

Name: Farah Mahbub

Birth: 10 April 1965, Karachi-Pakistan

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Education: B. A - P.E.C.H.S College Karachi - 1987 – Fine Art | Literature | Psychology

Chronology:

1997 – Presently teachings photography at the Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture. I teach the Communication Design and the Fine Arts Department basic to an advance level (Photography Studio Minors). Furthermore whenever time permits freelance work carries on in the sidelines as before.

A recent list of clients includes: Khaadi Clothes line - Pie in the Sky bakery - Morinaga Infant Cereal - Arts and Gems Jewelers – Copper & Steel – Club Havana.

1994 to 1996 freelance work for various publications and commercial photography for national and multinational companies. –The News – Dawn- Women’s Own – She – Visage – Fashion Collection etc

1993 – Worked as an in-house photographer for advertising agency R-Lintas.

1990 to 1993 Freelance photographic work for various local publications.

Self Profile:

I have been a professional photographer for more than 19 years. Being self taught, I learnt mostly from books, magazines and libraries found locally or obtained books through friends and relatives from abroad. Over these years as a professional I did fine art photography for personal self expression and freelance photography for various publications, national and multinational company’s, kept this erratic pace for long, until I joined Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture in 1997 to teach photography.

Presently freelance work is at its minimum and being a fulltime faculty member at various levels is at its maximum. And in the petite spare moments life gives me, are spent in plans to travel in search of fresh images, and to experiment further with new techniques and processes. Venturing into Digital Art seemed natural after being involved with time-honored old Alternative Photography Processes.

Philosophy:

Photography is a path, a sequence of events to be lived and experienced that helps you discover yourself and the people and places in your near and distant environments. It is not a fixed state of mind or being but an evolving medium, to take the edge off the weight some of can feel in conveying our feelings, beliefs and desires. In short not all of us are verbal enough in putting into words any intense visual rush witnessed.

As a visual artist we are most satisfied in expressing ourselves when we photograph subjects that give us a spiritual or an emotional rush. There is no traditional way of perceiving the subject, only diverse ways it can be experienced. What is essential is how the subject looks and feels to you. . In the eye of the beginner there are many possibilities; in the eye of the specialist there are only a few.

Technique & Style:

I work with medium format or 35mm cameras, analog or digital. Photographs are usually produced on Fuji or Kodak paper, and for the various alt-processes fine grain watercolor paper. For the fine art work produced image manipulation is at times applied using traditional darkroom methods or digital techniques. Photographic style includes Architecture, Landscapes, Still Life and Environmental Portraits.

Solo Exhibitions:

- November 2005 – Ethereal **Ether Echoes** – *V.M Art Gallery* – Karachi
- February 2000 – **Hues Within** *Sadequain Gallery Frere Hall* – Karachi
SG Forum Art Gallery (Alliance Francaise) - Karachi
- December 1996 – **Intention**- *Sadequain Gallery Frere Hall* – Karachi
- September 1993 – **Rendezvous with France** - Alliance Francaise – Karachi

Group Exhibitions:

- 28 February to 17 March 2007 – **Faculty Art/2 Exhibition** - *Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture*.
- 20-30 Nov 2006 – **Chobi Mela IV International Festival of Photography**. At *National Art Gallery Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy* Shahbag, Dhaka Bangladesh
- 12 – 21 October 2006 – **Special Exhibition**: By a group of students and faculty of the IVS, the works depicts the rural Badin district of Sindh - *Canvas* Karachi.
- 31 May to 15 June 2006 – **Karachi 6 X 6: the Labyrinth** an exhibition Co-Curated by Abdullah Syed & Roohi Ahmed. At the *V.M Art Gallery* – Karachi
- 6 to 12 April 2006 – **Artists' Voices: Body** an exhibition Co-Curated by Sheherbano Hussain & Amin Gulgee. At the *Amin Gulgee Gallery* Karachi - Pakistan
- 28 March 3 April 2006 – **Artists' Voices: Calligraphy** an Exhibition Co-Curated by Sheherbano Hussain & Amin Gulgee. At the *Amin Gulgee Gallery* Karachi - Pakistan
- 27 January to 5 February 2006 – **Visual Arts Faculty Exhibition** - *Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture*.
- 15 to 18 January 2005 – **Photo Exhibition Singular Medium: Multiple Frames** at the *Italian Cultural Center* New Delhi -India
- **Kodak Photo Vision 2004 – PSK Photographic Society of Karachi** 10 – 12 June at *The Arts Council Of Karachi* – Pakistan
- **11th Asian Art Biennale** – 15 January to 2nd February 2004 – *Osmani Memorial Hall* - Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- 2002 - Center for Contemporary Art in Sacramento U.S.A for the show **Digital Visions**.
- February 1 - March 13, 2002 – **Interrogating Diversity** *Betty Rymer Gallery* - Chicago, Illinois United States of America online exhibition - Break on Through to the Other Side: Focus on Pakistan | A Cyber-Sent Art Exhibition of Contemporary Art from Pakistan
- February 2002 – **An Idea of Perfection** – (PNCA) the Pakistan National Council of the Arts *Alhamra Gallery* - Lahore - Pakistan
- September 2001 – **Karavan Karachi** – Photography, *Gallery Sadequain*, Karachi- Pakistan.
- 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 2004 | 2006 | 2007 PSK- Photographic Society of Karachi

Selected Awards:

- **PX3- Prix de la Photographie Paris:** Farah Mahbub of Pakistan was Awarded: Second Prize in category FINE ART for the entry titled, "*Lifelines & Manuscripts 25.*" The jury selected 2007's winners from thousands of photography entries from over 85 countries. Winning entries from each major category are exhibited in Paris at the prestigious 13Séviigné Gallery in June/July 2007 and published in the high-quality, full-color Px3 Annual Book.
- **The Center for Fine Art Photography:** Over 300 photographers submitted around 1300 images for this unique exhibit "*The Art of Digital Imagery*". Farah Mahbub is one of the 50 photographers chosen to participate in this exhibition at The Center for Fine Art Photography gallery in Fort Collins, Colorado, USA from June 15 - July 14, 2007.
- **Camera & Darkroom:** Runner-up in Inclement Weather Contest March 1993 -CA, USA

Conferences and Seminars Attended - Guest Speaker:

- 2007 – **Digital Art and Photoshop, PAF – KIET** (Karachi Institute of Economics and Technology)
- 2006 – **Career Possibilities in Photography, YLC** (Young Leaders Conference), School of Leadership, Pearl Continental, Rawalpindi, Pakistan
- 2005 – **Imaging Peace:** Women Photographers of South Asia Conference on Photography and Peace, Italian Cultural Centre, New Delhi, India
- 2003 – **Enlivening the News Through Photojournalism**, Pakistan Press Foundation – Media Shoptalk Vicky Zeitlin Media Library Karachi, Pakistan

Catalogues, Brochures:

- 2007 – **Faculty Art 2**, Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, Karachi, Pakistan.
- 2007 – **Artist's Showcase**, The Centre for Fine Art Photography, Fort Collins, Colorado USA
- 2006-07 – **The Aga Khan University Prospectus**, Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilizations, MA in Muslim Cultures, London UK
- 2006 – **Artists' Voices: Body**, Amin Gulgee Gallery, Karachi Pakistan
- 2006 – **Artists' Voices: Calligraphy**, Amin Gulgee Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
- 2003 – **11th Asian Art Biennale**, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- 2002 – **An Idea of Perfection**, Pakistan National Council of the Arts, Islamabad, Pakistan
- 1994 – **A Celebration of Dance** by Sheema Kirmani and her students, Finance and Trade Centre Auditorium, Karachi

Books:

- 2006 – **BluePrint to Cyanotypes:** Exploring Historical Alternative Photographic Processes by Malin Fabbri and Gary Fabbri, Stockholm, Sweden.
- 2006 – **Chobi Mela IV**, International Festival of Photography, Bangladesh.

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