

Promises to Keep

Organized by:
Rabbya Naseer

June 8 - July 29, 2017
291 Church Street, NYC

Opening reception:
Wednesday, June 7: 6-8 pm

Featuring work by:

Bani Abidi	Salima Hashmi
Nilofar Akmut	Mehr Javed
Hurmat ul Ain	Ayesha Jatoi
Naazish Attaullah	Umber Majeed
Lali Khalid	Rabbya Naseer
Amber Hammad	Zoya Siddiqui



Hurmat ul Ain & Rabbya Naseer, *White as Snow*, 2008

Promises to Keep examines the close relationship between autobiography, self-portraiture, and performance in the construction and (re)presentation of “identity.” Exploring the use of the artist’s body in self-representational acts of twelve female artists from Pakistan who span three generations, the exhibition looks at how self-parody, activism, nationalism, popular culture, and feminism cross paths in these enactments. Memory, history, gender, and socio-political/cultural constructs coexist within the same space when performing these self-portraits.

The works included in this exhibition explore the possibilities for proactive engagement with socio-political issues, reconfiguring the status and function of art from passivity to active agency and direct confrontation. They aim to generate a discussion about the obligations and responsibilities of belonging and do not attempt to describe themselves or bring forth a conclusive argument. Instead, these works encourage a dialogue about the definition of selfhood and its distorted reflections provided by the looking glass. The viewer is invited to join the artist, in the act of staring intently at her reflection in the mirror, while she herself fails to differentiate between the real and the reflected.

Promises to Keep is a 2016-17 apexart Unsolicited Proposal Program winning exhibition along with *Animal Intent* (January 2017) and *Botany under Influence* (September 2016).

Rabbya Naseer is engaged in making, curating, writing, and teaching of Art. She has an undergraduate degree in Fine Arts from NCA, Lahore (2006) and is a 2008-2010 recipient of Fulbright scholarship for Masters in Art History, Theory and Criticism from SAIC, Chicago. Naseer’s practice is broadly concerned with exploring the parallels between Art and everyday-life and highlighting the similarities (in production, representation, reception, interpretation) between the two. She has participated in exhibitions, residencies, and conferences in Pakistan, India, USA, UK, Dubai, China, Japan, Germany, and Netherlands.

For more information please contact Elizabeth.Larison@apexart.org or visit apexart.org/exhibitions/naseer.php

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