

August 2007

BLOCKBUSTER POLL

60 YEARS 60 QUESTIONS

What Pakistanis
really think

Maheen Khan

In interviews, Maheen Khan often refers to Coco Chanel as her favourite designer and the fashion icon she aspires to resemble. In the Pakistani context, however, Khan is more akin to the revolutionary Liz Claibourne. No doubt, with her shock of sleek salt-and-pepper hair and not-quite-black wardrobe, Khan boasts the style and sophistication that one associates with Chanel. But in her ability to design the perfect outfit for the real woman – the thirty-something vice-president, the philanthropist housewife – she offers the great tailoring, classic styles, professional panache and wearable materials that are trademark Claibourne.

Khan's insistence on perfecting a garment's cut so that it falls just right on any body has made fashion something that all Pakistani women can aspire to. In that sense, she is the pioneer of the country's most creative, progressive and vibrant industry. Not only did she introduce the concept of "separates", invent the half sari, and bring the capri to Karachi, but Khan also highlighted the distinction between high street fashion and designer totes by launching the hip concept label Gulabo. In her spare time, the fashion designer has embroidered and emblazoned lush costumes for international opera houses as well as Hollywood epics, including Oliver Stone's *Alexander*. From seamstress to style icon, Khan never tires of showing everyone else how it's really done.

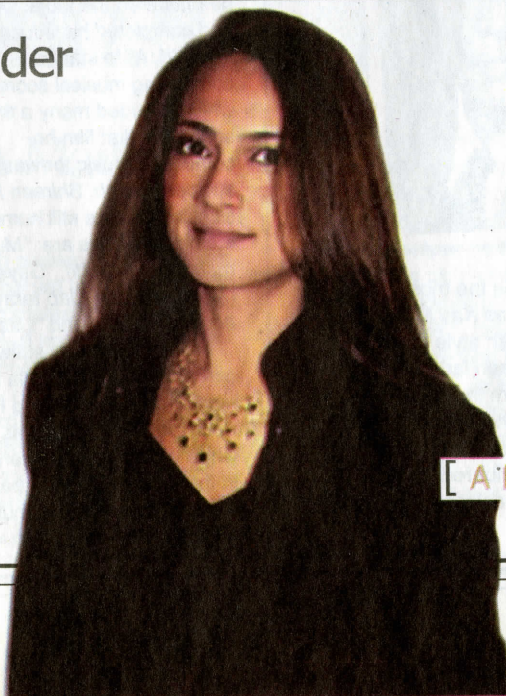
[FASHION]



White Star/Tapu Javeri

Shahzia Sikander

With each brushstroke, miniature artist Shahzia Sikander redefines the creativity, political impetus and reach of the Pakistani diaspora. Born in Lahore and based in New York, trained at the National College of Arts as well as the Rhode Island School of Design, Sikander's artistic repertoire conflates the East and the West and her vibrant palette and flair for mixing media have reinvigorated the traditional miniature. In each painting, tumultuous imagery and intimate designs are infused with



politics; her art addresses themes such as feminism, identity and nationalism. Her unique style has not only been appreciated at home but also internationally. Sikander received a prestigious fellowship from the MacArthur Foundation in 2006 and she is also one of the few artists to have been chosen by the World

Economic Forum to participate in the Young Global Leaders' forum.

[ART]