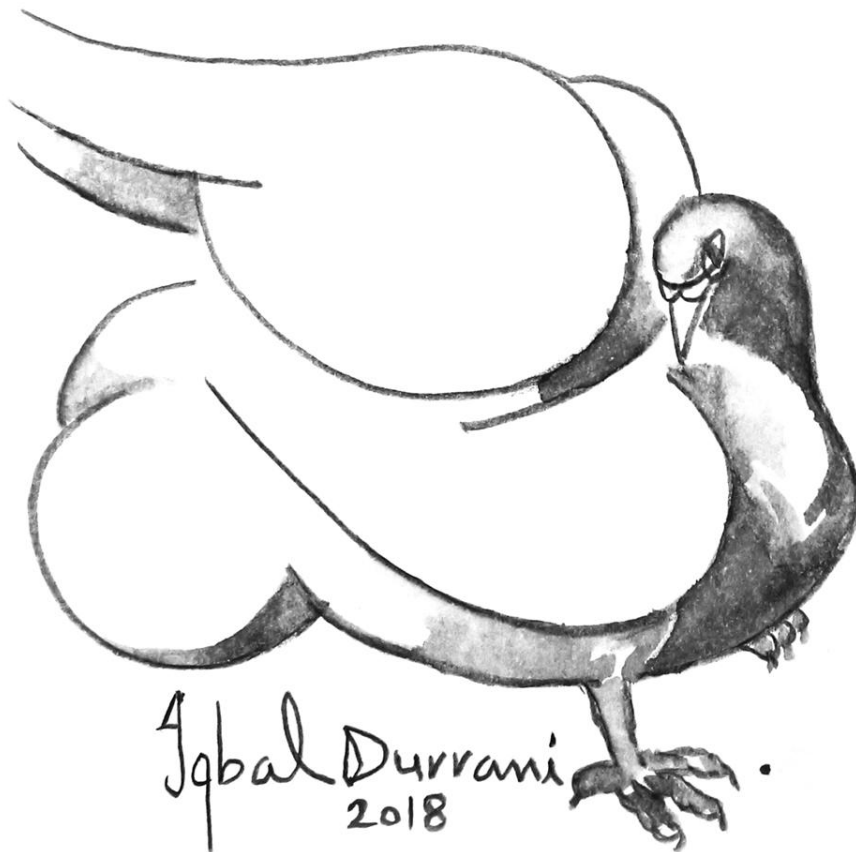


Art for Eternity

Iqbal Durrani 2018



ARTCITI

Invites you to
an exclusive exhibition
of paintings by

IQBAL DURRANI

19th - 22nd April, 2018
(Sunday Open)

Exhibition Opening
19th April, 2018
6pm - 8pm

Visit our gallery or view
the virtual exhibition at

www.artciti.com



Artist's Statement

I paint because I feel it in my blood. What stimulates my spirit and what runs in my arteries, are the nature's heavenly forms that thrive on this soil amidst water, wind and the sun. From all the gifts of heaven, it is the human figure that I have always felt closer to, owing to its fascinating structure and intelligence. For instance, the dynamic articulation of the female figure, with its graceful movements never seems to tire the eye. Incidentally, an artist's observation goes much beyond a simple eye contact. It is the feminine beauty of the torso that has intrigued many painters for centuries, and I am no exception.

The nature's generous improvisations that alter with every passing moment tend to draw attention, igniting my desire to express these wonderful rewards in paints. Amongst the rich flora and fauna, I choose to paint flowers and pigeons, which are either individually depicted or in combination with the human figure. It is the magic of light that makes me perceive the wondrous hues and tints that lie under the surface of the elements that I paint. I develop a sort of connection with the composed subjects to an extent that empathy begins to manifest itself in my work.

Iqbal Durrani



Women, Flowers, Pigeons and I

Painting women, flora and fauna has fascinated artists since the stone age. Like in many other finds, the ancient caves of Lascaux in France, which date back almost 20,000 years, depict the human desire to portray living creatures and plants. On a similar note, Iqbal Durrani, a passionate painter for decades, has been intrigued with life forms and vegetation. While his expression is pure empathy, the remarkable composition and color give his work a distinguished outlook.

Durrani's emotional affinity to the female form has pushed his expressive frontiers beyond contemporary realism into a domain of visual pleasure. In the manner which he interprets the torso of a woman, tends to engross the audience into a heavenly fantasy a mystic journey through subtle innuendos and vibrant nuances! It is the interactive characteristic of the artist's spontaneous figures that delightfully but wordlessly connect the viewers to the paintings.

The contemporary form of the female figure emanates from the Ancient Greeks, who sculpted nude male figures of muscular athletes as ideal humans or gods. Later, female statues were also introduced with similar grace and beauty. During the Middle Ages, however, the nude disappeared from art except for the occasional Adam & Eve. It was later in the Renaissance period that the nude was restored with a similar perfect figure of idealized gods and goddesses an example is Michelangelo's David portrayed as a hero from the Bible. In the current exhibition, Durrani chooses to depict subtle sexuality in an obscure manner, barely discernible, which grants elegance to the composition. Some of the works explore sensuality and the feelings of their characters, while others go deeper into the realm of surrealism. The Modern nudes by Lucien Freud or Jenny Saville are artworks that have endured simply because they always included something more; an emotional connection, empathy.

According to Durrani, he prefers to paint human subjects with a vow to capture their character and essence which he deciphers from the eyes of the respective model. The addition of elements such as flowers, pigeons and in some cases his self-portrait, gives Durrani a greater flexibility to narrate visual episodes that are closer to life, creating a larger spiritual montage. With a seasoned control over the palette knife, his multi-layered paintings transform the female portraiture into vibrant and sensually alive canvases. The resultant texture from the random movements of the knife adds yet another interesting element to Durrani's paintings. The remarkable level of skill to organize a canvas with such a diverse set of aesthetic ingredients, has given the artist a singular identity. The use of knife-driven impasto and thick layers of paint is a technique that requires many years of practice and experience which in this exhibition is abundantly obvious from the consistent characteristic of application from one painting to another.

The generous use of blue and green stems from the artist's proximity to the shores of the Arabian Sea which he watches every day from his home. The waves of azure waters that constantly wash ashore add life to the stillness of the cornice. Imbibing the serenity of the distant waters, the artist emulates inner peace through his brush to share it with those who would see his work. The bold encounters of complementary colors in his paintings, such as red colliding with cyan, green against magenta, and blue contiguous to yellow, are considered a daring maneuver; however, Durrani tackles the myth of opposing colors with great dexterity. Maintaining a remarkable freshness in pigments, the artist induces dynamics in his work which sets targeted elements into motion.

Painting self-portraits has been widely practiced by painters, perhaps not because they loved their faces or were self-centered, but because they needed a model when there wasn't any. Durrani has also been fond of portraying himself to add a model to the female figures that he paints so frequently. With his strong facial profile, the artist's self-portrait with a female heightens the grandeur of the composition. Simplifying the drawings intelligently, he manages to control the painting to achieve an easy-on-the-eyes canvas - refreshing and serene.

Durrani's use of space and composition, topped with a white-enriched palette of colors, gives depth and mood to the painting. The skillful modelling of various elements tends to give a three-dimensional effect which produces a lively impact, which is inherent in the exhibited inventory. He considers that every color is an important component of painting and can add excitement if used with a sensitive approach.

"I paint because I want to share my experiences with others. Another objective is to remain alive, even when I have passed away, through my work as we are all mortal actors on this worldly stage," says Durrani, "The one thing I am sure of is that my painting will always have something new to be discovered every next day that it is seen." The artist feels that these paintings are timeless and will remain in vogue for all times to come!

Saeed Kureshi
Art Critic
Sitara-e-Imtiaz



Amiable Friends, Oil on Canvas, 18 x 18 Inch, AC-IQD-19, Rs. 50,000 (\$436.68)



Bathing in the Sun, Oil on Canvas, 18 x 18 Inch, AC-IQD-20, Rs. 50,000 (\$436.68)



Courting Companions, Oil on Canvas, 18 x 18 Inch, AC-IQD-21, Rs. 50,000 (\$436.68)



Courtship in Coot, Oil on Canvas, 18 x 18 Inch, AC-IQD-22, Rs. 50,000 (\$436.68)



Dwelling in Harmony, Oil on Canvas, 18 x 18 Inch, AC-IQD-23, Rs. 50,000 (\$436.68)



Envious Trio, Oil on Canvas, 18 x 18 Inch, AC-IQD-24, Rs. 50,000 (\$436.68)



Flowery Wings, Oil on Canvas, 18 x 18 Inch, AC-IQD-25, Rs. 50,000 (\$436.68)



Golden Solace, Oil on Canvas, 18 x 18 Inch, AC-IQD-26, Rs. 50,000 (\$436.68)



Intimate Whispers, Oil on Canvas, 18 x 18 Inch, AC-IQD-27, Rs. 50,000 (\$436.68)



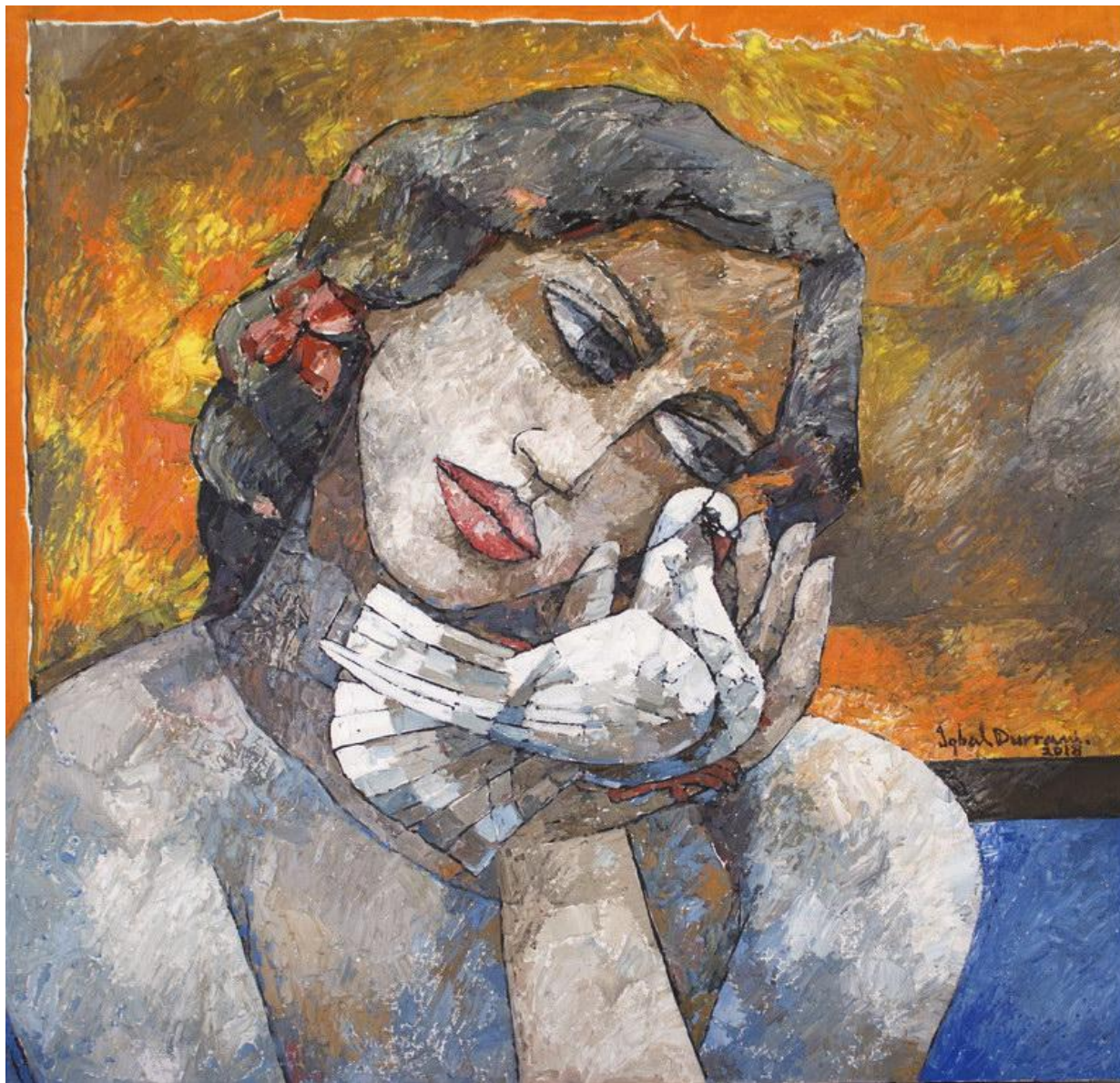
Warm Gathering, Oil on Canvas, 18 x 18 Inch, AC-IQD-28, Rs. 50,000 (\$436.68)



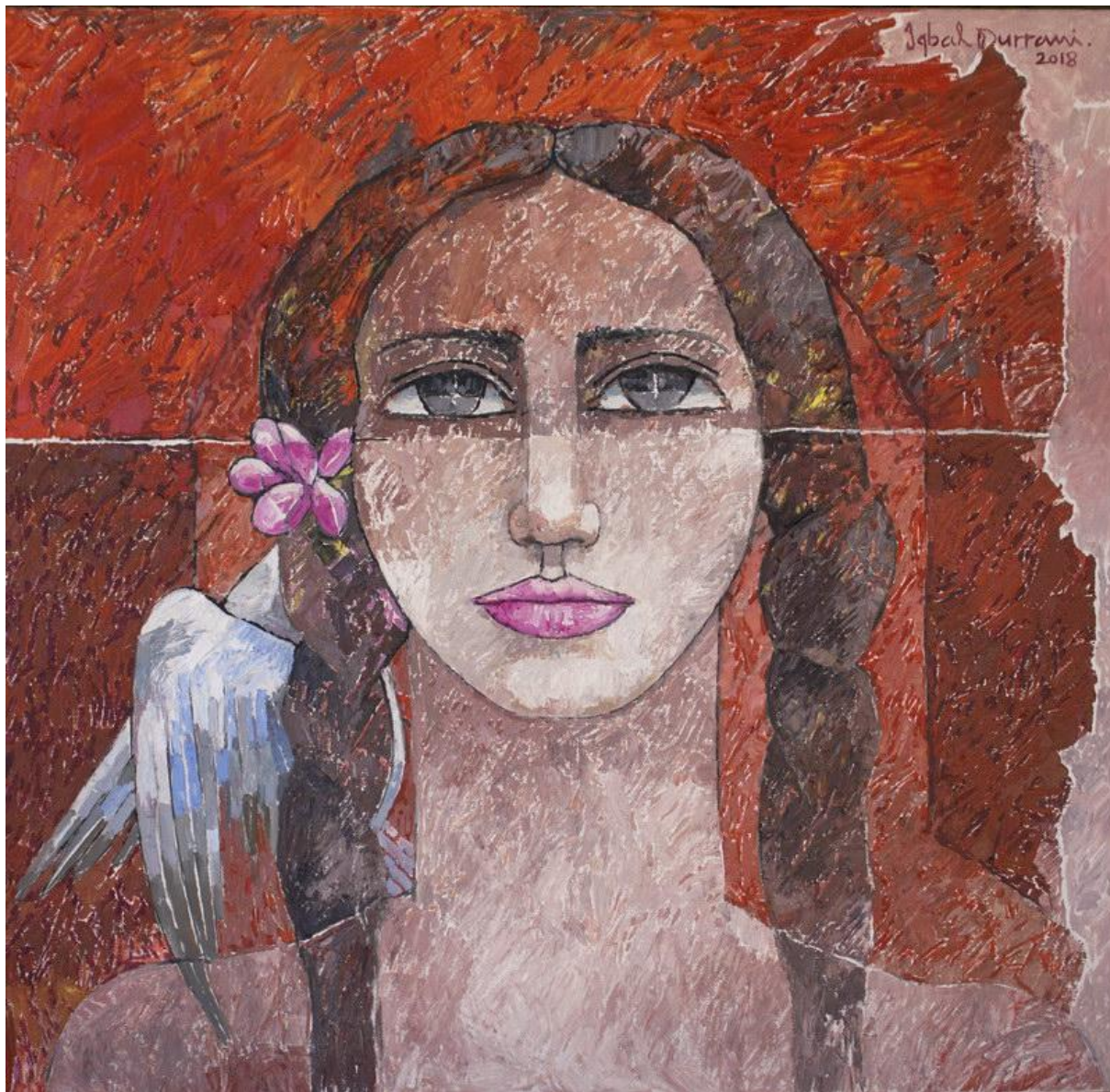
Preflight Resolve, Oil on Canvas, 18 x 18 Inch, AC-IQD-29, Rs. 50,000 (\$436.68)



Verdure Fantasy, Oil on Canvas, 18 x 18 Inch, AC-IQD-59, Rs. 50,000 (\$436.68)



Captive for Love, Oil on Canvas, 26 x 26 Inch, AC-IQD-32, Rs. 90,000 (\$786.02)



Crimson Fantasy, Oil on Canvas, 26 x 26 Inch, AC-IQD-33, Rs. 90,000 (\$786.02)



Azure Fantasy, Oil on Canvas, 26 x 26 Inch, AC-IQD-31, Rs. 90,000 (\$786.02)



Intimate Desires, Oil on Canvas, 26 x 26 Inch, AC-IQD-35, Rs. 90,000 (\$786.02)



Love Symbols, Oil on Canvas, 26 x 26 Inch, AC-IQD-36, Rs. 90,000 (\$786.02)



Garden of Peace, Oil on Canvas, 26 x 26 Inch, AC-IQD-34, Rs. 85,000 (\$742.35)



Ecstatic Encounters, Oil on Canvas, 24 x 30 Inch, AC-IQD-38, Rs. 95,000 (\$829.69)



Bathing Companions, Oil on Canvas, 24 x 30 Inch, AC-IQD-39, Rs. 105,000 (\$917.03)



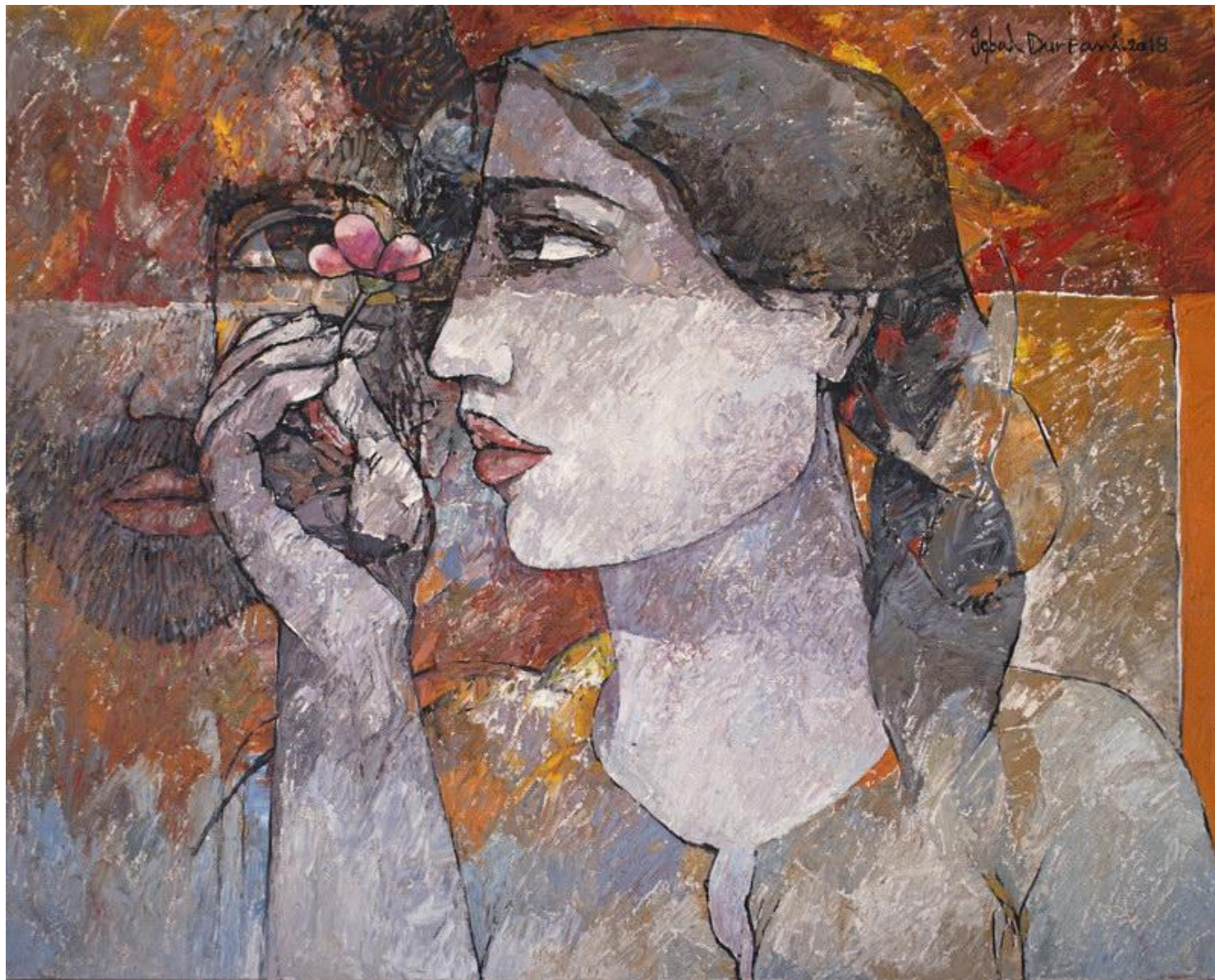
Feeding amidst Flowers, Oil on Canvas, 24 x 30 Inch, AC-IQD-40, Rs. 105,000 (\$917.03)



Fluttering in Water, Oil on Canvas, 24 x 30 Inch, AC-IQD-41, Rs. 105,000 (\$917.03)



Praising the Flower, Oil on Canvas, 22 x 28 Inch, AC-IQD-42, Rs. 105,000 (\$917.03)



Melding Thoughts, Oil on Canvas, 24 x 30 Inch, AC-IQD-43, Rs. 105,000 (\$917.03)



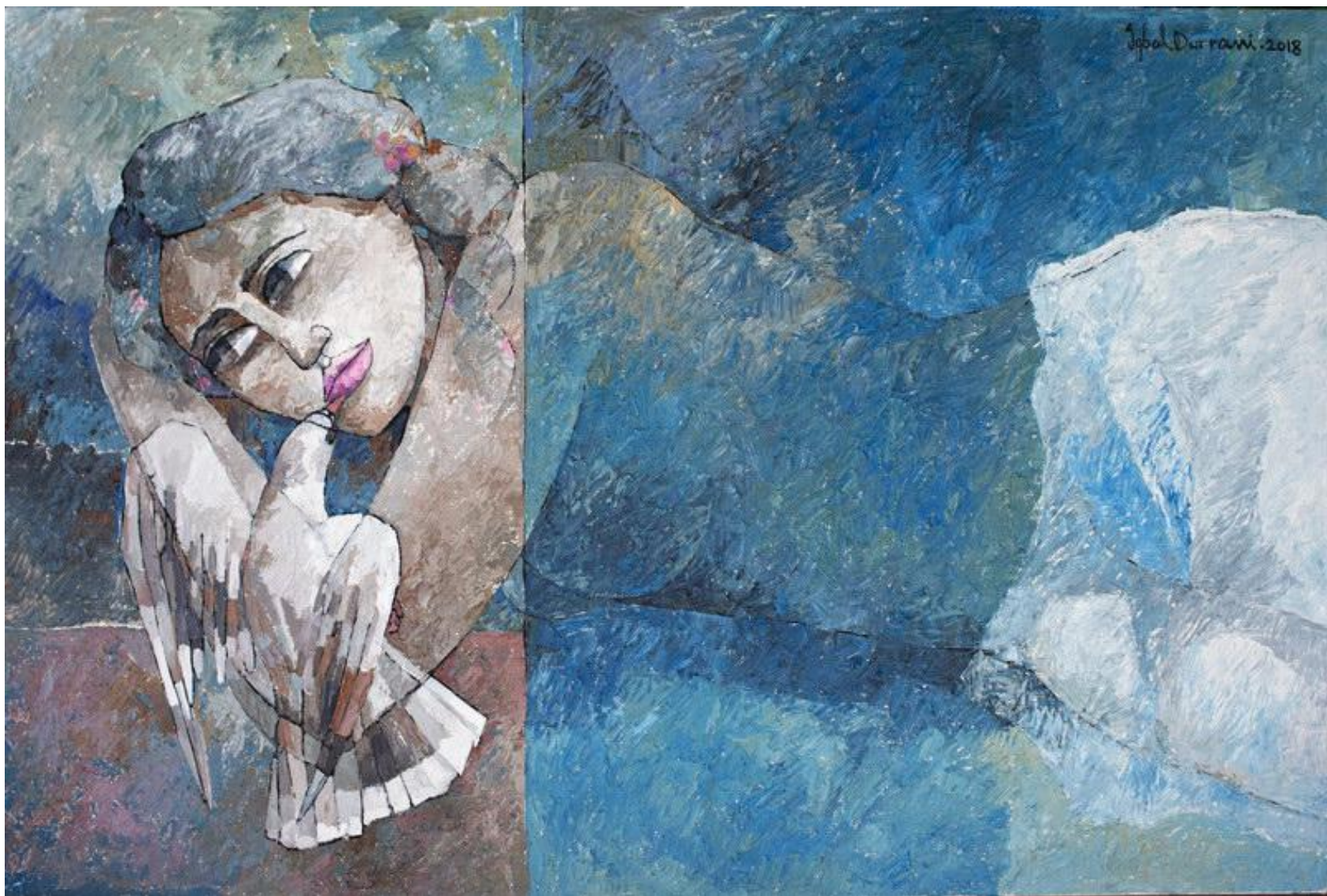
Frolicking Pairs, Oil on Canvas, 18 x 48 Inch, AC-IQD-45, Rs. 100,000 (\$873.36)



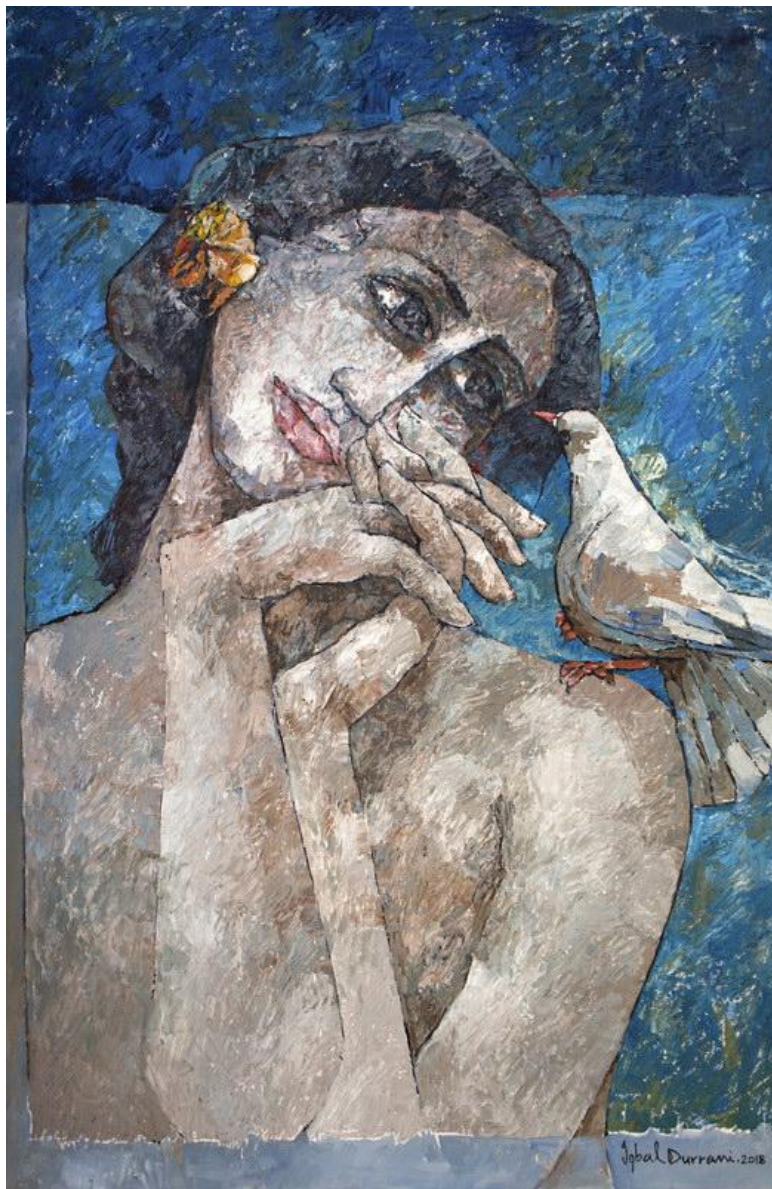
Orange Coots, Oil on Canvas, 18 x 48 Inch, AC-IQD-46, Rs. 100,000 (\$873.36)



Pairs in Love, Oil on Canvas, 18 x 48 Inch, AC-IQD-47, Rs. 100,000 (\$873.36)



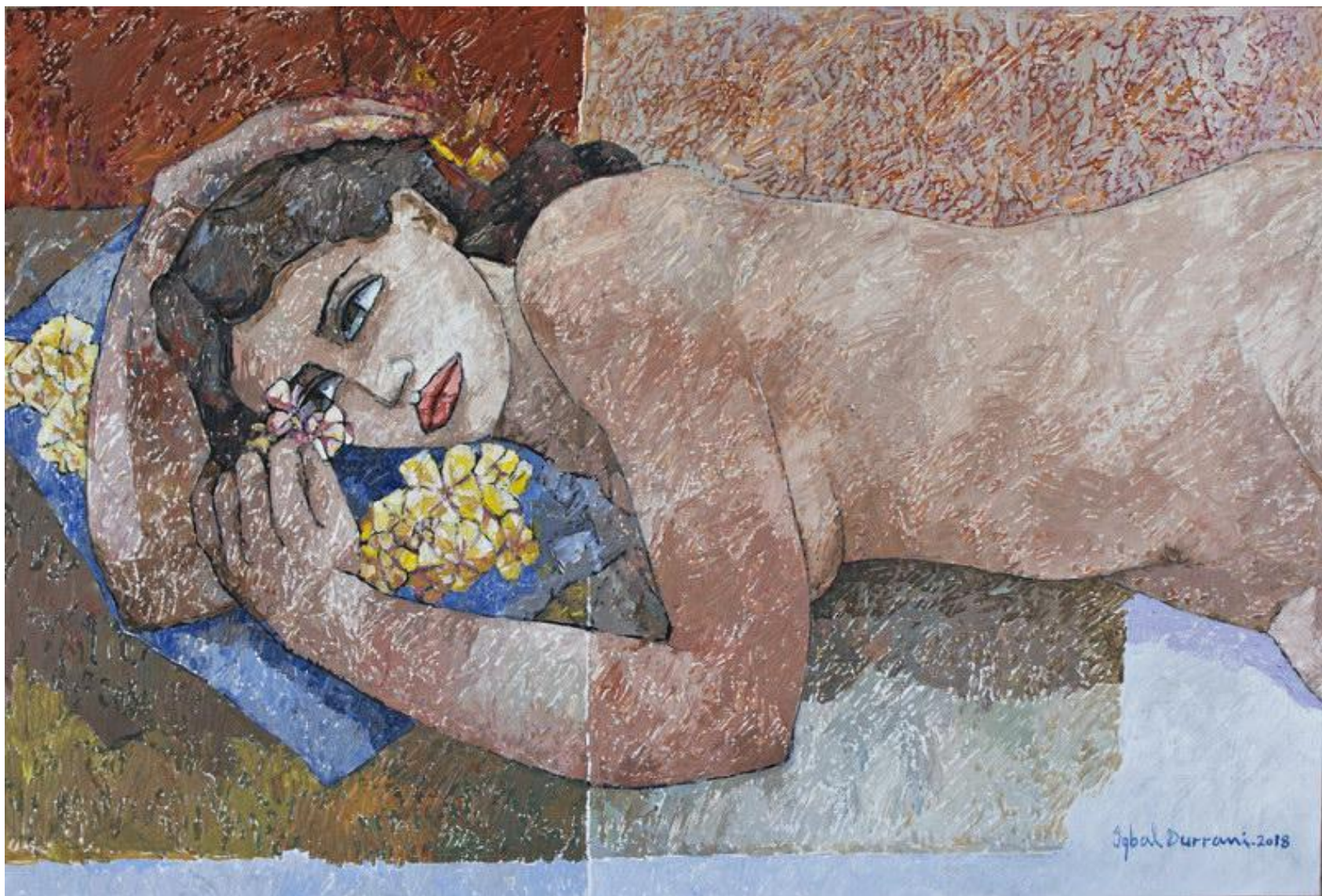
Forbidden Advances, Oil on Canvas, 24 x 36 Inch, AC-IQD-44, Rs. 125,000 (\$1,091.70)



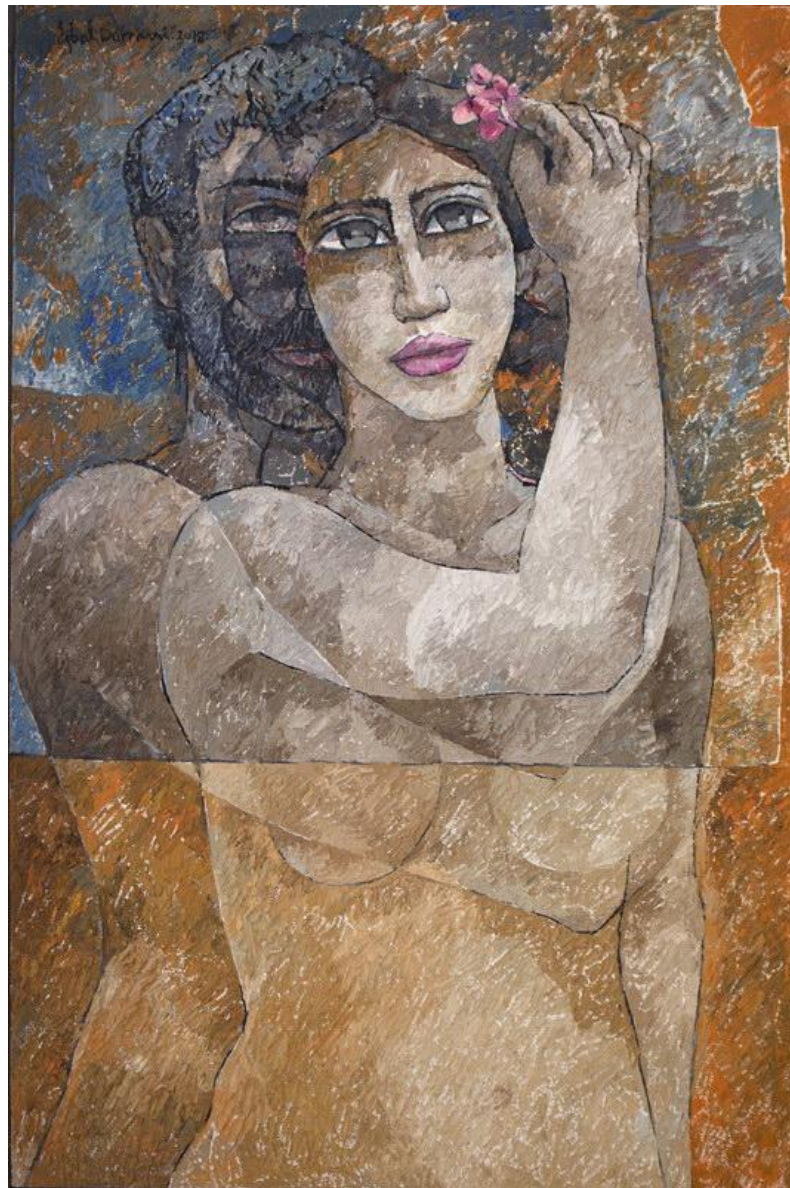
Amorous Expectations, Oil on Canvas, 24 x 36 Inch, AC-IQD-48, Rs. 125,000 (\$1,091.70)



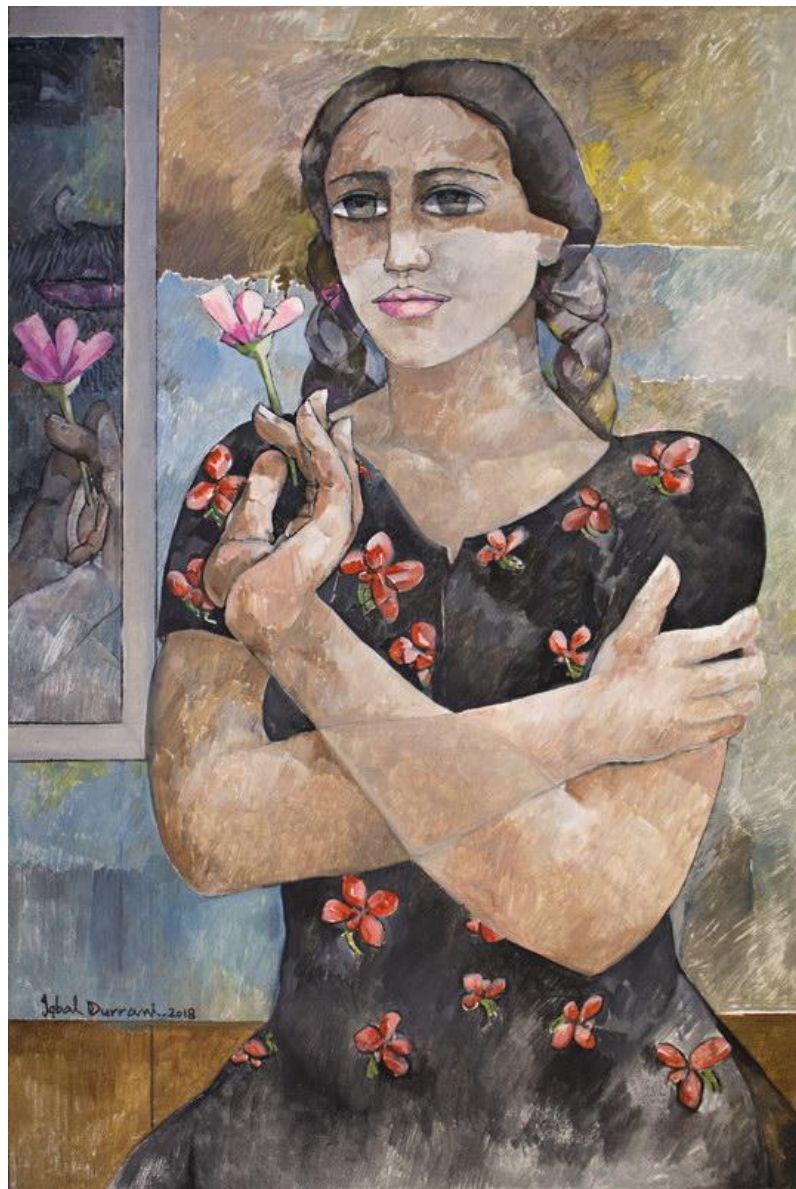
Ascending in Flight, Oil on Canvas, 24 x 36 Inch, AC-IQD-49, Rs. 125,000 (\$1,091.70)



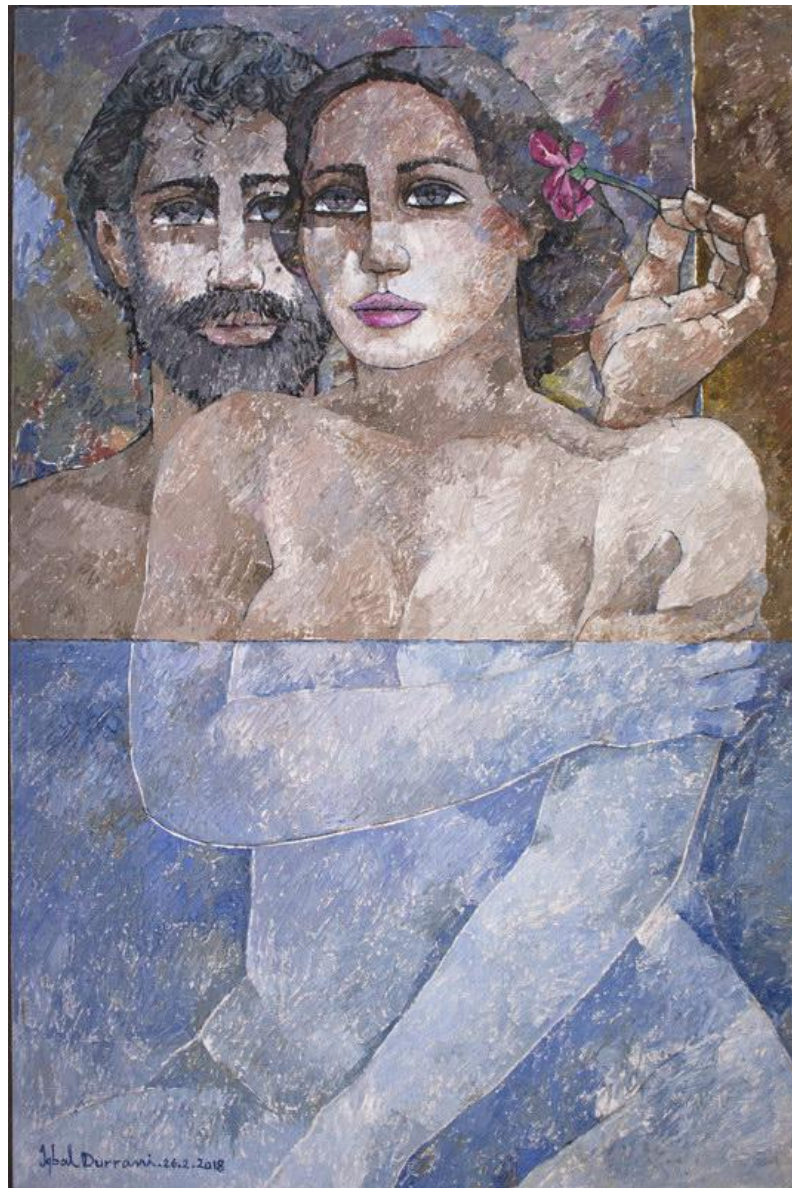
Loneliness, Oil on Canvas, 24 x 36 Inch, AC-IQD-50, Rs. 125,000 (\$1,091.70)



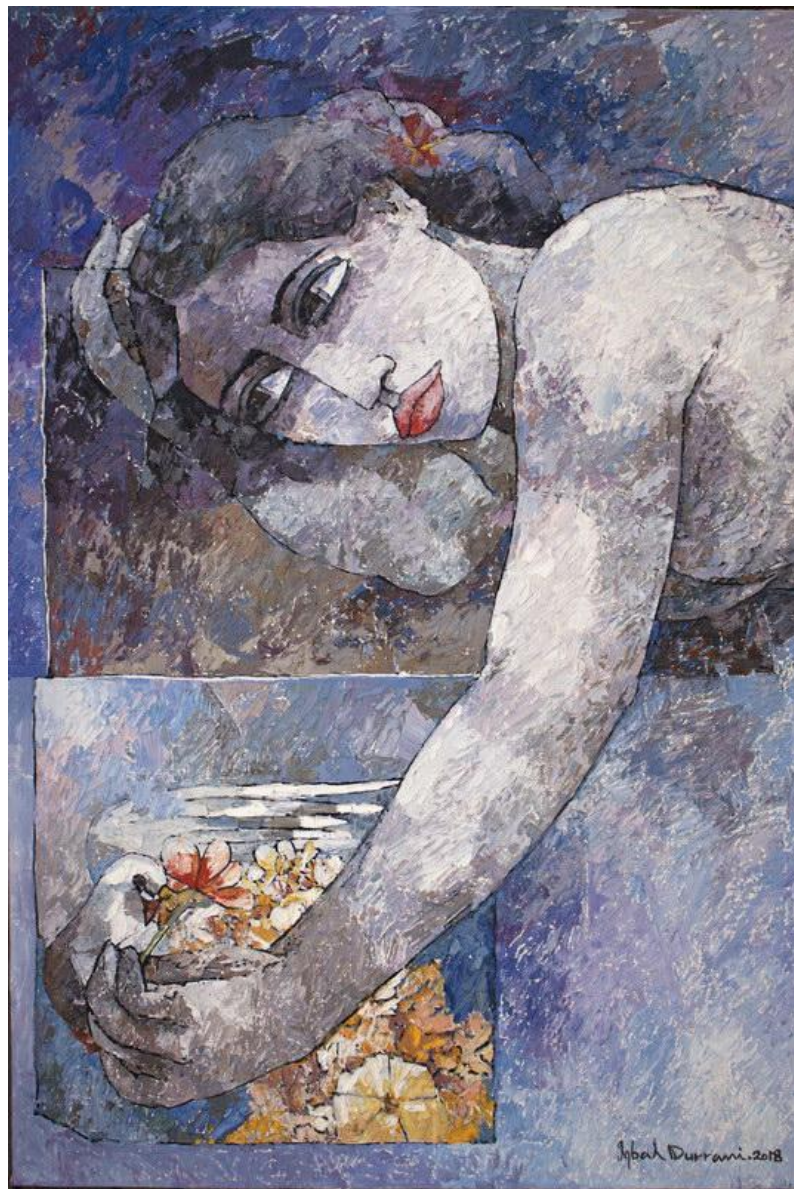
Seductive Innuendos, Oil on Canvas, 24 x 36 Inch, AC-IQD-51, Rs. 125,000 (\$1,091.70)



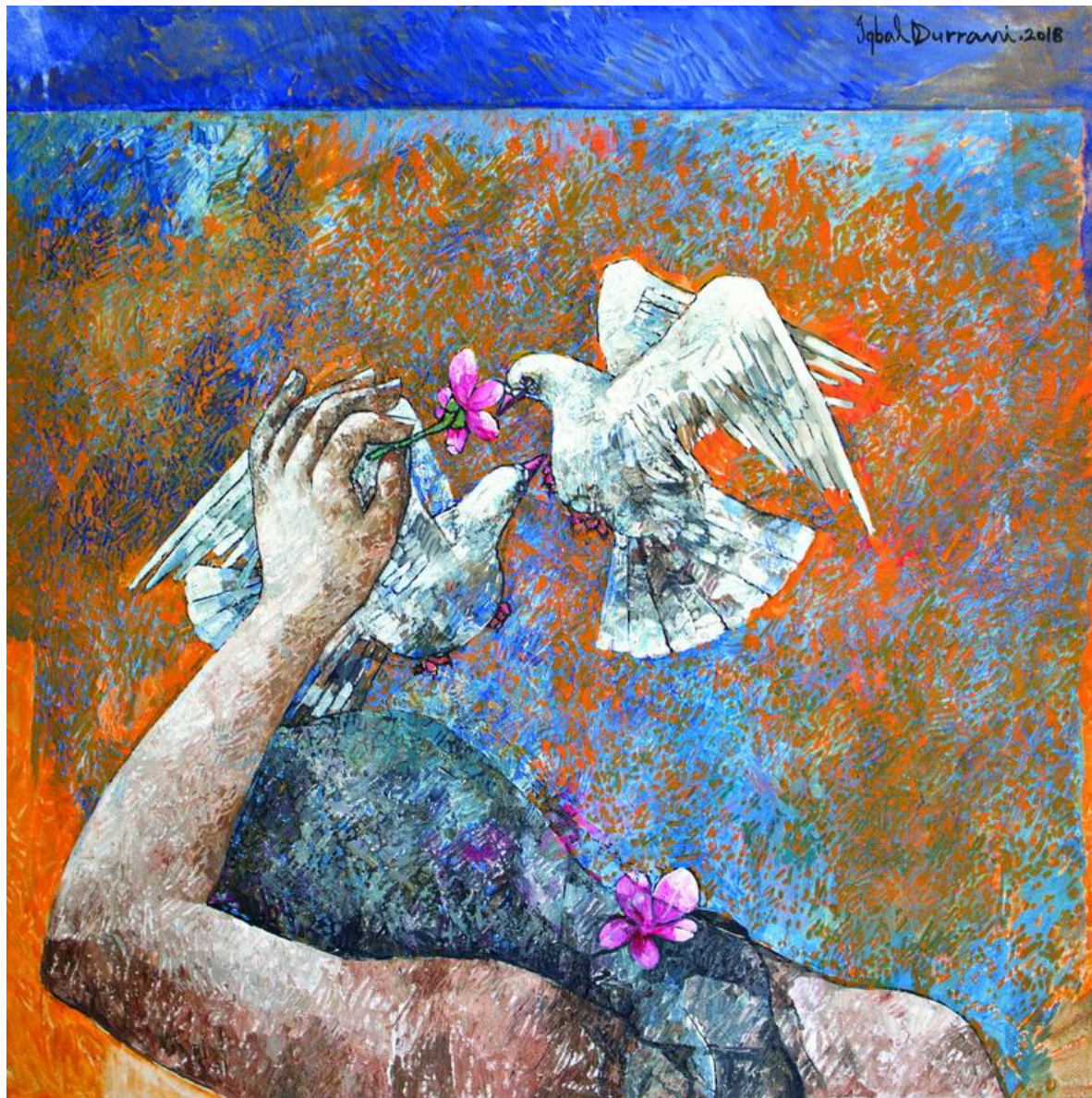
Soulmates Forever, Oil on Canvas, 24 x 36 Inch, AC-IQD-52, Rs. 120,000 (\$1,048.03)



Together We Exist, Oil on Canvas, 24 x 36 Inch, AC-IQD-53, Rs. 120,000 (\$1,048.03)



Sharing Secrets, Oil on Canvas, 24 x 36 Inch, AC-IQD-54, Rs. 125,000 (\$1,091.70)



Lovers' Aroma, Oil on Canvas, 36 x 36 Inch, AC-IQD-55, Rs. 180,000 (\$1,572.05)



Amorous Gathering, Oil on Canvas, 36 x 48 Inch, AC-IQD-56, Rs. 220,000 (\$1,921.39)



Dream Flower, Oil on Canvas, 36 x 60 Inch, AC-IQD-57, Rs. 275,000 (\$2,401.74)



Birds in Love, Oil on Canvas, 48 x 84 Inch, AC-IQD-58, Rs. 650,000 (\$5,676.85)

Endless Dreams of Iqbal Durrani

The diverse messages that are abundantly depicted in Iqbal Durrani's paintings are unique, primarily owing to the simplicity with which he expresses. It is the tangible nature of the artist's compositions that ensure effortless interpretation by the audience. Tackling the human figure has always been a challenging proposition for the artist, but Durrani handles the supple articulation of the torso with visual skill which has been evolved and polished over decades.

For a viewer the artist's work has an engaging characteristic, particularly due to the simplicity of composition and the exceptional palette that he deploys. Durrani's work enjoys a unique signature throughout the set of paintings exhibited, which is familiar to art lovers for its consistency and elegant looks. In the manner that he utilizes the canvas surface with thick strokes of the palette knife, gives his paintings an additional dimension of pleasant textures. These rugged surfaces not only enhance the painting's maturity but also create an extraordinary visual impact.

Ustad Bashir Ahmed
Former Principal & Head of Fine Arts
National College of Arts



Biography

1962 Born in Karachi

Diploma in Fine Art Karachi School of Art

1979 Won First Prize of "Running Trophy of Ahmed Parvez Award"

1980 Won again First Prize of "Running Trophy of Ahmed Parvez Award"

1982 Participated in group exhibition of painting Friendship House, Karachi.

1982 Two-men show of paintings. Pakistan Arts Council Karachi.

1982 Participated in group exhibition of "Artists of 4th generation". Pakistan Arts Council of Karachi.

1982 Solo Exhibition, Goethe Institute Karachi.

1983 Won First Prize all Pakistan Calligraphy Competition, Arts Council Gallery, Karachi.

1984 Participated in Sindh Artists Exhibition, Karachi.

1985 Solo Exhibition, Goethe Institute, Karachi.

1986 Solo Exhibition, Chawkandi Gallery, Karachi.

1987 Solo Exhibition, Vision Art Gallery, Karachi.

1988 Solo Exhibition, Pearl Continental Art Gallery, Karachi.

1989 Solo Exhibition, Art Views Gallery, Karachi.

1991 Solo Exhibition, Collectors Art Gallery, Karachi.

1992 Solo Exhibition, Indus Gallery, Karachi.

1993 Solo Exhibition, Clifton Art Gallery, Karachi.

1994 Private Show, Dubai.

1994 Solo Exhibition, Clifton Art Gallery, Karachi.

1996 One Day Private Show, Majmua, Karachi.

1996 Solo Exhibition, Clifton Art Gallery, Karachi.

1997 Live performance with Abida Parveen for ANZ Grindlays Bank, Karachi.

1997 Participated in Melburn, London.

1997 Solo Exhibition, Clifton Art Gallery, Karachi.

1999 Solo Exhibition, Majmua The Art Gallery, Karachi. 2003 One-man show, Dubai.

2005 Solo Exhibition, Malaysia and Thailand.

2007 Solo Exhibition, Indus Gallery, Karachi.

2009 Solo Exhibition, Louvre Art Gallery, Karachi

2015 Solo Exhibition, 'Fond Observations' at Citi Art Gallery, Karachi.

2018 Solo Exhibition, Artciti Gallery, Karachi.

About ARTCITI

ARTCITI Gallery opened its doors in January of 2014 and have never looked back!! We are an online art gallery that has grown exponentially in the last few years! We are making strides to open a window to the world for talent possessed by very gifted artists of Pakistan. We have a wide collection of more than 1,500 art pieces from over 270 artists from all over Pakistan. No other gallery in Pakistan carries such a comprehensive collection. We deliver art pieces across the world, both framed and unframed. Through hosting a vast array of original artwork and providing a choice between various styles and artists, we are proud to cater to all palates and preferences.



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