

## ***FORGOTTEN STORIES***

This body of work celebrates the symbolism and the inherent beauty of the book form, but it questions our denial of the world of knowledge. Books can be interactive and contain knowledge yet they also depict the ignorance of our times, because knowledge is sealed and therefore not used wisely.

My art is a metaphor for knowledge that cannot be accessed because of what we have consciously denied ourselves—intellectual quest. Our quest of knowledge is now more in the service of acquiring materialistic satisfaction.

Through this work I try to collaborate with authors to create a visual dialogue by playing with the duality of printed two-dimensional words and three-dimensional forms of paper and books to gradually construct sculptures.

This collection reflects vague memories and our materialistic approach with books. It is inspired by title, color, texture, words, and ink, and it explores different possibilities to construct sculptural forms. This process requires patience and discipline. I create through repetition; carving, removing, adding or cutting in order to shape a new visual discourse so that my work allows the books to reveal the rather beautiful knowledge sealed within them.

I always work very intuitively, letting the materials lead the way and allowing a story to unfold through the creative process. Very much like the traditional storytelling (*dastaangoi*) I hope to create a certain resonance in those who see my work, to stir a sense of connection to what we all share in our collective subconscious, and to inspire viewers to explore their own personal stories.

علم کی جستجو پر نئے قہر ہون کے لیے      لڑنے میں تو ہمیں کتنی نصرت و یار ہوئے ہیں  
میرینا زکیہ کتے کے لہو ایوان فرنگ      ست بنیا دھجی کا، آتش و دھواں ہو گیا

(Allama Iqbal)

Munawar Ali Syed