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Shahzia Sikander Awarded Shahneela and Farhan Faruqui Popular Choice Art Prize at the Karachi Biennale

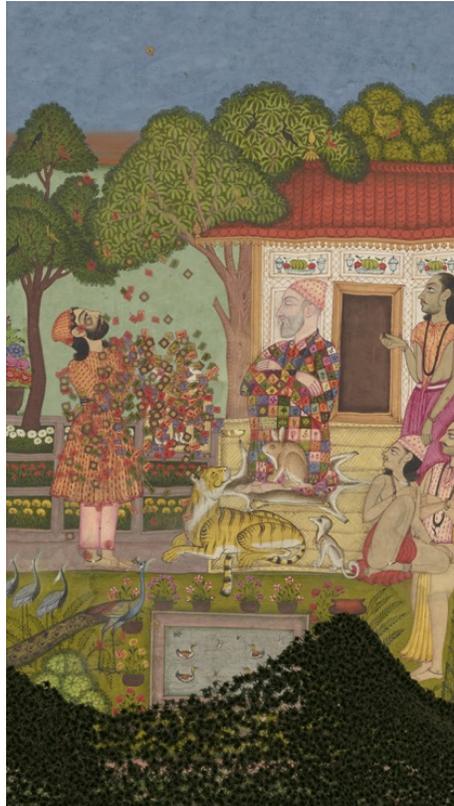


Image: Still from Shahzia Sikander, *Disruption as Rapture*, 2016, HD video animation with 7.1 surround sound © Shahzia Sikander Courtesy: Sean Kelly, New York

Sean Kelly congratulates Shahzia Sikander for being awarded the Shahneela and Farhan Faruqui Popular Choice Art Prize at the Karachi Biennale 2017 for her animated film, *Disruption as Rapture*, 2016. Inspired by the 18th-century illuminated manuscript, *Gulshan-i 'Ishq*, the film was commissioned by the Philadelphia Museum of Art and created in collaboration with animator Patrick O'Rourke and musicians Du Yun and Ali Sethi. The *Gulshan-i 'Ishq* was written in 1657 – 58 by Nusrati, a court poet who retold a North-Indian Hindu love story as a Sufi tale for the Islamic court. In her response to this poem, Sikander aimed to portray the ethos and socio-political beliefs from that historical time period.

The inaugural Karachi Biennale, curated by Amin Gulgee, ran from October 22 – November 5, 2017. Spanning across 12 venues throughout the city, the biennale was Pakistan's largest international contemporary art event to date. Over 140 artists from Pakistan and around the globe responded to the central theme of Witness, which called artists to respond to the politics of representation, erasure and selective documentation.

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Disruption as Rapture is currently on view at Abu Dhabi Art in *Focus: Beyond Territory*, a special section of the fair curated by Omar Kholeif. Sean Kelly is presenting an exceptional selection of new works on paper by Shahzia at Abu Dhabi Art, booth X1-01. The fair runs from November 8 - November 11, 2017.

For additional information on Shahzia Sikander please visit skny.com.

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