

GAZELLI ART HOUSE

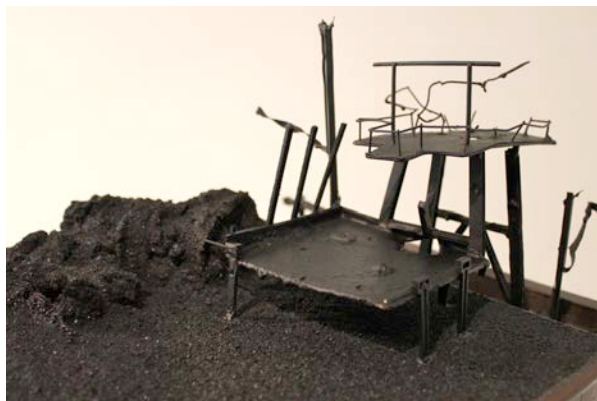
'You carried a local delicacy each time in your bag, some small chosen gift, a stone, an apple, flowers, a photograph, transported hundreds of miles, as if you could bring a bit of your earth to me with each meetings; as if, over the months, you would bring your place to mine, one handful at a time.'

Ann Michaels and John Berger, *Railtracks* (2011)

SAAD QURESHI

OTHER CRESCENTS

OTHER MOONS



2 Nov – 22 Dec 2012

Other crescents other moons is an exploration of memories – the desire to keep one's interpretation of a specific place alive, transcending time and change. Qureshi depicts 'mindscapes' based on recollections of the people he interviews. Often desolate and abstract they capture the detailed essence of one's emotional, spiritual and/or mental associations to a given place. Subconsciously, the artist weaves his own vision onto the memory without interfering with its content thereby questioning its ownership and the origins. The viewer is invited to explore the nature of perception and reality, completing personal tales and insights of one's memory according to their own vision.

In this inaugural solo exhibition, Saad Qureshi brings the concept of belonging and being part of a certain form of identity to the forefront. Drawing on the inspiration from the biblical story 'The Tower of Babel', the body of work epitomizes *universal* individualism, striking on psychological, cultural, social, religious and historical levels. The centrepiece of the exhibition for example, *other crescents other moons*, depicts a continuum of islands of memories – linked to each other, sharing the same ground of an abstract structure, reminiscent of a never-ending spiral, removed from its larger self. The memories appear more contained in Qureshi's smaller sculptural works whereby reclaimed furniture such as drawers and cupboards provide the setting for the landscapes to comfortably rest on.

The work presents and represents Qureshi and his world. Through his observations, past the intricate demonstration of the various aforementioned layers, we come across a land, a desolate land, which often appears in the artist's multi-medium oeuvre. Melancholic to some, radiating of hope and positivity to others, the open land can be perceived as a playground for our ideas and thoughts on topics Qureshi raises. It gives us time to reflect, to silently agree or actively disagree with the artist's remarks, with our own or our neighbour's interpretations. The discourse that ensues, which may continue endlessly and lose its purpose and direction, is grounded by the very nature of these lands. As such, Qureshi pulls the viewer into a playful interaction where the mind loses control and the imagination takes over, which in turn succumbs to the conscience and then reigns free again.

'I have to be really quick to describe clouds, because in a second they become another.'
Mahmoud Darwish

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Saad Qureshi

Much of the work made by Saad Qureshi reflects his interest in the role of religion in the modern world. He states that by using stories from both the Bible and the Quran he is able to present 'the failures of ideals and belief systems' in modern life'. The conflict between spirituality and reality frequently features as symbolic representations in his works.

Qureshi describes his ethnicity, as British Asian and the presence of Islamic and Christian influences in his work are both an acknowledgement of multiculturalism and a reminder of the shared origins from which the Abrahamic religions derive.

On Saad Qureshi, Founder and Director of Gazelli Art House, Mila Askarova, states: "Saad Qureshi is an explorer, unafraid to travel distances that take him beyond what is real, or what we perceive as real."

Gazelli Art House

In March 2012, Gazelli Art House opened its first permanent gallery space located on Dover Street in central London. The gallery's inaugural exhibition was entitled 'Bodhi' and consisted of new works by international artists such as Olympia Scarry, Jaume Plensa, Shan Hur and Khanlar Gasimov.

As part of Gazelli Art House's ongoing commitment to art education, the gallery will invite individuals to embark on a journey of understanding art through talks, workshops and tours. As an art organisation they are dedicated to providing a new setting for the understanding and deeper appreciation of art.