

Grey Noise, Dubai

PRESS RELEASE

Transmissions From A Missing Satellite / Mehreen Murtaza
Frieze London
Frame Stand G21
17 – 20 October 2013

In its first participation at Frieze Art Fair London, Grey Noise from Alserkal Avenue Arts District Dubai will feature a solo project in the Frame section, titled Transmissions from a Missing Satellite by represented artist Mehreen Murtaza.

Mehreen Murtaza's work is a composition of visual narratives where traditional background meets the popular. With imagery derived from Sufi culture and the skewed logic of science fiction, her labour-intensive digital collages are a virtual world that juxtaposes the natural with the mechanical, where technology challenges religious myth, superstition and ritual. The premise for the show lays in dream logics, alternative knowledge, uncertain histories and the creative production of new and perhaps imaginary information where a conception of the alternative reality is expressed into the realm of an exhibition scenario. Through photography and multi-media sculpture, Murtaza's work draws reference to both western and Islamic historical lineage, whereby layers of one discourse are invoked upon another, suggesting a complexity that is reminiscent of 1950's - 60's science fiction, where mystical ideas of spirituality pervade with scientific theories and tech-speak.

In Transmission From A Missing Satellite, we follow cryptic clues and mystical evidence through a bricolage of fact, fiction, truisms, and historical displacement vis-à-vis the fragmented narrative of the late Dr. Abdus Salam, who's work in the field of theoretical physics won him the Nobel Prize for physics in 1979. His memory has been marred by prejudice because he belonged to the minority Ahmadi sect, a group persecuted by successive governments since 1974; and condemned as heretics by even mainstream Muslims. Murtaza treats Abdus Salam's biography as the foundation of a scripted narrative with numerous artistic approaches to visualize adventures in quantum immortality and meta-verses.

Ultimately Murtaza's visual narratives investigate concepts such as authenticity and objectivity. By contesting the division between the realm of memory and the realm of experience, there is a prevalent visual vocabulary that addresses many different social and political issues. The work incorporates a specific time and place, granting to the viewer a fictional and experiential universe that emerges bit by bit. Murtaza opens herself to these thematic concerns in a way that does not retreat into a confession of identity politics, but instead attempts to discover a historical framework in which to interpret the current unrest. Her work speaks from a specific position that does not come with political or artistic manifestos; it is not Futurism, nor is it Afro-futurism. It is searching to find a transnational artistic position beyond Orientalism, consumerism and propaganda.

About the Artist

Murtaza completed her BFA with Honours from Beaconhouse National University, Lahore in May 2008, received a post graduate diploma in teaching from Beaconhouse National University in 2009 and was accepted for the Gasworks Residency funded by The Charles Wallace Pakistan Trust - Rangoonwalla Foundation Award, UK, 2010. She was also invited to present her work at SITAC X (10th International Symposium on Contemporary Art Theory), The Future: The Long Count Begins Again at the Teatro Julio Castillo, Centro Cultural del Bosques s/n, Mexico City, 2012, and has recently received the Royal Over-Seas League (ROSL) Arts Travel Scholarship at Generator Projects, Hospitalfield House, Arbroath, Scotland, & London, UK. Murtaza's works have been acquired by collections such as the Museum of Monaco, DZ Bank, Frankfurt, Cartwright Hall: Bradford City Art Gallery & Museum, UK and Devi Art Foundation, New Delhi.

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About Grey Noise, Dubai

Grey Noise is a contemporary art gallery representing a selection of artists, with a focus on work from South Asia, Middle East and Europe. The gallery provides emerging and established artists with a platform for ambitious projects engaged in dialogue with the international art community. Through active partnership with curators, galleries, art fairs and museums worldwide, Grey Noise aims to promote new and often experimental streams of thought in art and culture.

www.greynoise.org

About Alserkal Avenue Arts District, Dubai

Grey Noise is located in Alserkal Avenue, Dubai, a prominent arts district within the industrial quarter of the city, which houses over twenty contemporary art galleries and alternative arts and community spaces. Currently doubling in size by 2014 with a 14 million USD expansion project, supported by Alserkal family, the Avenue will welcome a wide spectrum of creative businesses that will further transform the cultural landscape of Dubai.

www.alserkalavenue.ae