

# VALENTINA BONOMO ROMA

## PRESENTS

### SHAHZIA SIKANDER

“PROLONGED EXPOSURE TO AGITATION”

**Opening Reception:** Wednesday 6 May from 18 to 21 at via del portico d'Ottavia 13

**Duration of show:** 6 May to September 2010

**Gallery Hours:** 11.00 to 13.00 and 15.00 to 19.00 Tuesday through Saturday

**Information:** Marzia Laudisa tel 06 6832766

**Website:** [www.galleriabonomo.com](http://www.galleriabonomo.com)

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On 6 May the gallery Valentina Bonomo Roma, on via del portico d'Ottavia 13, will inaugurate the personal show of Shahzia Sikander. Both large and small format works in gouache will be presented in the exhibition.

The artist specializes in miniature painting in the traditional Indian and Persian style, re-elaborating images and styles of an art form strongly conserved and stylistically rigorous and impersonal, and develops a very personal pictorial dimension that mixes and creates a coexistence between the memories of life experiences, reflections on Islamic feminine identity, and the emphasis and creativity of subjective Occidental experiences: in this way the artist transports miniature painting into the universe of contemporary art. Sikander uses art as a medium to explore individuality, culture and geography: through experimentation, performance, frescoes and installations, the artist seeks to identify the possible channels of exchange and interaction between the Hindu and Muslim religions, drawing upon their numerous iconographic repertoires, both linguistically symbolic and figurative, to then melt into a unique and new image.

Sikander affirms that “the juxtaposition and mixing of the Hindu and Muslim iconographies is a parallel between the relationship of history between India and Pakistan.” In this way the histories interweave, the worlds open in equilibrium and create an engaging union of colors and ideas: the hidden Muslim dialogue with the many-armed goddess, the borders disappear, and the differences are enriched.

Born in Lahore in 1969, the artist followed several courses of study at the National College of Arts in her birth city, during which she learned the technique and history of miniature painting.

The artist went on to complete a degree at Rhode Island School of Design, after which she moved to New York where she now lives and works. In the course of her career the artist has received many awards including the “Honorary Artist Reward” from the Pakistani Ministry of Culture and the National Council for Art. In 2006 the artist also won the prestigious McArthur “Genius” Award.

Some of her most important personal shows include: Para/Site, Hong Kong (2009); Ikon Gallery, Birmingham (2008); Daadgalerie, Berlin (2008); Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin (2007); Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney (2007); Miami Art Museum, Miami (2005); Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield (2004); The San Diego Museum of Art, San Diego (2004); Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington D.C (2000), Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (1999) and the Renaissance Society, Chicago (1998).