

## Shahzia Sikander: *Liquid Light*

May 17 – June 21, 2024 | 536 West 22nd Street

Pace Prints is pleased to announce *Liquid Light*, an exhibition of twelve new prints and handmade paper works by Shahzia Sikander, on view May 17 – June 21, 2024, at 536 West 22nd Street. This presentation will focus on editions and unique works made at the Pace Prints and Pace Paper studios in Manhattan and Brooklyn. An opening reception will be held Thursday, May 16, 6–8pm. A moderated conversation with the artist will be held at the gallery on Thursday, June 6.

Encompassing drawing, painting, sculpture, and animation in her expansive art practice, Shahzia Sikander engages with many vantage points. In the past year, she has channeled her energy into print and papermaking, cross-pollinating collagraphs, pressure prints, etchings, and pulp painting into a bold and nuanced body of work that exalts the fluidity of material, transition, and process.

Sikander is known for her decades-long engagement championing non-western art history to re-animate the relevance of pre-modern manuscripts and illuminated books. Pioneering Neo-Miniaturist painting, her practice turns a critical and creative lens toward Orientalist readings of Indo-Persian miniatures by rejecting strictures of iconography, with a particular focus on gender and power roles. An alertness to binaries informs her work, and she intentionally subverts the assumptions, hierarchies, and center-margin dynamics where issues of hegemony can be unraveled across a conceptual, emotional, and visual nexus.

Shahzia Sikander's exhibition, *Liquid Light*, draws inspiration from the visual splendor of Venice, Italy, where a survey exhibition of her work, titled *Collective Behavior*, is being presented by the Cleveland Museum of Art and Cincinnati Art Museum as part of the 60th International Art Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia. Conceiving Venice as a liminal space—the space between human and water, citizen and migrant, real and mythic, powers and the powerless—establishes a mutualism between Sikander's work and Venice's rich history. This threshold is fecund in Sikander's practice, in its embrace of absence and the unknown, thereby defying the expected both conceptually and materially.

*Ode to Venice* is an etching and relief print that references two historical works from The Cleveland Museum of Art and The Cincinnati Art Museum as its point of departure to create a feminist regatta arrival into Venice. This print blends Italianate and Persian elements on an image plane intricately worked with soft ground, soap ground and spit bite techniques, producing a celebratory glow of color and light.

# PACE PRINTS

## PRESS RELEASE

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## CONTACT

---

AUSTIN KENNEDY  
AUSTIN@PACEPRINTS.COM  
(212) 328-0170

Also highlighted in the exhibition is *Migrant Love*, a 60-by-40-inch paper pulp work whose protagonists are interconnected and autonomous, self-rooted and resilient, and exemplify the existence and movement of people across borders. This bodily form can be found elsewhere in Sikander's practice, including a version in stained glass for the 2024 Venice Biennale's *Foreigners Everywhere*.

A unique diptych titled *ERA*, was created by the stenciling and movement of pulp using water, and once dry, finished with hand painting by the artist. The title refers not only to an "era" of women but alludes also to the long-stalled Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution which was introduced to prohibit discrimination based on sex. This piece incorporates multiple iterations of the vast feminine lexicons of Sikander's prolific drawing practice, given living form in the unpredictable tensions between water and pulp.

Sikander reintroduces elements of her sculpture practice into paper works using the dimensional properties of printmaking. The figure of *Witness* (2023), Sikander's iconic sculpture in Madison Square Park, is flattened into a silhouette in her new work on paper, *Luminous Fissures*. Detailed collagraphs made of lace and fabric are embedded in paper pulp to produce *Gendered Currents*. As Shahzia Sikander layers and entangles global and personal histories, so too are the works marked with a material memory that is revitalized in the act of creation.

## ABOUT SHAHZIA SIKANDER

Shahzia Sikander (born 1969, Lahore, Pakistan; lives and works in New York City) earned a B.F.A. in 1991 from the National College of Arts (NCA) in Lahore, and an M.F.A. at the Rhode Island School of Design in 1995. Sikander's Solo exhibitions include the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston in Texas; the Morgan Library and Museum in New York; the RISD Museum in Providence, Rhode Island; Jesus College in Cambridge, United Kingdom; the MAXXI National Museum of 21st Century Art in Rome; the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain; the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney; the Hirshhorn Museum in Washington, D.C.; and the Whitney Museum of American Art, among many others. Sikander has also been featured in group exhibitions at international venues, including the Sharjah Biennial 11; the 8th and 13th Istanbul Biennials; the National Portrait Gallery in Washington DC; the Museum of Modern Art in New York; the Museum of Contemporary Art in Tokyo; the 54th Venice Biennale in Italy; and the Whitney Biennale in 1997, among others. Sikander has been the recipient of many notable awards, including most recently the Pollock Prize for Creativity in 2023, the Fukuoka Arts and Culture Prize in 2022, the Asia Society Award for Significant Contribution to Contemporary Art in 2015, a medal of Art by the U.S. Department of State in 2012, and a MacArthur Fellowship in 2006. Sikander's work is in the collections of all major national and international museums, and permanent site-specific public artworks include the University of Houston, Princeton University, the Cincinnati Art Museum and Johns Hopkins University. Sikander serves on the boards of Art21, the Rhode Island School of Design, and the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University,

# PACE PRINTS

## PRESS RELEASE

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## CONTACT

---

AUSTIN KENNEDY  
AUSTIN@PACEPRINTS.COM  
(212) 328-0170

and is a member of the Asian American Arts Alliance's artist council. In conjunction with her traveling exhibition, an extensive monograph examining Sikander's work entitled *Extraordinary Realities* was published in 2021 by Hirmer Publishers and The University of Chicago Press.

Sikander's 8-foot bronze female sculpture was premiered on the roof of the Appellate Courthouse in Manhattan along with an 18-foot female sculpture exhibited in Madison Square Park in 2023; both travelled to the University of Houston in 2024. Every midnight in September 2023, Sikander's animation, *Reckoning*, unfolded across the screens of Times Square. Sikander's recent project with the Moynihan Train Hall Public Art Program saw her animation *Singing Suns* displayed across screens in Moynihan Train Hall from November 2023 to January 2024. *Collective Behavior*, a survey exhibition of Sikander's work, organized by the Cleveland Museum of Art and Cincinnati Art Museum, is on view in Venice during Biennale Arte 2024 and will travel to Cleveland and Cincinnati in 2025.

## ABOUT PACE PRINTS

Pace Prints has been a leading publisher and gallery of original fine art prints, monoprints and multiples since 1968.

In the Pace Editions and Pace Paper studios, Pace Prints offers artists the expertise, facilities and resources to create boundary-breaking original work in a broad range of printmaking techniques, from the traditional to cutting-edge, innovative and hybrid approaches.

Pace Prints' gallery, now located at 536 West 22nd Street in Chelsea, is a premier exhibition space dedicated to fostering education and connoisseurship about prints to art lovers and collectors. Pace Prints is a member of the Art Dealers Association of America (ADAA) and the International Fine Print Dealers Association (IFPDA).

## Shahzia Sikander: *Liquid Light*

May 17 – June 21, 2024 | 536 West 22nd Street



### Shahzia Sikander

*Migrant Love* (2024)

Stenciled pulp painting with printed kozo inclusion

60 x 39 1/2 inches

Edition of 10

© Shahzia Sikander. Photo courtesy of Pace Prints.