

NAZAR SARFAN

ARTIST PORTFOLIO

”An artist inspired by the great masters, capturing the essence of culture and time through vibrant oil paintings that connect the past, present, and future.”



2019-2024



Location - Turkey,Ankara
Exhibition -Artankara 2022

ABOUT ARTIST

I was born in 1995 in Irakkamam, a village in the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka. From a young age, my talent for art was evident to those around me. Coming from a middle-class family, with my father serving as a police officer, my artistic journey began with a memorable task from my uncle, who asked me to draw an old telephone for a political party logo. At just five years old, the recognition and kind of wishes for my work ignited a lifelong passion for art. Throughout my school years, my teachers and friends consistently recognized my skills, leading me to participate in numerous competitions and cultural events where I received many awards.

As I grew older, I continued to develop my artistic talents, participating in national competitions and earning further recognition. However, due to financial constraints and the need to support my family, I chose to pursue higher education in the architectural field instead of art. I completed my studies in architecture and landscape architecture, which led me to Qatar eight years ago. While working as a junior landscape architect, I never abandoned my dream of becoming a professional artist. In Qatar, I found numerous opportunities to engage in cultural activities and enhance my painting skills.

Inspired by artists like Picasso and Da Vinci, I dedicated myself to learning and honing my craft. Their detailed and passionate works influenced my approach to art, motivating me to create paintings that reflect my thoughts on the past, present, and future. Coming from a humble background, I aim to bring recognition to my community through my art, capturing cultural heritage and personal visions on canvas.

In Qatar, I have participated in several exhibitions and expanded my reach internationally, showcasing my work in countries like Turkey. My journey as an artist is ongoing, and I am continually seeking new opportunities to grow and share my art with the world. Through my paintings, I aspire to connect people with the cultural richness and stories of my homeland, and to inspire future generations of artists.”





photography for qatar artspot exhibition media coverage
Location - Wakra, Qatar

ARTIST STATEMENT

As an artist, I primarily work with oil on canvas, creating fine art that explores the rich tapestry of human culture. My work delves into the lives and traditions of the people in specific areas, weaving together their past, present, and future. By drawing inspiration from these cultures and combining it with my imagination, I create realistic and vibrant paintings that reflect a deep connection with the world around us.

My artistic style is a homage to the great masters like Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo, whose works have deeply influenced me. I am inspired by their ability to capture the essence of their time, and I strive to do the same by reflecting the current lifestyle and technology in my paintings. Just as they painted their present, I aim to paint ours, while also being mindful of the future and inspired by the past.

Through my art, I seek to communicate the continuous thread of human experience. Each piece is a dialogue between history and the future, capturing the essence of the present moment. My hope is that viewers find a connection to the past and an inspiration for the future, all while appreciating the beauty and vibrancy of the cultures depicted on my canvases.





Location - Turkey,Ankara
Exhibition - Artankara 2022

MEDIA RECOGNITION

I am truly honored to have my work recognized by Gulf Times, a milestone I never imagined possible at the start of my artistic journey. Coming from a small village to having my name featured in a prominent newspaper is a dream come true, affirming my passion for art and the impact it can have.

4 | Gulf Times
Saturday, October 3, 2020



COMMUNITY



Qatar offers numerous options to develop an 'artistic career'

By Mudassir Raja
Staff Reporter

● Sarfan Nazar, a young Sri Lankan landscape designer, is fast finding his feet as an artist in Qatar

Art is a never-ending reel of ideas and thoughts. Everyone is an artist in his or her own way. Only the courageous express their imaginative self and ideas for the world to view.

Sarfan Nazar is a Sri Lankan expatriate and artist in Qatar. Hailing from a village, he has always enjoyed intimacy with nature and its beauty. The nature and motivation from his parents have helped him pursue his love for art besides his regular job.

"I hail from a village called Irakkamam. It is a sprawling green haven, lush with trees and a beautiful lake. My proximity to nature in its true essence is among the prime reasons that explain my penchant towards art," said Sarfan in a recent interview with Gulf Times.

Born and brought up in a middle class family, Sarfan realised very soon that he could not pursue art as his career.

"I always felt that taking art as a career full-time was not viable and that it had no future. Hence, I took up engineering and design with the intent of getting a good job to support my family. I am now working as a landscape designer for a reputed company in Qatar. I never regret taking this decision as I enjoy my job, be-

cause it helps me hone my creative skills."

The artist is a nature-lover and grew up appreciating it in its various forms.

"Be it the flora and fauna around or the sheer brilliance of a sunrise, I am always entranced by the beauty of nature and its offerings. So much so that I sometimes just stand awestruck and wonder how beautiful the world around us is. At the age of five, I started using my imagination and tried replicating my thoughts on paper. And my love for art only grew from there."

Sarfan usually uses oil paints with special focus on realism. All his artworks are oil on canvas. "Before final piece execution, I do my initial sketches and comparisons. I take my artwork from various stages. I also work with charcoal on paper to produce life-like detailed sketches. During my teenage, I was inspired by the renowned Sri Lankan artist Solies Mendis and was greatly inspired by his usage of colours which was unique only to him. Later in life, I was intrigued by the works of Leonardo Da Vinci. His work made me understand realism in detail. I am also an ardent follower of Salvador Dali. His level of creativity and surrealist masterpieces amazes me every time I see it."

The artist has been part of



'The Majestic Peregrine Falcon', oil on canvas.

various exhibitions in Sri Lanka and Qatar.

"I have attended exhibitions in Fire Station, Katara and other major venues. I find these venues as a source of inspiration and I also take it as an opportunity to network with fellow artists.

"I have been a part of more than 40 competitions back home with a couple of them on the national level. I have won several accolades. I take pride in mentioning that I was recognised by the Sri Lankan government to be one of the 'Young National Art-



Sarfan Nazar

ist' of Sri Lanka in 2017."

For the young artist, art is a journey of a million years. It evolves and breathes continuously.

"I believe it to be a never-ending reel of ideas and thoughts. I believe everyone is an artist in his/her own way. Only the courageous express their imaginative self and ideas for the world to view. You give anybody a blank sheet of paper to express themselves and every person can do wonders. All it takes is courage."

Sarfan finds the pandemic lockdown time to be a positive healing for his soul.

"First of all, my heart goes out to all those who have been fighting day and night to get the world rid of this pandemic. Their efforts are commendable and will not go unnoticed. The lockdown seems to have proven frustrating to a lot of people because they feel they have been forced into confinement. On the contrary, I find this time to be a positive healing to my soul. I have had much more time to reflect on my ideas and present them better. That's what an artist needs in my opinion. Leaving the hustle and bustle of the daily life behind, and being closer to what you want to present effectively."

The artist believes Qatar is doing an excellent job to promote local residents and foreigners in many aspects.

"There are a lot more venues and options for senior artists and upcoming artists. There are lots of places to showcase your artwork and boost a new artistic career. The Qatar scene has developed significantly in the past few years. Opening of Qatar National Museum and various private art platforms combine together to give many options for young talent to come up."



'Oryx in the Wild', oil on canvas.



'The old man's gaze', pencil and charcoal on paper.

ARTWORKS

cover

Artwork: Two Oryx on the Desert



Medium : Oil painting on canvas
Size : 150 cm by 100 cm
Time : Took over two weeks to complete
Status : Sold on 2021 ●

Caption: This painting depicts two oryx in the desert, an animal deeply ingrained in the culture of Qatar. The oryx holds a significant place in Qatari tradition and heritage.

ARTWORKS

cover

Artwork: Queen of the Desert

Medium : Oil painting on canvas
Size : 120 cm by 100 cm
Time : Took over six weeks to complete
Status : Sold on 2022 ●



This painting represents the falcon, a bird deeply embedded in Arab culture and history. Traditionally, falcons were used for hunting, aiding nomadic tribes in their quest for food as they traveled across the desert. This practice became a cultural cornerstone, turning the falcon into more than just a pet; it became a cherished part of life in the Middle East.

The falcon depicted in this painting is a prize-winning bird from Qatar, renowned for its beauty. The inspiration for this piece came from a friend deeply involved in falconry. The background of the painting, inspired by Da Vinci's style, is a blend of imagination and symbolism. Although the Middle East lacks natural lakes, I imagined the oil beneath its sands rising like a river, adding an element of surrealism and emphasizing the region's wealth.

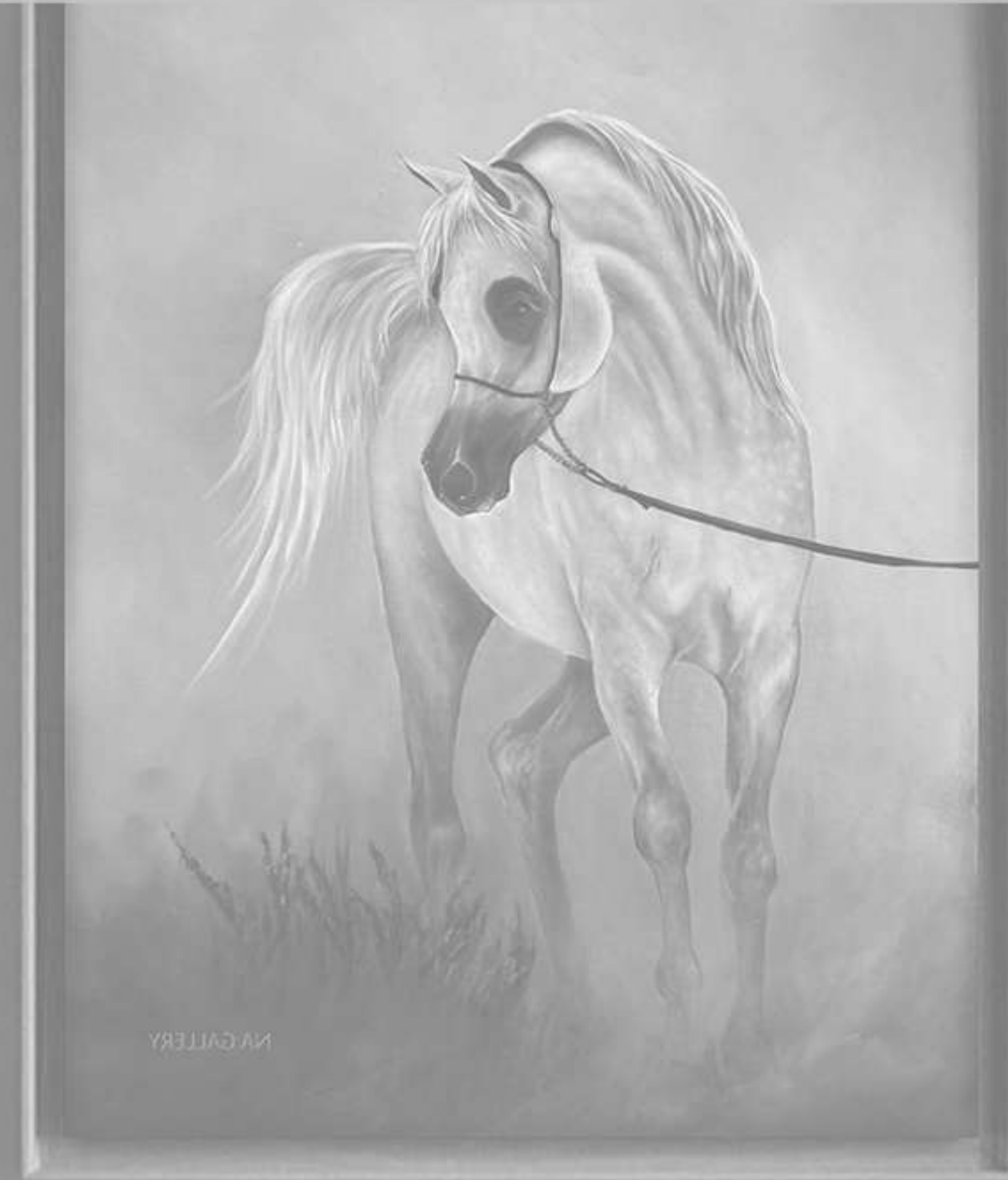
The sky's lighting further enhances the painting, creating a dramatic and captivating scene. This falcon, depicted as the "Queen of the Desert," symbolizes the unbroken chain of tradition from the past to the present. Even as the discovery of oil and gas transformed the Middle East's economy, the falcon remains a vital part of its heritage. This piece embodies the idea that the falcon, more aware than humans of the treasures beneath the earth, stands as a regal figure in Middle Eastern culture.

ARTWORKS

cover

Artwork: champion on training

Medium : Oil painting on canvas
Size : 120 cm by 100 cm
Time : Took over six weeks to complete
Status : Sold on 2024 ●



ARTWORKS



Artwork: White arabian horse with necklace

Medium : Oil painting on canvas
Size : 150 cm by 120 cm
Time : Took over 2 months to complete
Status : sold ●

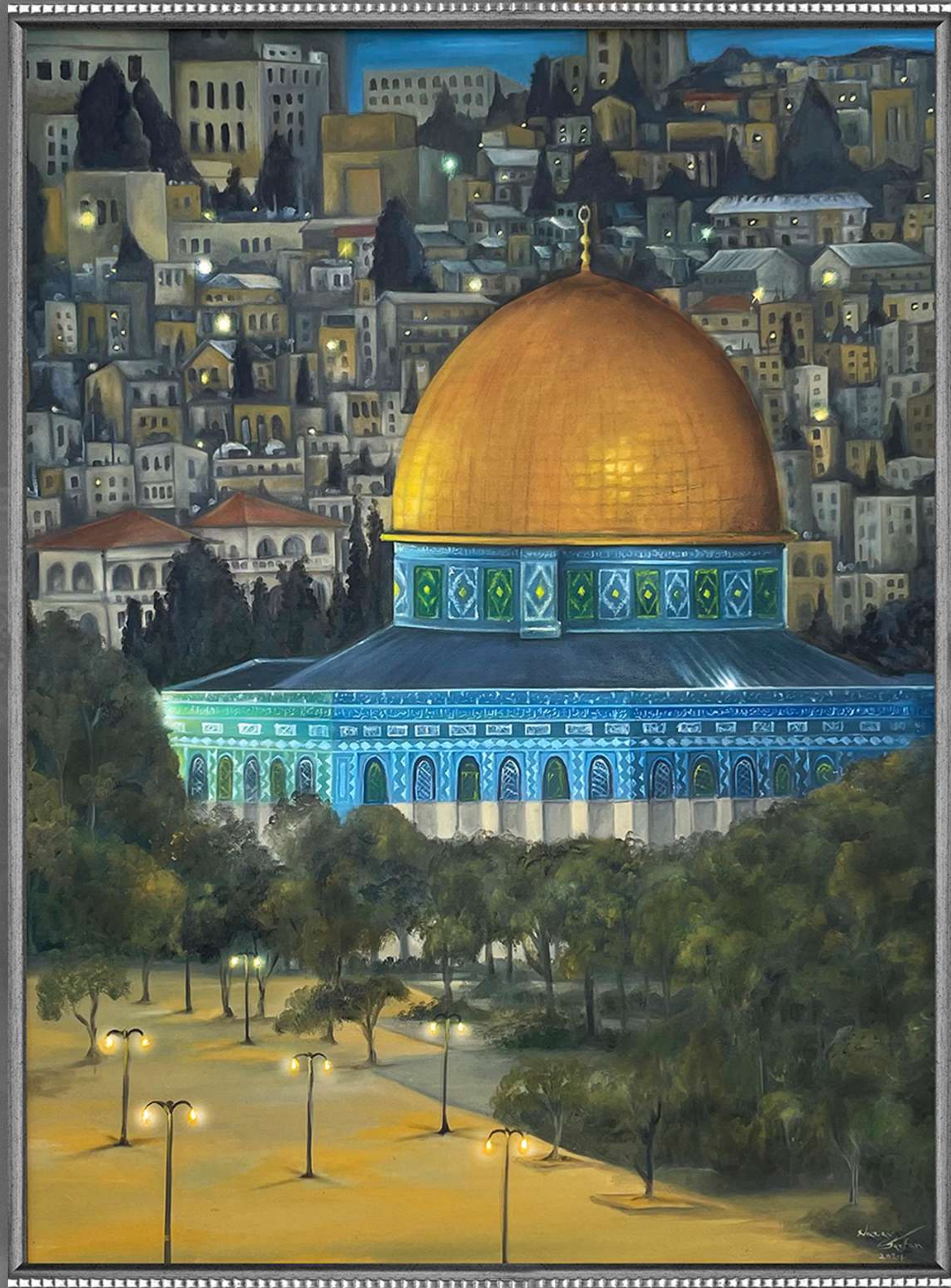
nazarsarfan341@gmail.com

Doha, Qatar

ARTWORKS

Artwork: masjid al aqsa

Medium : Oil painting on canvas
Size : 120 cm by 100 cm
Time : Took over six weeks to complete
Status : Sold on 2024 ●



DOME OF THE ROCK



EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

Over the years, I have had the privilege of showcasing my work in several exhibitions, both locally and internationally. These exhibitions have been instrumental in sharing my artistic vision with a wider audience and have provided me with the opportunity to connect with fellow artists and art enthusiasts. Among the numerous exhibitions I have participated in, there are four that stand out as particularly significant.

1. Katara Cultural Center Exhibition 2021

Location: Katara, Qatar

This exhibition was held at the prestigious Katara Cultural Center, a hub for art and culture in the region. It was an honor to display my work in such a renowned venue, and the event attracted a diverse audience of art lovers and cultural enthusiasts.

2. Katara Art Spot Exhibition 2022

Location: Katara, Qatar

As part of the annual Katara Art Spot exhibition, this event provided a platform for local and international artists to showcase their work. My paintings received considerable attention, highlighting the rich cultural heritage and contemporary themes that inspire my art.

3. Katara International Arabian horse Festival 2022

Location: Katara, Qatar

Katara International Arabian Horse Festival is another significant cultural venue in Qatar, known for its commitment to promoting art and culture. Participating in this exhibition allowed me to reach a broader audience and engage with the vibrant art community in Qatar.

4. Ankara Art Fair 2023

Location: Ankara, Turkey

This international exhibition in Turkey was a remarkable experience providing an opportunity to present my work to a global audience. The event was well-received, and my paintings were appreciated for their unique blend of cultural heritage and contemporary expression.



Group Photo with Artists and Organizers: “With fellow artists and cultural representatives at the Katara Cultural Center Exhibition.



Explaining Painting to Ambassador: “Explaining my artwork to the Sri Lankan Ambassador to Qatar, Mr. H.E. M. Mafaz Mohideen

EXHIBITION GALLERY



These exhibitions have been milestones in my artistic journey, each contributing to my growth as an artist and expanding the reach of my work. I look forward to participating in many more exhibitions and continuing to share my passion for art with the world.

EXHIBITION GALLERY

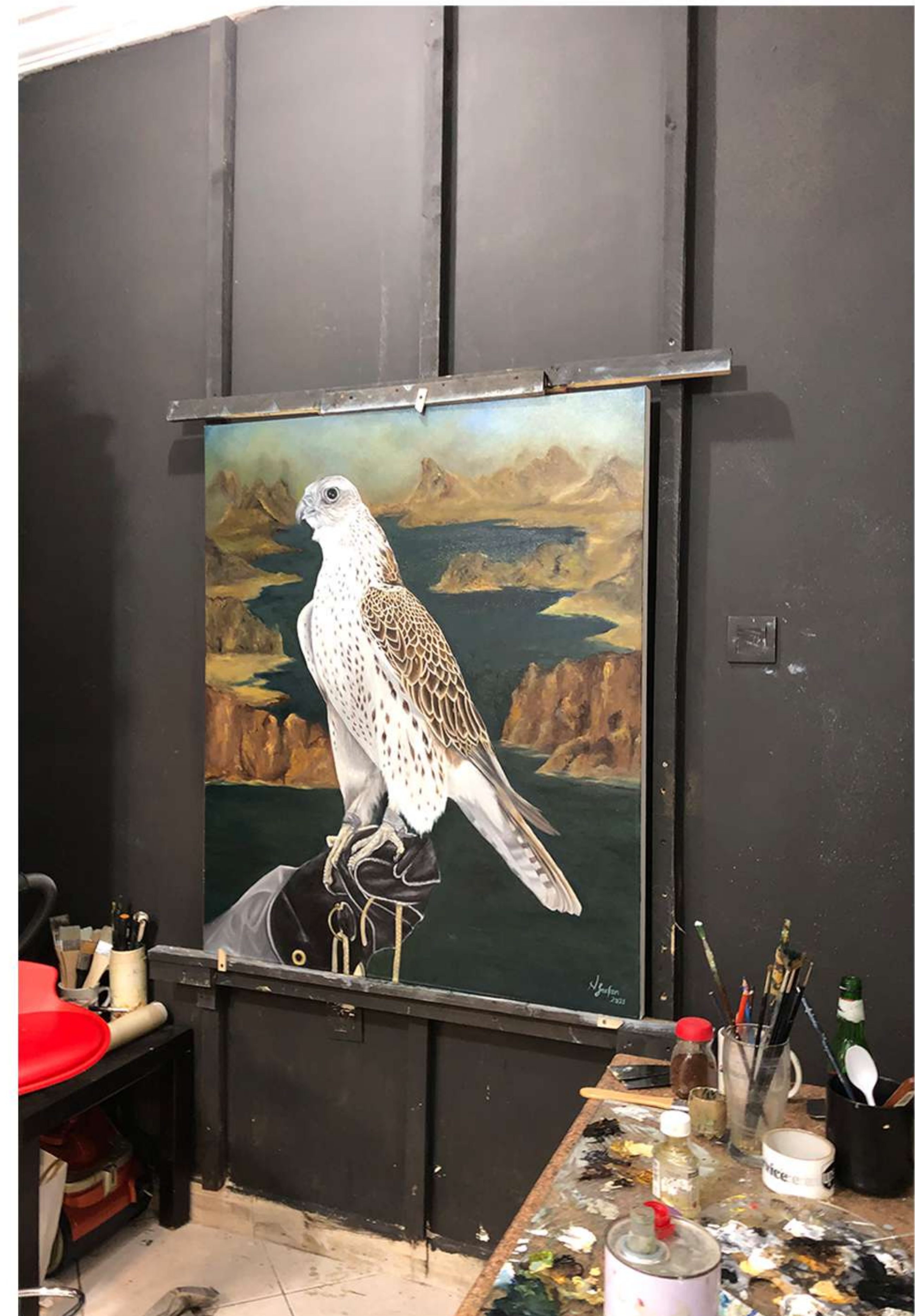


These exhibitions have been milestones in my artistic journey, each contributing to my growth as an artist and expanding the reach of my work. I look forward to participating in many more exhibitions and continuing to share my passion for art with the world.

STUDIO



STUDIO



My studio is a contemporary space where creativity thrives. It's here that I explore new ideas through a variety of sketches and designs, experimenting with different techniques. This environment inspires me to push boundaries and develop unique artworks. Every piece I create starts in this space, where I continuously produce and refine new, bold concepts.

nazarsarfan341@gmail.com

COMMISSION WORK

I regularly take on commission projects from clients all over Qatar and the Middle East, as well as internationally. I truly enjoy connecting with people through exhibitions or my social media, where they often bring personal ideas, like old black-and-white photos or concepts, and ask me to reinterpret them in my unique style. These projects are deeply collaborative, with clients sharing their vision, and I work closely with them to transform their ideas into meaningful artworks.

The process typically takes anywhere from a week to a month, depending on the complexity, size, and style of the painting. Throughout this time, I focus on building a strong, trusting relationship with my clients, ensuring that we communicate clearly and that their vision is fully realized. This collaborative journey allows me to deeply understand their creative ideas, while also challenging me to grow as an artist. Each commission is a rewarding experience, as I strive to deliver work that brings 100% satisfaction and joy to my clients.



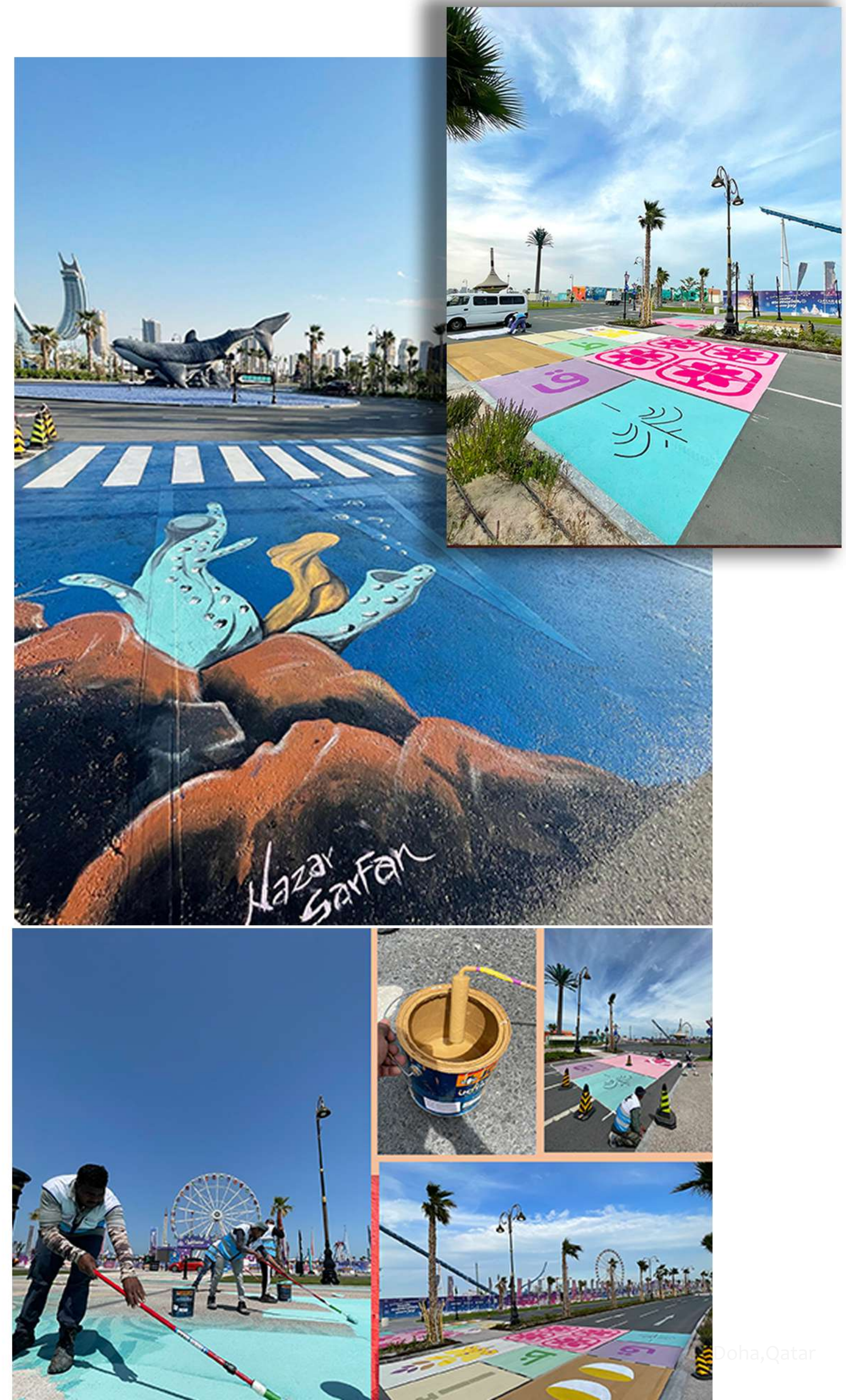
MURAL PROJECT IN DOHA

I had the honor of leading a major mural project at Al-maha Island in Doha, where I was not only one of the 25 participating artists but also served as a manager. This role involved communicating and coordinating with artists from various nationalities, ensuring they had the support and resources needed to bring their visions to life. The project was commissioned by Al-Hosh Art Gallery and aimed to create an engaging and vibrant atmosphere for visitors.

With a budget exceeding one million riyals, the mural work transformed roads and walls, enhancing the cultural and entertainment experience for locals and tourists alike. I personally completed a significant wall painting that showcases Qatar's rich cultural heritage through intricate carpet designs. My team and I worked diligently to ensure that the artwork reflected the diversity and creativity of our collective efforts.

As a project manager, I was responsible for organizing logistics, addressing safety concerns, and liaising with higher management to minimize disruptions during the painting process. This included coordinating roadblocks and managing the flow of traffic to ensure a safe and efficient working environment for all artists involved.

This mural project stands as a testament to my commitment to fostering collaboration and creativity in the arts community, and I'm proud to have played a vital role in its success.



WORKSHOP EXPERIENCE

I have had the pleasure of conducting basic painting workshops using acrylics for students at the University of Aberdeen, Qatar. These workshops aimed to introduce students to fundamental painting techniques and provide them with essential knowledge about art and its processes.

Throughout the sessions, participants learned about the differences between various painting methods and how to develop their skills from the ground up. I focused on fostering an understanding of artistic concepts, encouraging students to explore their creativity and express themselves through their artwork.

Included on this page are images from the workshops, showcasing the engagement and creativity of students as they practiced their newfound skills.





@NAZAR.ART.GALLERY

THANK YOU

Thank you for taking the time to explore my artistic journey. Your support and interest in my work mean a great deal to me.

Contact Information

Nazar Sarfan
Email: nazarsarfan341@gmail.com
WhatsApp: +974-7001-4474
WhatsApp: +94-7522-69662
Instagram: @sarfan.nazar