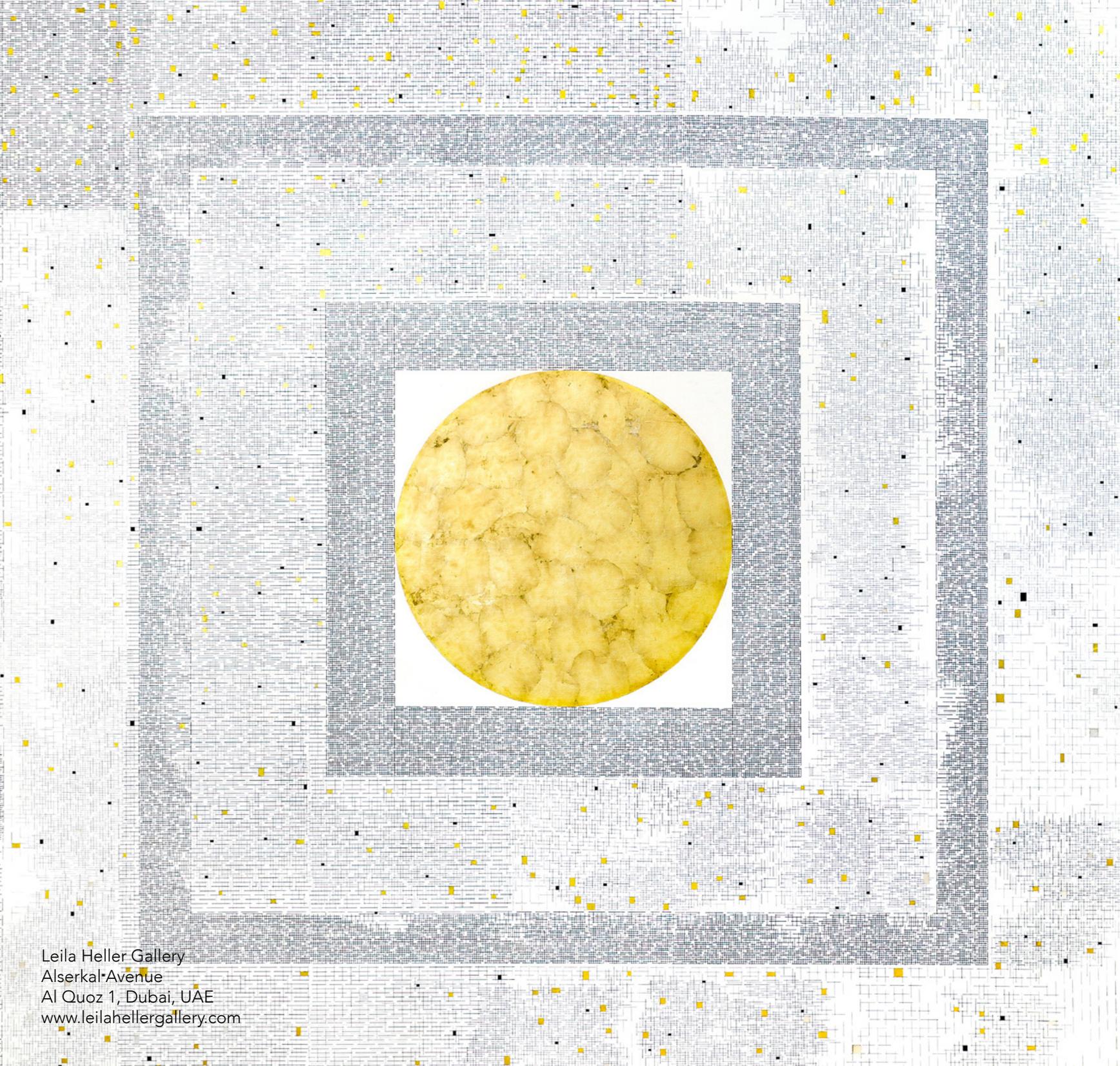


SHAHZAD HASSAN GHAZI



Leila Heller Gallery
Alserkal Avenue
Al Quoz 1, Dubai, UAE
www.leilahellergallery.com

"I felt the invention and design of pattern was a creative practice quite beyond me. But after years of investigation and study of books, motifs, geometric patterns and designs in mosques and historical buildings, I began to understand the formulas, codes and families in the world of patterns.

Today I use these codes to speak in a secret language about subjects that I find impossible to clearly express in any other way."

- Shahzad Hassan Ghazi



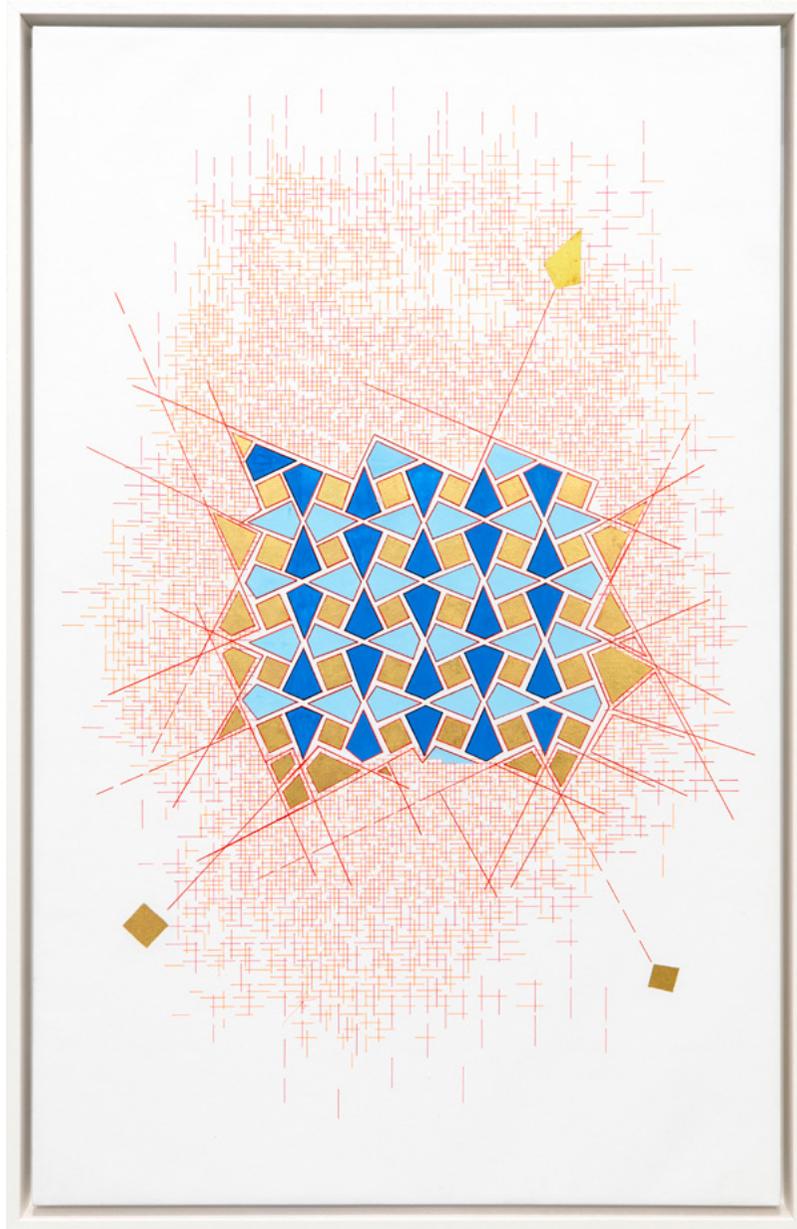
BIOGRAPHY

Shahzad experiments with classic Islamic art and the modern art while focusing on the usage of ornaments, which he describes as "the elaboration of functionally complete objects for the sake of visual pleasure" The usage of ornaments in art, although an age old practice, for most of the twentieth century has been systematically excluded from mainstream Western art-practice as well as Asian art.

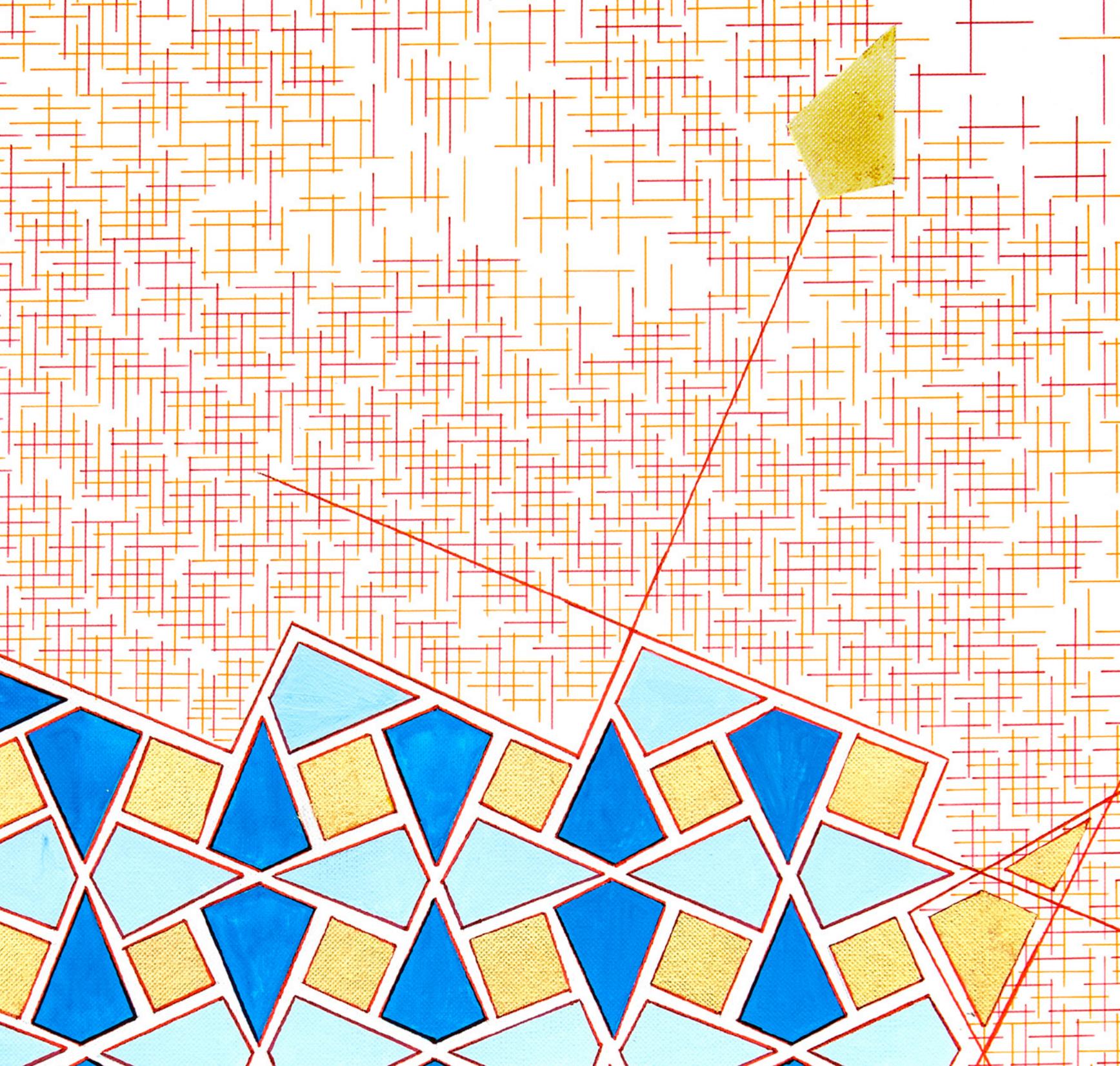
Since the beginning of the Romantic Movement, we have tended to equate creativity with spontaneity, but in traditional ornament, visual effects rarely happen by accident. Ornament is labor-intensive by its glamour of shapes, forms and colors. Fortunately, ornament usage is becoming acceptable again. Ornaments are intended, first and last, to give pleasure. It transforms the inessential into a theater for passion, beauty, and invention. Unlike traditional painting and sculpture, whose subject matter provides the key to their emotional tone, ornament communicates primarily through form. The only way to appreciate ornament is by contemplating it, and gaining a new understanding of the relation between functional and decorative form. This is exactly what we can find in Shahzad's works.

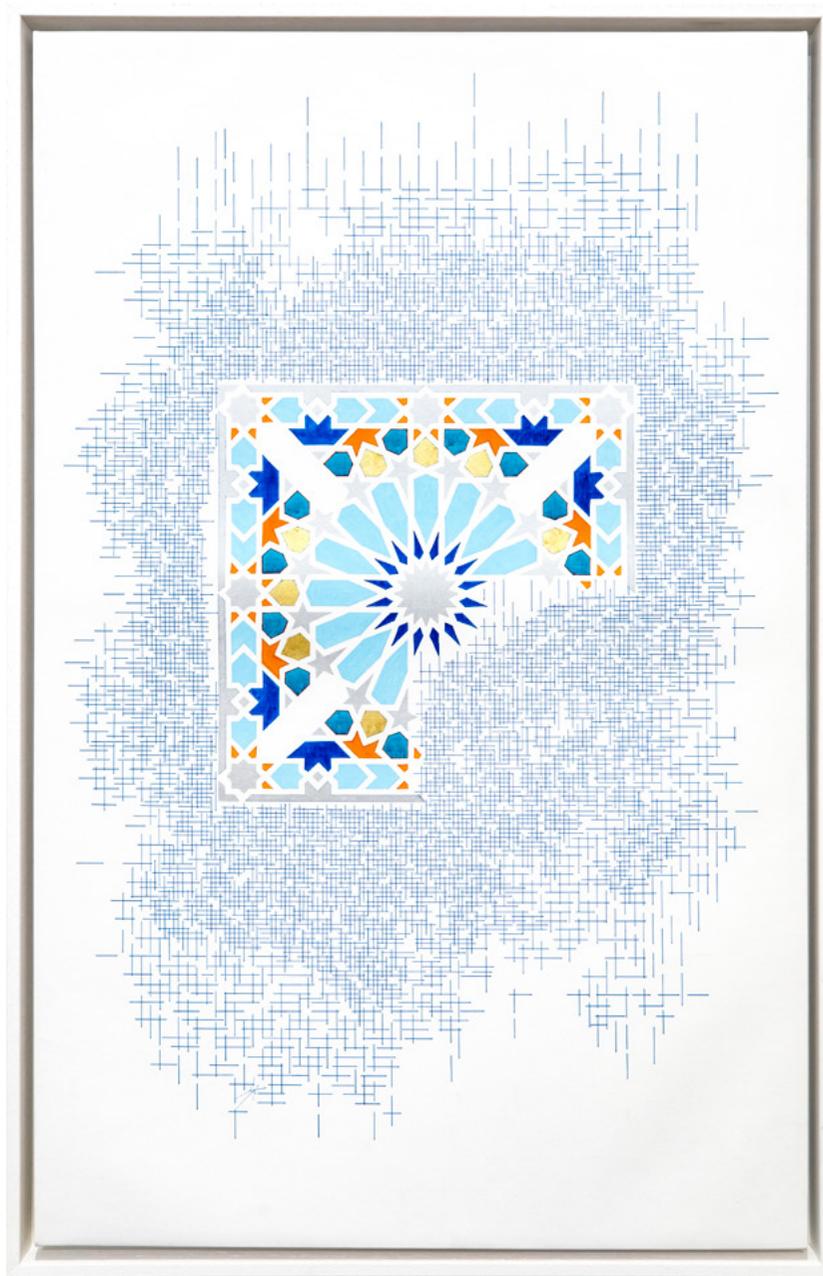
Shahzad's minimalist abstract paintings are made from constructing lines that measure less than a centimeter each. Trained in painting but interested in Persian and Mughal miniature paintings, Shahzad transforms the materials and processes employed in the traditional practice, abstracting his subconscious imagination and expanding his vision. Interested in themes of meditation and transcendence inspired by Sufi mysticism and universal subjects, and creates primarily compositions that resemble complex referencing infinity, Shahzad enters into a trance-like state in which he measures his breath to match his exhaustive mark-making.

Shahzad Hassan Ghazi got his Fine Arts Diploma where he learnt skills of all arts and then got specialized in miniature painting, eventually becoming a master at the traditional practice. By 2005, he had completed his studies and began working at artist studios before getting his Bachelors in Fine Arts holding a SAARC Scholarship from the Beacon House National University, under the guidance of Rashid Rana and Salima Hashmi. Shahzad believes that the basic practice of art is important for creating any kind of art form including miniature painting which he has kept it alive in his works although many Pakistanis have now abandoned this part of their heritage since 1947.

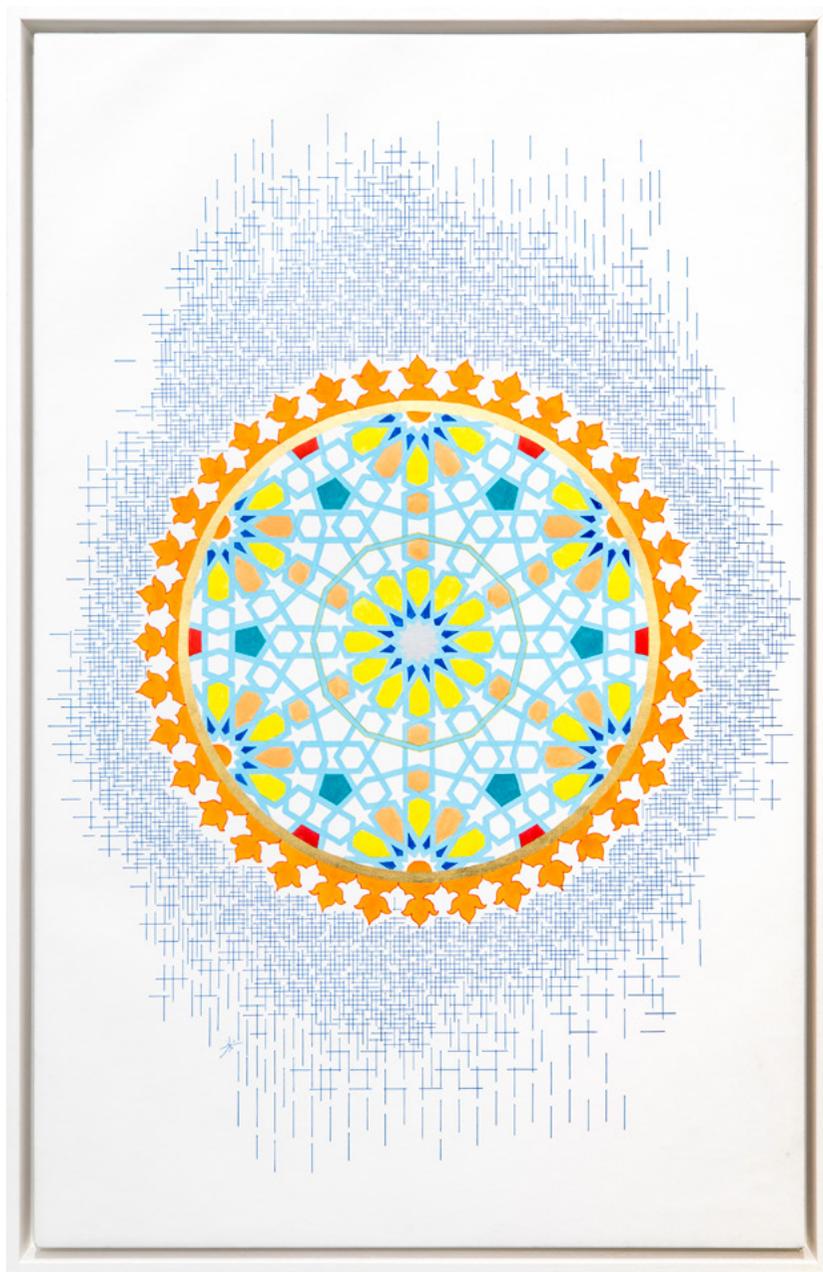


Grace versus Strength I
Gouach, Gold leafing&Pen on Canvas
53 x 84 cm

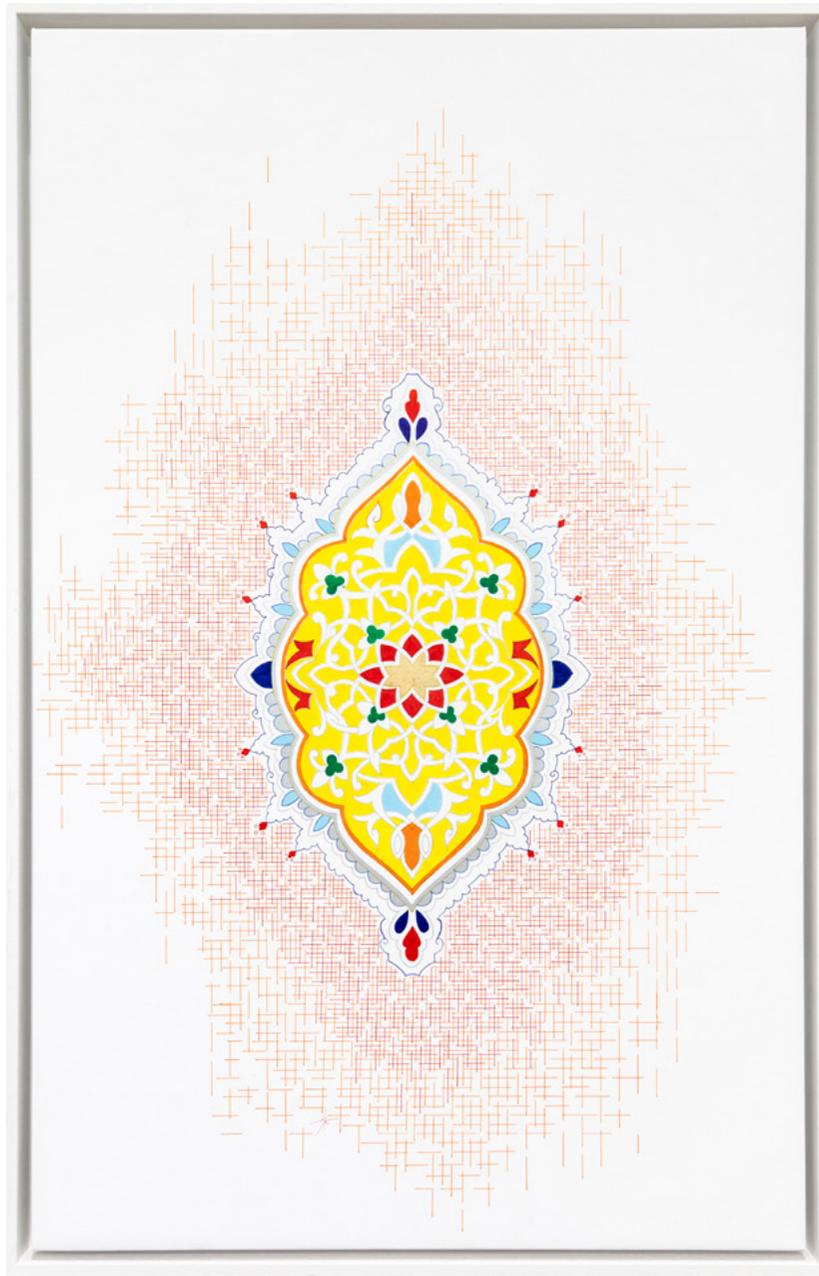




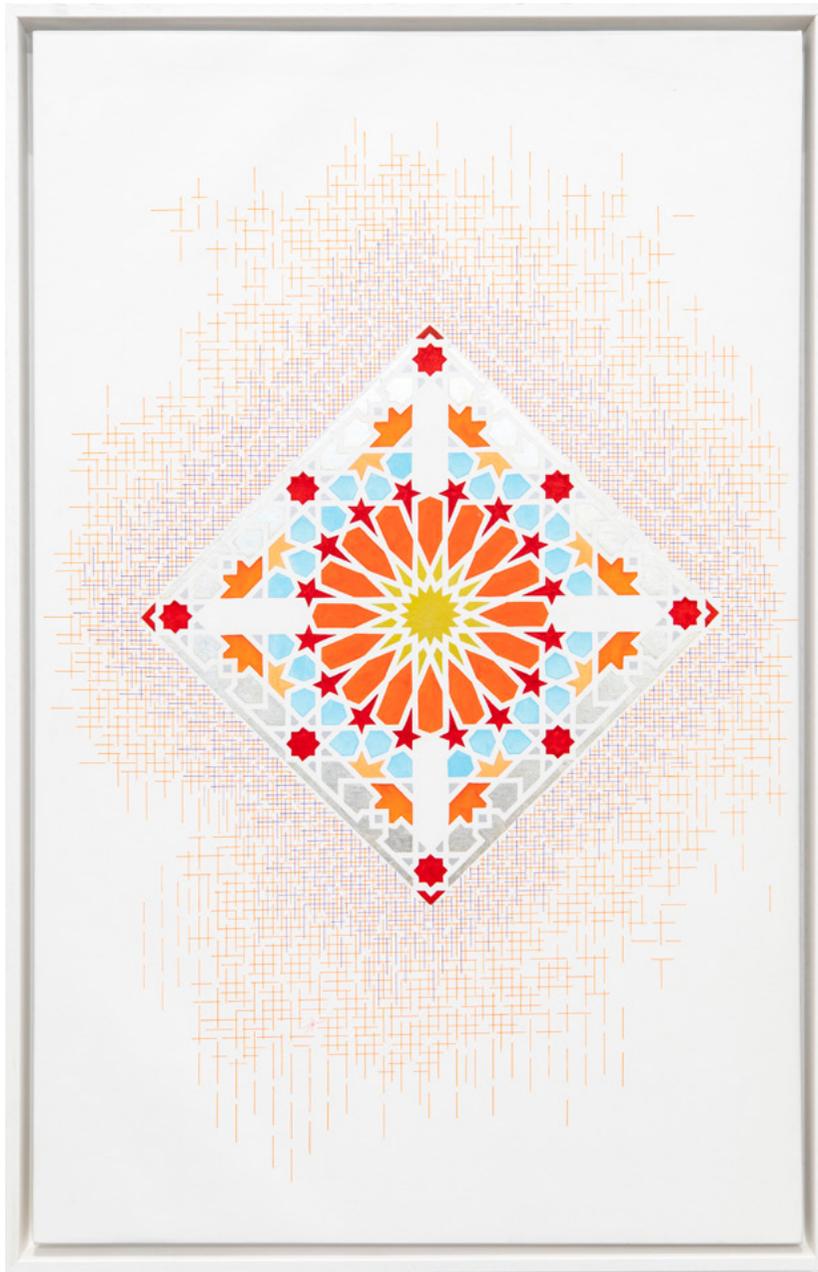
Grace versus Strength II
Gouach, Gold leafing&Pen on Canvas
53 x 84 cm



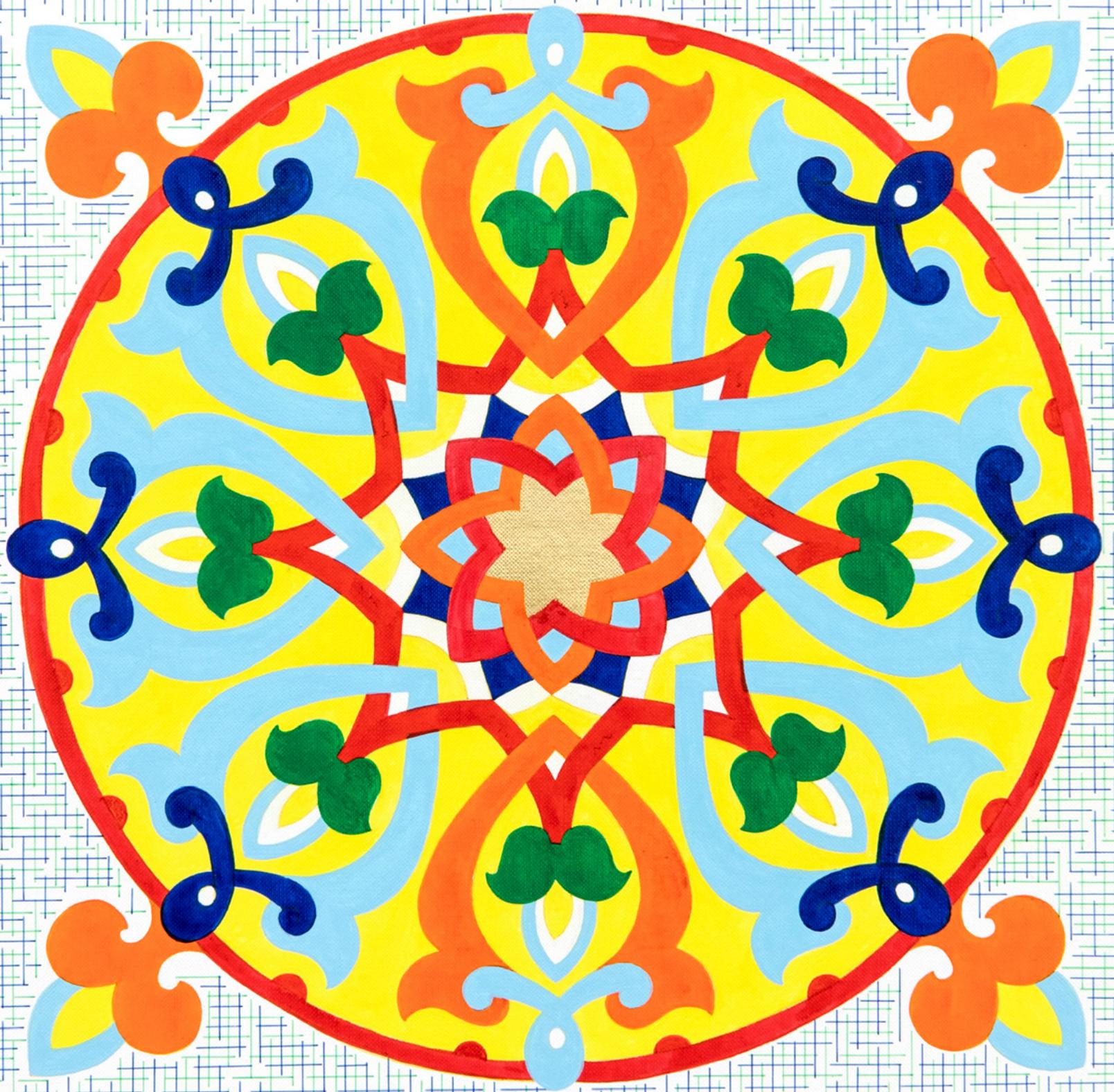
Grace versus Strength III
Gouach, Gold leafing&Pen on Canvas
53 x 84 cm

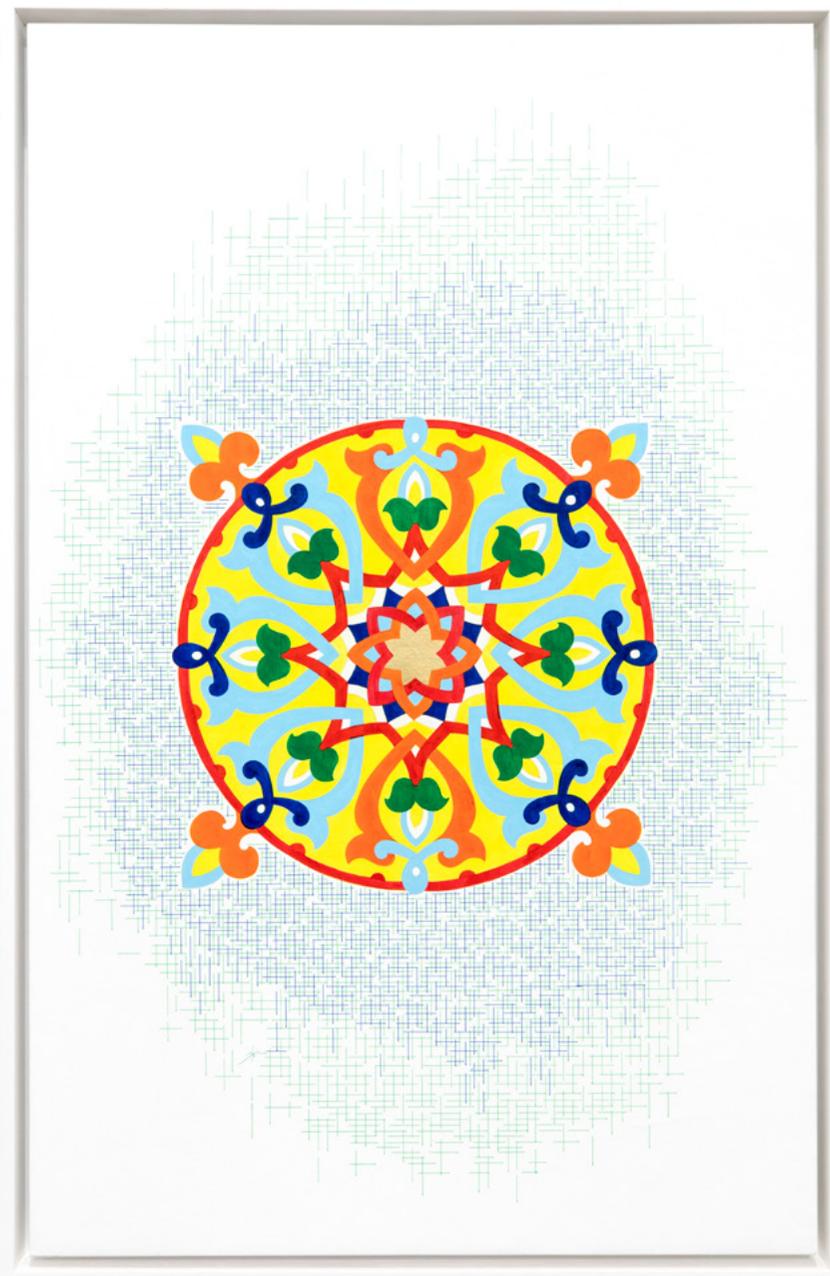


Grace versus Strength IV
Gouach, Gold leafing&Pen on Canvas
53 x 84 cm

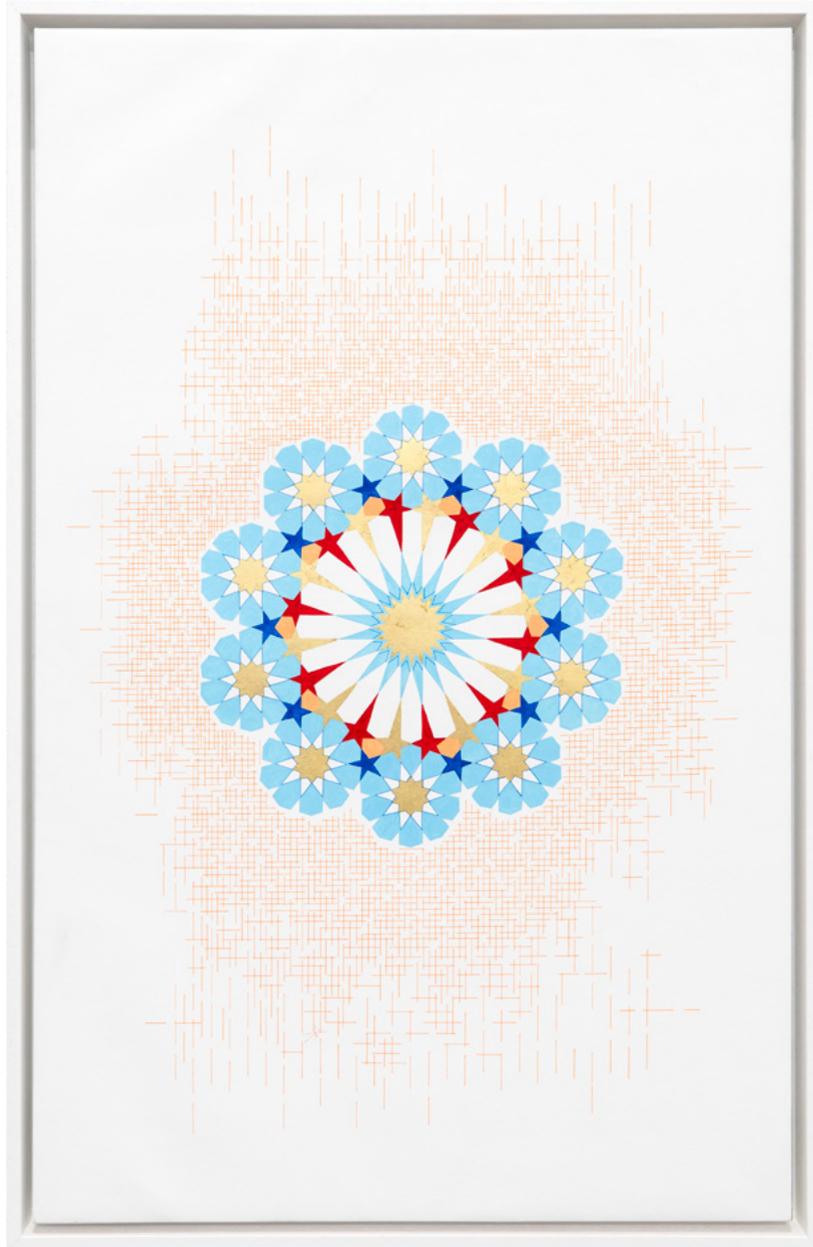


Grace versus Strength V
Gouach, Gold leafing&Pen on Canvas
53 x 84 cm

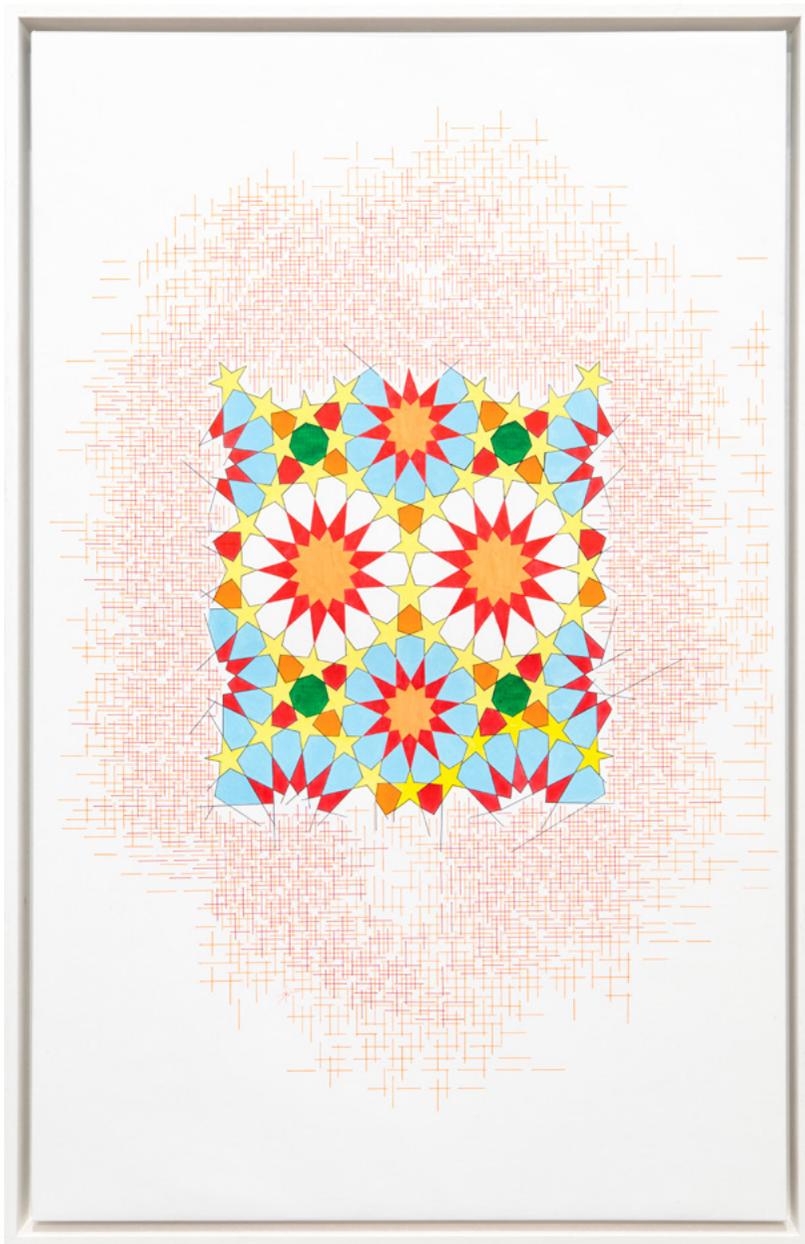




Grace versus Strength VI
Gouach, Gold leafing&Pen on Canvas
53 x 84 cm



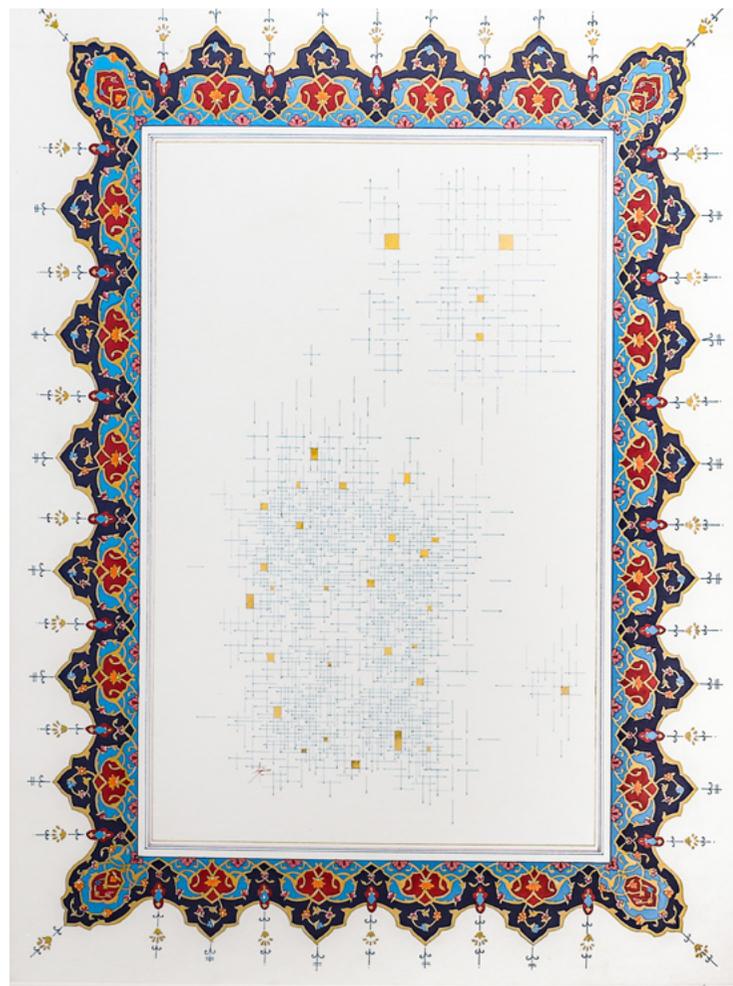
Grace versus Strength VII
Gouach, Gold leafing&Pen on Canvas
53 x 84 cm



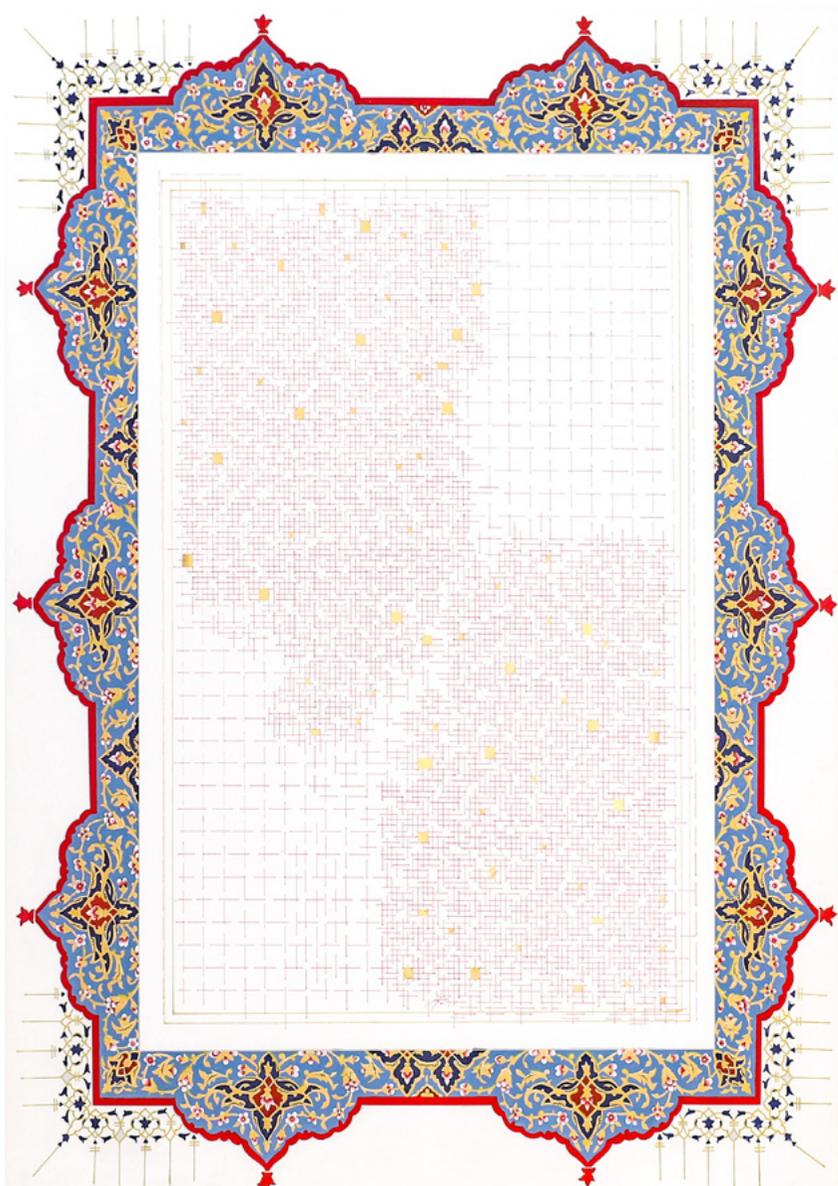
Grace versus Strength VIII
Gouach, Gold leafing & Pen on Canvas
53 x 84 cm



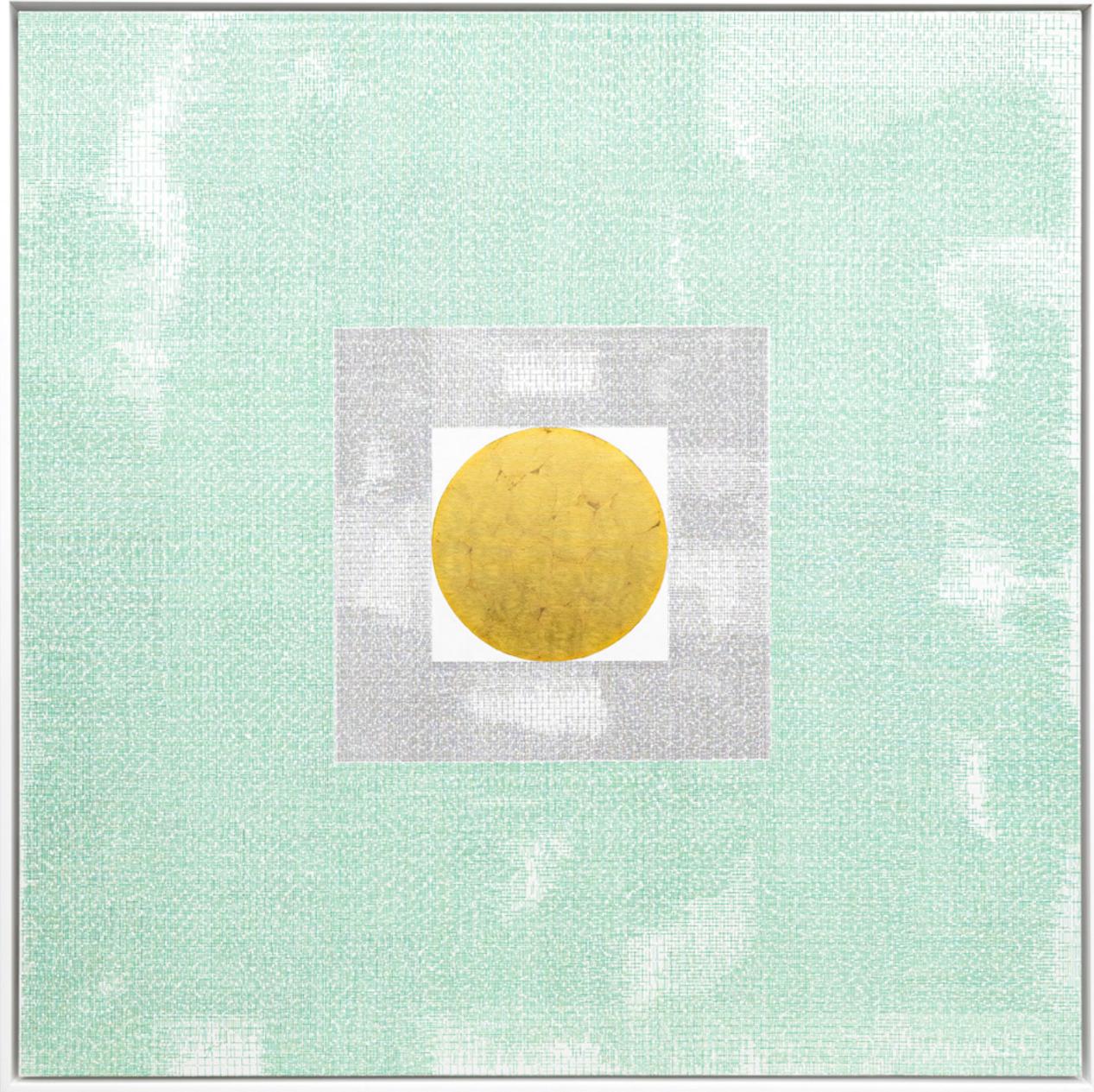
Grace versus Strength IX
Gouach, Gold leafing&Pen on Canvas
71 x 86 cm



Grace versus Strength X
Gouach, Gold leafing&Pen on Canvas
71 x 86 cm



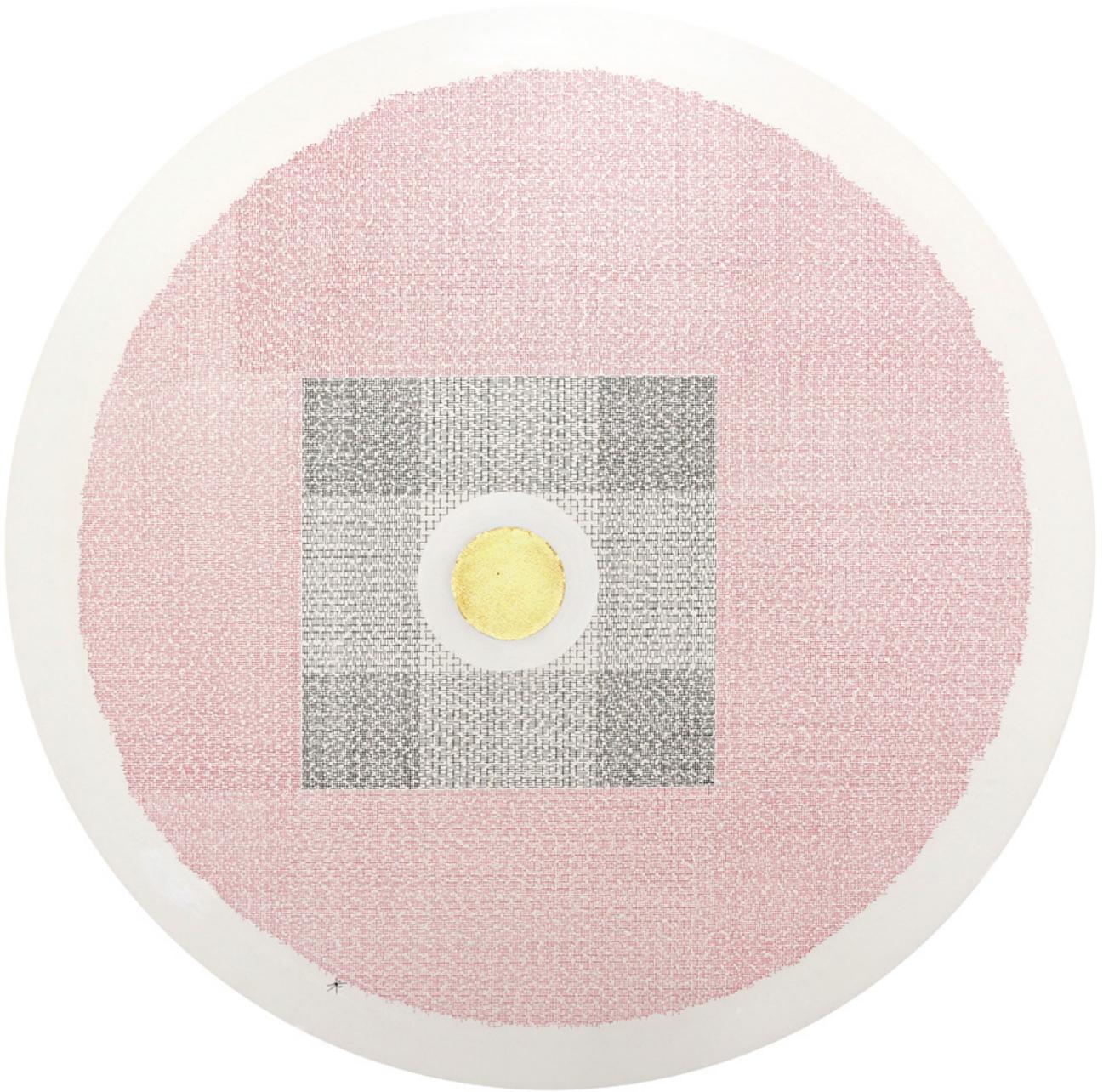
Grace versus Strength XI
Gouach, Gold leafing&Pen on Canvas
71 x 86 cm



One Moment
Pen, Gold leaf on Canvas
182 x 182 cm



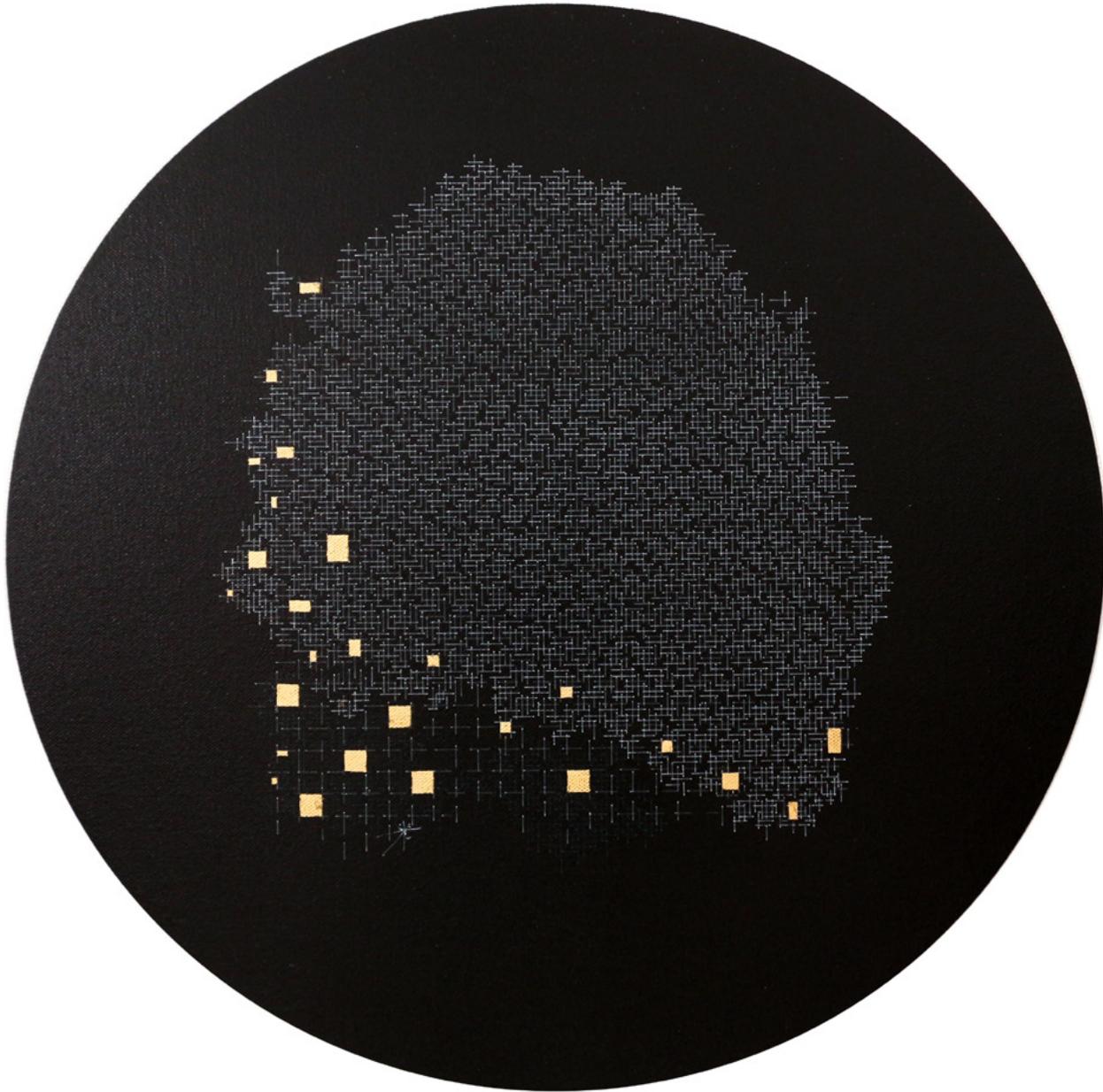
Moon Wish
Pen, Gold leaf on Canvas
50 x 70 cm



Spiritual Journey to Mecca
Pen, Gold leaf on Canvas
80 x 80 cm



One-by-One
Pen, Gold leaf on Canvas
80 x 80 cm



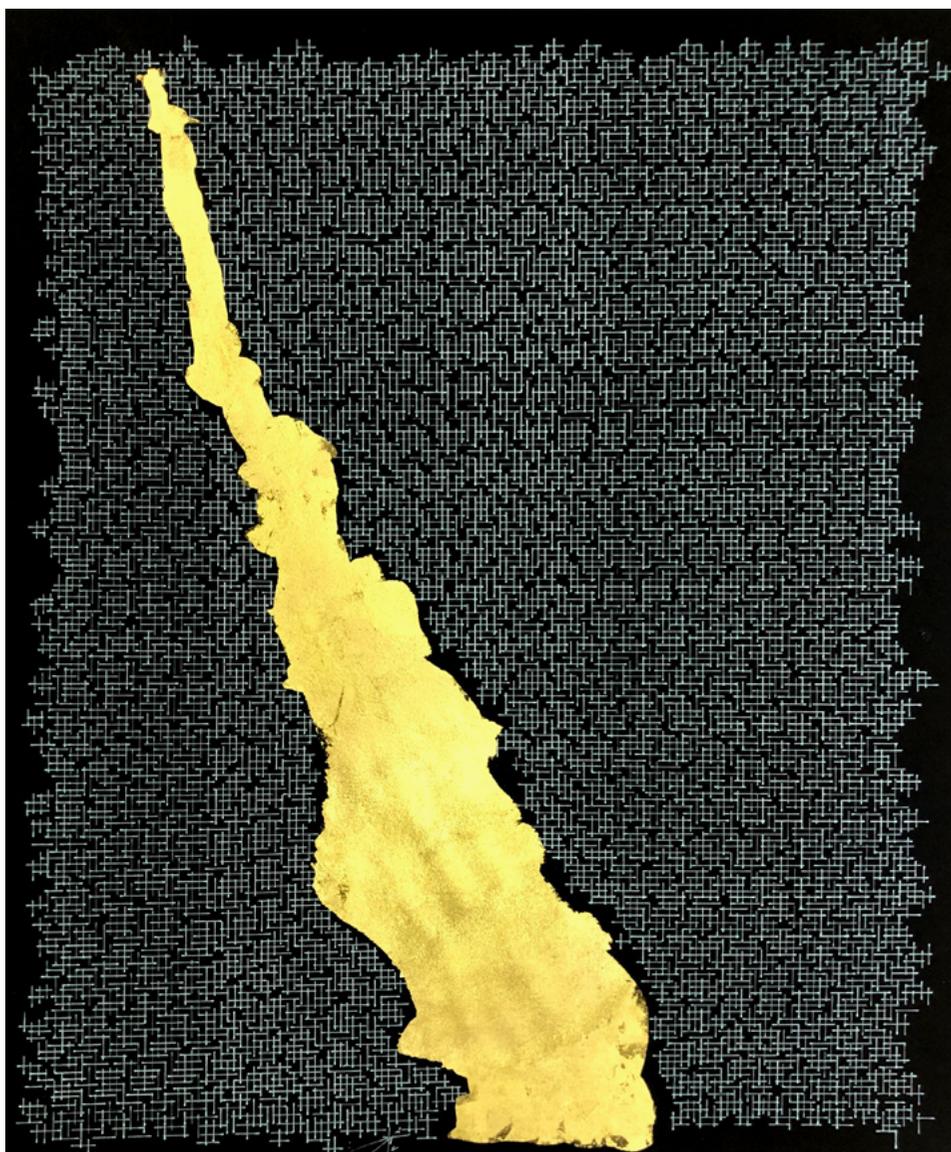
Between Nodes
Pen, Gold leaf on Canvas
50 x 50 cm



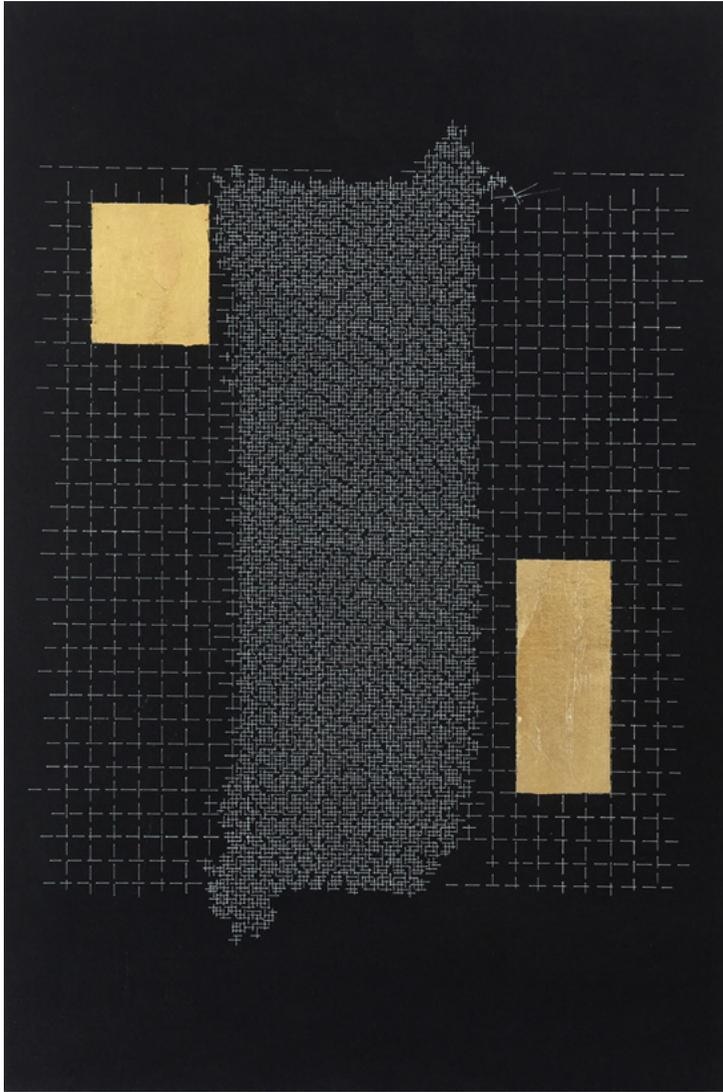
One Wave
Pen, Gold leaf on Canvas
50 x 50 cm



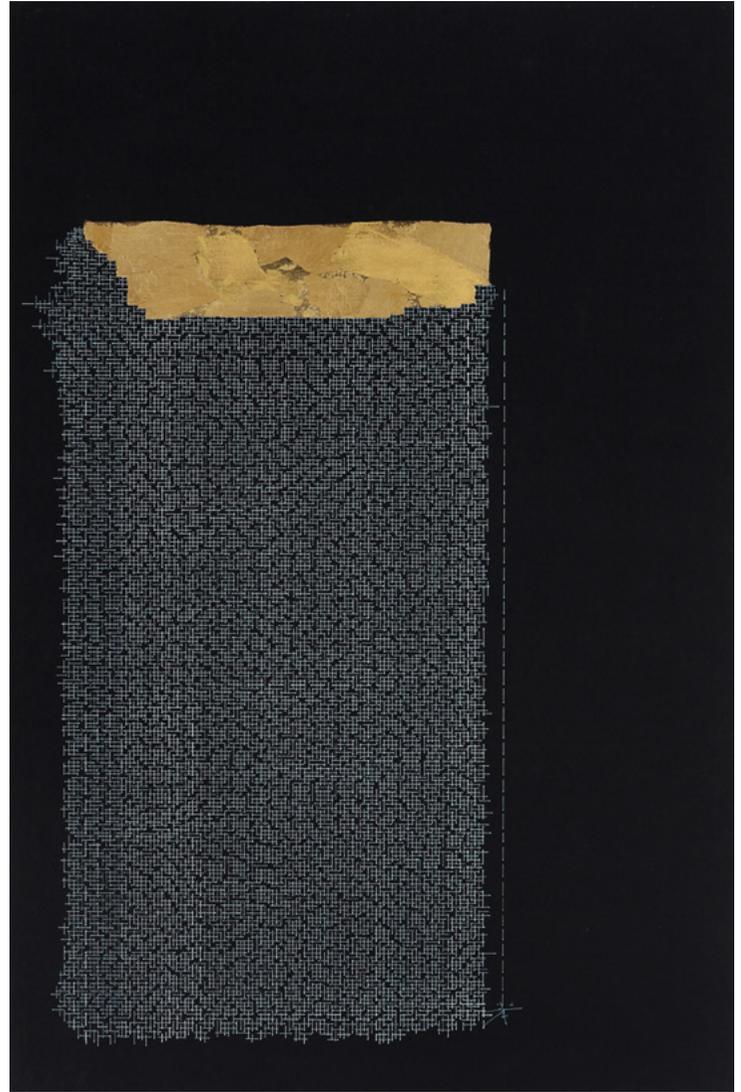
Relax Waves I
Pen, Gold leaf on Wasil Paper
69 x 48 cm



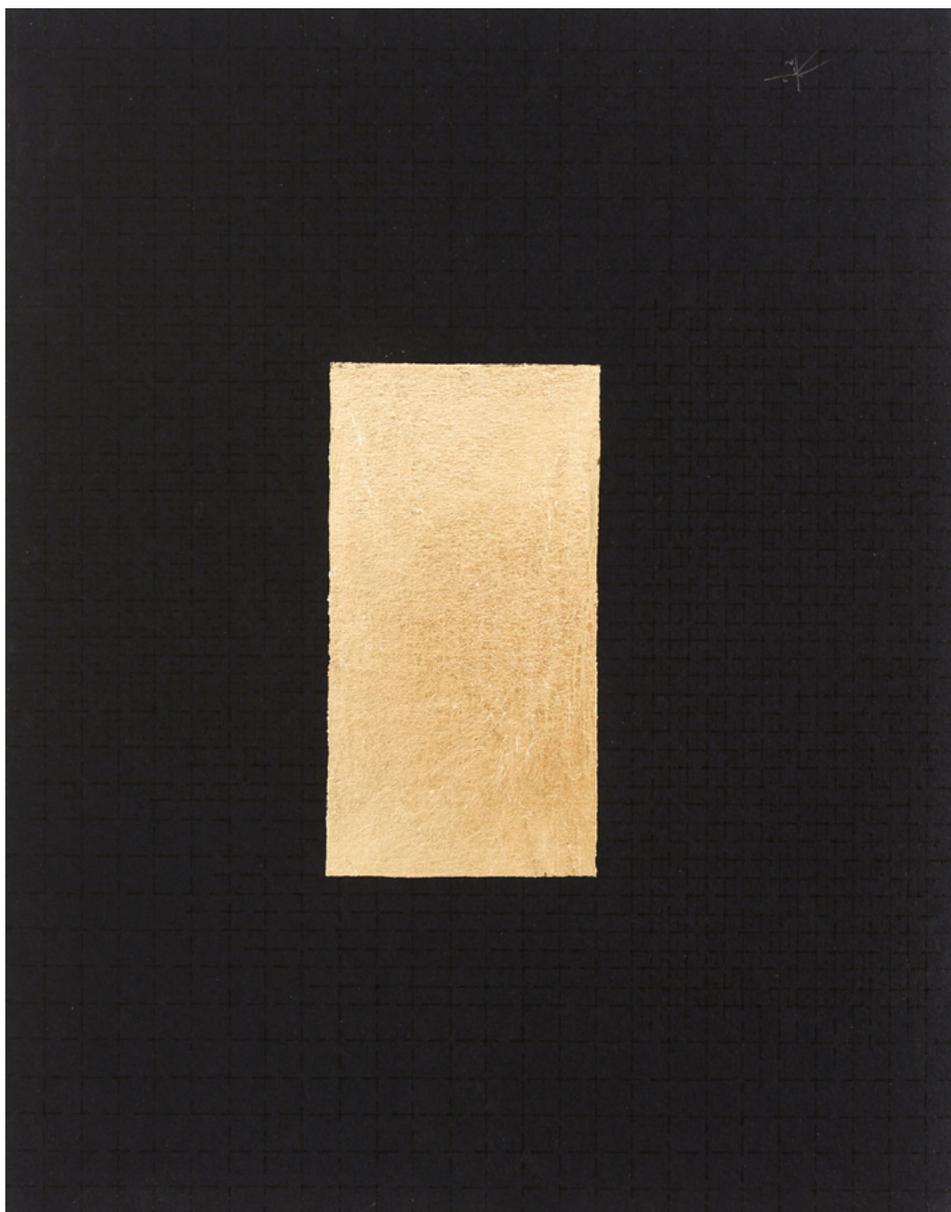
Earth Meet Skies
Pen, Gold leaf on Paper
30 x 25 cm



You Or Me
Pen, Gold leaf on Paper
47 x 31 cm



The Fact
Pen, Gold leaf on Paper
47 x 31 cm



My Centre
Pen, Gold leaf on Paper
33.5 x 26.5 cm



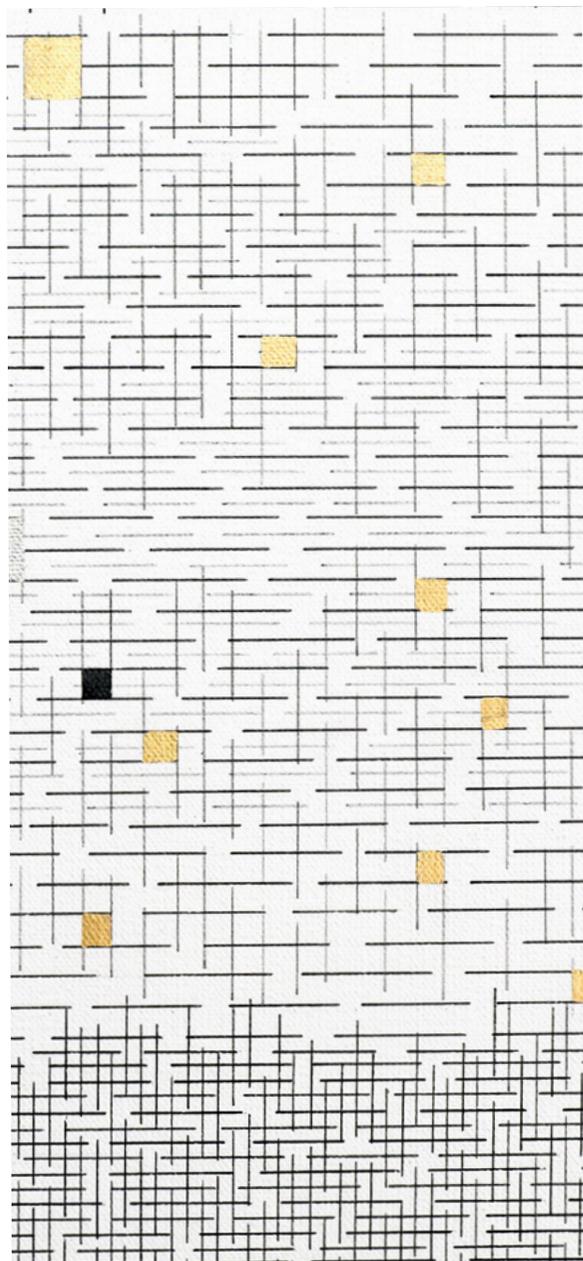
Build Sand Castle
Pen & Gold Leaf on Wasli paper
69 x 52 cm

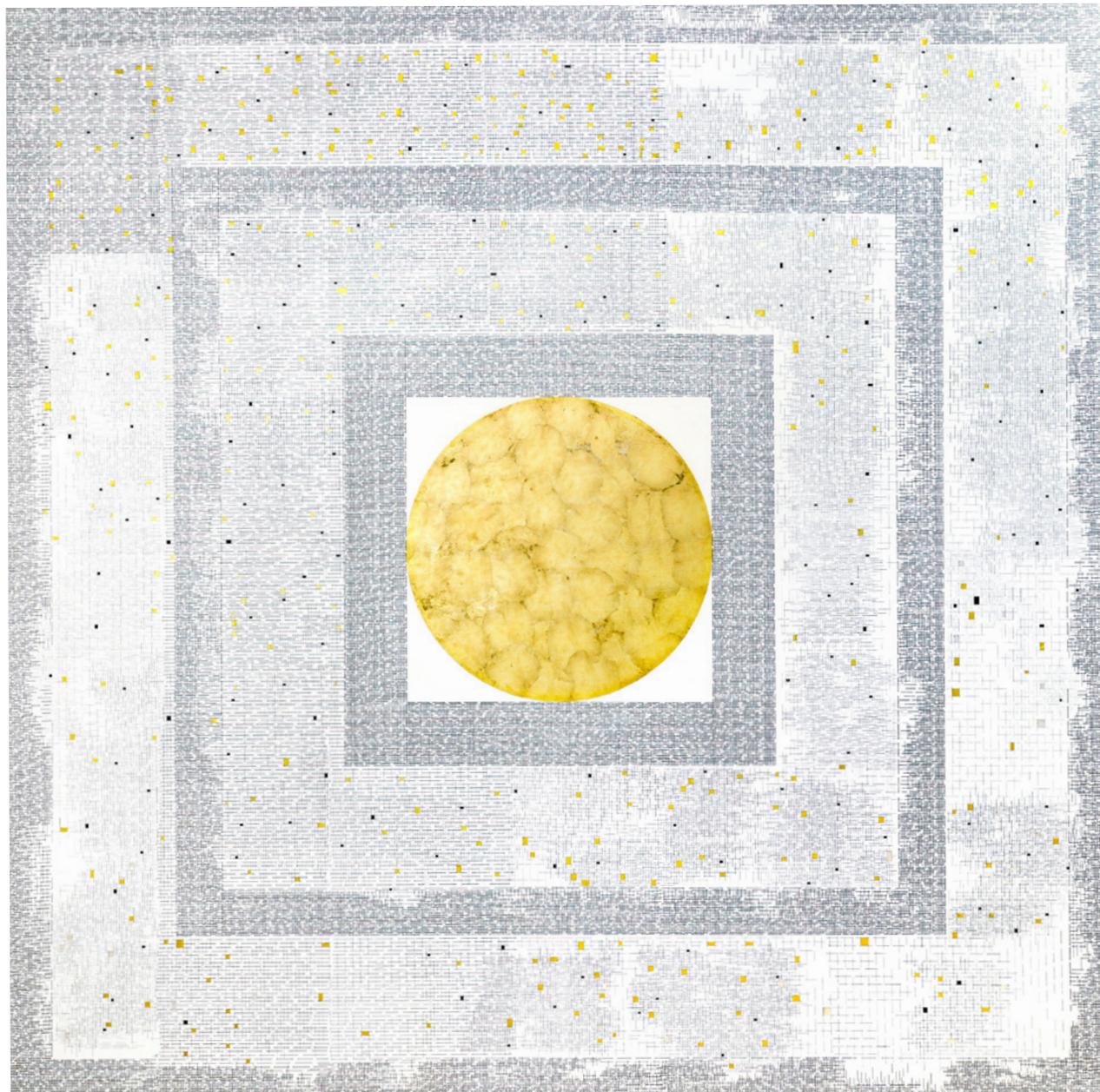


Build Sand Castle I
Pen & Gold Leaf on Wasli paper
69 x 52 cm

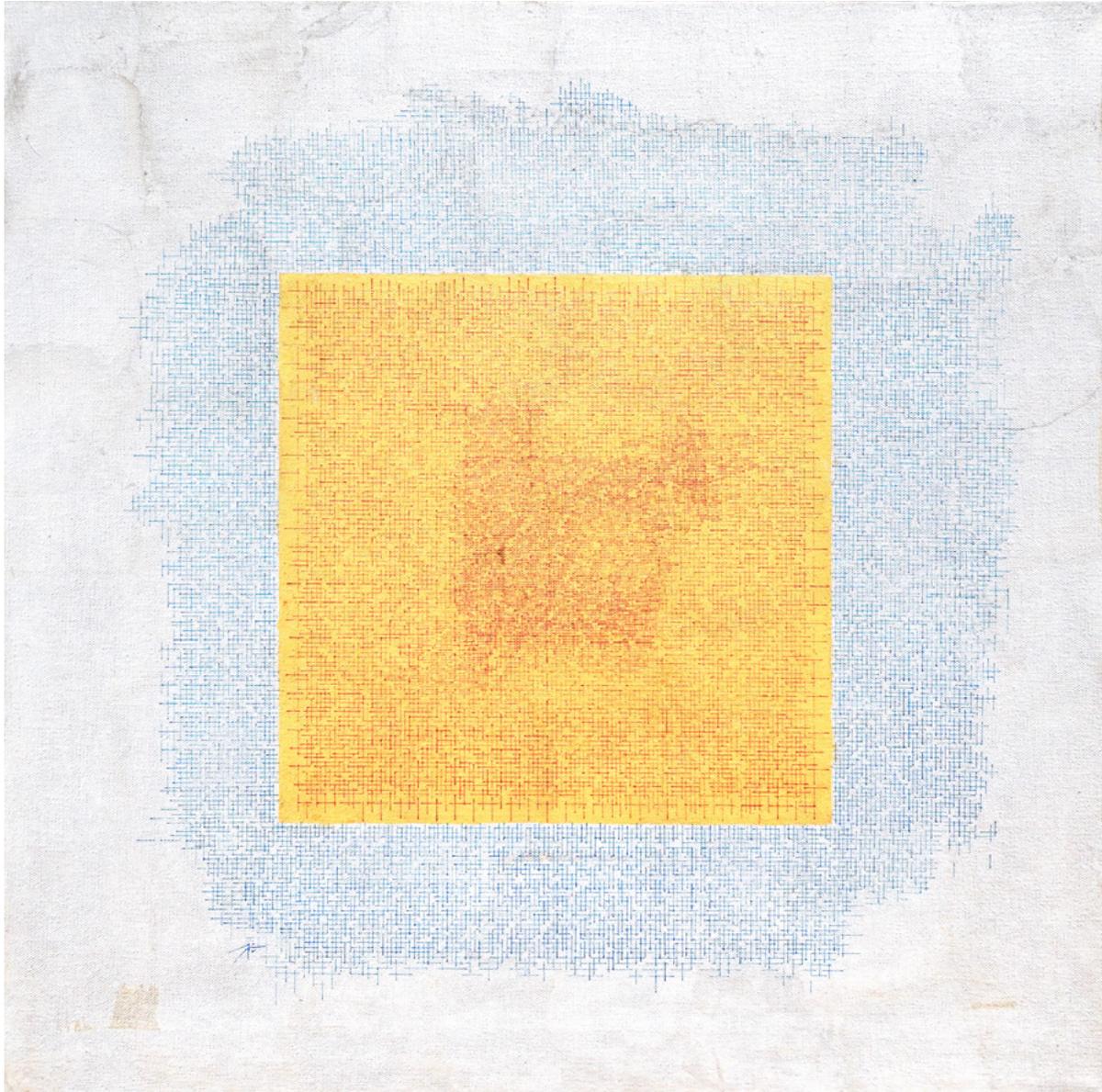


Grey matter
Pen, Gold leaf on Canvas
150 x 90 cm

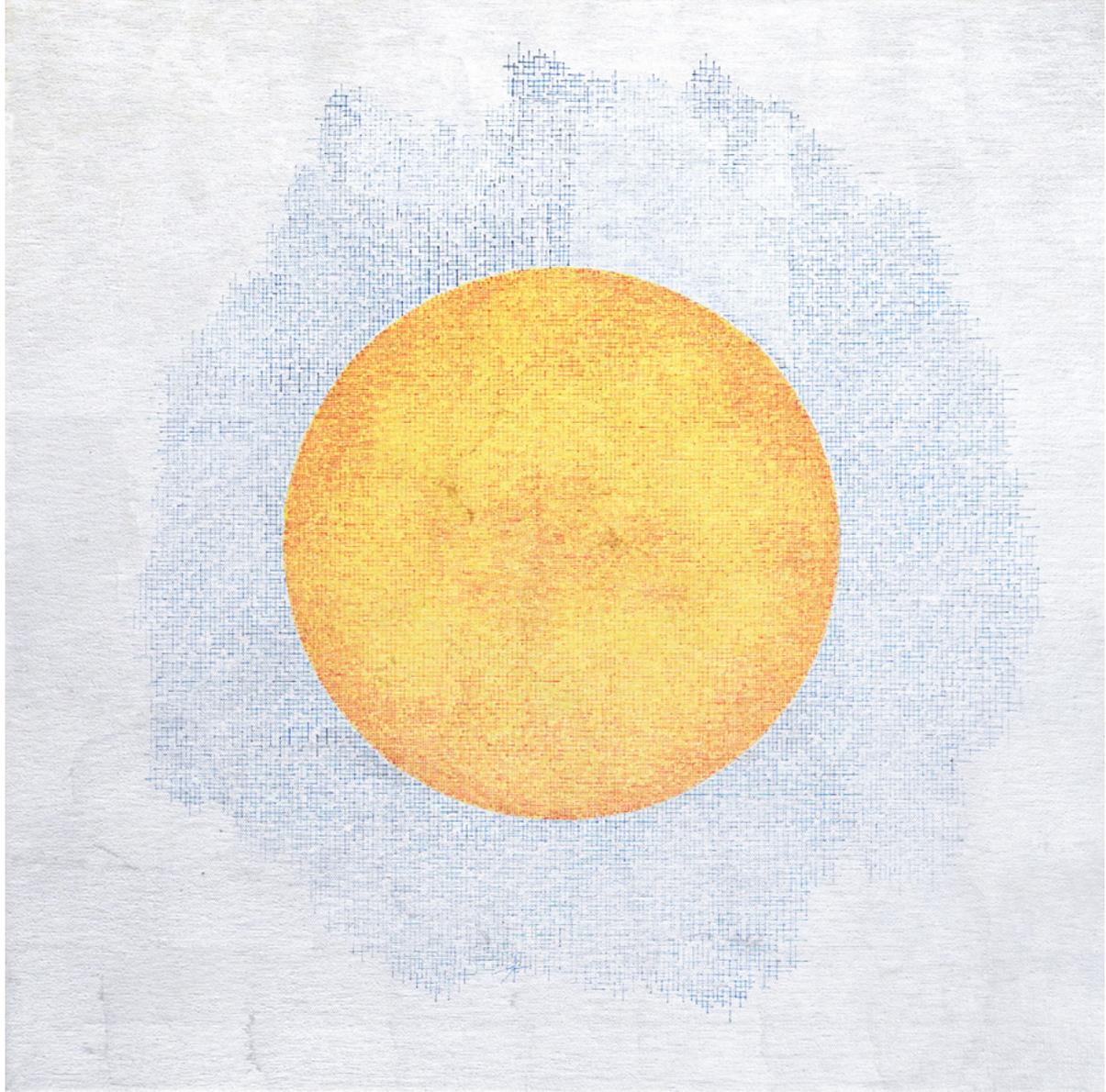




Way of Wisdom
Pen, Gold leaf on Canvas
182 x 182 cm



Untitled
Pen, Gold leaf on Canvas
60 x 60 cm



Untitled
Pen, Gold leaf on Canvas
60 x 60 cm

SHAHZAD HASSAN GHAZI

B. 1983 in Lahore, Pakistan
Lives and works in Dubai, UAE

Academic Qualifications

- 2007-2011 B.F.A (Visual Arts) Beacon House National University, Lahore, Pakistan.
2003-2006 3 - years Diploma in Fine arts, NAQSH School of Arts, Lahore, Pakistan.

Art Fairs

- 2021 Leila Heller Gallery, Shara Art Fair, Jeddah, KSA.
2021 Leila Heller Gallery, Abu Dhabi Art, UAE.
2021 Leila Heller Gallery, Art Dubai, UAE.
2020 Leila Heller Gallery, Abu Dhabi Art, UAE.
2020 Leila Heller Gallery, Art Dubai, UAE.
2020 Reginart Collections, Este Arte 2020, Punta del Este Uruguay.
2019 "Are We from the Same Ocean" Leila Heller Gallery, Dubai, UAE.

Solo Shows

- 2021 "Pensees Infinies de ma Globalization" Noon Art Consulting , Brussels, Belgium
2020 "VIRYA" Leila Heller Gallery, Dubai, UAE.
2019 "Are We from the Same Ocean" Leila Heller Gallery, Dubai, UAE.
2018 "Are We from the Same Ocean" Ocean Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan.
2017 "Urbanization and Transformation of Cultures" Ocean Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan.
2016 "Miniature into Miniature" Ocean Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan.
2015 "Cross- Stitch" Solo Show Alhamra Art Council, Lahore, Pakistan.

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2022 Sculpture Park DIFC, Leila Heller Gallery, Dubai, UAE.
2020 NOON CONSUTING Art Gallery, Bruxelles, Madrid.
2020 Salwa Zeidan Gallery, Abu Dhabi, UAE.
2019 "To Be Or Not To Be Not" Art Hub, D3 Dubai, UAE.
2018 "National Exhibition" Group Show, Alhamra Art Council, Lahore, Pakistan.
2017 "International Surrealism Now" Group Show, Multimedia P.O.R.O.S. Museum, Condeixa-a-Nova, Portugal.
2017 Annual Exhibition" Group Show, PNCA, Alhamra Art Council, Lahore, Pakistan.

2017 "Dare To Dream" Zulfi's Art Gallery, Lahore, Pakistan.
2016 Drop of Horizon" Group Show Alhamra Art Council, Lahore, Pakistan.
2015 "Cross- Stitch" Solo Show Alhamra Art Council, Lahore, Pakistan.
2015 "Sensory Spaces" Group Show My Art World, Islamabad, Pakistan.
2014 "Memories" Abu Dhabi Art Fair 2014, UAE.
2014 "6th Afford Able Art Festival" Abu Dhabi Art Hub, UAE.
2014 "1st up Cycle Middle East Art Festival", Abu Dhabi, UAE.
2013 "Beirut Art Fair 2013" Lebanon, Beirut.
2013 "Hunting, Equestrian, and Heritage Art Exhibition" Group Show,Hyatt Capital Gate Abu Dhabi, UAE.
2013 "Memoirs of the Future" Group Show, Alhamra Art Council, Lahore, Pakistan.
2012 "Pakistan NOW! Resurgence and Subversion in art", Fourth Eye Gallery, Canada.
2012 "Gridation" Group Show, Satrang Gallery, Islamabad, Pakistan.
2011 "Dot to Dot" Group Show, Nairang Art Gallery, Lahore, Pakistan.
2011 "Women's Day" Group Show, Alhamra Art Council, Lahore, Pakistan.
2011 "The Familiar Names" Group Show, Drawing Room Gallery, Lahore, Pakistan.
2011 "Thesis Show" B.N.U, Lahore, Pakistan.
2010 "Young Artist Exhibition 09" Alhamra Art Council, Lahore, Pakistan.
2009 "Two Nation Theory" Group Show V.M Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan.
2007 "Thesis Show", NAQSH School Of Arts, Lahore, Pakistan.
2006 "Islamic Motifs", NAQSH School Of Arts, Lahore, Pakistan.
2005 "Mughal Motifs", Lahore Fort, Lahore, Pakistan.
2005 "Annual exhibition", Shakir Ali Museum, Lahore, Pakistan.
2004 "Treasure of Lahore", Lahore, Pakistan

THE SUBLIME CONNECTION OF ORNAMENT AND MINIMALISM

Shahzad Hassan Ghazi practices the ancient technique of miniature painting, which has its roots in South East Asia. Shahzad venerates the long history and rich cultural heritage of Pakistan, where this medium is highly treasured until now. More importantly, takes the traditional art to the next level and puts his mark on it through his unique style. Thus, his oeuvre is all at once traditional and groundbreaking. The combination of traditional Islamic art with impulses from modern and contemporary Western art such as minimalism is striking, and it shows, additionally, the immense potential of the cultural heritage. Ornament and minimalism united in the work of this artist gain enormous strength and grace.

Studying and practicing the skills of miniature initially for many years in seclusion, Shahzad Hassan Ghazi started to express his feelings through lines and paintings. Since 2015, he began to show his work in Pakistan. In view of the fact that he got good appreciation, he subsequently participated in some international group exhibitions.

Not only does he work with meticulous precision and a high investment of time and effort, but the employed materials are highly precious as well. Real gold and silver leaf as symbol of glory is combined with the special rapidograph pen. This pen with archival pigment ink has initially been developed for technical drawings and maps. It demands utmost concentration and, when applied correctly, guarantees a complete regular line. The application of real gold came from his past practice. Now, the paintings and drawings by Shahzad developed into an expression of meditation and tranquility – both in the slow, diligent creation process and in the impact, that his art has on its viewers.

The impression of both clarity, meditative silence and a somehow nearly unfathomable deepness in the structure with its myriads of precise lines throws the beholder back on himself, towards his own thoughts and emotions. Through the sublime connection of ornament and minimalism Shahzad Hassan Ghazi creates space for reflection and contemplation.

By Sara Troester Klemm

Published on the occasion of the exhibition
"Grace versus Strength"
Shahzad Hassan Ghazi
May 30th, 2022

Leila Heller Gallery would like to thank Shahzad Hassan Ghazi for all his support
to make this amazing exhibition successful

Catalogue by Raylene Liu

LEILA HELLER GALLERY
I-87, Alsekal Avenue, PO Box 413991, Al Quoz 1,
Dubai, UAE
www.leilahellergallery.com

Publication © 2021 LEILA HELLER GALLERY, Dubai



LEILA HELLER.