



## **SORAYA SIKANDER**

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### **Profile**

**Soraya Sikander** is a critically acclaimed, award-winning contemporary South Asian artist known for her landscapes and organic forms. The artist has been ranked as one of South Asia's best-known painters making it big internationally, listed as 'Artist to watch'. Soraya works in oil and acrylics on canvas and is internationally renowned for inventing her pioneering Calligraphy Landscapes. Recognition for her work has come through critical acclaim and nonstop sold-out exhibitions. Soraya Sikander trained in fine arts through the London Atelier of Representational Arts, and University College London's Slade summer school. Soraya Sikander has held over twenty-four international group & solo exhibitions at premier galleries and museums worldwide. Soraya Sikander Paintings have featured in international auctions including Bonhams. She is also a TEDx art speaker.

### **Education and Qualifications**

May 2022 – Present

Master of Arts in Art Education (MA AE) Degree Specializing in Teaching Art.  
**Beaconhouse National University Lahore**

July 2022 – October 2022

'Manuscript Illumination/Tehzib Painting' Level 1 and 'Fresco/Naqqashi' Level 1.  
**Hast o Neest, Lahore**

November 2021 – November 2021

Traditional Arts: Fresco Painting.  
**National College of Arts, Lahore**

April 2014 – July 2014

Bargue Drawing in Old Masters Style.  
**The London Atelier of Representational Art**

May 2012 – August 2012

Foundation: Summer intensive in design, art history and visual language.

**Slade School of Fine Art, University College London**

September 2005 – May 2008

Bachelor of Arts in Journalism (BA Hons) Media and Communication CGPA 3.83 A+  
Dean's Honor List. Graduated with Distinction in Media and Communication studies.

**Beaconhouse National University Lahore**

### **Solo Exhibitions**

- 10 February 2018 'Inscape 2018' Unicorn Gallery, Lahore, Pakistan  
28 February 2017 'Inscape: Exploring Inner Landscapes' Unicorn  
Gallery, Lahore, Pakistan  
20 January 2014 'In, At and Around' Alhamra Arts Council, Lahore, Pakistan  
10 January 2013 'In, At and Around: Exploring Urban Space' Unicorn  
Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan  
17 June 2010 'An Ode to Nature' Grand Trunk Road Art Gallery, Singapore  
19 February 2010 'A Floral Symphony' Unicorn Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan

### **Group Exhibitions**

- 09 June 2023 'THEM' Sahra Art Galleria, Dubai, UAE  
22 February 2021 'The World Is Too Much With Us' L'Alliance Française of  
Dubai, UAE  
11 February 2021 'The World Is Too Much With Us' The Gallery,  
Sustainable City, Dubai, UAE  
01 October 2020 'Hunar Art 2020' A fundraiser by friends of Hunar, Online  
International Art Exhibition, Karachi, Pakistan  
29 October 2019 'Voices' Elham Art Gallery, Ras Al Khaimah, UAE  
03 June 2019 '100 Years of Hilton' Waldorf Astoria, Ras Al Khaimah, UAE  
28 November 2015 'Embassy Art' Galerie Patries Van Dorst, Wassenaar/Hague,  
Netherlands  
20 August 2013 'Awaaz Baldia Inferno' Arts Council of Pakistan, Karachi  
28 September 2012 'New Art from Pakistan' La Galleria Pall Mall, London  
05 September 2012 'Slade Summer Show 2014' University College London,  
Slade school of fine art, London, UK  
29 July 2011 'Art from Pakistan' Pakistan High Commission, London, UK  
04 October 2010 'Art Without Boundaries' Total Arts, Dubai, UAE  
17 June 2010 'The Golden Collection' Unicorn Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan  
16 October 2009 'A Meeting of Minds' National Art Gallery Bangladesh,  
Shilpakala Academy / Dhaka Museum, Bangladesh  
30 August 2009 'Recession' Unicorn Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan

## **Art Fairs & Biennales**

- 22 September 2021 Biennale: ‘International Painting Biennial, Chisinau 2021’ 7th edition of the International Painting Biennial, under the patronage of Ministry of Culture of Republic of Moldova, National Museum of Fine Arts of Republic of Moldova
- 26 August 2019 Biennale: ‘A Colourful World and a Shared Future’ 8th International Artist Beijing Biennale, National Museum of China, Beijing, China
- 24 March 2018 Biennale: ‘Resurgence’ Lahore Biennale 01 collateral event, Lahore, Pakistan
- 24 September 2017 Biennale: ‘Silk Road and World Civilizations’ 7th International Artist Beijing Biennale, National Museum of China, Beijing, China
- 20 February 2016 Art Fair: ‘RAK Fine Art Fair 2016’ National Museum of Ras Al Khaimah, Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates

## **Awards**

- November 2021 ‘High Achiever’ in Arts & Calligraphy Award at the National Youth League, Jinnah Avenue, Islamabad, Pakistan.
- August 2020 ‘Best Contemporary Landscape Painter – South Asia’ Business Excellence Awards, Acquisition International, Staffordshire, United Kingdom.

## **Auctions**

- 08 October 2022 ‘TCF Gala – Artists from Pakistan’, The Citizens Foundation, Washington, USA
- 22 November 2022 ‘Friendship NGO’, Bonhams, London, UK

## **Special Viewings**

- 08 October 2022 The Citizens Foundation fundraiser art auction, Washington, USA
- 27 November 2020 ‘Art Exhibition Launch in collaboration with Select Group, Pacific Al Marjan Island, Ras Al Khaimah, UAE
- 01 October 2020 ‘Dubai Art Studio Launch of Soraya Sikander’s new art studio in Dubai’ in collaboration with Unicorn Gallery Unlimited, Ras Al Khaimah, UAE
- 04 October 2010 NM Art Gallery, Viewing in Dubai, UAE
- 10 December 2008 Unicorn Space Dubai, ‘The Kohinoor Selection: Art Gems of the subcontinent’

## **Projects & Commissions**

- 2021 Artist Talk ‘Talkative with Ahmad’ Foundry Gallery, Dubai (Podcast)
- 2020 Contemporary Nature Murals, Mural Paintings Project, Commissioned by Delhi Private School, Ras Al Khaimah, UAE (Project)
- 2019 ‘Calligraphy Landscape’, commissioned project for London Dairy (Commission)
- 2019 Sharjah Expo, Art workshop in collaboration with the Sharjah Museum / Sharjah Heritage institute at Sharjah Expo Centre, Sharjah, UAE (Project)
- 2019 Art Collaboration with Bill Zhao, Art collaboration painting with Chinese Master Artist Bill Zhao during the 8th Beijing International Art Biennale, Beijing, China

- (Project)  
 2014 Conditioning in art: Images without context, Art Lecture for TED talks, TEDx event at NED University, Karachi, Pakistan (Project)

## **Bibliography**

- 2019 Bibliography: 'The Album of the eighth Beijing International Art Biennale China 2019' compiled by China Artists Association  
 2018 Bibliography: 'Resurgence', Lahore Biennale 01 collateral event catalogue  
 2017 Bibliography: 'The Album of the seventh Beijing International Art Biennale China 2017' compiled by China Artists Association  
 2016 Bibliography: 'Ras Al Khaimah Fine Art Fair 2016' catalogue in collaboration with the National Museum of Ras Al Khaimah  
 2015 Bibliography: 'Oxford Companion to Pakistani Art' encyclopedia, Oxford University Press  
 2013 Bibliography: 'In, at and around: exploring urban space', Noorani Press – with essays by Professor Gerda Roper, Juliet Highet, Marjorie Husain, Dr. Akbar Naqvi, Mohsin Jaffri, MS Kureshi  
 2010 Bibliography: 'Contemporary Pakistani Artists' (Paperback) General Books LLC, ISBN 9781156558416 Barnes and Noble

## **Reviews & Publications**

- 10 June 2023 'Soraya Sikander Group Exhibition' Al Bayan UAE  
 03 March 2021 'International Women's Day: Choose to challenge' Eastern Eye  
 13 February 2021 'The World is Too Much With Us - Art Exhibition' GQ  
 24 January 2021 '6 UAE-Based Artists On How They're Encouraging Sustainability Via Their Art' Harper's Bazaar Art  
 19 November 2020 'Soraya has a lockdown art attack' Eastern Eye  
 17 November 2020 'For the skill within you' The News  
 10 August 2020 'Soraya Sikander paints two new murals in a private project for Delhi Private School' Biz Today  
 05 August 2020 'Nature more mural by Soraya Sikander for Private School, UAE' Enewspaper  
 14 November 2019 'Art has the ability to humanize us: Soraya Sikander' Eastern Eye  
 16 May 2019 'The colours pull me' The Independent  
 31 May 2019 'World Galleries Display Artist's Works' The News  
 31 May 2019 'A big Eid trip down memory lane' Eastern Eye  
 04 April 2019 'A painter of life, Pakistani artist travels world for landscape inspiration' The News  
 03 April 2019 'I surely visit London in Autumn: Soraya Sikander' Geo News  
 21 March 2019 'Give Peace a chance' Indian News  
 30 July 2018 'Soraya Sikander – Painters of Pakistan' Albilad English Daily  
 19 March 2018 'Pakistani Artist Soraya Sikander exhibits INSCAPE at Unicorn Gallery' Aaj.tv  
 04 March 2018 'Exhibition: Realms of colour and spirit' Dawn

11 February 2018 'Beauty of seasons in dreams at Unicorn Gallery' International The News

14 December 2017 'Pakistan's leading contemporary landscape painter Soraya Sikander' Enewspaper

08 December 2017 'Pioneer of style' The Friday Times

22 October 2017 'Between sight and memory' Dawn

13 May 2017 'Soraya giving new dimensions to calligraphy' Ad Gallery Vivo

26 March 2017 'Gallery: Inner landscapes' Dawn

19 March 2017 'How green is our grey' The News on Sunday

17 March 2017 'In her mind's eye' The Friday Times

03 March 2017 'When travel meets nature through art' The Express Tribune

22 July 2016 'Soraya: Picture this' Eastern Eye

28 June 2016 'Can't miss 5 art exhibitions to see in Abu Dhabi & Dubai' The National

23 June 2016 'Fananoon fe daulate al emarat' Dahabiya

06 June 2016 'Changing the landscape' Arts & Culture, The National

04 March 2016 'Breaking Barriers: Women Achievers Talk Equality feat. artist Soraya Sikander' Eastern Eye

08 January 2016 'My Top Ten Artistic Moments and Inspiration with Soraya Sikander' Eastern Eye

December 2015 'Soraya Sikander at Galerie Patries Van Dorst' European Association for Asian Art and Archaeology

23 October 2015 'Embassy Art Exhibition' Diplomat Magazine

December 2014 'Top Pakistani Contemporary Artists Making It Big Internationally' ArtSome

September 2014 'HELLO! Pakistan catches up with artist Soraya Sikander' HELLO! Pakistan

June 2014 'An Inquisitive Wanderer – Urban Trivialities and Art Escape' CaravanDaily

April 2014 'Soraya Sikander's work is an on-going visual monologue' IRIS

19 February 2014 'In, at and around with Soraya Sikander' Youlin Magazine

15 February 2014 'Soraya Sikander's In, at and around Lahore makes news' The News Lark

February 2014 'In, at an around: Soraya Sikander at Alhamra Gallery' SHE

02 February 2014 'Art beat: Eclectic and exuberant' Dawn

23 January 2014 'Exhibition In, At and Around continues to attract crowds' Daily Times

21 January 2014 'In, at and around: Urban violence, natural beauty caught on canvas' The Express Tribune

21 January 2014 'New approach paintings on display' Dawn

December 2013 'Sharing an artist's viewpoint: Soraya Sikander In, at and around' ADA Architecture Design Art

May 2013 'Responding to her environment' Glam Magazine

February 2013 'Voyage of Discovery' Newslime magazine

February 2013 'In, at and around' Women's Own magazine

28 January 2013 'Artist explores British urban landscape' The Samosa UK

25 January 2013 'Various impressions of the city' Weekly Pulse

19 January 2013	‘Art Facts: Dark and bright cityscapes’ Business Recorder
13 January 2013	‘Art Beat: In, at and around’ Dawn
12 January 2013	‘In, At and Around by Soraya Sikander’ Islamic Arts Magazine
11 January 2013	‘Soraya Sikander uses London’s colours and Karachi’s tones of grey’ The Express Tribune
11 January 2013	‘Impressions of a foreign land’ Dawn
September 2012	‘Works of leading Pakistani Artists to be showcased in London’ The Samosa
September 2012	‘New Art from Pakistan’ Artlyst
September 2012	The High Commission for Pakistan in United Kingdom – Essay
September 2012	La Galleria Pall Mall – Essay
July 2011	‘Vitality and versatility’ The Nation London
July 2011	Associated Press of Pakistan – Essay
31 July 2011	‘The response of young Pakistani artists’ Frontier Star
27 July 2011	‘Contemporary Art Exhibition at Pakistan High Commission’ AsiaNet
07 July 2011	‘Question of peace – answer of art’ The Gulf Today
24 June 2011	‘At one with Nature’ Art & Culture, Khaleej Times
29 May 2010	‘The Golden Collection of vivid scenic beauty’ Business Recorder
24 May 2010	‘The Golden Collection pays homage’ Daily Times
23 May 2010	‘Rustic art — a piece of gold’ Dawn
02 April 2010	‘Flower power’ Business Recorder
26 March 2010	‘Make flowers — not war’ Nigaah
24 March 2010	‘Seeking solace in colours of spring’ Business Recorder
20 February 2010	‘Celebrating nature — not terrorism’ Daily Times
24 February 2010	‘Soraya’s painting exhibition’ The Leader
10 January 2010	‘Sapphic Tales’ Dawn
23 October 2009	‘A meeting of minds’ Arts and Entertainment, The Daily Star
23 October 2009	‘Emotions coloured’ Star Weekend
24 August 2009	‘Interpreting the recession’ Dawn
22 August 2009	‘Recession on canvas’ Business Recorder
19 July 2009	‘Fann-e-Musawari’ Muqadamma
15 June 2009	‘Musawari ko urooj’ Awam
15 June 2009	‘Art in Pakistan’ Regional Times
22 March 2009	‘A place in the sun’ Gulf News

### **Television & Video Appearances**

June 2022	‘Dubai Based Artist Soraya Sikander Set to Exhibit Paintings and Drawings in New Style’ Inner Views & News channel
January 2022	‘Soraya Sikander is Introducing Pakistani Art Internationally’ Inner Views & News channel
November 2021	‘Frescoes at National College of Arts’ Emra News
November 2021	‘Frescoes at National College of Arts’ Dawn News
August 2020	‘Soraya Sikander talks to Artist Tree’ Artist Tree channel
August 2019	‘Soraya Sikander at Beijing Biennale’ China Tv
February 2019	‘I surely visit London in Autumn Season: Soraya Sikander’ Geo News

August 2018	‘Soraya Sikander TV Interview’ City42 Tv
July 2018	‘Soraya Sikander on Morning show Jaggo Lahore’ Lahore News Tv
June 2018	‘Soraya Sikander on Morning show Jaggo Lahore’ Lahore News Tv
April 2018	‘Soraya Sikander Painters of Pakistan’ 7News pk Tv
March 2017	‘Inscape by Soraya Sikander’ Art Tv
March 2017	‘Inscape - exhibition artist Soraya Sikander interview’ Dawn News
December 2016	‘Artist Soraya Sikander on her work’ Samaa Tv
November 2015	‘Soraya Sikander on Art and Pakistan’ PTV Weekend World, PTV News
November 2015	‘Pakistani Artist Soraya Sikander at Embassy Art Exhibition Netherlands’ Sights and Sounds of Pakistan channel
October 2015	‘Soraya Sikander in her studio’ Samaa Tv
January 2014	‘Soraya Sikander Alhamra exhibition’ C42 City42 Tv
January 2012	‘Soraya Sikander talks about her Bridal sculpture on the Morning show’ TV1

### **Professional Affiliations**

2022	Emirates Fine Arts Society, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
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### **Teaching Experience**

August – October 2020	Private Tutor to the Royal Family of Ras Al Khaimah
July – September 2019	Intensive Art Workshops at Communita Mina Al Arab, Ras Al Khaimah
January – February 2019	Group Training Art Classes at Marjan Island, Ras Al Khaimah
June – July 2018	‘Calligraphy: Word Into Art’ Workshop at the Lahore University of Management Sciences, Lahore
June – August 2018	‘History of Art’ & ‘Drawing/Painting’ Workshops at Unicorn Gallery, Lahore

### **Community Service**

2022	The Citizens Foundation Washington, United States of America
2022	Rotary Club of Karachi, Pakistan
2020	The Hunar Foundation, Karachi, Pakistan
2017	Rotary Club of Karachi, Pakistan