

FRACTURED NARRATIVES

The expanse of the cosmos is unfathomable. Yet, we know that this infinite space is held together by the notion of unity.

Since the beginning of time, man has been awed by creation and questioned its mysteries. He has navigated his way by drawing the positions of stars, and built inventions through observing nature. All great traditions of the world came into existence by these acts of human creativity, consciousness and inspiration. The sacred arts from antiquity bear testimony to this fact, and speak a direct language that conveys the cosmos as an image of God. It is an art form that speaks of the nature of the soul, which is free to explore and praise creation.

Today, we live in a world so preoccupied with change and innovation that we have forgotten the value of traditions that have effectively served human civilizations through the ages. Individuals now believe that they are at the center of the cosmos, and knowledge is confused with information and fiction. The goal of life is no longer to be human. We have become mechanized and vacuous, and the importance of evolving into conscious beings is lost. Fractured Narratives looks at the present through lens of the past. Asserting tradition to rekindle that lost consciousness.

In traditional art making, the compass is an essential tool. The circle is a shape of prime importance, as all points within it converge at its center. All of creation is built on this fundamental principle. Everything orbits a center. Similarly, in nature, nothing can exist in isolation. An unfettered ecosystem is in complete harmony within a perfect order.

Correspondingly, humans continually seek their own center. The heart has an instinctive ability to act in accordance with nature. The mind on the other hand is a chaotic place and prone to confusion. It cannot cease to scrutinize and look without the intent of satisfying physical needs. Thus, we sometimes act without thinking, and think without acting. And, are consequently cut off from our consciousness.

So, how do we connect with our hearts in a time when we are constantly distracted by technology, and the clamor of the media is all consuming?

My works of art respond to this inquiry, and present meditations on unity. The mosaic of newsprint weave an orderly chaos, whilst the images float in search of unity. The words construct their own grammar and their patterns of usage.

Their reconstruction helps us to look at the intent with which they were written as well as their will and desire.

Their reconstruction helps us to look at the intent with which they were written as well as their will and desire.

The quest for transcendence and the empowerment of mankind through the illumination of consciousness has always been the goal of all traditional societies of the past.

Present times have brought a strong sense of alienation, and we are cut off from the voices of our hearts. For us the cosmos has become a lonely and inhospitable place. Now, more than ever there is an urgent need to lift our imagination upwards, and enter the spiritual realm to unearth reprieve only to find that consciousness resides within the silent chambers of our hearts.

Sayeda M Habib