

Homer Watson *House & Gallery*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cambridge-based artist explores notions of identity and trauma in HWHG's winter exhibition, *Bagh-o-Bahar: Let the Flowers Bloom*

February 4 through to April 24, 2022

Opening reception Thursday, March at 7 pm. Artist will be in attendance.



Sumaira Tazeen, *Umeed V (Hope V)*, Carbon transfer and opaque water-based pigment on Fabiana, 2021. Image courtesy of the artist.

January 24, 2022, Kitchener, ON: Homer Watson House & Gallery is thrilled to welcome an ambitious new body of work from Cambridge-based artist Sumaira Tazeen. *Bagh-o-Bahar: Let the Flowers Bloom* opens on February 4 in the Watson Gallery.

The exhibition presents a series of work that conceptually explore constructs of identity and the effects of trauma. Using irises as a symbol of hope, Tazeen reflects on her personal experiences of healing and care after living through difficult times in an unsuccessful marriage and domestic abuse.

The works, predominantly painted using tones of red, are a hallmark of her practice and symbolize a series of emotions including anger, love, passion, and warmth—all of which emerge in *Bagh-o-Bahar*. In a cultural context, the colour red is traditionally worn as a wedding dress—a poetic juxtaposition to Tazeen’s own reality of her marriage ending in the face of domestic abuse. The works all come together to share a story of hope and strength through turmoil. “If there is chaos happening, there is also a brightness and light. There is hope,” says Tazeen.

Bagh-o-Bahar: Let the Flowers Bloom will showcase a combination of intricate paintings alongside sculptural and video work. “Tazeen’s practice is quite interesting, and I am honoured to have her work shown at HWHG. Her artwork continues to address very challenging and complex issues in a thought-provoking and visually stunning way,” shares director/curator Tabatha Watson.

Please join us for the opening reception on Thursday, March 3 at 7 pm. A short Q&A will take place between artist Sumaira Tazeen and curator Tabatha Watson.

About Sumaira Tazeen:

Sumaira Tazeen is a Cambridge-based artist, educator, and curator of Pakistani origin. She received her BFA in Miniature Painting and Sculpture from the National College of Arts, Lahore in 1996 and has exhibited across South Asia, the United States, Canada, Europe, and the Middle East. Tazeen has received numerous awards and recognition throughout her career including: the Haji Muhammad Sharif Award for Miniature Painting (1996), the Charles Wallace Trust Fellowship (2004), the Department for International Development Scholarship Award (2003-04), Ontario Arts Council grant for Emerging Artists (2014, 2016), and was selected as Kitchener’s Artist in Residence (2018). Tazeen’s practice questions social issues in her immediate surroundings and is deeply rooted in the traditions of South Asian culture and personal experience.

About Homer Watson House & Gallery:

Homer Watson House & Gallery is the homestead of Homer Watson, Canada’s first internationally recognized landscape artist (1855-1936). In 1980, the house and surrounding three-acre property were designated under the Ontario Heritage Act as being of architectural and historic significance. HWHG is dedicated to preserving and celebrating the legacy of Homer Watson’s creative spirit by stimulating the appreciation, enjoyment, and practice of the visual arts.

Homer Watson House & Gallery is wheelchair accessible.

GALLERY HOURS:

Tuesday to Sunday: 10 am – 4 pm

For more information please contact:

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