

Press Release

7 June 2016

**Ghulam Mohammad Announced as
Winner of *Jameel Prize 4!***

7 June 2016



Ghulam Mohammad has won the £25,000 Jameel Prize 4 for his five works of paper collage, *Untitled* (2014). Martin Roth, Director of the V&A and 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 has gone on to create a medium that reflects that tradition in terms of 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. One is the use of paper cut-outs; another is writing on a tiny scale. His way of working also resembles a meditative process, in 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 complex language situation in Pakistan. 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 delighted that Jameel Prize 4 has been won by a young artist at the beginning of his career.*"

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, Mohammed’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 five works *Untitled* (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 Ereğ, 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 organized by 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, write, 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.

A series of specially commissioned short films on each artist and designer are available online at www.vam.ac.uk/jameelprize4

END

Press Enquiries: Hilal Güntepe PR Agency: Grup 7 / hguntepe@grup7.com.tr (+ 90 212) 292 13 13

Henrietta Sitwell, V&A press office on + 44 207 942 2503 or +447811344540 or email h.sitwell@vam.ac.uk

The Jameel Prize 4 exhibition in Istanbul is organised by the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, in partnership with Art Jameel, and in collaboration with the Pera Museum.

Biographical Information on the Winner

Ghulam Mohammad (b. 1979, Balochistan, 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 exhibition

- The exhibition of work by the eleven artists and designers shortlisted for Jameel Prize 4 is on show at the Pera Museum, Istanbul, Turkey between 8 June 2016 – 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

art Jameel



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.

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