



NEVER BEFORE SEEN WORKS ON DISPLAY BY SAAD QURESHI

Saad Qureshi: Conversations Before the End of Time
A New Free Exhibition at Lakeside Arts

Saturday 20 January – Sunday 14 April 2024

Launch event: Friday 19 January, 7-9pm

Djanogly Gallery, Lakeside Arts, University of Nottingham

Free Admission

Images [here](#).

“One of our most pensive and poetic artists”

Laura Cumming, *The Observer*

In Spring 2024, award-winning artist Saad Qureshi will present his first solo UK show in four years at the Djanogly Gallery, Nottingham. The exhibition includes large-scale sculptural installation alongside a new body of works on paper.

Saad will show for the first time a series of thirty-three watercolours he has called *Hell is Empty*. Startling and humorous, these jewel-like drawings, reminiscent of pages from illuminated manuscripts or tarot cards, imagine the devil as evoked in Islamic theology: a creature of fire, mischief and destruction.

Also created for his Nottingham exhibition are a new series of his Tanabanas. First created by the artist during lockdown, the Tanabanas are woven paper tapestries grounded in domesticity and a long family tradition in craft and needlework. The artist's grandfather was a tailor in the British Army and brought his family to the UK from Pakistan in the 1950s. Born in Pakistan and raised in Bradford, Saad was brought up in an environment which regarded textiles as objects of skill and artistry. The Tanabanas are created by printing images of textiles onto paper, cutting them into strips and weaving them together to create new abstract compositions. They combine motifs from textiles, architecture and mythology linking Saad's practice as an artist to generations of makers before him.

Alongside, he is showing his sculptural installation *Something about Paradise* commissioned for the Chapel at Yorkshire Sculpture Park in 2020. For this work, Saad travelled around the country talking to people of faith (and no faith) about what the concept of Paradise meant to them. The resulting sculptures are towering



and sprawling monochrome constructions that combine landscape and architectural features to create fantastical and dreamlike mindscapes. They are accompanied by a series of Gates: thresholds or gateways to the imagined realms of paradise beyond.

The exhibition runs at the same time as the artist's new site-specific sculpture titled *Convocation* showing at Raffles London. This work was commissioned by Frieze and The OWO to reflect the diversity of modern Britain and to respond to the grandeur of the former Old War Office in Whitehall.

-- ENDS --

For more information and to arrange interviews, please contact Lakeside Arts' Marketing and Communications Manager Phoebe Raine
phoebe.raine@nottingham.ac.uk

LISTING INFORMATION

Exhibition Dates: Saturday 20 January – Sunday 14 April 2024
Opening Hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-4pm | Sunday 12noon-4pm (Closed Mondays)
Address: Djanogly Gallery, University Park, Nottingham, NG7 2RD
Admission: Free
Events: For talks and events tickets please book online or call the Box Office on 0115 846 7777

NOTES TO EDITORS

Lakeside Arts is the University of Nottingham's public arts centre presenting a programme of visual arts and museum exhibitions, theatre, dance, children and families' productions, workshops as well as a learning programme for everyone. Its venues include the Djanogly Gallery showing temporary exhibitions of contemporary and modern art; the University Museum which has a permanent collection of archaeology; the Djanogly Recital Hall which stages concerts by internationally renowned soloists and chamber ensembles; and the Djanogly Theatre presenting UK and international touring work as well as producing and co-producing new theatre and dance.

www.lakesidearts.org.uk

Lakeside Arts Facebook, Twitter and Instagram: @LakesideArts



RELATED EVENTS

LAUNCH EVENT | Friday 19 January 2024, 7-9pm

Join us to celebrate the launch of the exhibition – admission is free, no prior booking required.

LECTURE: OF PARADISE AND OTHER PLACES | Friday 19 January, 6-7pm (followed by launch event)

Isabel de Vasconcellos gives an introduction to the exhibition and Saad Qureshi's work.

GALLERY TALK: IN CONVERSATION | Thursday 25 January, 1-2pm

Artist Saad Qureshi in conversation with Neil Walker, Head of Visual Arts Programming, Djanogly Gallery

GALLERY TOURS

Thursday 15 February | led by Neil Walker, Head of Visual Arts Programming, Djanogly Gallery

Thursday 7 March | Led by Rev. Dr. Richard Davey, Co-ordinating Chaplain, Nottingham Trent University



From the series *Hell is Empty*

Tanabana 11



Something About Paradise



Something About Paradise (detail)

