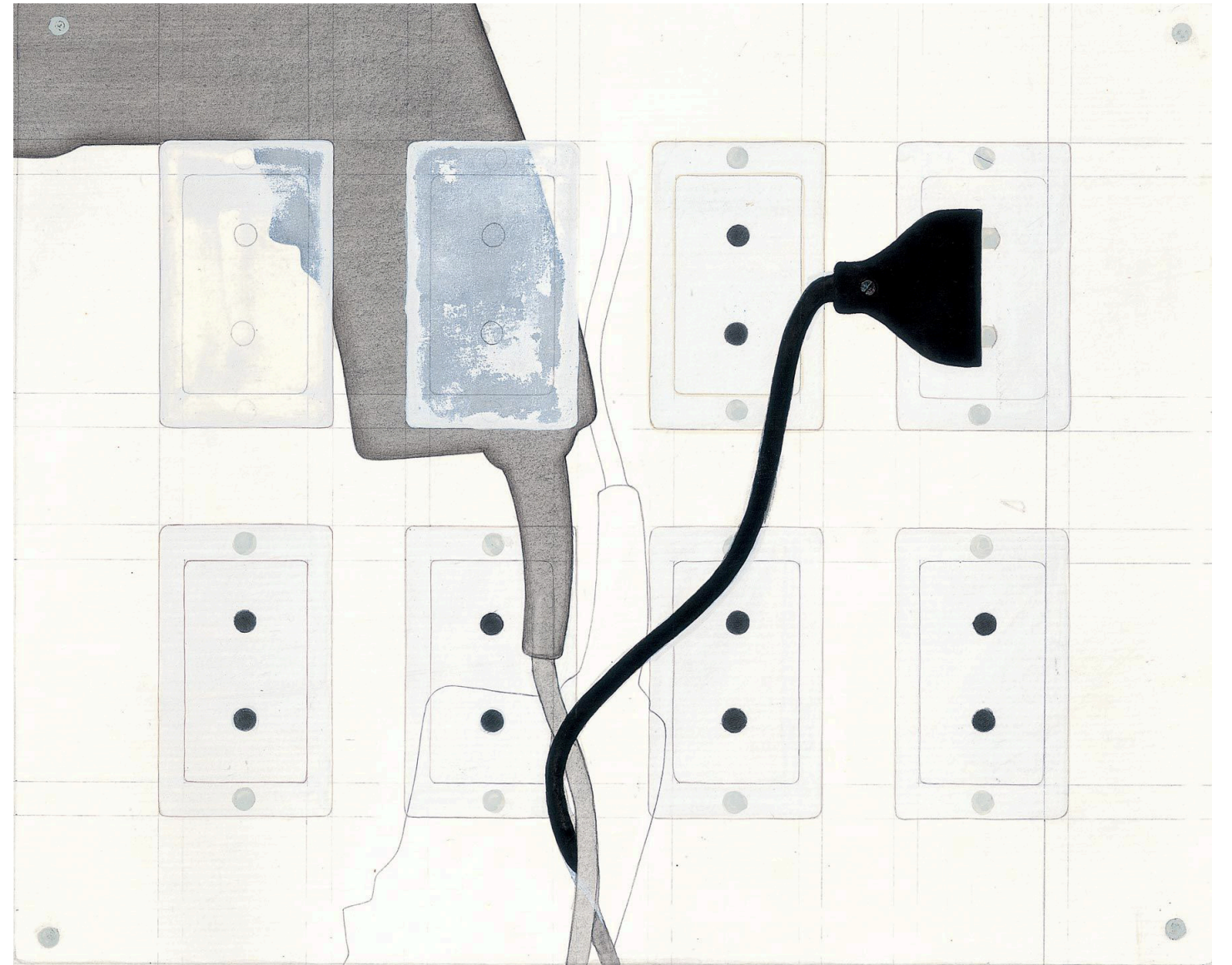




Above: *Sub.* 2010. Pencil, gouache and watercolor on wasli. 13" x 17.75"
Opposite: *Sub.* 2010. Pencil, gouache and watercolor on wasli. 17.75" x 13"



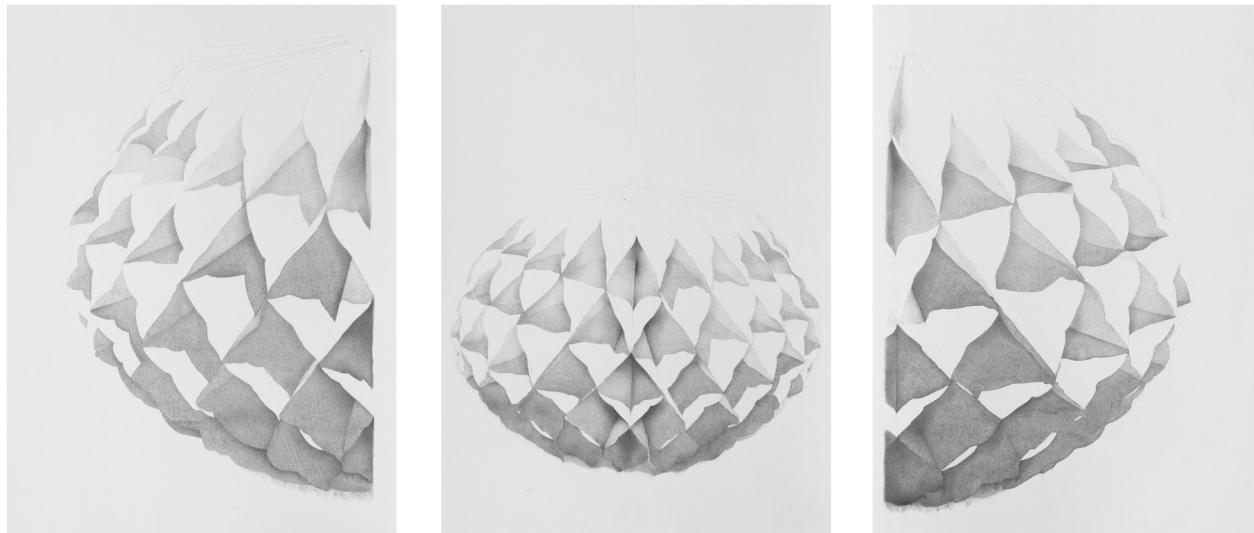
Above: *Sub*. 2010. Pencil, gouache and watercolor on wasli. 17.75" x 13"
Opposite: *Doing Krishna*. 2006. Gouache on wasli. 10" x 13"



Anita Rogers Gallery is pleased to introduce Mahreen Zuberi to the gallery's roster of artists with an online solo exhibition featuring works spanning the last two decades. The exhibition features the artist's intimate gouache works, as well as her *Linea Negra Triptych* and related handmade artist book.

The artist's approach is slow, patient, and methodical. She chooses traditional painting techniques and materials, including wasli, a type of handmade paper that has been used by artists since the 10th century. Her process often includes weeks of preparation, including note-taking, observation, contemplation, and sketching before the painting begins. Once it does, it flows organically, but requires careful, time consuming work as the artist builds layers of color and depth. The resulting work feels at once structured and free, precise yet unrestrained. Through her paintings, the artist explores themes of political turmoil, gender, pregnancy, and power dynamics.

Zuberi (b.1981 Karachi, Pakistan) completed her Bachelor of Fine Arts from the prestigious National College of Arts, Lahore, specializing in miniature painting. Returning to Karachi she began teaching at the Karachi University, Department of Visual Studies. She has exhibited in local and international art exhibitions and her work is part of prominent art collections across the world. Her work discovers the human condition through a personal narrative. Currently she is coordinator of the Fine Art program at the Karachi University, Department of Visual Studies. This will be her first exhibition with Anita Rogers Gallery.



Above: *Linea Negra (triptych)*. 2012. Watercolor on wasli. 13" x 10" each.
Opposite: Detail from *Linea Negra (triptych)*. 2012. Watercolor on wasli.



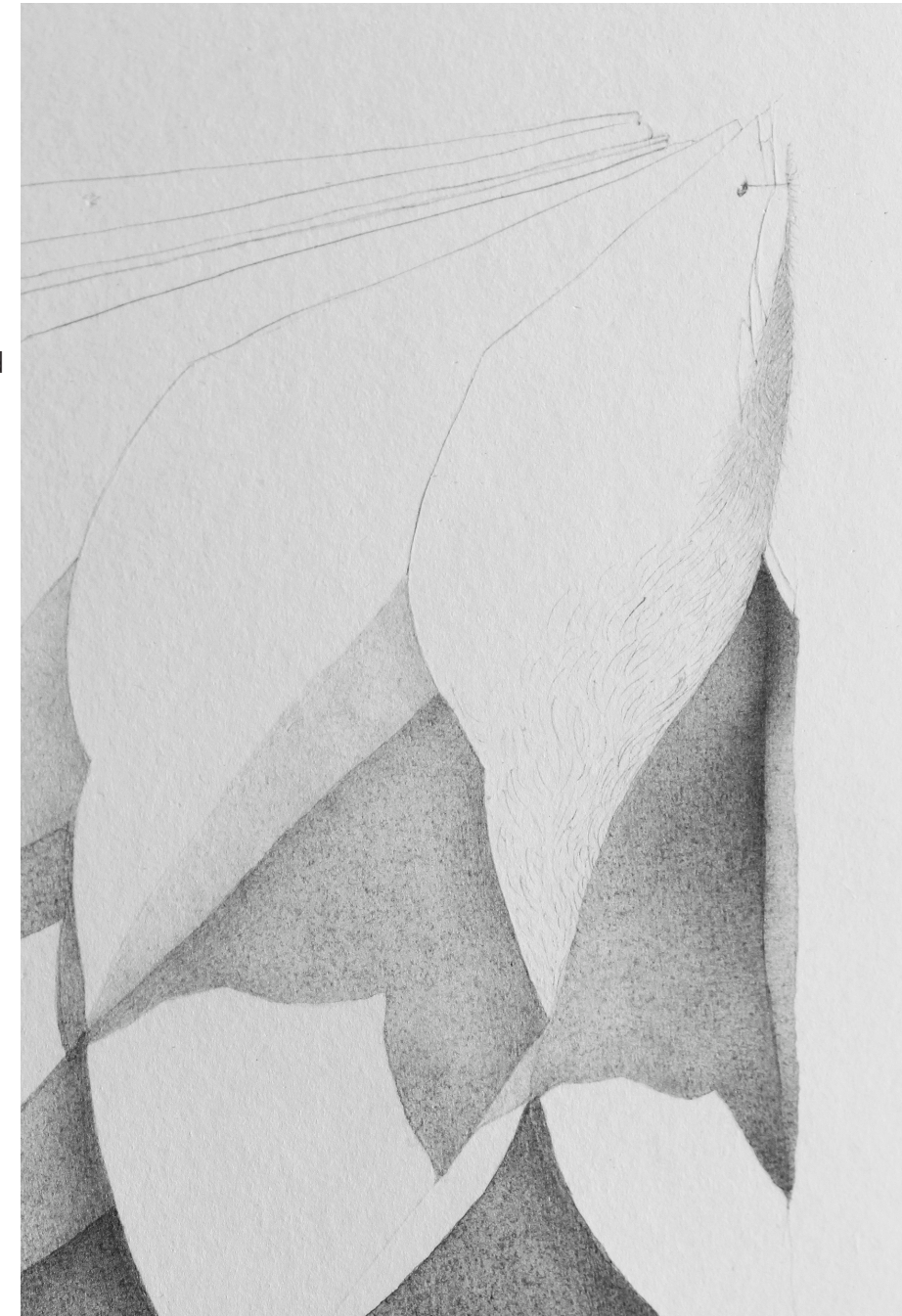
The artist book (pages 16-17) is inspired by honeycomb paper ball ornaments, commonly used as decoration for festive occasions.

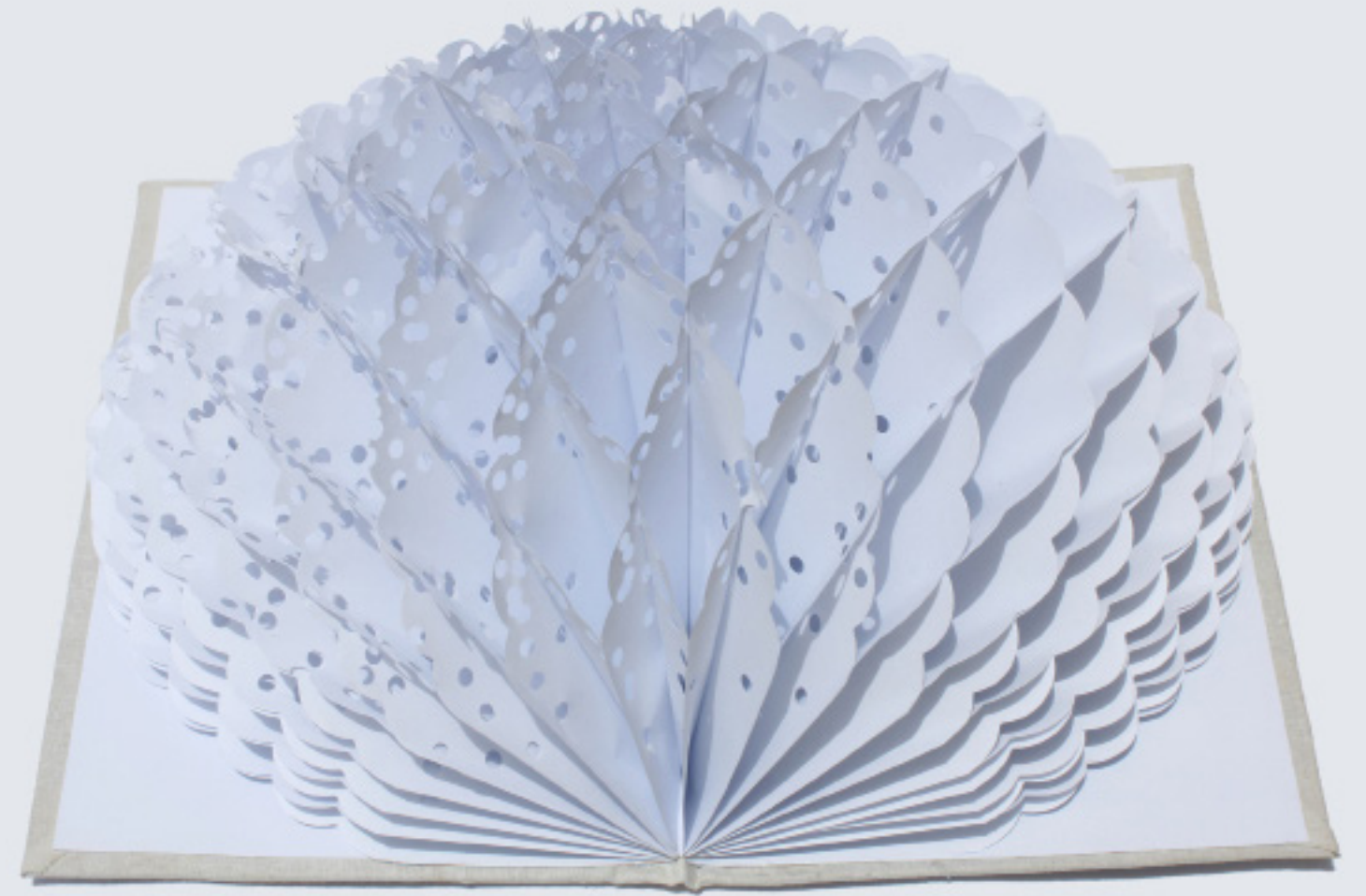
The arrangement creates a fragile object that is complex and yet simple in its fabrication. Between the folded tessellations there are a myriad of holes that may bring to mind the remains of a bullet riddled building. Yet from another angle may resemble a flower damaged by insects that at some point fed on it. This ambiguity leaves enough room for it to be interpreted in multiple ways.

The spherical form allows the viewer to decide whether to move away from or into the fissures, or in endless circles. This sphere connects to the cyclical laws of nature, a reminder of life, birth, childhood, transcendence, decay, death and more.

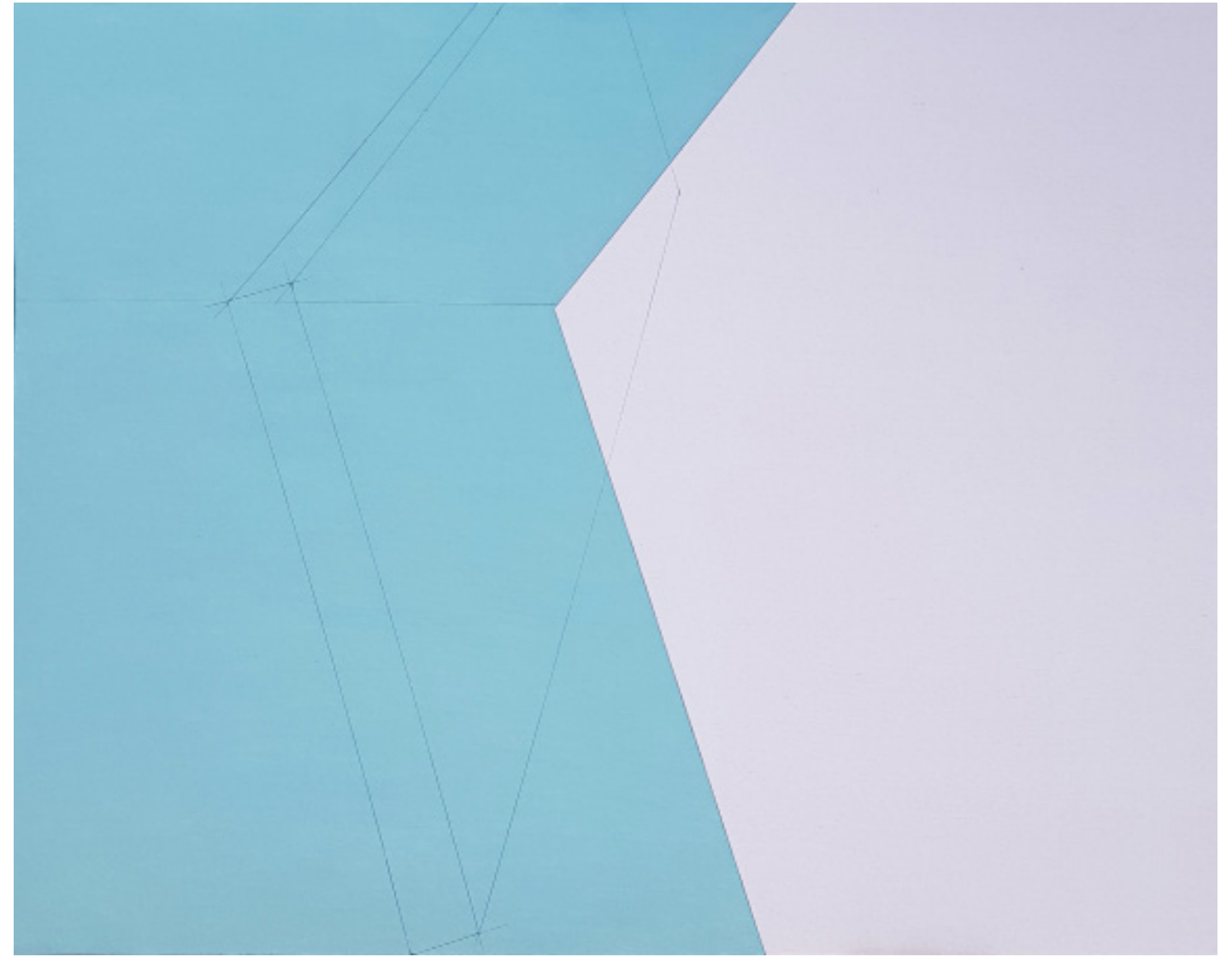
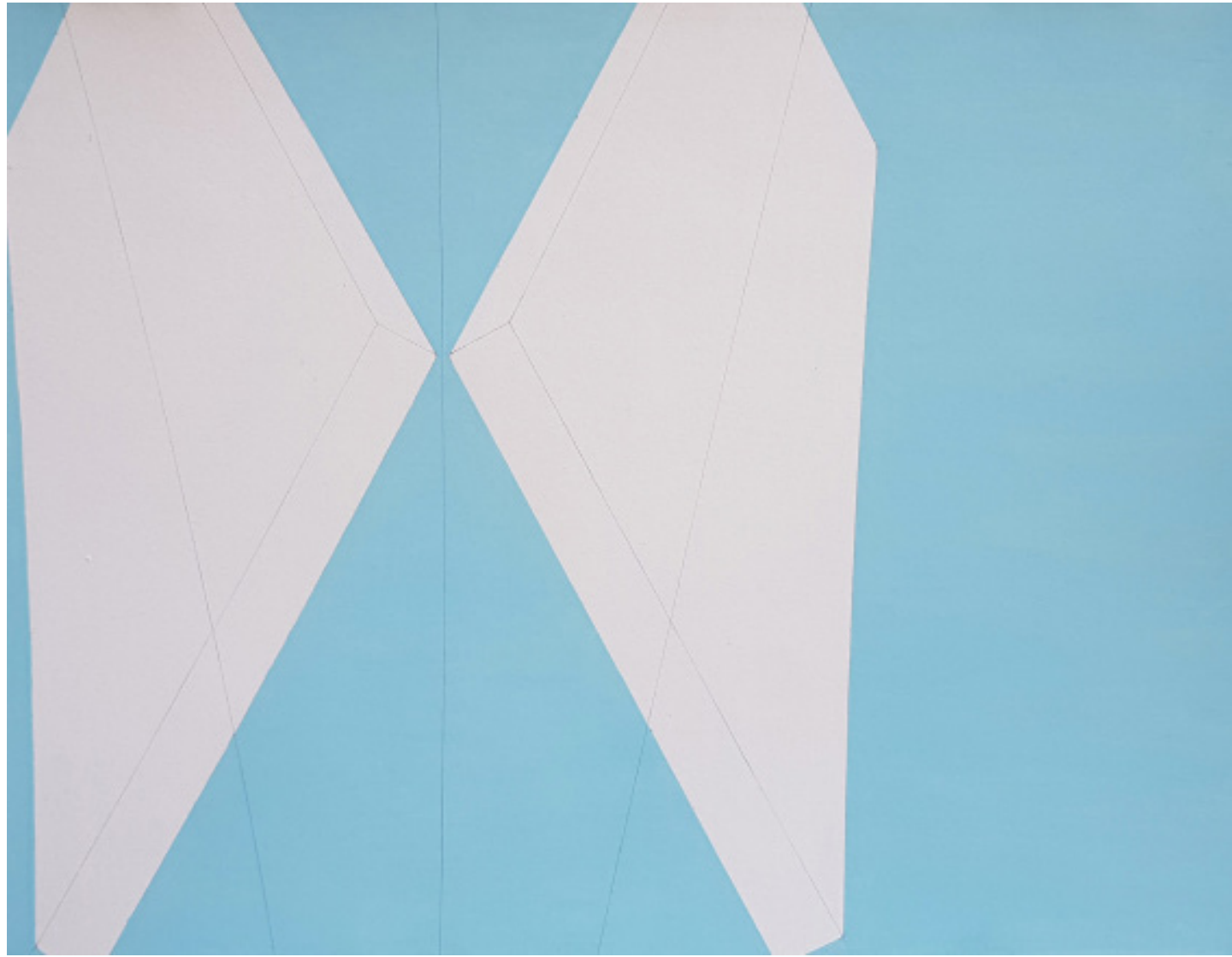
Linea Nigra (triptych, pages 12-15) further evolved from these ideas and took on deeper significance. *Linea Nigra* is the scientific term for the dark vertical line that appears on the abdomen during pregnancy. The light fur on the honeycomb ball added another layer of meaning to its context and assimilated organic characteristics relating it to the human body. It no longer remained a dormant, inanimate object of aesthetic value but became an active participant in my exploration.

- Mahreen Zuberi

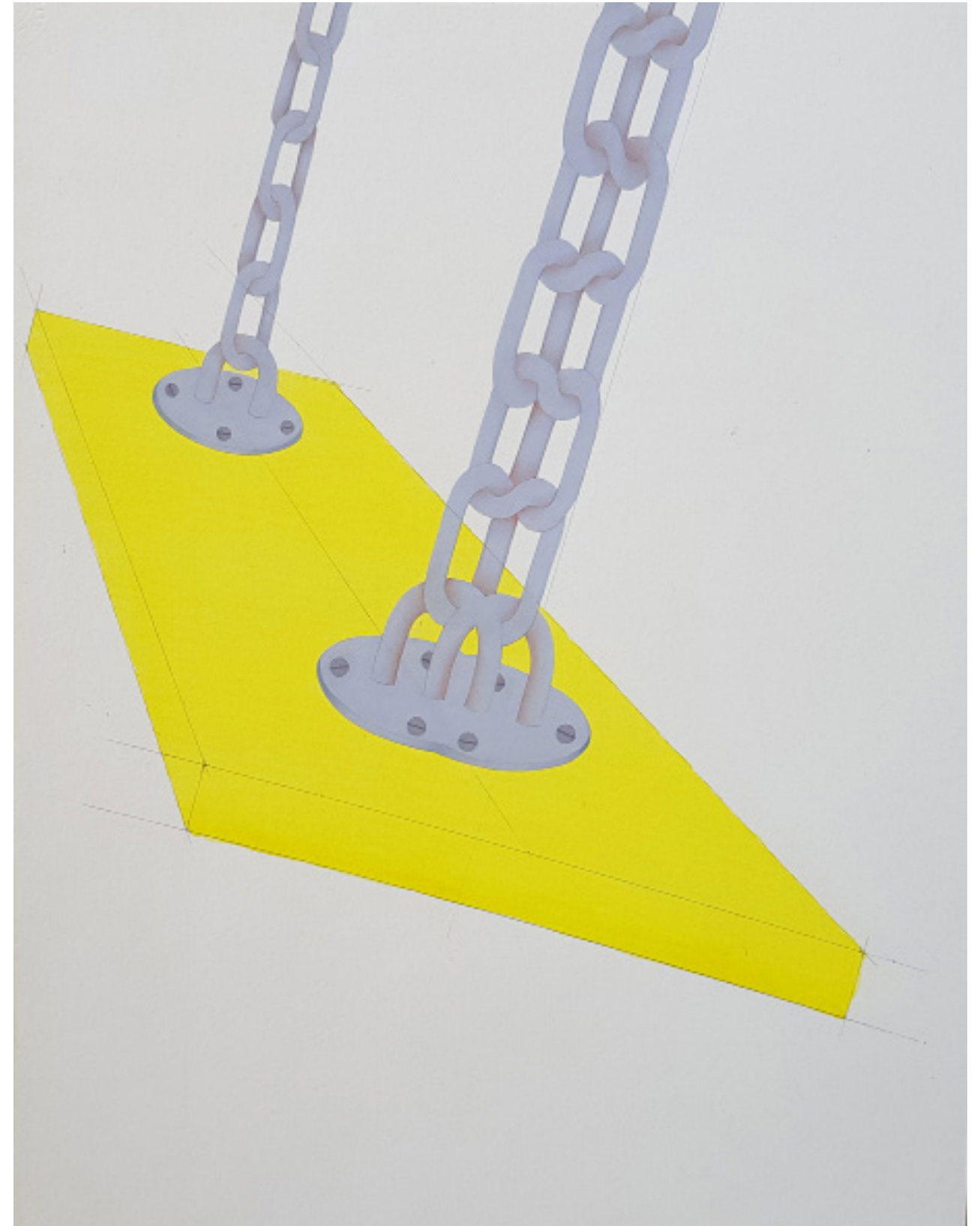
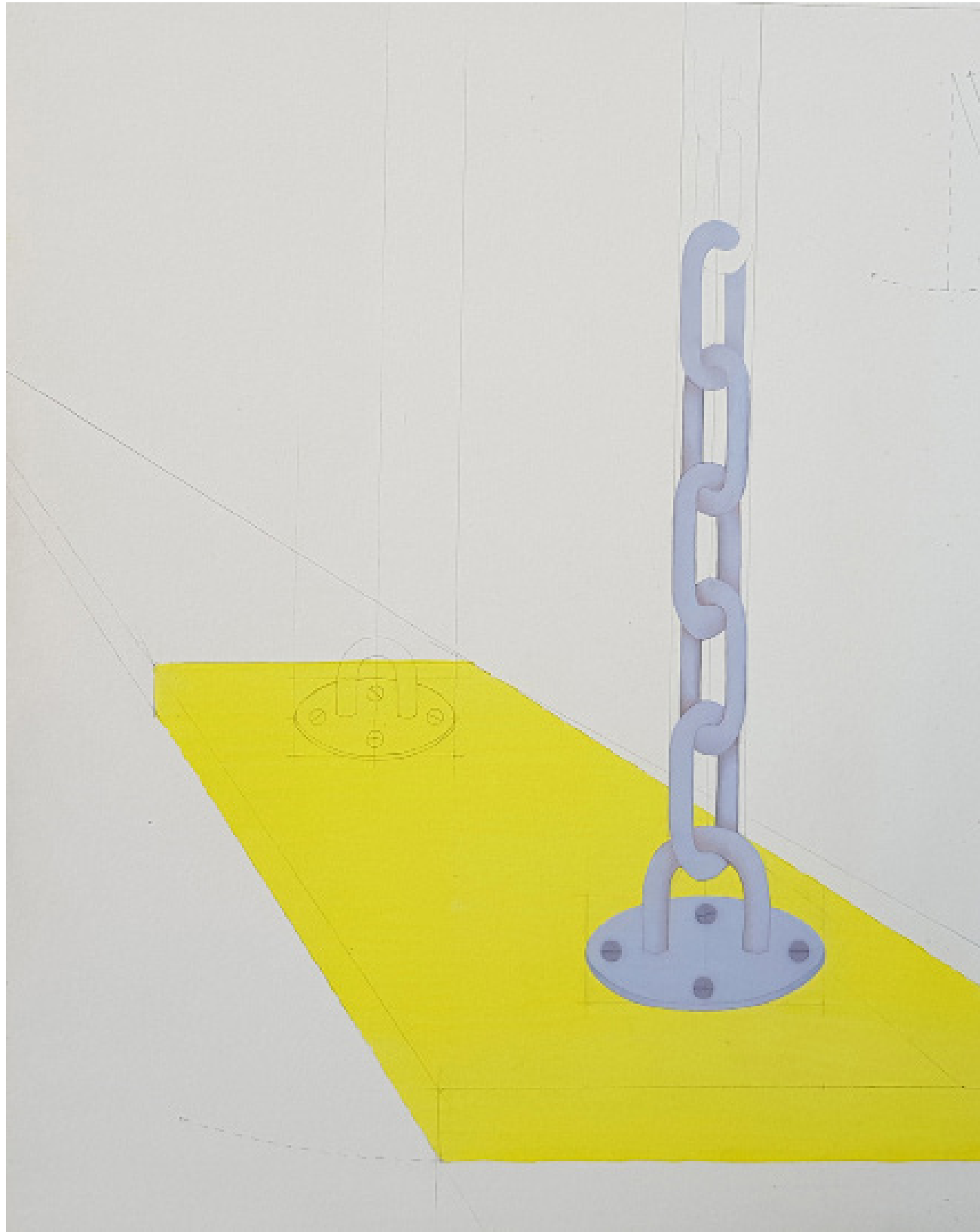




Above: *Untitled* (hand bound artist book). 2012. Paper and cloth. 17" x 12" x 8.5" Edition of 3



Above: *Fallacy of the Simple Harmonious Motion 4*. 2019. Pencil, gouache and watercolor on wasli. 10" x 13"
Opposite: *Fallacy of the Simple Harmonious Motion 5*. 2019. Pencil, gouache and watercolor on wasli. 10" x 13"



Above: *Fallacy of the Simple Harmonious Motion*. 2019. Pencil, gouache and watercolor on wasli. 13" x 10"
Opposite: *Fallacy of the Simple Harmonious Motion*. 2019. Pencil, gouache and watercolor on wasli. 13" x 10"



Above: *Fallacy of the Simple Harmonious Motion*. 2019. Pencil, gouache and watercolor on wasli. 13" x 10"

MAHREEN ZUBERI (b.1981, Pakistan)

EDUCATION

2000-2003

Bachelors of Fine Arts, National College of Art Lahore, Pakistan

Major in Miniature Painting - Minors in Printmaking and Photography

WORKSHOPS AND RESIDENCIES

2015 Art and Cultural Studies by Zahid Chaudhry/Princeton University and Iftikhar Dadi/Cornell University

2010 South Asian Artistes Camp, Puducherry Blue, Pondicherry India

2008 Krishnakariti Art Festival, Hyderabad Deccan India

2007 International Artist Workshop, Shatana Jordan

2006 Vasl International Workshop, Gadani

2005 Local Connections 1, VASL Artists Residency.

2004 "Intercultural Transformation" British Council - VASL Workshop by Clio Lloyd Jacob

2003 "Shot to Edit" Workshop in Video Art with Sophi Ernst

2002 "DRAWN" Conducted by Usman Saeed.

2002 'Fun-e-Khatati' calligraphy workshop by Gohar Kalam

2002 Pin hole photography workshop with Omar Butt

COLLECTIONS

Queensland Art Gallery, Australia - Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Japan - Devi Art Foundation, India

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2010 "Green Patrol" Canvas Gallery, Karachi

2008 "Open wide" Rohtas Art Gallery, Islamabad

TWO-PERSON EXHIBITION

2009 "Edge" Rohtas 2, Lahore

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2020 Karachi ki khoj, International Public Art Festival

2019 "If you have a garden in your library" AAN Gandhara Art Space, Karachi

2018 Art for Education : Contemporary Artists of Pakistan, Museo Diocesano Carlo Maria Martini, Milan

2012 "Stop Play Pause Repeat" Lawrie Shabibi Gallery, Dubai

2011 "Contemporary Miniature"- a touring exhibition from the Queensland Art Gallery collection

2011 "Reprise" Aicon Gallery, New York

2010 "Who's Afraid of Theory", Poppy seed Gallery, Karachi

2010 "Invisible cities" Aicon Gallery, New York

2010 "The Karachi Miniature" Poppy seed Gallery, Karachi

2010 "Being There" Koel Gallery, Karachi

2010 "Resemble Reassemble" Devi Art Foundation, India

2009 "Hanging Fire" Asia Society Museum, New York

2008 "6 degrees of separation" VM Art Gallery, Karachi

2008 "Associated Metaphors" IVSAA Gallery, Karachi

2008 "Vernisage of Paintings", Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany, Karachi

2007 National Gallery of Art, Islamabad

2006 Canvas Gallery, Karachi

2005 "A thousand and one days " Honolulu Academy of Arts, Hawaii

2005 "Miniatures Contemporaines Du Pakistan", France

2005 "Taaza Tareen" VM Art Gallery, Karachi

2005 "Voices" World Bank office, Islamabad

2005 Momart Gallery, Karachi

2005 "Re-inventing Narratives" La galerie Mohamed el Fassi Rabat, Morocco

2005 "Modern Miniatures" Khass Art Gallery, Islamabad

2004 "Contemporary Miniature Paintings from Pakistan" Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Japan

2004 "Creases" Rohtas 2, Lahore

2004 "Interpretations" Rohtas Gallery, Islamabad

2004 "Extensions" Canvas Gallery, Karachi

2003 "Vacant/Occupied" National College of Arts, Lahore

2003 "Shot to edit" Zahoor ul Akhlaq Gallery, NCA, Lahore

2002 "DRAWN", Royatt Gallery, Lahore

RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2009 - current, Coordinator Fine Arts, Karachi University, Department of Visual Studies.

2008 - 2010, visiting faculty Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture.

2005 - 2009, visiting faculty Karachi University, Department of Visual Studies.

2007, visiting faculty Beacon House National University, School of Visual Arts, Lahore.

CURATORIAL EXPERIENCE

2020 Mashallah Naan House, International Public Art festival

2015 Past Present Parallel, Koel Gallery, Karachi

2010 The Karachi Miniature, Poppy seed Gallery, Karachi

2009 Starring: The artist, IVS Gallery, Karachi

ART COLLECTIVE

2006 - 2007, VASL artist trust, working group.

BOOK ILLUSTRATION

2002 - current, freelance book illustration for children.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- "Contemporary Asian Art" by Mellisa Chiu and Benjamin Genocchio, Thames and Hudson, 2011
"Local Perspective: Who's Afraid of Theory" by Salwat Ali, Dawn, Dec 5 2010
"A critical discourse" by Amra Ali, The News, Nov 28 2010
"Invisible Cities" Saffronart 2010
"Miniature subtleties" by Salwat Ali, Dawn, July 4 2010
"Falling Short" by Salwat Ali, Newline, June 28 2010
"Messages for the Discerning" by Maheen Bashir Adamjee, Newline, May 31 2010
"Contemporary Miniature concerns" by Nadeem Zuberi, Business Recorder, 2010
Nostalgia, experimentalism and political games" by Ameer H Ahmad, Daily Times, 15 April 2010
"Miniature on the March" by Salwat Ali, Dawn 25 April 2010
"The Experience of Existence" by Shahana Rajani, Newline, April 2010
"Being There" by Ameer H Ahmad, Daily Times, 6 March 2010
"Of Open Wide Delicacies and Random Musings" by Mariam Qureshi, Daily Times, 10 March 2009
"Contrary Signs" by Salima Hashmi Flash Art 265 March-April 2009
"Burning Down The (Art) House" by Sarah Wolff, Forbes U.S Sept 2009
"Hanging Fire in New York" Saffronart 2009
"Making History on 9/11" by Qudus Mirza, The News, 6 Sept 2009
"Hanging Fire: Contemporary Art from Pakistan, Asis Society, New York" by Ariella Budwick, Art Pension Trust Article, 14 Sept 2009
"Hanging Fire: Contemporary Art From Pakistan" by Justine Ludwig, White Hot Magazine, December 2009
"Activist Energy with a Light Touch" by Holland Cotter, The New York Times: Oct 1, 2009
"Pakistan Report - On the Verge" by Benjamin Genocchio, Art in America, January 2009
"The death of distance in the tale of 3 cities" by Juhi Jaffri, Daily Times: Sept 6, 2008
"Man, Woman and Art" by Sumbul Khan, Newline: May 2008
"Associated Metaphors" by Salwat Ali, The News: May 15, 2008
"Memory, Metaphor, Mutations, Contemporary Art of India and Pakistan" Yashodra Dalmia and Salima Hashmi, Oxford University Press, 2007
"Two weeks by the sea" by Marjorie Husain, DAWN Gallery: March 25, 2006
"A Thousand and One Days, Pakistani Women Artists" by Duccio K. Marignoli and Enrico Mascelloni, Honolulu Academy of Arts, 2005
"Free Space" by Salwat Ali, Newline: June 2005
"A New Generation of Artists" by Salwat Ali, Social Pages: June 2005
"Vasl's group of seven" by Marjorie Hussain, DAWN Gallery: May 7, 2005
"Richness of Miniatures" by Mohsin S. Jaffri, The News: April 10, 2005
"Small Extends Big" by Qudus Mirza, The News: April 3, 2005
"Painting a Theme" by Aasim Akhtar, The News: February 20, 2005
"Look Closely" by Marcia Morse, Honolulu Weekly: Feb 11, 2005
"Good things come in small packages" by Shoaib Ahmed, Daily Times: May 30, 2004
"The Matter of Size" by Qudus Mirza, The News: June 20, 2004
"Mélange and Miniatures" by Shamim Akhter, MAG: June 5, 2004
"Extensions They Certainly Are" by Amra Ali, DAWN Gallery: June 5, 2004
"Encyclopedia of Pleasures" by Asim Akhtar, The News: January 11, 2003



Opposite: Mahreen Zuberi in her studio. Courtesy of the artist.
Back Cover: *Attachments*. 2007. Gouache on wasli. 10.5" x 9"



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