

# Ameena Khan, M.E., Ph.D.

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Ameena Khan is a mixed media artist living and working in the Tampa FL area. Born in 1980 in Gainesville FL, Ameena has been exhibiting her paintings in galleries and festivals since 2010. Khan's visually narrative paintings tell the stories of Muslim women living in America.

*"I believe that art can transcend the boundaries of culture, language, and beliefs to touch hearts and transform communities. The very best art challenges our most deeply held convictions and gives us the opportunity to grow. This principle is the driving force for my work." –Ameena Khan*

## STATEMENT: JUST A PEEK, PLEASE?

Stories about Muslim women are typically limited to one of two stereotypes: the victim, or the siren. This oversimplification dehumanizes the complex lives of individuals, and invents a vast separation between non-Muslim and Muslim women. It creates a sense of "us versus them" and relegates Muslim women to being "an OTHER" instead of just "another." This dehumanization has also resulted in a dramatic increase of assault, vandalism, intimidation, and discrimination against American Muslims – or those perceived to be Muslim (such as Sikhs, Hindus, and other people of color) in recent years. Such behavior has been attributed in part to the process of dehumanization and the steady communication of misinformation about Islam and Muslims.

"Just a Peek, Please?" is a growing series of 30+ paintings (12"x12") that expand the narrative by telling the stories of a collection of American Muslim women who have agreed to share their experiences anonymously. These stories range in sentiment and complexity from faithful to faithless, fearful to fearless, embraced to isolated. Certain pieces are concealed using a scarf previously worn by the muse, carrying with it something of the woman's identity, essence, and experiences. In an act that is typically unacceptable or taboo, the viewer is required to lift the woman's article of clothing to see the art underneath. This voyeuristic act creates the sense of a fleeting, intimate conversation between the viewer, muse, and artist.

Reflections about the series, as well as photos of past exhibitions, can be viewed at [www.JustAPeekPlease.com](http://www.JustAPeekPlease.com).

“Just a Peek, Please?” is typically presented in conjunction with community engagement opportunities which allow guests the opportunity to ask challenging questions about Islam and Muslims that may ordinarily feel off-limits or out-of-bounds. This series is a valuable teaching resource that challenges arts audiences, and therefore is ideal for exhibition in institutions of higher learning.

## SELECT EXHIBITIONS

- Forthcoming
  - 2019, Jan 11 – April 5: “Just a Peek, Please?”, Santa Fe College, Gainesville FL (SOLO)
- 2018, Sept 3 – Oct 29: “Just a Peek, Please?”
  - Daytona State College, Fine Art Gallery, Daytona Beach FL. (SOLO)
- 2018, May 8 – Aug 19: “Arabesque: Contemporary Conversations”
  - The Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens, Winter Park FL.
- 2018, Mar 9 – April 15: “Veiled / Unveiled”
  - Osceola Arts, Kissimmee FL.
- 2016, July – Aug: “Loud Print”
  - Carrollwood Cultural Center, Tampa FL. (SOLO)
- 2015, Sept – Dec: “Loud Print”
  - Hillsborough Comm. College, Tampa FL. (SOLO)
- 2015, Mar – Jul: “Dialogue in Color”
  - Women and Gender Studies, Univ. of So. Florida, Tampa FL. (SOLO)
- 2014, Nov – Dec: “3<sup>rd</sup> Ann. Juried Int. Exhib. of Contemporary Islamic Art”
  - Luminarte Gallery, Dallas TX.
- 2014, Feb – Aug: “We Rise Together”
  - Nur Spirituality Institute, Orlando FL. (SOLO)
- 2013-2014, Dec – Mar: “Sacred Voices”
  - Canton Museum of Art, Canton OH.
- 2013, May – Aug: “Reflections”
  - Beltram Peace Center, Gainesville FL. (SOLO)
- 2013, July-Sept: “4<sup>th</sup> Annual Juried Exhibition”
  - Florida Museum for Women Artists, Deland FL.