

OUR ART OUR REGION OUR TIME

Dupatta #9

24 x 30 inches

Oil

\$1,800

Shabana Kauser

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Bio

Shabana was born and lived in the UK for almost 30 years. She lived in Central London, where she achieved her degrees, a BSc in Business IT and a MSc in Information Management. She worked in the corporate world before her husband was presented with a work opportunity in the US. In 2008, Shabana moved from Central London UK, to the US, and settled in Fayetteville Arkansas. Through the frustrating immigration laws, and while being unable to legally work for 7 years, she discovered her love for creating. This journey opened up a new way to connect with people and share her story.

In 2017 she formally introduced her work and enjoyed her very first Exhibit. Shabana has now enjoyed successful Gallery Exhibits in the US including Arkansas, California, Kansas, New York, Texas and Missouri. Some of her notable exhibits include 21c Museum, and a solo exhibit at Baker University in Kansas and recently this year a Solo show at Fort Smith Regional Art Museum. Shabana attended the University of Arts London, St. Martin's College in the UK, and also completed the Artist Inc program that is organized by the Mid-American Arts Alliance.

Shabana has been featured in a number of publications and press releases. Some notable ones include Northwest AR Alive (Emmy nominated ABC TV series) where she had a solo interview, Little Rock Soiree Magazine, Arkansas Times, KUAF Radio, CitiScapes Magazine, Fox/KNWA News, and Studio Visit Magazine where she was featured on the cover. You can follow her journey and regular updates on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and visit www.shabanakauserart.com

Artist Statement

Influenced by my shared experiences as the daughter of Pakistani immigrants, and as an immigrant myself to the United States, my detailed portraits of South Asian immigrant women explore memories of cultural, social, and economic transition. Along with ornate, precisely-rendered jewelry, the Dupatta, a traditional scarf worn in South Asian countries, permeates portraits, referencing not only my personal journey, but those of past, present, and future generations of immigrants.

My work represents beauty, strength and determination, just some of the traits I saw in women I grew up around. Many immigrant women I knew tapped into all the skills they had to make their new lives, in a new land. While learning English, and therefore being limited with opportunities, my mother started her own business. My grandmother had taught her to sew while she grew up in Pakistan. Sewing traditional clothes for the community with her own business, allowed my mother to contribute in numerous ways. She is one of many of the many forgotten women that continue to contribute to society, the economy and communities. My portraits honor immigrant women whose stories are often overlooked.

