

# JAMIL NAQSH

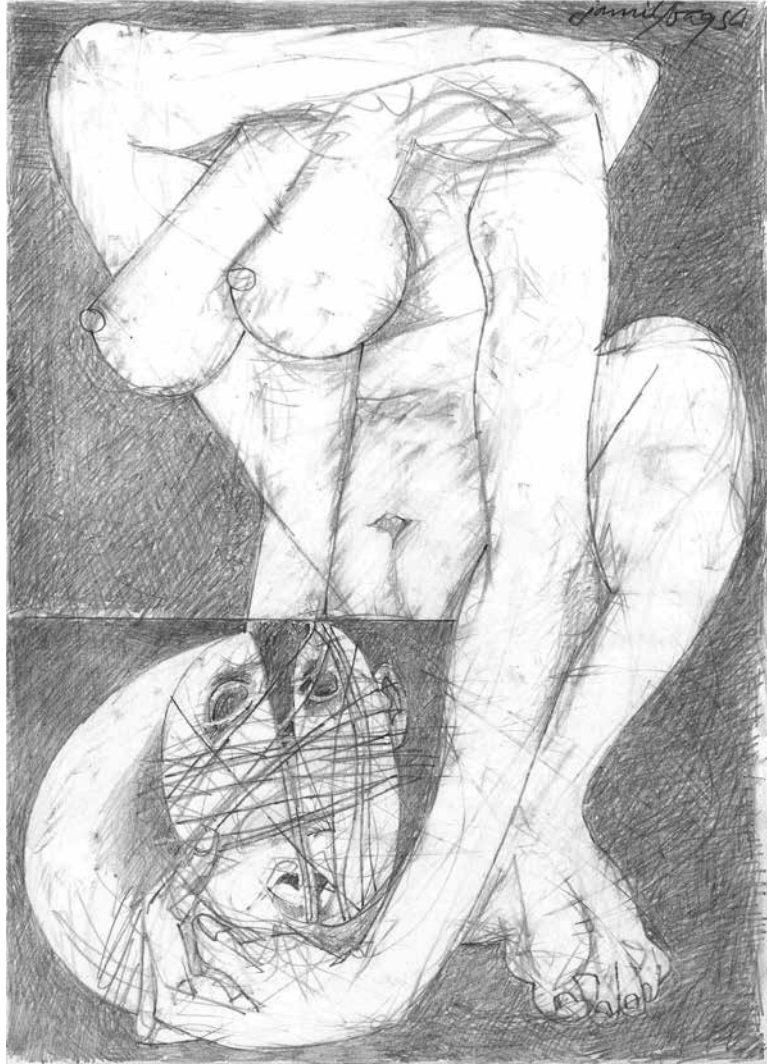
and the eternal feminine

**Pontone**

---

GALLERY

43 Cadogan Gardens London SW3 2TB  
art@pontonegallery.com | +44 (0)20 7730 8777 | www.pontonegallery.com



Untitled | Graphite on Paper | Private Collection

JAMIL NAQSH –  
and the eternal feminine

Jamil Naqsh's new series of images reaffirms his reputation as a master draughtsman, with a sidelong glance at established Western traditions to which he both does and doesn't belong.

What he now offers are close-up portraits of beautiful young women, of a type familiar from the romantic dream world of classic Mughal miniature painting, but enlarged to life-size, or maybe a little beyond that and presented in warm sepia monochrome. The immediate impression one gets is that these are works on paper, subtly aged. It suggests a relationship with the drawings that have come down to us from the great masters of the Italian Renaissance – precarious survivors whose presence before us both emphasizes and denies their air of fragility. Yet this is an illusion. These are in fact works made in oil on canvas – triumphant examples of *trompe l'oeil*. By deceiving us, Naqsh emphasises both the essential contemporaneity of the work, and – simultaneously – its organic connection with the great art of the past.

The subject matter of the series is deliberately restricted. Beautiful, isolated human creatures are seen accompanied by pigeons, which are traditional signifiers of love in the culture Naqsh comes from. This romantic love, however, is of a particular kind, whose expression is prompted by separation from, not union with, the love object. Sentiments of this sort are also pervasive in ghazal poetry, a literary form that has flourished in Urdu, just as also, somewhat previously, in Persian. Pigeons are messengers, flying free, able to speak vicariously for those forever locked in solitary confinement.

In fact, it is not too much to say that these new images are offered as icons for meditation about the essential solitariness of the human condition. In two of the images, the pigeons appear alone, without a human companion. Here, one may imagine, the spectator herself or himself becomes the prisoner of love, confined within the limits of the composition.

Taken as a whole, the series offers a touching footnote to the culture from which the painter comes, but which he has now left behind, to live in near isolation within the boundaries of a very different cultural situation.

Yet, at the same time, the paintings speak eloquently of the romantic feelings held in common by individuals in multiple cultures throughout the globe. They say, among other things, that art continues to triumph over language. A ghazal has to be translated, these do not. It's not hard to get the message the pigeons bring.

Edward Lucie-Smith  
Art Historian, Author and Critic



Untitled Calligraphy | Watercolour on Paper | Jamil Naqsh Museum, Karachi, Pakistan

JAMIL NAQSH –  
a personal view

Now in his 80th year this contemporary master never fails to surprise both us and his many collectors and admirers. His latest offering is a unique collection of incredibly beautiful paintings.

They speak of love, hope, peace and tranquility – fragile emotions that we all of us encounter in the ups and downs in our daily lives.

The eloquent application of oil onto canvas, from such a muted palette, immediately engages our attention as it conveys such sensitive poetic messages.

Jamil Naqsh's profound understanding of life, together with the close relationships he holds dear in his later years, living as a recluse by his own choice, reinforces his preoccupation with his never ending quest to create works which will endure for posterity and live on beyond his and our lifetimes.

This characteristic, combined with his willingness to embrace the essence of human values expressed through his well-honed virtuoso skills, is the hallmark of a great artist.

Artists who rank among the pantheon of all-time greats have, from time immemorial, challenged, questioned and broken conventions. They have never been afraid to engage in new modes of expression, producing the iconic works of genius which now adorn our museums. That is what one sees here.

Jamil Naqsh, throughout his remarkable career, and with this extraordinary new collection, sits comfortably in their company.

Tony Pontone  
Founding Director  
Albemarle Gallery | Pontone Gallery



New Collection

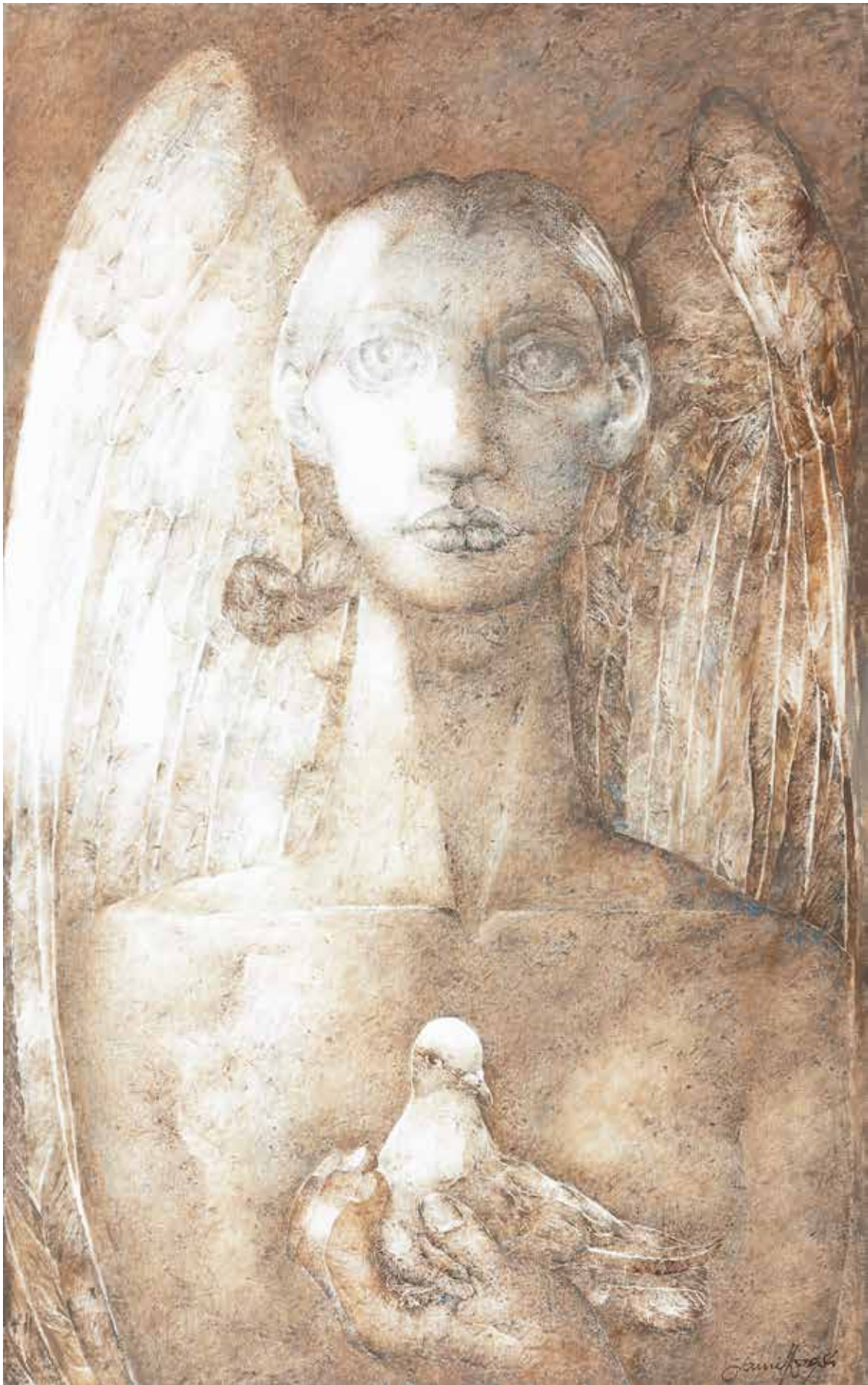
1.

Emissaries II (2017)

oil on canvas

122 x 76 cm (48 x 30 in)





2.

Friends II (2017)

oil on canvas

60 x 60 cm (24 x 24 in)



3.  
Calmness (2017)  
oil on canvas  
122 x 152 cm (48 x 60 in)





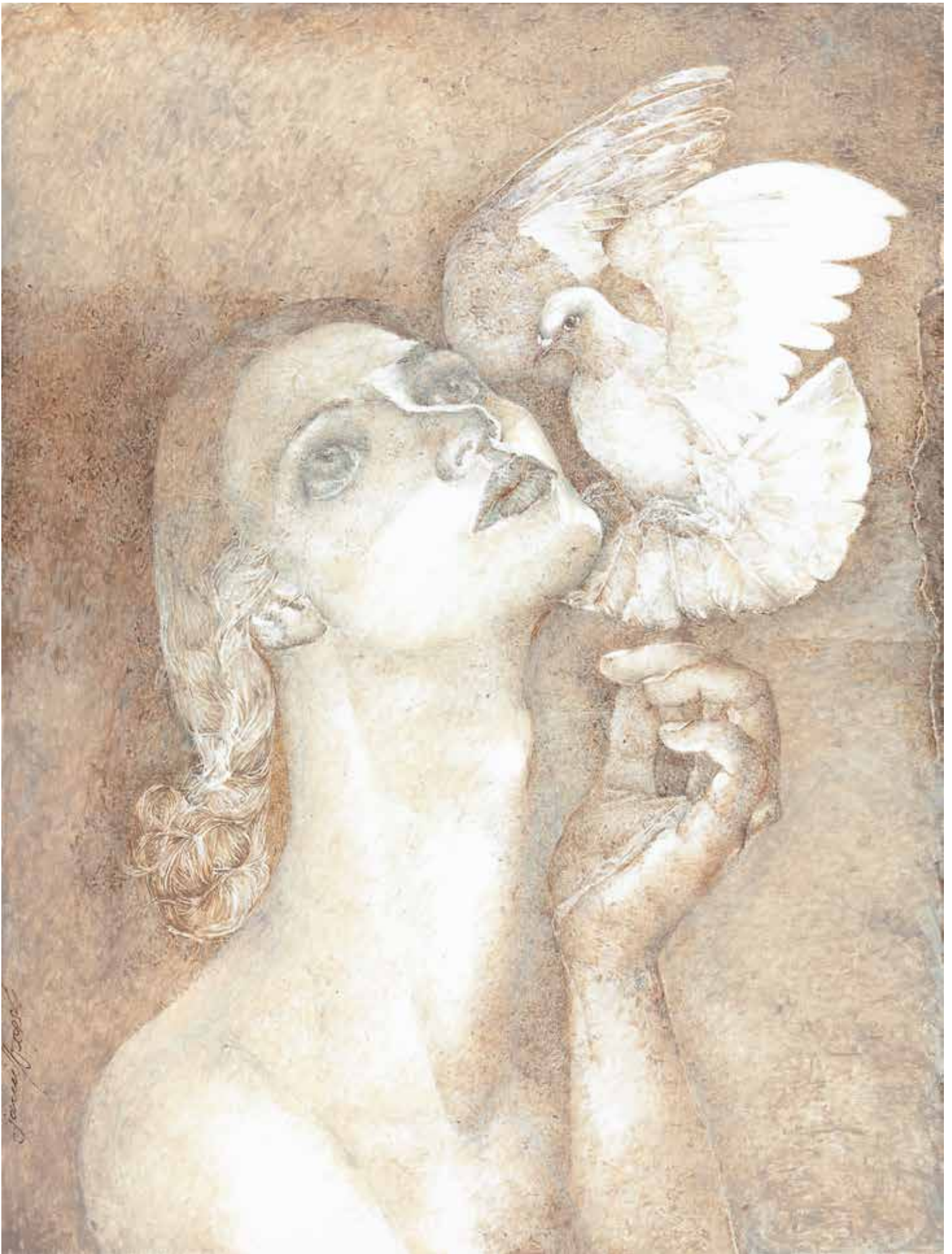
James G. Sullivan

4.

Tranquility (2017)

oil on canvas

122 x 92 cm (48 x 36 in)



5.

Silence (2017)

oil on canvas

60 x 60 cm (24 x 24 in)





6.

Contentment (2017)

oil on canvas

91 x 61 cm (36 x 24 in)



7.  
Gathering II (2017)  
oil on canvas  
101 x 152 cm (40 x 60 in)





8.

Caring (2017)

oil on canvas

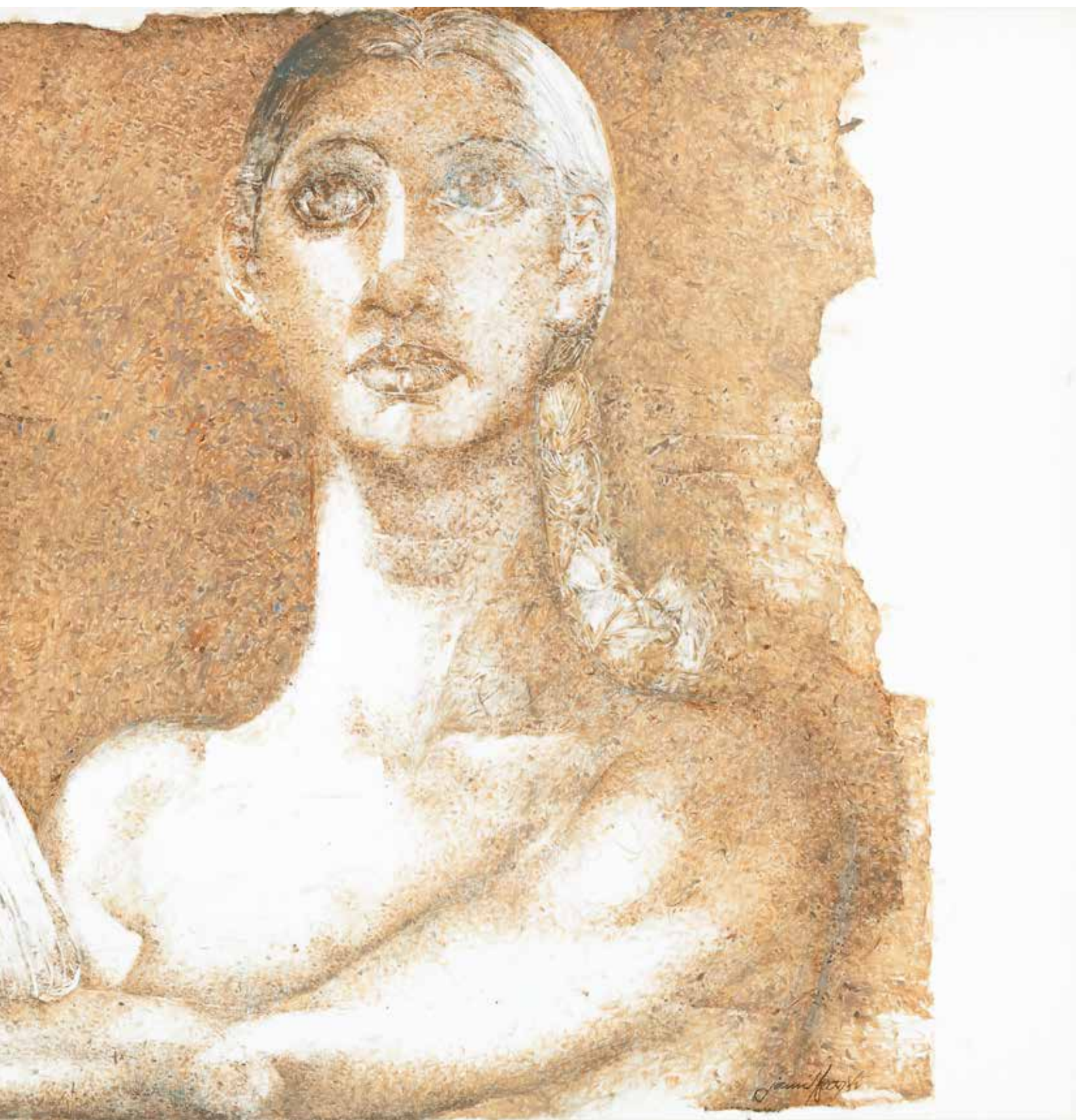
101 x 76 cm (40 x 30 in)



9.  
Nurturing (2017)  
oil on canvas  
101 x 152 cm (40 x 60 in)







10.

Waiting II (2017)

oil on canvas

60 x 60 cm (24 x 24 in)



11.

Harmony (2017)

oil on canvas

101 x 76 cm (40 x 30 in)



12 .

Waiting I (2017)

oil on canvas

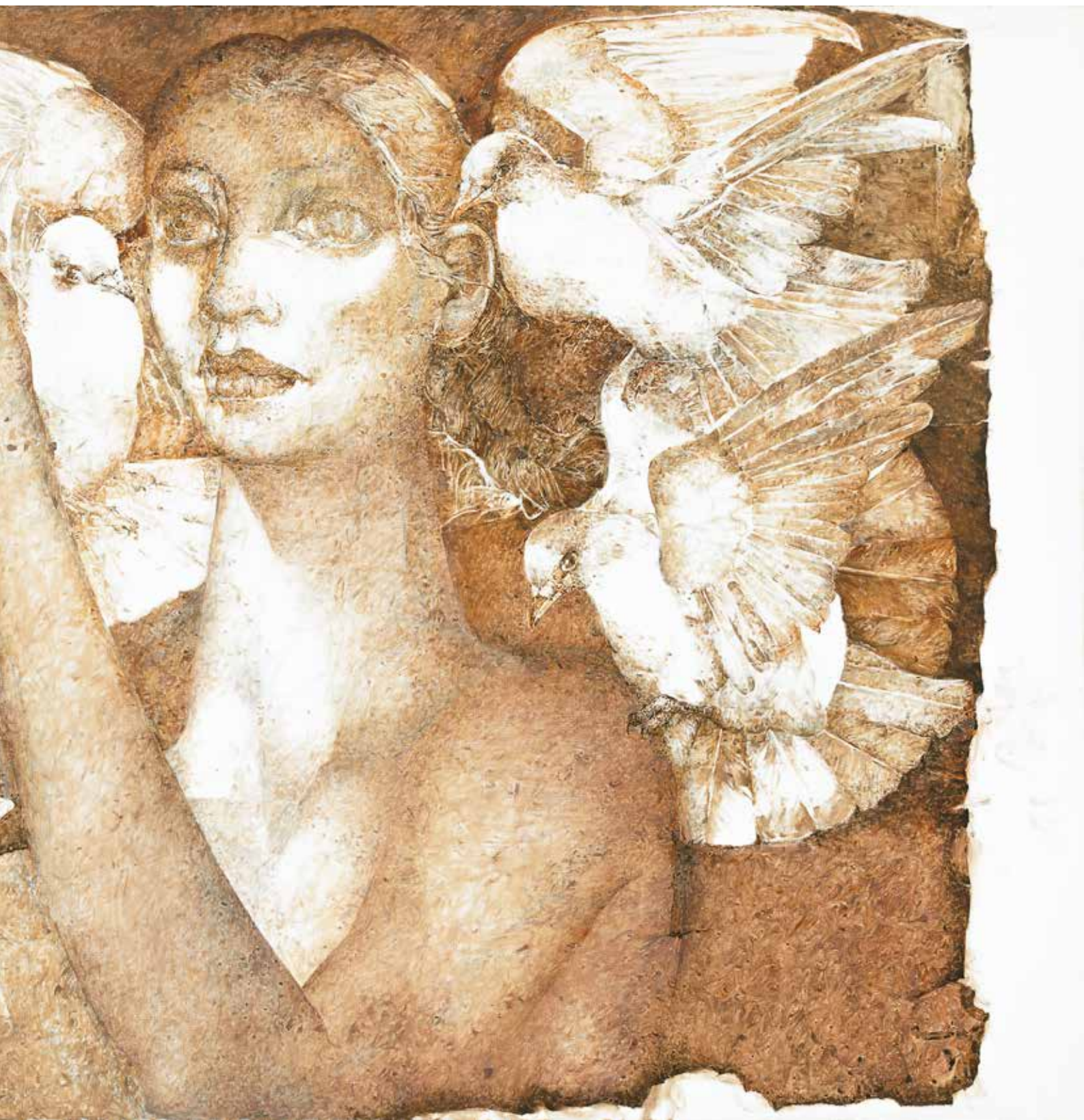
61 x 61 cm (24 x 24 in)



13.  
Gathering I (2017)  
oil on canvas  
101 x 152 cm (40 x 60 in)





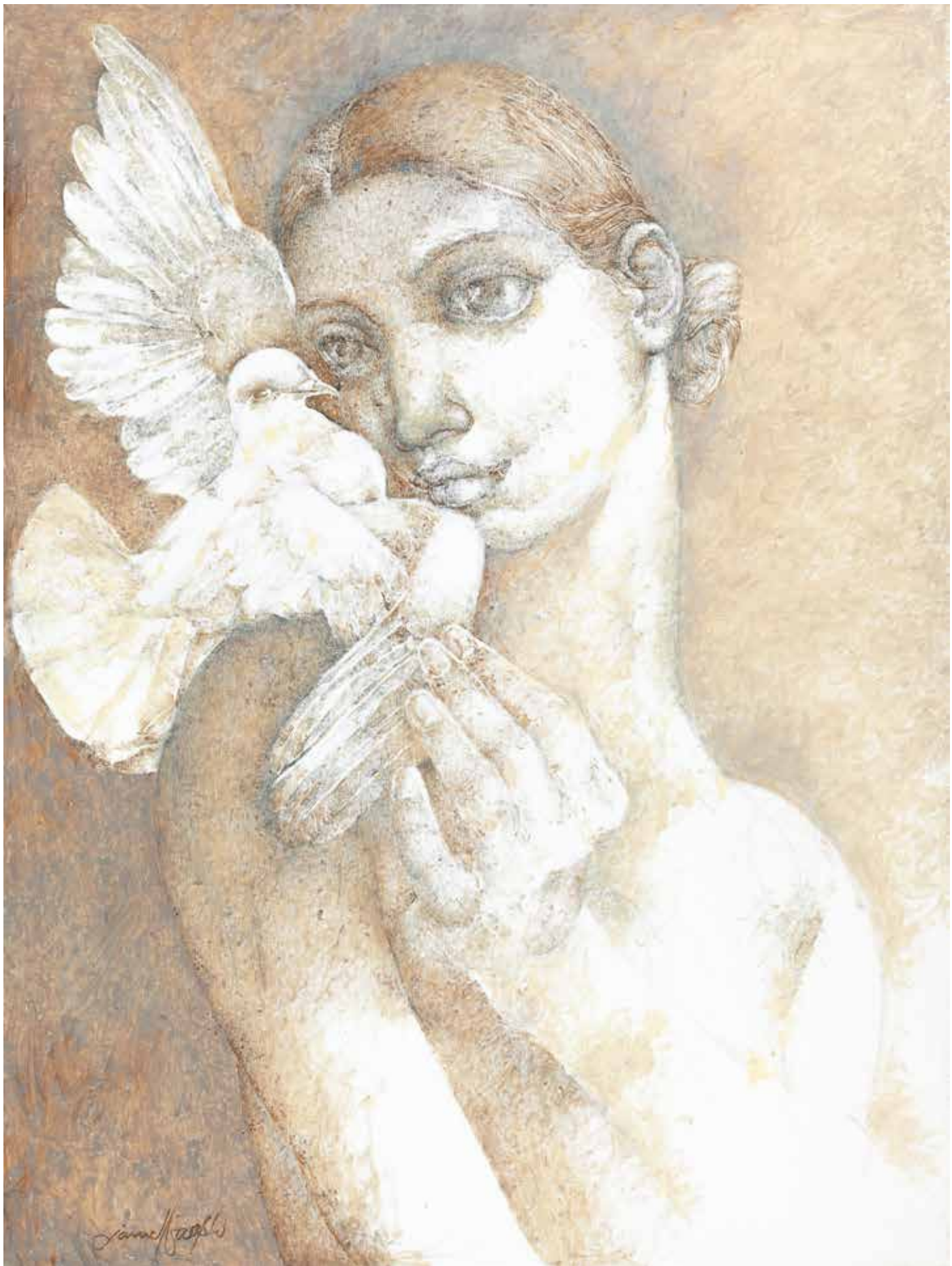


14.

Serenity (2017)

oil on canvas

101 x 76 cm (40 x 30 in)



15.

Anticipation (2017)

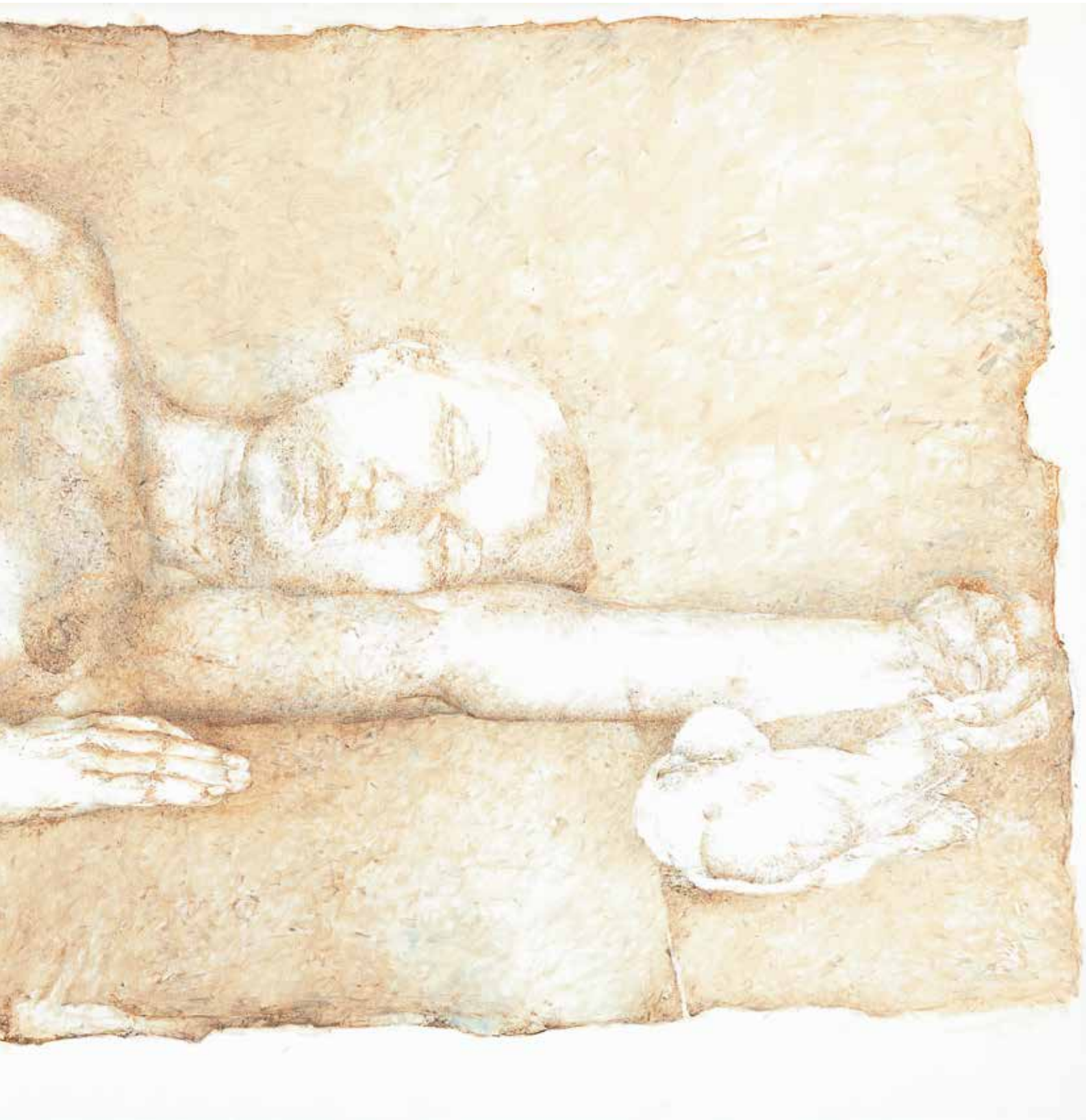
oil on canvas

101 x 76 cm (40 x 30 in)



16.  
Slumber (2017)  
oil on canvas  
101 x 152 cm (40 x 60 in)





17.

Friends I (2017)

oil on canvas

61 x 61 cm (24 x 24 in)





18.

Stillness (2017)

oil on canvas

101 x 76 cm (40 x 30 in)



19.

Pensive (2017)

oil on canvas

61 x 61 cm (24 x 24 in)



20.

Repose (2017)

oil on canvas

91 x 122 cm (36 x 48 in)



21.

Expectation (2017)

oil on canvas

101 x 76 cm (40 x 30 in)





22.

Friends (2017)

oil on canvas

68 x 68 cm (27 x 27 in)



23.

Introspection (2017)

oil on canvas

101 x 76 cm (40 x 30 in)



24.

Tower Flock (2017)

oil on canvas

122 x 92 cm (48 x 36 in)



25.

Emissaries I (2017)

oil on canvas

183 x 92 cm (72 x 36 in)







## Appendices

Appendix I	New Collection
Appendix II	Biography and Exhibitions
Appendix III	Memorabilia
Appendix IV	Selected works in Private Collections



Appendix I  
New Collection

1. Emissaries II
2. Friends II
3. Calmness
4. Tranquility
5. Silence



1



2

6. Contentment
7. Gathering II
8. Caring
9. Nurturing
10. Waiting II



6



7

11. Harmony
12. Waiting I
13. Gathering I
14. Serenity
15. Anticipation



11



12

16. Slumber
17. Friends I
18. Stillness
19. Pensive
20. Repose



16



17

21. Expectation
22. Friends
23. Introspection
24. Tower Flock
25. Emissaries



21



22



3



4



5



8



9



10



13



14



15



18



19



20



23



24



25





Appendix II  
Biography and Exhibitions

- 1937 25 December, Born in Kairana Uttar Pradesh, India  
 1953 Studied Indian miniature painting with the late Ustad Mohammad Sharif, National College of Arts, Lahore

### Honours and Awards

- 2009 Awarded Sitara-e-Imtiaz – Pakistan  
 2003 Jamil Naqsh; A Retrospective, An extensive retrospective exhibition at Mohatta Palace Museum, Karachi (to date the only artist to have been thus honoured in his lifetime)  
 1989 Pride of Performance Award, Pakistan  
 1989 Pursuit of Excellence Award, The Artist Association of Punjab, Pakistan  
 1982 Contribution of 20 years as a painter, Arts Council of Pakistan  
 1980 Shakir Ali Award, Ministry of Culture, Government of Pakistan  
 1968 First Prize, national competition by Hamdard National Foundation for poster design to find a cure for cancer, for display and distribution by W.H.O  
 1962 Gold Medal, Pakistan Arts Council, Karachi  
 1961 First Prize, Women's International Club, Karachi

### Solo Exhibitions

- 2017 Jamil Naqsh – and the eternal feminine, Pontone Gallery, London  
 2016 Jamil Naqsh – an artist between three cultures, Albemarle Gallery, London  
 2015 Art Bahrain, Bahrain, Albemarle Gallery  
 2015 The Muse, Messengers & Miniatures, Albemarle Gallery, London  
 2014 An Epic Romance, Albemarle Gallery, London  
 2013 The Painted Word, Albemarle Gallery, London  
 The Painted Word, DIFC Atrium, Dubai  
 The Painted Word, Asia House, London  
 2012 Homage to Picasso, Albemarle Gallery, London  
 Doves and Pigeons, Albemarle Gallery, London  
 Homage to Picasso, Asia House, London  
 2011 A Retrospective, Albemarle Gallery, London  
 2010 Pigeons and a slice of light, Momart art Gallery, Capital Club, Dubai  
 Pigeons and a slice of light, Momart art Gallery and Jamil Naqsh Museum, Karachi  
 2009 Homage to Picasso, Momart art Gallery and Jamil Naqsh Museum, Karachi  
 2008 Homage to Picasso, Nitanjali Art Gallery, at Galerie Romain Rolland, Alliance Francaise de Delhi  
 2005 Studio Glass Art Gallery, London  
 2003 Jamil Naqsh: A Retrospective, Mohatta Palace Museum, Karachi  
 Jamil Naqsh for Najmi Sura, private collection of Najmi Sura, Jamil Naqsh Museum and Momart Art Gallery, Karachi  
 2001 Magic of the Line, Momart Art Gallery, Karachi  
 Jamil Naqsh Museum, Karachi  
 1999 Jamil Naqsh Museum, formal inauguration, Karachi  
 1998 Homage to Marino Marini, Jamil Naqsh Museum and Momart Art Gallery, Karachi  
 1997 Mother and Child, dedicated to Dr. Faridon Setna, a private viewing hosted by Meher and Husain Sheriff, Trustees of Jamil Naqsh Foundation  
 1996 Private viewing hosted by Amina and Jehangir Tareen, Trustees of Jamil Naqsh Foundation, Lahore  
 Modern Manuscripts, Momart Art Gallery, Karachi Beyond Words, The Art Gallery, Islamabad  
 Homage to Marino Marini, Momart Art Gallery, Karachi  
 Jamil Naqsh Foundation and Museum, established in Karachi  
 1971 Pakistan Arts Gallery, Karachi  
 1967 Pakistan Arts Council, Karachi

- 1965 The Pak-Brazil Friendship Association, Beach Luxury Hotel, Karachi
- 1963 Pakistan Arts Council, Karachi
- 1962 Pakistan Arts Council, Lahore

### Special Projects

- 1977 Mural executed in oil on canvas for the Shakir Ali Museum, Lahore
- 1974 Mural executed in oil on canvas for the Cancer Society of Pakistan, Karachi
- 1973 Calligraphy executed in oil on canvas for the Hamdard National Foundation
- 1960/8 Served as co-editor of Seep Urdu Literary Quarterly and Arts International
- 1970-73 President, Pakistan Painters Guild

### Group Exhibitions

- 2015 Masterpiece 2015, London
- 2012 Nude, Albemarle Gallery, London
- 2011 Olympia Art Fair, Kensington Olympia, London
- 2007 Rhythms of Illumination, Nitanjali Art Gallery, Grand Hyatt, Dubai  
Resplendent Reveries, Nitanjali Art Gallery, Grand Hyatt, Dubai  
Uninterrupted Journeys, Nitanjali Art Gallery, ITC Grand Central, Mumbai
- 2006 Euphonic Palettes - Dubai, Nitanjali Art Gallery, Grand Hyatt, Dubai  
Euphonic Palettes, Nitanjali Art Gallery, Galerie Romain Rolland, Alliance Francaise de Delhi, sponsored by Deutsche Bank  
Pakistani Master's Show, Nitanjali Art Gallery at Park Hotel, New Delhi  
Ibteda – The Beginning, Gandhara – Art.com (Pakistan's virtual exhibition)  
Paintings and Sculptures by 45 Artists, Momart Art Gallery, Karachi
- 2005 Indian Art Unbound II, Nitanjali Art Gallery at the Grand Hyatt, Dubai  
Miniature Show, Momart Art Gallery, Karachi
- 2004 Modern Calligraphic Paintings & Ceramics, Momart Art Gallery, Karachi
- 2003 Recent paintings by 23 Painters, Momart Art Gallery, Karachi  
Modern Calligraphic Paintings & Ceramics, Momart Art Gallery, Karachi
- 2002 Modern Calligraphic Paintings & Ceramics, Momart Art Gallery, Karachi
- 2001 Modern Calligraphic Paintings & Ceramics, Momart Art Gallery, Karachi
- 2000 Watercolours by 20 Painters, Momart Art Gallery, Karachi  
Paintings by 15 Painters, Momart Art Gallery, Karachi
- 1999 Recent Paintings by 20 Painters, Momart Art Gallery, Karachi
- 1998 Drawings, Prints & Etchings, Momart Art Gallery, Karachi  
Modern Calligraphic Paintings & Ceramics, Momart Art Gallery, Karachi
- 1997 Modern Calligraphic Paintings & Ceramics, Momart Art Gallery, Karachi
- 1995 Watercolour Exhibition, Momart Art Gallery, Karachi  
Group Show, Momart An Gallery, Karachi
- 1992 India Asia Museum, Pasadena, CA, U.S.A  
Trivandrun and New Delhi
- 1972 Painters from Pakistan, Pakistan National Council of Arts in Paris, London, Munich, New York, Sao Paulo, Tokyo, Italy, Libya, Morocco, Ghana and Sudan
- 1970 Gallerie Christoph Durr, Munich, West Germany
- 1964 Painters from Pakistan, Ceylon
- 1963 Painters from Pakistan, Nepal
- 1953 National Art Competition, Multan



Appendix III  
Memorabilia



Irfan Hussain, Jamil Naqsh and Ali Imam | Karachi | 1968

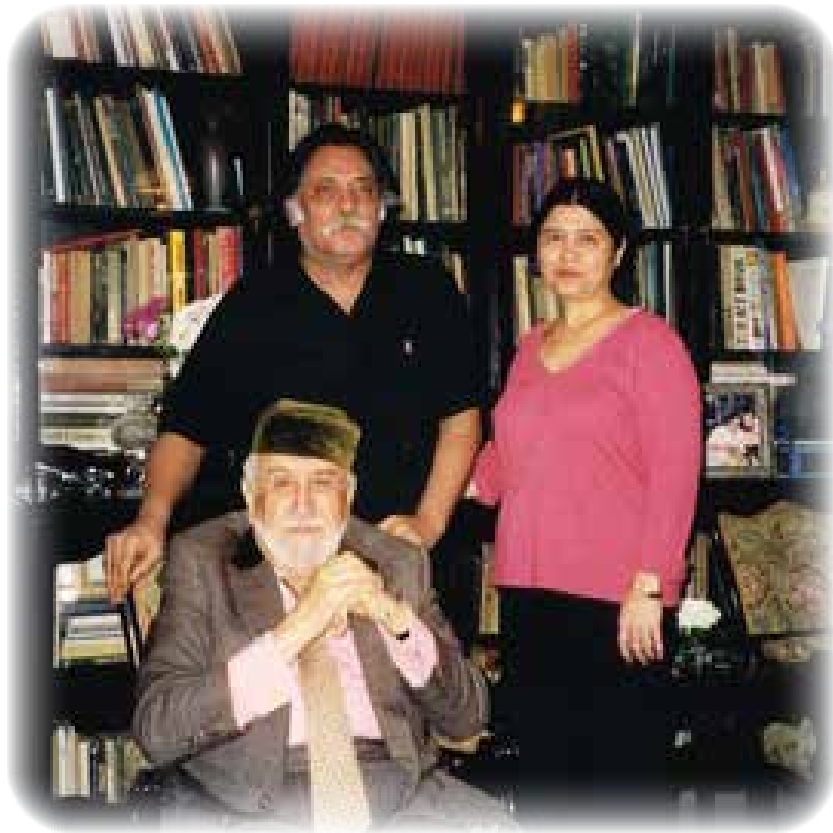


Jamil Naqsh | London | 1989



Jamil Naqsh | Karachi | 1997





Jamil Naqsh and Najmi Sura with Ardeshir Cowesjee, writer and philanthropist | Karachi | 2001



Jamil Naqsh and Najmi Sura | Paris | 2001



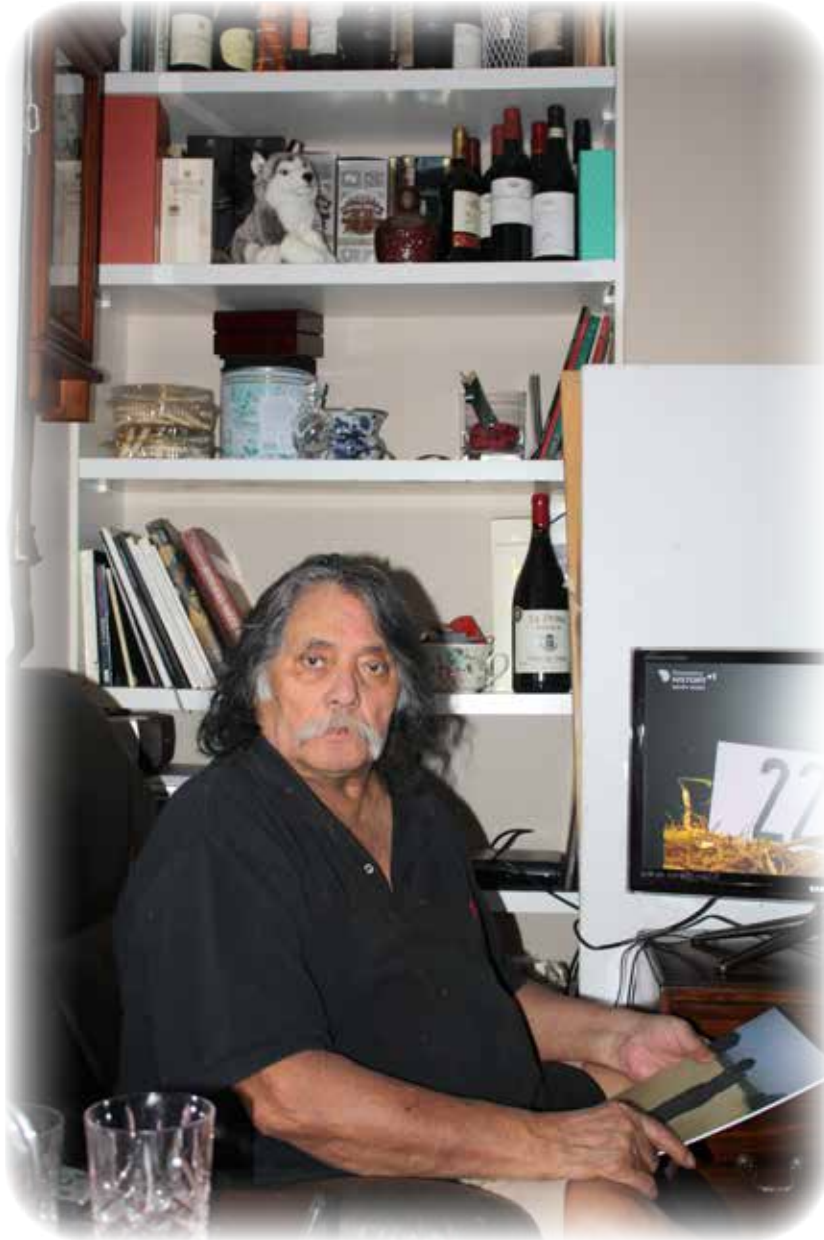
Jamil Naqsh | London | 2002



Jamil Naqsh and Edward Lucie-Smith | London | 2011



Jamil Naqsh, Edward Lucie-Smith and Tony Pontone | London | 2015









## Appendix IV

### Selected works in Private Collections



Emissary II | oil on canvas | Private Collection



Figure Astride Horse | oil on canvas | Private Collection



Untitled Calligraphy | oil on canvas | Private Collection



Untitled Calligraphy | oil on canvas | Private Collection



Angel III | oil on canvas | Private Collection

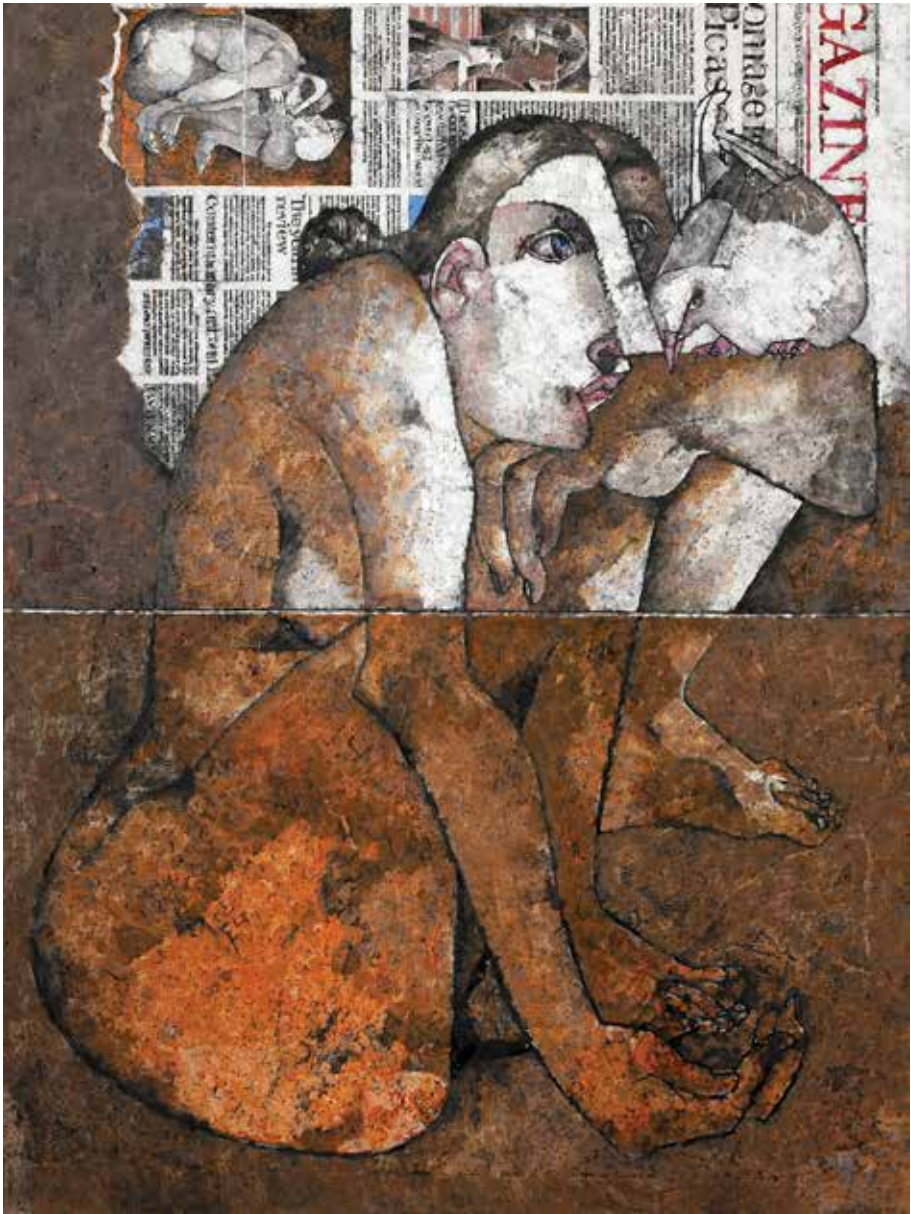


The Ledge | oil on canvas | Private Collection



Figure With Pigeons I | oil on canvas | Private Collection





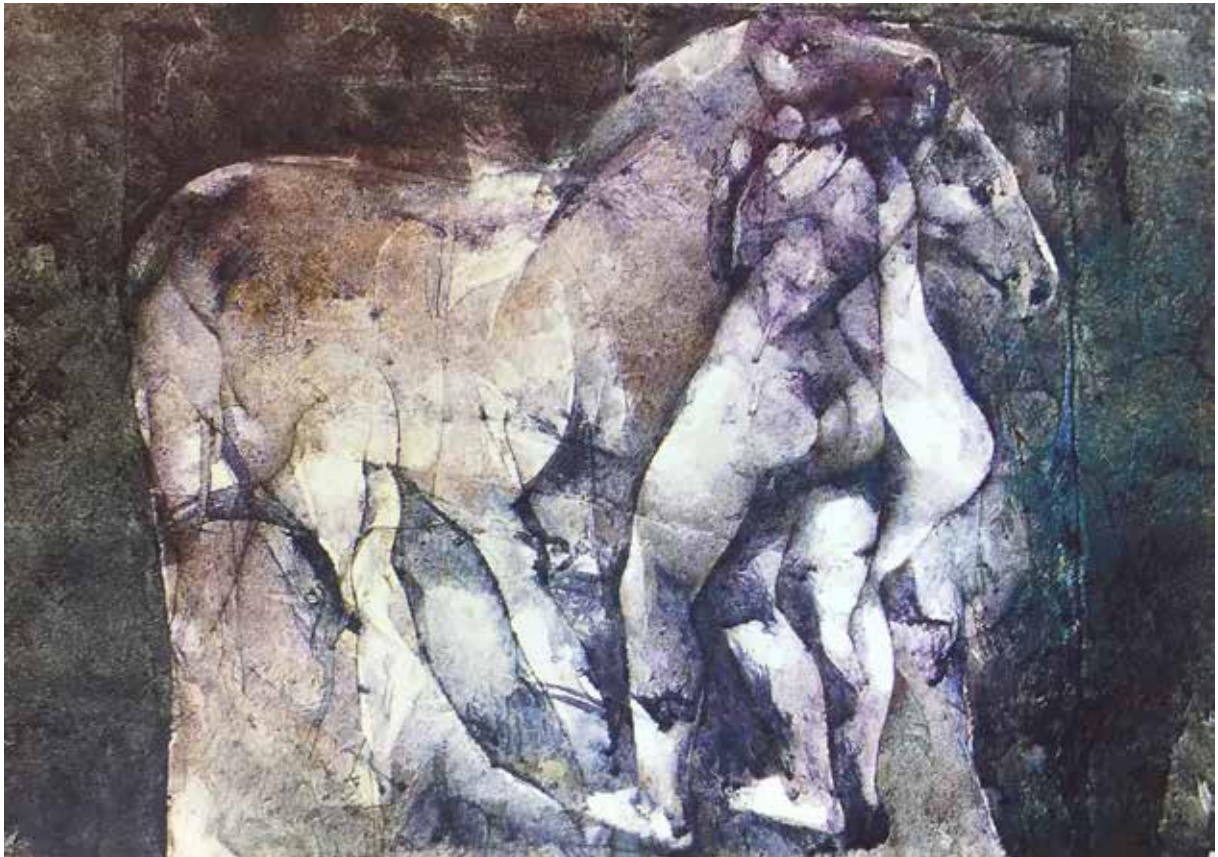
Homage to Picasso | oil on canvas | Private Collection



Multifaceted | oil on canvas | Private Collection



Gathering I | oil on canvas | Private Collection



Woman and horse | watercolour | Mohatta Palace Museum, Karachi