

News Release

Ghulam Mohammad announced as winner of Jameel Prize 4

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Ghulam Mohammad has won the £25,000 Jameel Prize 4 for his five works of paper collage, four *Untitled* and one with the title *Gunjaan* (2014). Ayşe and Ece Ege, founders of Turkish fashion label Dice Kayek and winners of Jameel Prize 3, presented Ghulam Mohammad with the Prize at a ceremony at the Pera Museum, Istanbul, on Tuesday 7 June.

The judges felt that Ghulam Mohammad's work stood out for its excellence of concept and execution. He trained in the Islamic tradition of miniature painting, and, in his diminutive works in paper collage, he developed a medium that reflects that tradition in terms of his approach and the scale on which he works. Yet his practice has a striking character of its own. His craftsmanship is impressive, and it reflects many virtuoso traditions in the Islamic world, especially those associated with calligraphy. His way of working resembles a meditative process, during which he translates real text from discarded books into the language of art. His work is remarkable for its multi-layered meanings, his avowed concern being with the hierarchy of languages in Pakistan and his personal experience of it. The judges were particularly moved by the paradox between the intensity and the modesty of his collages.

Martin Roth, Director of the V&A and chair of the panel of judges, said, "*As in previous Prizes, selecting the winner was extremely difficult, given the very high standard of the shortlisted work. Over the four cycles of the Jameel Prize so far, the award has been made to artists and designers at every stage of their creative lives. I am pleased to see that Jameel Prize 4 has been won by such a promising young artist at the beginning of his career.*"

Mr Fady Jameel, President of Community Jameel International, said, “*We would like to congratulate Ghulam Mohammad, the first artist from Pakistan to win the Jameel Prize. Using second-hand books, Mohammad’s intricate collages of paper cuttings of Urdu script pasted on Wasli paper create new meanings and celebrate the great heritage of Islamic art, craft and design. The vision of the Jameel Prize is to promote artists who explore traditional Islamic influences through contemporary art.*”

Ghulam Mohammad’s four works *Untitled* (2014) and one with the title *Gunjaan* (2014) demonstrate his highly intricate work, taking individual paper cuttings of Urdu script and adding components of gold and silver leaf and ink to complete his collages.

The Pera Museum, Istanbul, Turkey presents an exhibition of works by the winner and the ten other artists and designers shortlisted for the fourth edition of the Jameel Prize until 14 August 2016. They are: David Chalmers Alesworth, Rasheed Araeen, Lara Assouad, CANAN, Cevdet Erek, Sahand Hesamiyan, Lucia Koch, Shahpour Pouyan, Wael Shawky and Bahia Shehab.

Awarded every two years, the Jameel Prize, founded in partnership with Art Jameel, is a £25,000 international art prize organised by the V&A, for contemporary artists and designers inspired by Islamic traditions of art, craft and design. This is the first time that the Jameel Prize is launched at an external venue and the exhibition will in future rotate between the V&A and guest venues around the world.

The winner was decided by a panel of judges chaired by Martin Roth, Director of the V&A. The judges are potter Alan Caiger-Smith, Ece and Ayşe Ege, founders of the fashion label Dice Kayek and winners of Jameel Prize 3, Rose Issa, curator, writer, publisher and producer and Hammad Nasar, curator, writer and Head of Research and Programmes at Asia Art Archive (AAA), Hong Kong.

Launched in 2009, the winner of the first Jameel Prize was Afruz Amighi for her work *1001 Pages* (2008), an intricate hand-cut screen made from the woven plastic used to construct refugee tents. In 2011 Rachid Koraïchi was awarded the prize for his work *Les Maîtres Invisibles (The Invisible Masters, 2008)*, a group of embroidered cloth banners which display Arabic calligraphy and symbols and ciphers to explore the lives and legacies of the 14 great mystics of Islam. In 2013 the winner of Jameel Prize 3 was Dice Kayek, a Turkish fashion label established in 1992 by Ece and Ayşe Ege for their work *Istanbul Contrast*, a collection that evokes Istanbul’s architectural and artistic heritage. This was the first time the Jameel Prize was awarded to designers. Ayşe and Ece Ege are on the judging panel for this year’s prize.

The Jameel Prize is supported by Art Jameel. The prize was conceived after the renovation of the V&A’s Jameel Gallery of Islamic Art, which opened in July 2006 and will be celebrating its tenth anniversary this summer. The gallery is an outstanding presentation of the rich artistic heritage of the Islamic Middle East, and the Prize aims to raise awareness of the thriving interaction between

contemporary practice and the great historical legacy of the region. It has also contributed to a broader understanding of Islamic culture as well as its place in the contemporary world.

The Jameel Prize 4 exhibition is curated by Tim Stanley, senior curator for the V&A's Middle Eastern collection, with Salma Tuqan, the V&A's curator of Middle Eastern contemporary art and design.

For further PRESS information please contact Henrietta Sitwell in the V&A press office on 0207 942 2502 or email h.sitwell@vam.ac.uk (Not for Publication)

A selection of high resolution images are available to download from <http://pressimages.vam.ac.uk>

Notes to Editors:

Biographical Information on the Winner

Ghulam Mohammad (b. 1979, Kachi, Pakistan) lives and works in Lahore, Pakistan. He graduated from Beaconhouse National University, Lahore with a BA in Fine Arts in 2013. Mohammad uses language and script as a medium of expression of both his own identity and cultural, historical and contemporary identity. His works are intricate collages of paper cuttings of Urdu script pasted on Wasli paper sometimes embellished with gold and silver leaf and Iranian ink. Solo exhibitions include KutubKhana, Sanat Art Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan (2015). Group exhibitions include Lahore Literary Festival, Lahore, Pakistan (2015); Canvas Art Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan (2014); Sanat Art Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan (2014); Art Hub, Abu Dhabi, UAE (2014); Satrang Art Gallery, Islamabad, Pakistan (2014); Ejaz Gallery, Lahore, Pakistan (2010); Hamail Art Gallery, Lahore, Pakistan (2009) and Arts Council, Quetta, Pakistan (2009). Mohammad was awarded the Beaconhouse Emerging Talent Award for Art, Lahore Literary Festival in 2015.

About the Jameel Prize 4 exhibition

The exhibition of work by artists and designers shortlisted for Jameel Prize 4 will be on show at the Pera Museum, Istanbul, Turkey from 8 June 2016 until 14 August 2016.

About the V&A's Islamic Art Collection

The V&A has specialised in collecting Islamic art since the 1850s, and was the first institution in the world to collect Islamic art as part of a mission to reform British industrial design. The Museum's founders considered Islamic art and design to be superior to most Western production, and they acquired examples to guide public taste and to provide models for contemporary manufacturing. The Museum's collection is reflected in much later design, and through the Jameel Prize the V&A is able to show that Islamic art of the past still provides inspiration today. The Jameel Prize is also part of the V&A's programme of activities designed to develop cultural links around the world and promote cultural understanding.

About the Jameel Prize

Leading curators, designers, artists and cultural figures from across the world were invited to nominate applicants to the Jameel Prize. Over 200 entries were received from countries as diverse as Puerto Rico, Mali, Pakistan, Turkey and Thailand. A panel of judges, chaired by V&A Director, Martin Roth, selected the shortlist of eleven artists and designers. A series of specially commissioned short films on each shortlisted artist and designer are available online at www.vam.ac.uk/jameelprize4

About Art Jameel

Art Jameel, one of Community Jameel's initiatives, fosters and promotes contemporary art and creative entrepreneurship across the MENAT region. In partnership with arts organisations worldwide, Art Jameel is developing two arts centres and cultural exchange programmes to encourage networking and knowledge sharing. Art Jameel is the founding partner of Edge of Arabia, The Crossway Foundation, Jeddah Art Week, and The Archive. In partnership with the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, it awards the biennial Jameel Prize for contemporary art and design inspired by Islamic traditions. Additional projects include: Art Jameel Photography Award; Jeddah Sculpture Museum, a public park established in collaboration with Jeddah Municipality; Jameel Arts Education at schools; the House of Traditional Arts in Jeddah and the Art Jameel Programme for Traditional Arts and Crafts in Fustat, Cairo, both developed in partnership with the Prince's School of Traditional Arts in London. Community Jameel was established in 2003 to promote positive social change, and has been undertaking this through the establishment of long-term partnerships with international institutions, and the creation of initiatives in the fields of job creation, global poverty alleviation, arts and culture, education and training, health and social, and food and water security. More information on Community Jameel's considerable set of initiatives can be found online at www.cjameel.org

About Pera Museum

Pera Museum was established by Suna and İnan Kiraç Foundation in 2005. Located in the historic Tepebaşı quarter of the city; the museum's building, once the famous Bristol Hotel, has been transformed into an impressive new site of galleries housing both the Foundation's permanent collection and a programme of national and international temporary exhibitions. As a modern cultural centre in a vibrant part of the city, the museum also aims to provide its visitors with a broad range of cultural events that include educational, film, conference and music programmes. www.peramuseum.org