



SCENIC STORIES

SARFRAZ MUSAWIR
AT ARTCITI

Sarfraz Musawir 2015

Fluid thoughts

The ancient art of watercolor painting probably originated from the cave paintings in Paleolithic Europe over 30,000 years ago. The use of this medium is also evident in the illustrated papyrus manuscripts of the Egyptian Pharaohs and the European Middle Ages. Renaissance, however, initiated the use of watercolor as an art medium where the wildlife, botanical and landscape paintings of Albrecht Dürer (1471–1528), introduced a new genre of watercolor painting. Some early specialists of this medium include Claude Lorrain, Van Dyck, Benedetto Castiglione, and numerous Flemish and Dutch painters.

The art of watercolor is also gathering a rich history in this region where some very experienced artists continue to innovatively use this medium with commitment. Sarfraz Musawir is one such artist who is scrupulous in handling this delicate medium intelligently rather than with unrestricted freedom and casual whim. His seasoned acumen to express deftly with aquarelle gives him the ability to create vibrant ambiances of bustling cityscapes under diverse conditions of light and weather. The dynamic addition of exquisitely painted pedestrians, rickshaws and vehicles grant the paintings a corporeal spirit; something that very few artists can do. The noteworthy use of glazed strokes with calculated transparencies; the premeditated deployment of the hand-made paper's grain; and most of all, the chosen range of lively colors, give Musawir's painting an eminent identity.

Although executed with an expressionistic hand, Musawir's paintings appear to be pleasantly realistic with a hint of contemporary flavor. His choice of subjects is a perpetual emphasis on the evolving culture; it is more like recording history with a compassionate eye. When seen through the eyes of the painter, the cityscapes leave a lasting impression on the viewers; to some it would appear to be a déjà vu while others would find it an absorbing experience.

Rainwater laden road scenes with misty reflections of people and the environment are perhaps the most unique works for their multiple visual characteristics. Creating an atmosphere of inclement weather, the shimmering light, falling rain and the glistening roads; all in one, is a task that requires years of experience and devotion. It is only through sincere grooming of the eye that one develops a compassion for meaningful observation.

The landscapes chosen by the artist, it seems, are the ones that daunt him the most. Musawir perhaps likes to dare himself to accept the most mystifying compositions; for example, the painting made from a roof-top is a bold initiative where the depth and perspective collectively pose a huge challenge to the artist's observation. Here again, the warmer foreground and the cooler background, along with an appreciation of gradually fading objects under a situation of a dual perspective, one of height and the other of distance, manifest the artist's perception of the medium.

Musawir's paintings of shrines and monuments reflect an air of respect and reverence which can actually be felt the moment one casts an eye on his work. The virtuous ambiance drenched in sobriety and sanctity is unmistakable in every such project that the artist undertakes. A paradigm of purity, Musawir's fluid strokes and intuitive washes, unravel the saintliness of sacred monuments impressively. Furthermore, the treatment of historical buildings with versatile techniques places Musawir amongst the leading watercolorists who paint buildings with impressionistic fervor.

M Saeed Kureshi

Sitara-e-Imtiaz

Art Critic, Author

www.tinyurl.com/mskureshi

ARTCITI

Invites you to an exclusive exhibition of
paintings by

Sarfraz Musawir

19th December 2015 - 25th December 2015

Exhibition Opening
19th December 2015
6pm - 8pm

ARTCITI GALLERY

2nd Floor, Plot # 36-C,

Bukhari Commercial Lane-13,

Khayaban-e-Shujaat, Phase-VI, DHA, Karachi.

Phone: +92-21-35250495-6 - Fax: +92-21-35250494

or visit our virtual gallery at www.artciti.com





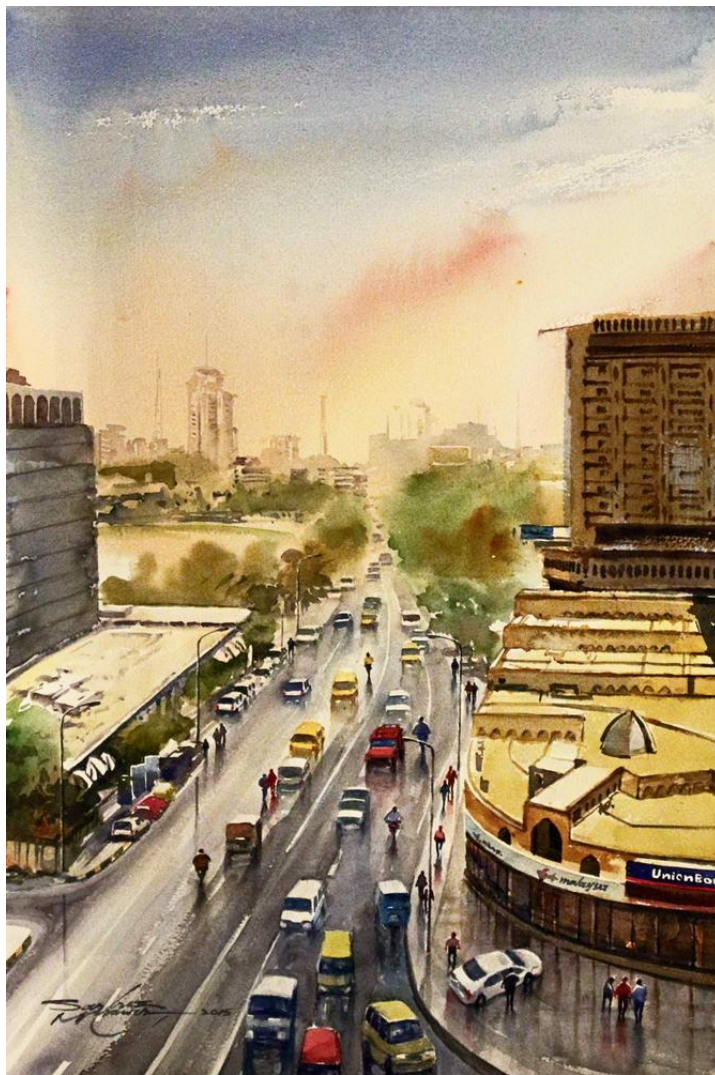
01, Old Anarkali Lahore-I, Watercolor on Paper, 15 x 17 inch, Rs. 35,000



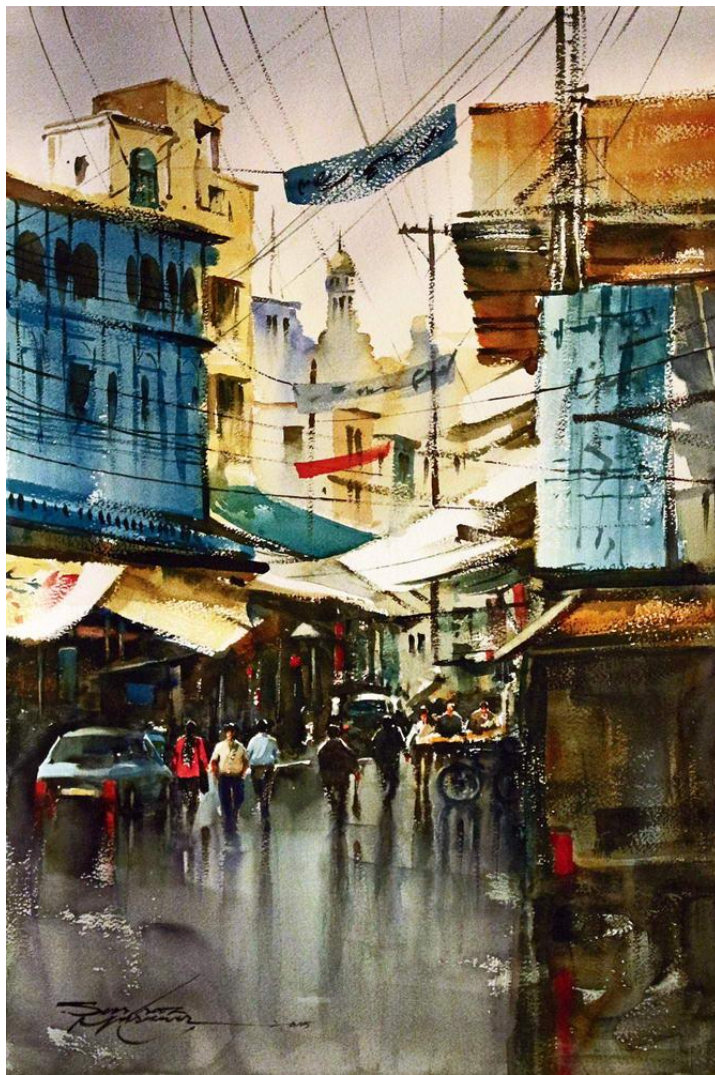
02, Walled City Lahore-I, Watercolor on Paper, 15 x 17 inch, Rs. 35,000



03, Old Anarkali Lahore-II, Watercolor on Paper, 15 x 17 inch, Rs. 35,000



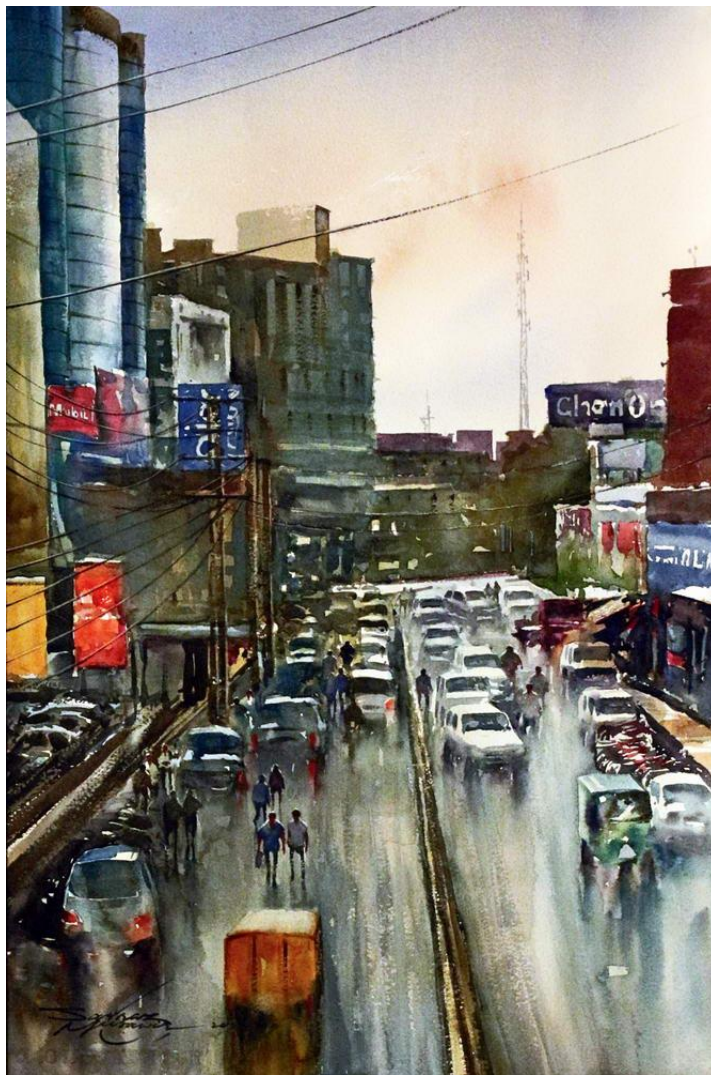
04, Shahrah-e-Faisal Karachi, Watercolor on Paper, 15 x 22 inch, Rs. 42,000



05, Walled City Lahore-II, Watercolor on Paper, 15 x 22 inch, Rs. 42,000



06, Walled City Lahore-III, Watercolor on Paper, 15 x 22 inch, Rs. 42,000



07, Hafeez Centre Lahore, Watercolor on Paper, 15 x 22 inch, Rs. 42,000



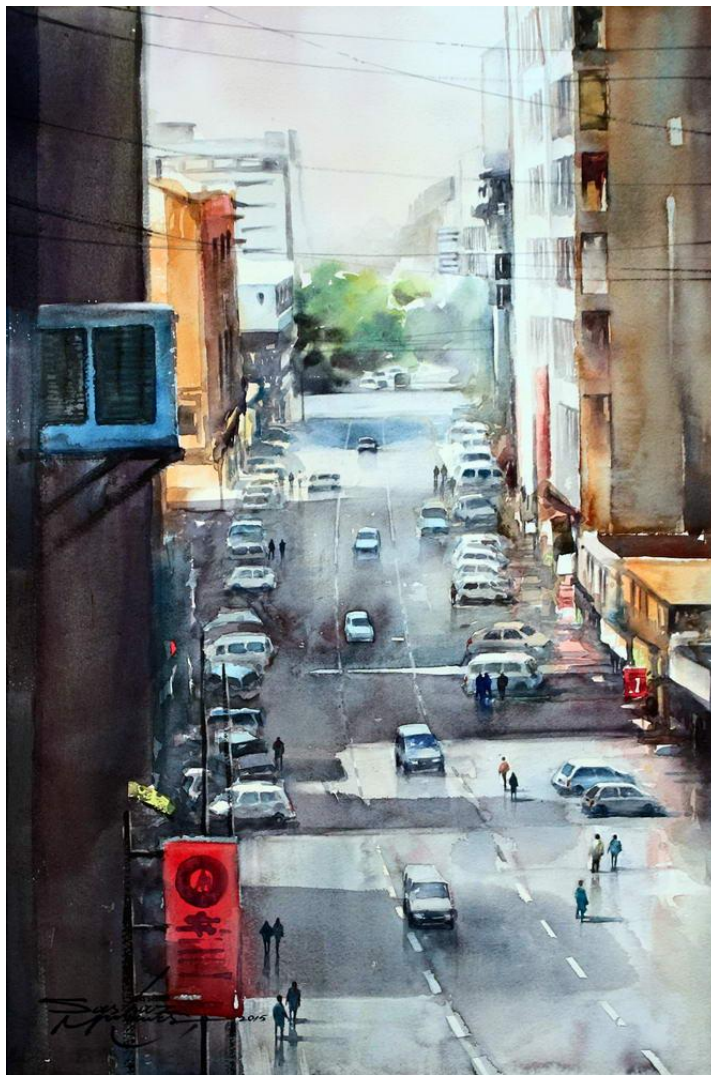
08, G.C Lahore, Watercolor on Paper, 15 x 22 inch, Rs. 42,000



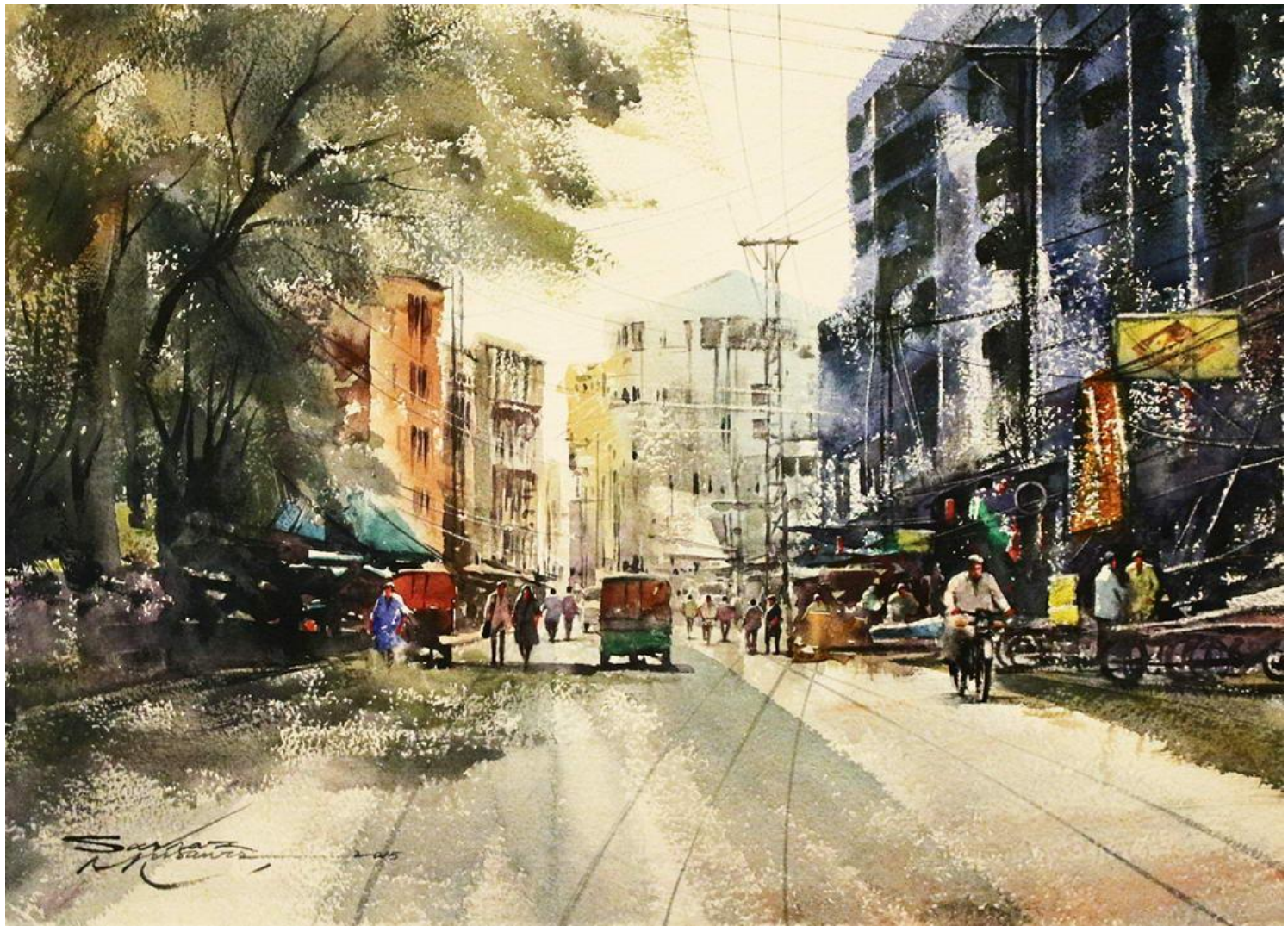
09, MCB Building Karachi, Watercolor on Paper, 15 x 22 inch, Rs. 42,000



10, Empress Market Karachi, Watercolor on Paper, 15 x 22 inch, Rs. 42,000



11, Abdullah Haroon Road Karachi, Watercolor on Paper, 15 x 22 inch, Rs. 42,000



12, Walled City Lahore-IV, Watercolor on Paper, 22 x 30 inch, Rs. 130,000



13, Mall Road Lahore, Watercolor on Paper, 22 x 30 inch, Rs. 130,000



14, Walled City Lahore-V, Watercolor on Paper, 22 x 30 inch, Rs.130,000



15, GPO Lahore, Watercolor on Paper, 22 x 30 inch, Rs.130,000



16, Walled City Lahore-VI, Watercolor on Paper, 22 x 30 inch, Rs.130,000



17, Karachi Port, Watercolor on Paper, 22 x 30 inch, Rs. 130,000



18, Anarkali Tomb, Watercolor on Paper, 22 x 30 inch, Rs. 130,000



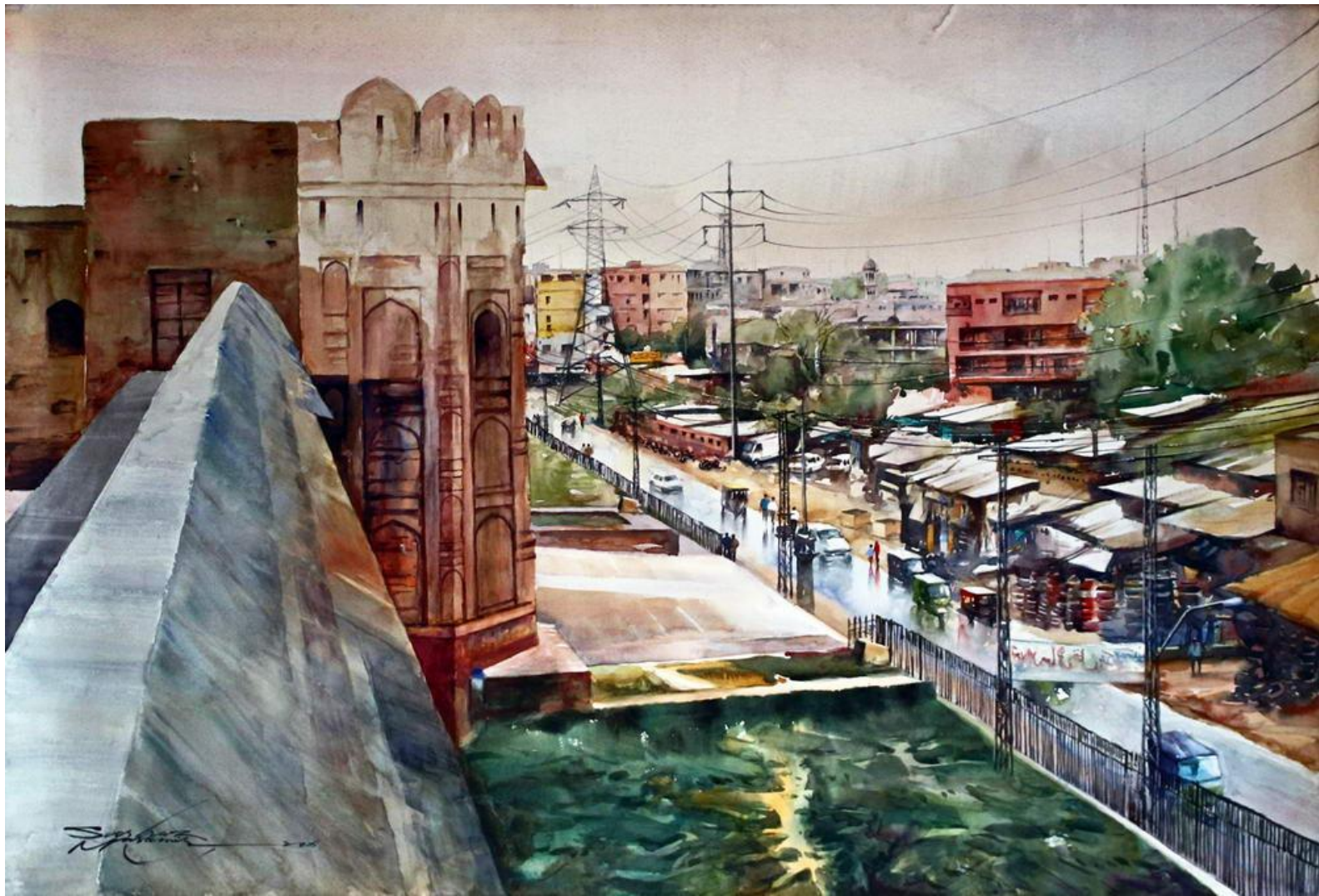
19, Karachi Port Trust Building, Watercolor on Paper, 27 x 40 inch, Rs. 190,000



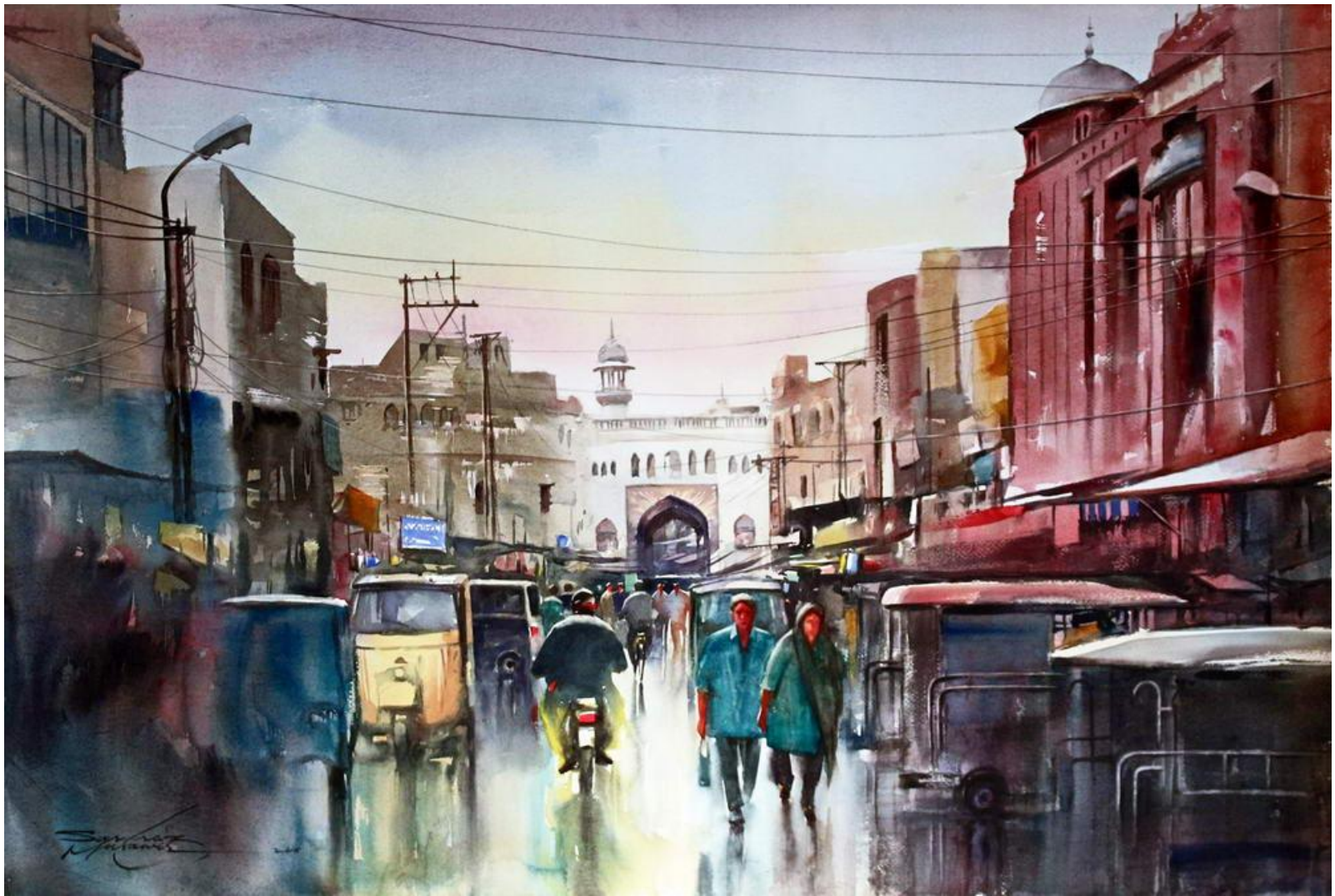
20, Habib Bank Karachi, Watercolor on Paper, 27 x 40 inch, Rs. 190,000



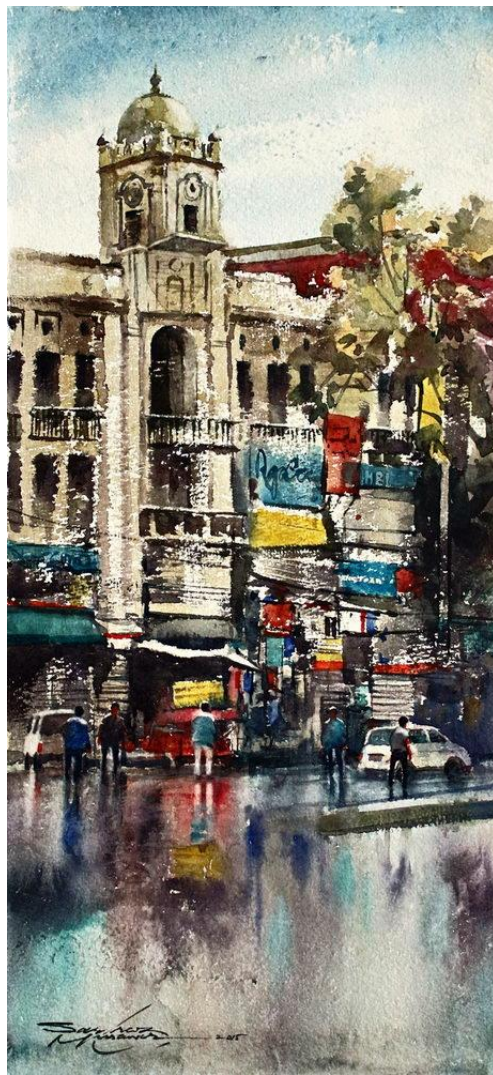
21, Neela Gumbad Lahore, Watercolor on Paper, 27 x 40 inch, Rs. 190,000



22, Shahi Qila Circular Road Lahore, Watercolor on Paper, 27 x 40 inch, Rs. 190,000



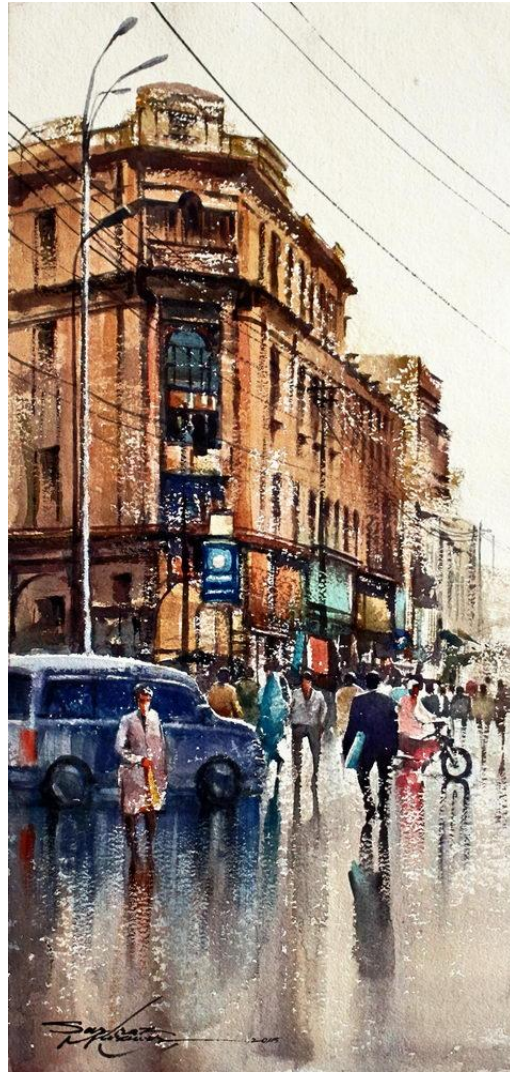
23, Lohari Gate Lahore, Watercolor on Paper, 27 x 40 inch, Rs. 190,000



24, Hall Road Lahore, Watercolor on Paper, 10 x 22 inch, Rs. 35,000



25, Tower Karachi, Watercolor on Paper, 10 x 22 inch, Rs. 35,000



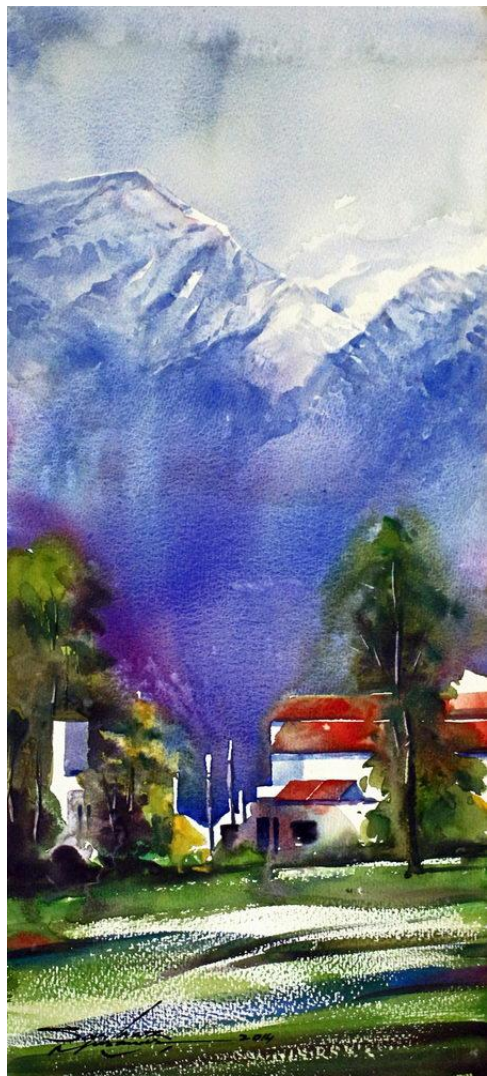
26, Shaikha House Bandar Road Karachi, Watercolor on Paper, 10 x 22 inch, Rs. 35,000



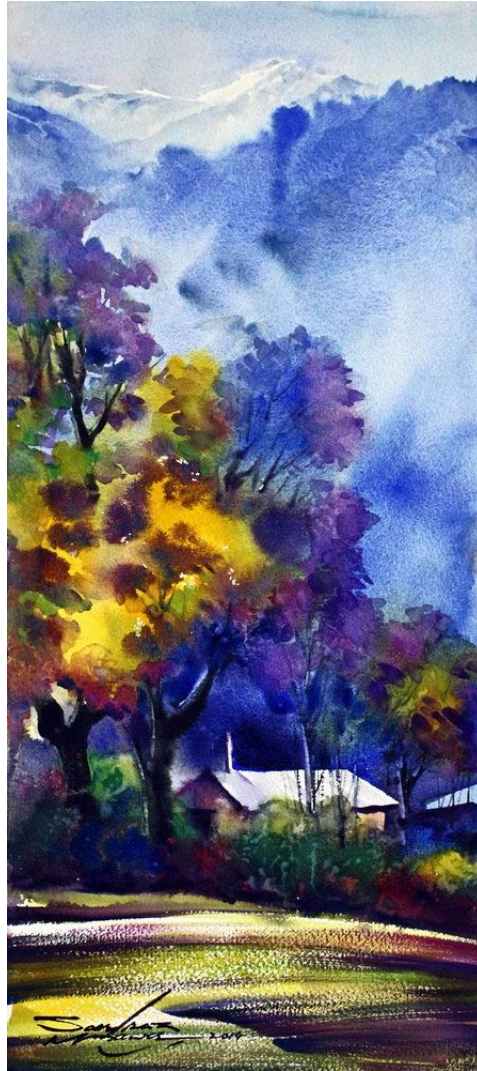
27, Saddar Karachi, Watercolor on Paper, 10 x 22 inch, Rs. 35,000



28, Walled City Lahore VII, Watercolor on Paper, 10 x 22 inch, Rs. 35,000



29, Northern Pakistan I, Watercolor on Paper, 10 x 22 inch, Rs. 35,000



30, Northern Pakistan II, Watercolor on Paper, 10 x 22 inch, Rs. 35,000



31, KMC Karachi, Watercolor on Paper, 15 x 17 inch, Rs. 35,000



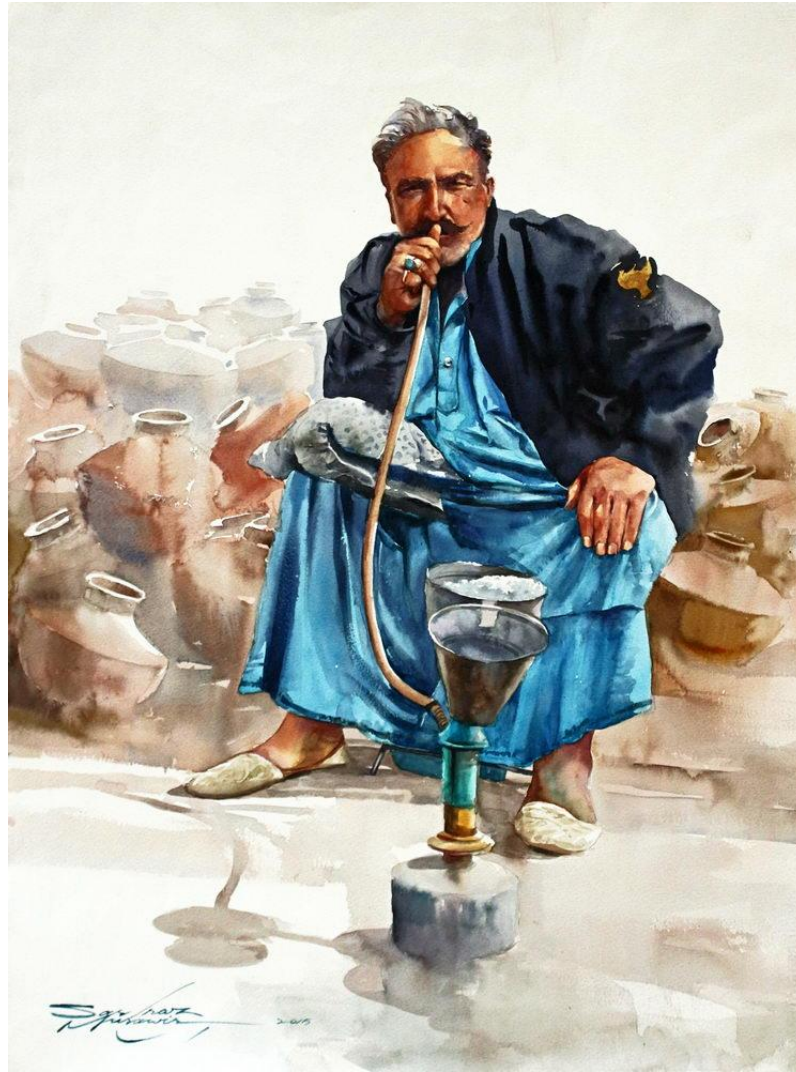
32, Shaheen Complex Karachi, Watercolor on Paper, 15 x 17 inch, Rs. 35,000



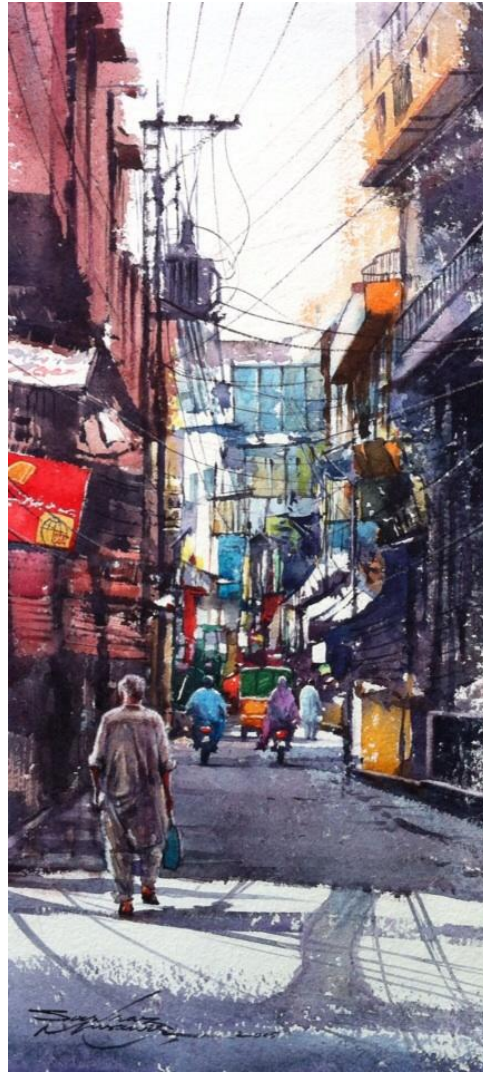
33, Sunday Bazaar Anarkali Lahore, Watercolor on Paper, 15 x 17 inch, Rs. 35,000



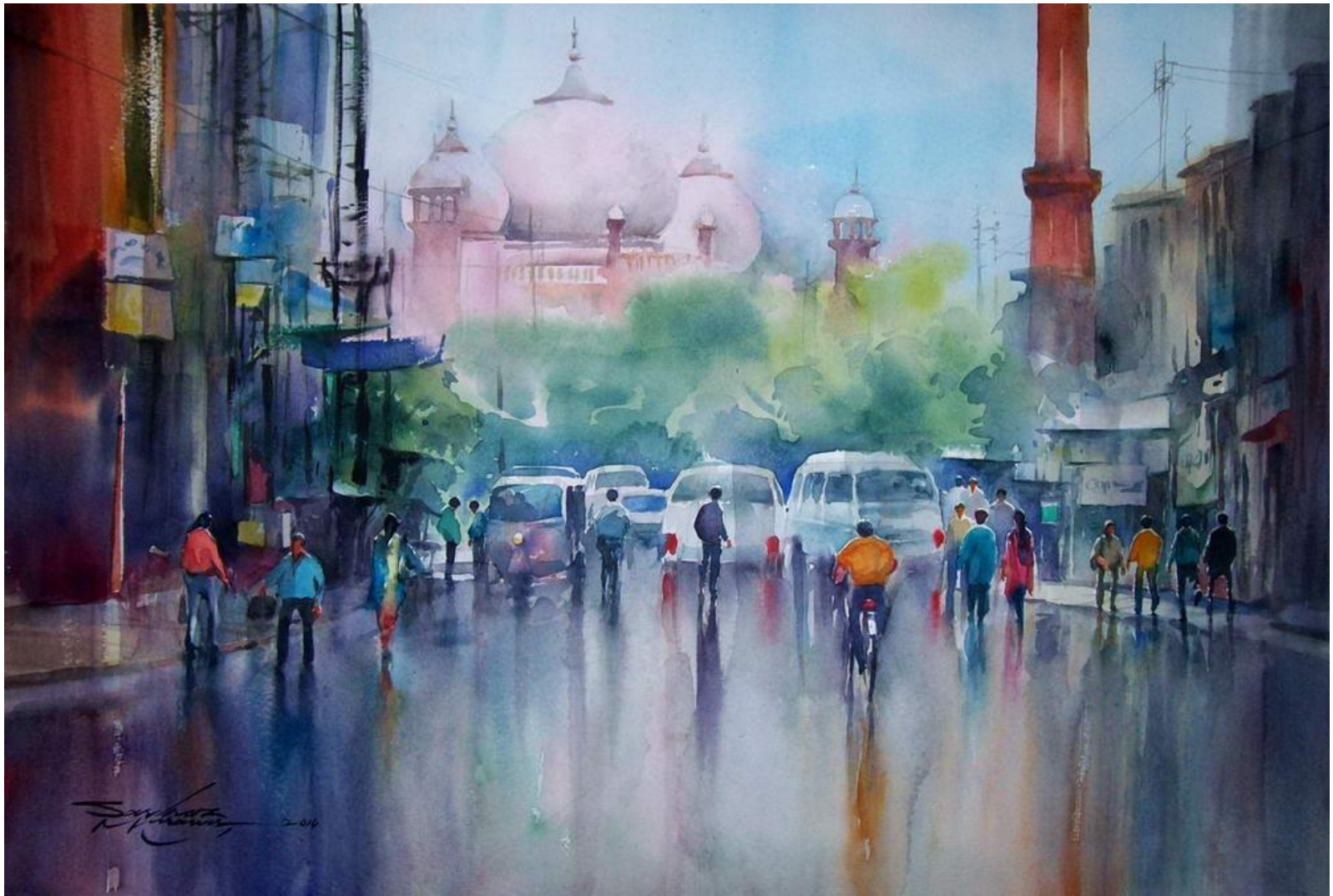
34, Potter, Watercolor on Paper, 22 x 30 inch, Rs. 130,000



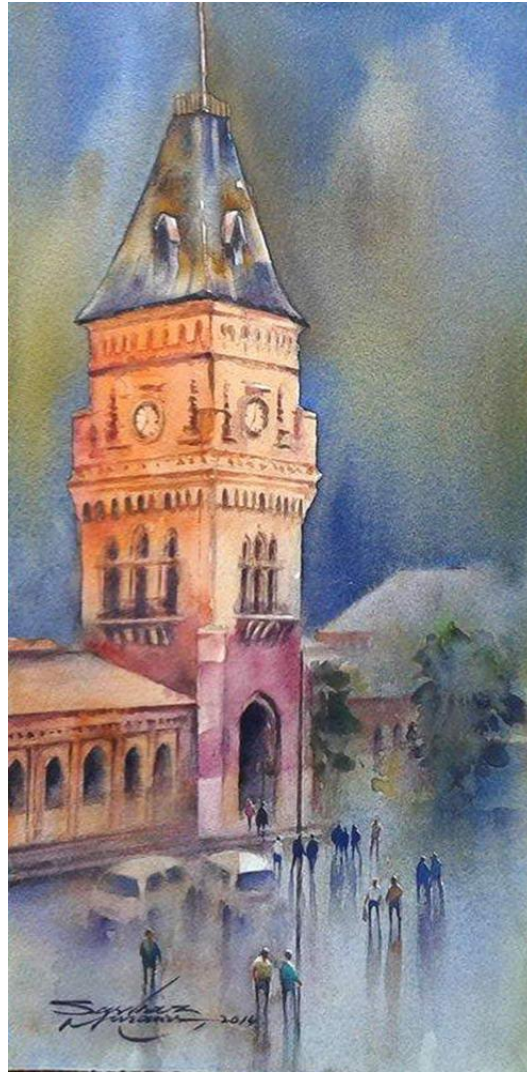
35, Pot Saler, Watercolor on Paper, 22 x 30 inch, Rs. 130,000



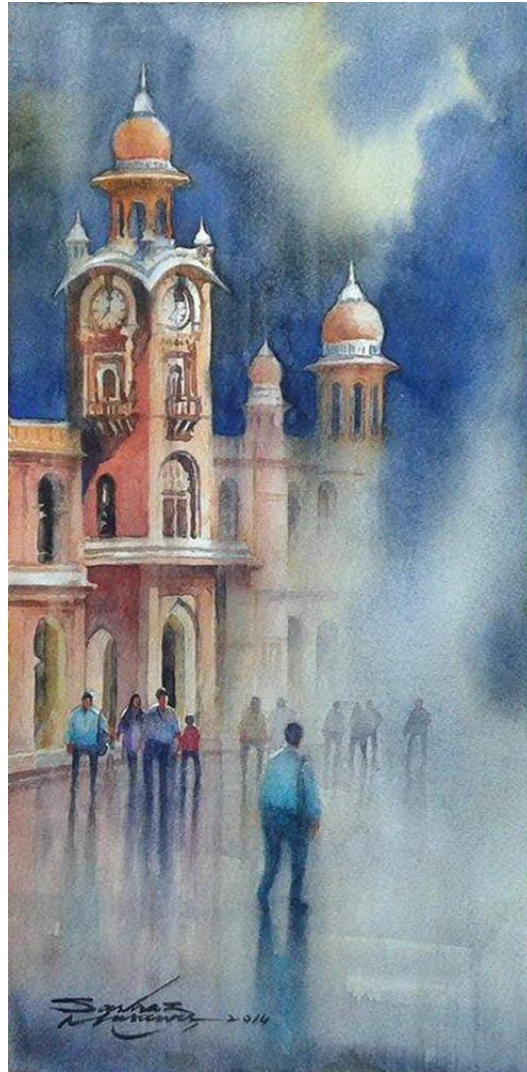
36, Walled City Lahore-VII, Watercolor on Paper, 10 x 22 inch, Rs. 35,000.jpg



37, Badshahi Mosque Lahore, Watercolor on Paper, 15 x 22 inch, Rs. 42,000



38, Empress Market Karachi, Watercolor on Paper, 07 x 15 inch, Rs. 20,000



39, Ghanta Ghar Multan, Watercolor on Paper, 07 x 15 inch, Rs. 20,000



Sarfraz Musawir born 1960 in Umerkot Sindh, Pakistan is one of the most prominent names amongst Pakistani watercolor artists.

He graduated with a Master's degree in Physics from University of Sindh and attained First Class in Diploma in Fine Art from Karachi School of Art. He is well known for his depiction of scenery, cityscapes, landscapes and portraits.

After exploring the restless "watercolorist" within, Musawir presented his work in various group shows and numerous solo exhibitions, nationally and internationally, that clearly portray his passion of water color paintings. He also participated in the International Watercolor Society Festival, held in Izmir, Turkey, 2013. He was awarded First Prize in Sadequain Awards in 1994.

The dripping colors off his brush have rejuvenated the clichéd, although always evergreen, subject of the walled city of Lahore along with its famous gates and street life within and around.

His unique technique adds a shimmering effect in his frames and enhances the colors against a relatively diffused sky. Earlier, in his quest of creating atmospheric vivacity with his watercolors, the artist recorded the shades of Karachi in the same documentary-like manner. His interest in the architecture makes him a keen observer of his surroundings and his paintings a diary of a traveler, passing through the streets of the metropolis instead of standing at a single point and imitating everything objectively.

Solo Exhibitions

- 2015 ARTCITI Gallery Karachi.
- 2015 Gallery6 Islamabad.
- 2013 Two Man Show at Pakistan Art Gallery Karachi.
- 2013 Revivers Galleria Lahore.
- 2011 Collectors Galleria Lahore.
- 2008 Hamial Art Gallery Lahore.
- 2008 Shakil Ismail Art Gallery Karachi.
- 2006 Croweaters Gallery Lahore.
- 2005 Indus Art Gallery Karachi.
- 2004 Nomad Art Gallery Islamabad.
- 2003 Hamail Art Gallery Lahore.
- 2003 V.M Art Gallery Karachi.
- 2001 The Art Gallery Karachi.
- 1985 Pakistan National Centre Mirpurkhas.

Groups Exhibitions

- 2015 Atev Gallery Istanbul Turkey.
- 2015 ZULFI'S Art Gallery Lahore.
- 2015 IWS (Italy) Fabriano in Acquarello 2015.
- 2014 Crossborders Art Gallery Dubai.
- 2014 WWET(World Watermedia Exposition Thailand).
- 2013 IWS Festival, Live Watercolour Demonstration held in Izmir, Turkey
- 2012 Nomad Art Gallery Islamabad.
- 2012 Hamail Art Gallery Dubai.
- 2012 Art Asia Gallery Lahore.
- 2011 Pakistan Consulate Bahrain UAE.
- 2010 Fourwall Art Gallery Dubai.
- 2010 Royaat Gallery Lahore.

2009 Nomad Art Gallery Islamabad.
 2009 Native Art Gallery Lahore.
 2008 Basta Art Gallery Dubai.
 2008 Shakil Ismail Art Gallery Karachi.
 2008 The Collectors Galleria Lahore.
 2007 The Collectors Galleria Lahore.
 2007 Scotland Art Gallery Glasgow UK.
 2006 Sindh Artists Exhibition at Mehran Arts Council Hyderabad.
 2005 Fund Raising Exhibition at Nomad Art Gallery Islamabad.
 2005 Native Art Gallery Lahore.
 2004 Mom Art Gallery Karachi.
 2003 8th National Exhibition of Visual Arts Lahore.
 2003 PNCA Landscape Exhibition at Islamabad and Peshawar.
 2002 Tariq J Art Gallery Karachi.
 2000 V.M Art Gallery Karachi.
 2000 Ejaz Art Gallery Lahore.
 2000 Coopera Art Gallery Lahore.
 1999 Coopera Art Gallery Lahore.
 1997 The Art Gallery Karachi.
 1997 Golden Jubilee Exhibition by the Fine Art Committee at Arts Council Karachi.
 1994 Sadequain Award (First Prize)
 1993 Gallery Chowkundi Karachi.
 1992 V.M Art Gallery Karachi.
 1992 Pakistan Musawwir Council at Karachi University Karachi.
 1992 Clifton Art Gallery Karachi.
 1992 Sadequain Art Gallery Karachi.

Collections

President House Islamabad.
 Pakistan Naval Academy Manora Karachi.
 Pakistan Television Corporation Karachi.
 PC Hotel Karachi
 Chief Minister House Punjab
 Governor House Punjab.
 Shah Mehmood Qureshi House Multan.
 Royal Hospital for Sick Children (York Hill)
 Glasgow UK.
 Shell Pakistan Karachi.
 Descon Engineering Pakistan Lahore.
 Mobilink Head Office Islamabad.
 United Kingdom, America, Canada, France
 Germany, India, United States of Emirates.

