

# Ali Kazim

## Artist Statement and Biography

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### Artist Statement

I am interested in exploring the human body that is complex both in its physicality and as a thematic concern. Living beings work like machines, for them to survive the body performs basic functions at an unconscious level that runs parallel to the various emotional and spiritual stresses of everyday life. The fine connection between conscious and the unconscious roles is what I have tried to tread through my sculptural 'drawing' work. This work is perhaps glimpses of those links the body goes through.

A careful selection of material in order to articulate the subject effectively was very important for me. I have used human hair to create a three-dimensional 'drawing' suspended in the air. For me, hair has an interesting quality. When they are part of the body they are attractive and give one an identity, but when they are cut off or plucked out they can be totally repulsive. My selected materials and its characteristics allowed me to let things happen naturally. Just when I draw, the pencil flows innately on the paper, for this my fingers began to weave in a mechanized manner, while my thoughts wandered exploring a world unknown to me; I rediscovered myself in the whole process of making.

The structure created through this material symbolizes the body's interior world. I also hope the work touches more complex issues than the conscious ideas of behind its creation while walking around floated hair tubes.

## **Artist Biography**

### **Ali Kazim Pakistan**

b. 1979

Currently lives and works in Pakistan.

Ali Kazim, (b.1979) received his BFA degree from the National College of Arts, Lahore, Pakistan in 2002 and an MFA from the Slade School of Fine Art, London, UK, in 2011. Kazim worked in the field of visual arts for the past 11 years. His work exhibited widely in solo and group shows internationally. His group exhibitions include: Portraits at Selma Feriani Gallery, Tunis and London, Heritage Reinvented Tryon St Gallery, London, Be a Man, Summaria Lunn Art gallery, London, Creative Cities Collection at the Barbican Exhibition Hal London, Chosen, Artgate gallery, NYC, Catlin Prize, London Castle project space, London, Drawn from life Abbot Hall Art Gallery, Kendal, UK, Beyond the page Asia Pacific Museum USA, 'Drawn from life: drawing form' Green Cardamom gallery London, UK, 12'h and 131h Asian Art Biennale, Bangladesh.

Solo shows include: Jhaveri Contemporary Mumbai, India; Solo presentation at the Hong Kong Art Fair, Rider Green Cardamom London, UK and Rohtas Gallery, Lahore, Pakistan, Gallery Espace, New Delhi, India, Mid-career survey at Cartwright Hall Gallery, Bradford, UK, VM Art Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan; 'Sacred Souls, Secret Lives Ethan Cohen Fine Arts Gallery, New York, USA and Green Cardamom Gallery, London, Alhamra Art Galleries, Lahore, Pakistan, Paradise Road Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

He has received a number of awards and artist residencies including; Finalists for the Catlin Prize, UK, The Land Securities Studio Award, London, UK; Melvill Nettleship Prize for Figure Composition, UCL, London, Art OMI artist residency, New York, USA, Young Painter Award, Lahore Arts Council, Pakistan, ROSL Travel Scholarship: Residency at Hospital Field, Scotland, UK, VASL Residency (Triangle Arts Trust), Karachi, Pakistan; International Artist Camp, George Kyet Foundation, Sri Lanka.

His work is in the collection of Metropolitan Museum NYC; British Museum, UK; Victoria and Albert Museum UK; Queensland Art Gallery Australia; Burger Collection Hong Kong; Creative Cities Collection, Beijing; Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, New Delhi, India.