

In my artistic practice, I embrace the natural pull toward certain subjects, colors, and materials, allowing intuition to guide my exploration. I delve into the complex layers of my human experience, reflecting on cherished memories and the elusive ones that shape my identity. Through my work, I strive to understand myself and uncover the threads of experience and patterns that shape my identity as a second-generation immigrant. Having grown up as a Muslim in California, I take inspiration from mehndi (henna), Arabic calligraphy, and the natural forms around me. With these elements I feel closer to the culture that I often feel distant from. This distance comes especially from the language and physical barrier between myself and my family in Pakistan which is why I like to play with calligraphic forms without writing anything with meaning. I use these artistic inspirations to create elegant compositions within a variety of media.

Painting and drawing intertwine in my practice. I aim to articulate the anxieties and nostalgia that accompany change, ultimately seeking a sense of calm. My process begins with washes of watered-down acrylic or powdered graphite, laying a dynamic foundation that guides the evolution of each piece. As I step back and observe, I find imagery within the layers of charcoal, pencil, acrylic, and oil, allowing the work to transform organically.

Ceramics offer a different dimension to my art, rooted in traditional forms and functionality. I adorn these pieces with designs reminiscent of mehndi, the paste that once stained my palms during family and religious celebrations. By creating mehndi cones filled with slip and piping intricate patterns onto the surface, I aim to encapsulate the essence of those cherished moments that brought me closer to my family.

Through my art, I seek to bridge the gaps between memory and identity, inviting viewers to share in this exploration of self and heritage. In the future I hope to fuse my practices to generate new ideas within my work.