



Iqbal Durrani 2022

Unbroken Promises

Iqbal Durrani . 2022

ARTCITI Invites you to an exclusive exhibition of paintings

Unbroken Promises

by

Iqbal Durrani

24th - 28th November 2022

Exhibition Opening
24th November 2022
6pm - 8pm

Visit our gallery or view the virtual exhibition at
www.artciti.com



2nd Floor, Plot # 36-C, Bukhari Commercial Lane-13, Khayaban-e-Shujaat, Phase-VI, DHA, Karachi.
Ph: +9221-35250495, +9221-35250496 Whatsapp: +923362700975



Artist's Statement

As time progresses, I find myself pleasantly drifting towards a more simplified way of expressing my subjects while painting. I believe that sustaining the spirit of concept of an artwork is crucial which obligates avoidance of nonessential add-ons. Focus therefore remains to achieve the atmosphere and essence of a painting with a minimalistic application. As a consequence, the artwork acquires a certain lightness which is easy on the eyes, while conveying the vital message.

My paintings are like meticulous documentation of the sun's movement by day as reflections alter colors endlessly. It is the variation of light that imparts dynamics to the color unleashing numerous hues and shades. Under such dynamics of light, working with living elements of women, pigeons and flora challenges the artist to capture the fleeting moments effectively.

The elements of women and pigeons that I compose on the canvas are primarily for the purpose of imparting movement to the canvas and to enhance the grandeur of the female. I believe that the fluttering of the fragile pigeons emulates the fiery spirit of the apparently serene females. To further bind these basic elements with nature, I resort to adding flowers and vegetation in certain paintings.

Iqbal Durrani
November 2022



Unbroken Promises

Concocting exotic color cocktails to produce unconventional compositions on canvas is every painter's dream. A brief flashback of the then 'offbeat' works of the Impressionist and post-impressionist painters explains it all. At the time these artists were considered prohibitively unusual, eccentric and unacceptable. It was their bold bohemian conduct, regardless of harsh criticism, that led them to produce exceptional artwork that today, stands on the highest pedestal of reverence.

Thriving on the art scene of today is one such artist, Iqbal Durrani, who stops at nothing when it comes to extraordinary painting and pigment recipes. Daringly, he shows no compunction to add swagger to his mixing skills on the palette to blend paints that produce striking hues. The artist strongly believes that the prevalence of light on paints is what triggers their luminance from miniscule reflective surfaces. The opaque and diaphanous variations hence can only be discerned if the light is solemnly reckoned – which also is the primary principle of Impressionism. Sculpting paint with a palette knife, Durrani builds layer upon layer of vivid colors, akin to Expressionism, to manifest an emotional response to his subjects, be it woman, pigeon or a plant.

The artist takes pleasure in baring his soul through candid conversations expressed in vibrant colors. Durrani therefore chooses to be outright and daring in building his canvases which yield stories that diverse audiences find agreeable to empathize with. Radiating compassion, these paintings are a product of the artist's devotion to his appetite for truth. He believes that most of his inspiration and emotion comes from what nature continues to create and recreate endlessly. Nature also teaches perseverance which is a vital component of any artist's arsenal.

Durrani has never stopped to demonstrate his intense fetish to portray the alluring assemblage of woman and the pigeon. Deploying unconventional expression, he conveys harmony between the two elements depicting spiritual freedom and enticing beauty. The artist seems to explore and reveal his own soul through these elements which reflect romantic softness and spiritual fulfilment.

The 'woman' as a subject for artwork is a universal choice for its inspirational characteristics. Both male and female artists have abundantly painted women with equal fervor and creativity. Durrani's portrayal of the sensual woman together with pigeons in graceful stride and feathery flight reflects sensitivity, grace and temptation. His paintings create an ambiance of tranquility and splendor while representing the unified beauty of the subjects.

With a strong conviction to look beyond visual perception, Durrani envisions his canvases amidst a medley of dreams and fantasies connected to his life's vicissitudes and experiences. As a consequence, the paintings begin to exude pleasurable vibes that are tangible and serene to the audience. Delicate feelings imbued within the subjects impart a satisfying impact on the viewers who soon realize how deeply they are engaged. The canvases tenderly grip the audience narrating warm emotions - sending them into pleasant reveries and the land of fantasies.

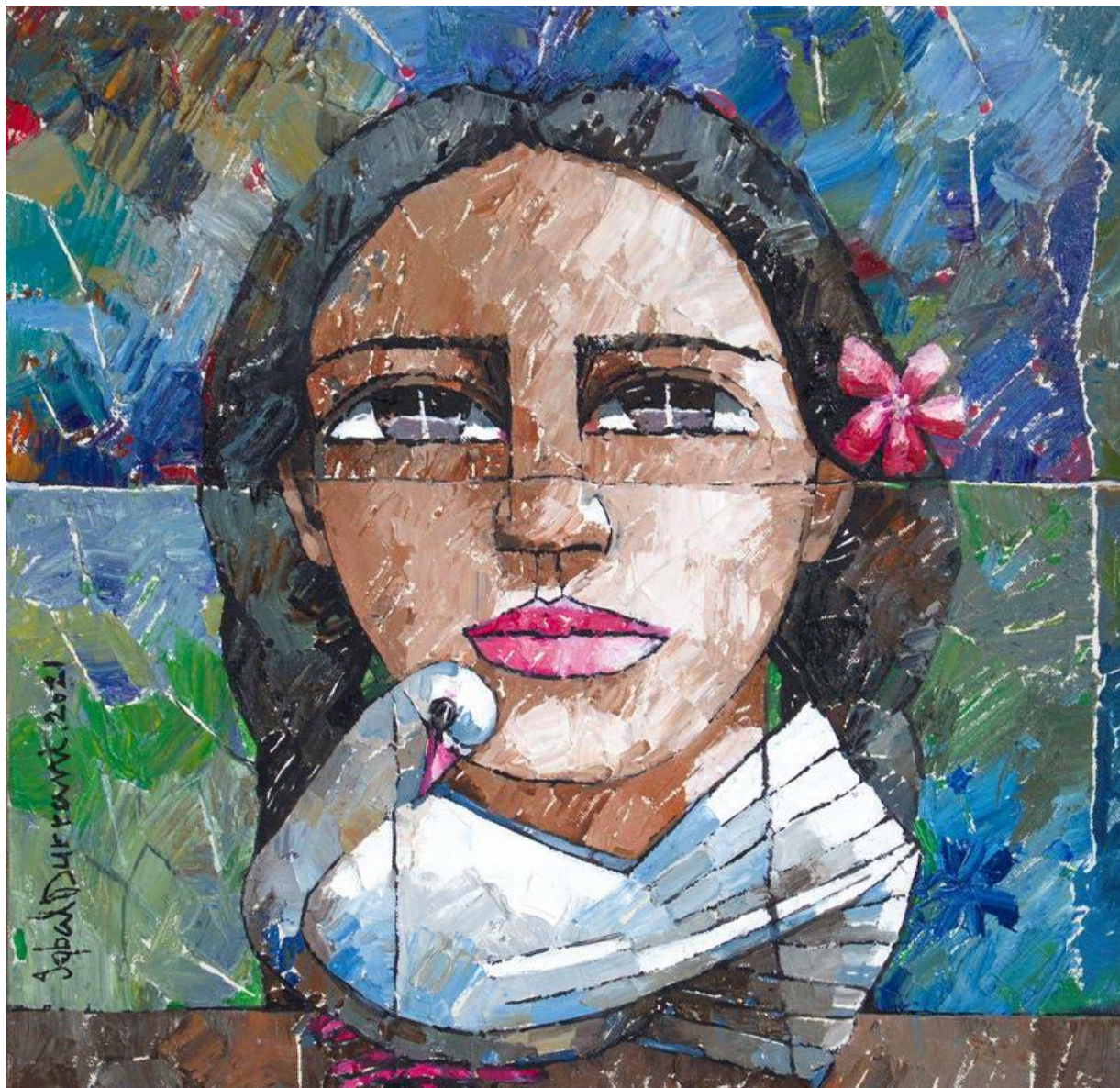
Amongst some of the characteristics, Durrani's paintings boast extraordinary textures created with skillful use of medium and tools. His paintings acquire a unique identity based on the delicately layered knife strokes woven into the generously applied paints. The rich buttery application in varying densities emphasize the contours as if rendered in 3D. Furthermore, the objectively gouged paint layers, occasionally baring streaks over the canvas, add extra feel to the surface.

Durrani believes in gender equality and embeds tacit messages on women's liberation in his artwork. He has also been protesting against taboos imposed on women by painting strong, resolved faces of Eve, ready to confront challenges. Durrani believes that the modern woman should take pride in her boldness, sensuality and gentleness. Portraying the woman's determination through her pensive gaze and sparkling eyes reflects her strong will to survive amidst an environment of gender discrimination and insecurity.

The observations of an artist are probingly profound for the purpose of discovering truth in visual experiences. Revealing the underlying mysteries and unseen actualities is a crucial segment of a painter's mission. The artist continues to harness nature's abundant beauty by way of deciphering the many obscure riddles that an ordinary eye fails to notice. However, based on emotion, Durrani reconstructs the hidden world with his bespoke visual vocabulary, and says what Paul Cezanne once said, "A work of art which did not begin in emotion is not art."

M S Kureshi
Art Critic





01, Act of Submission, 18 x 18 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-197
Rs. 85,000 (\$ 381.16)



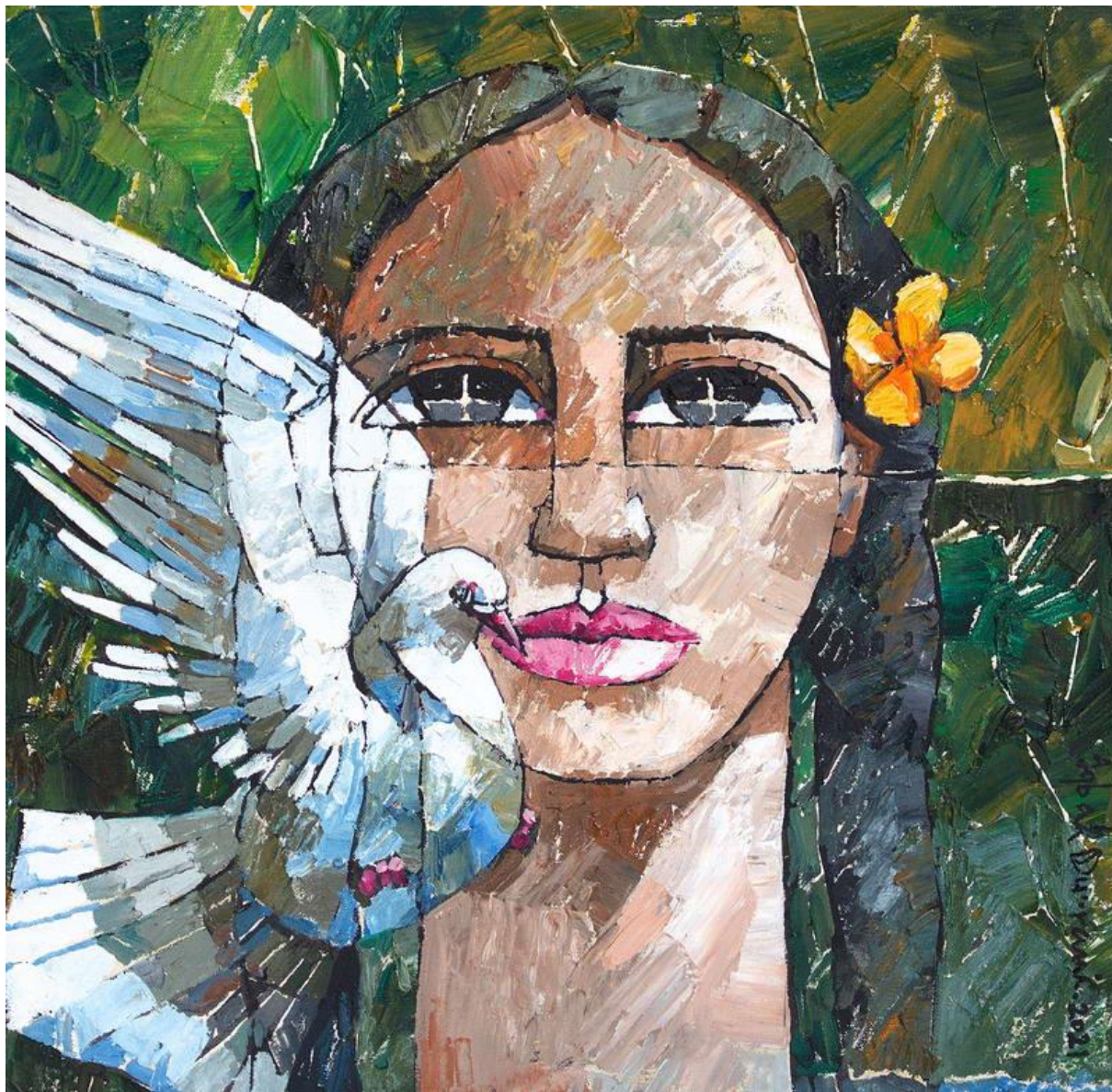
02, After a Day's Flight, 18 x 18 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-198
Rs. 85,000 (\$ 381.16)



03, Anxious for Attention, 18 x 18 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-199
Rs. 85,000 (\$ 381.16)



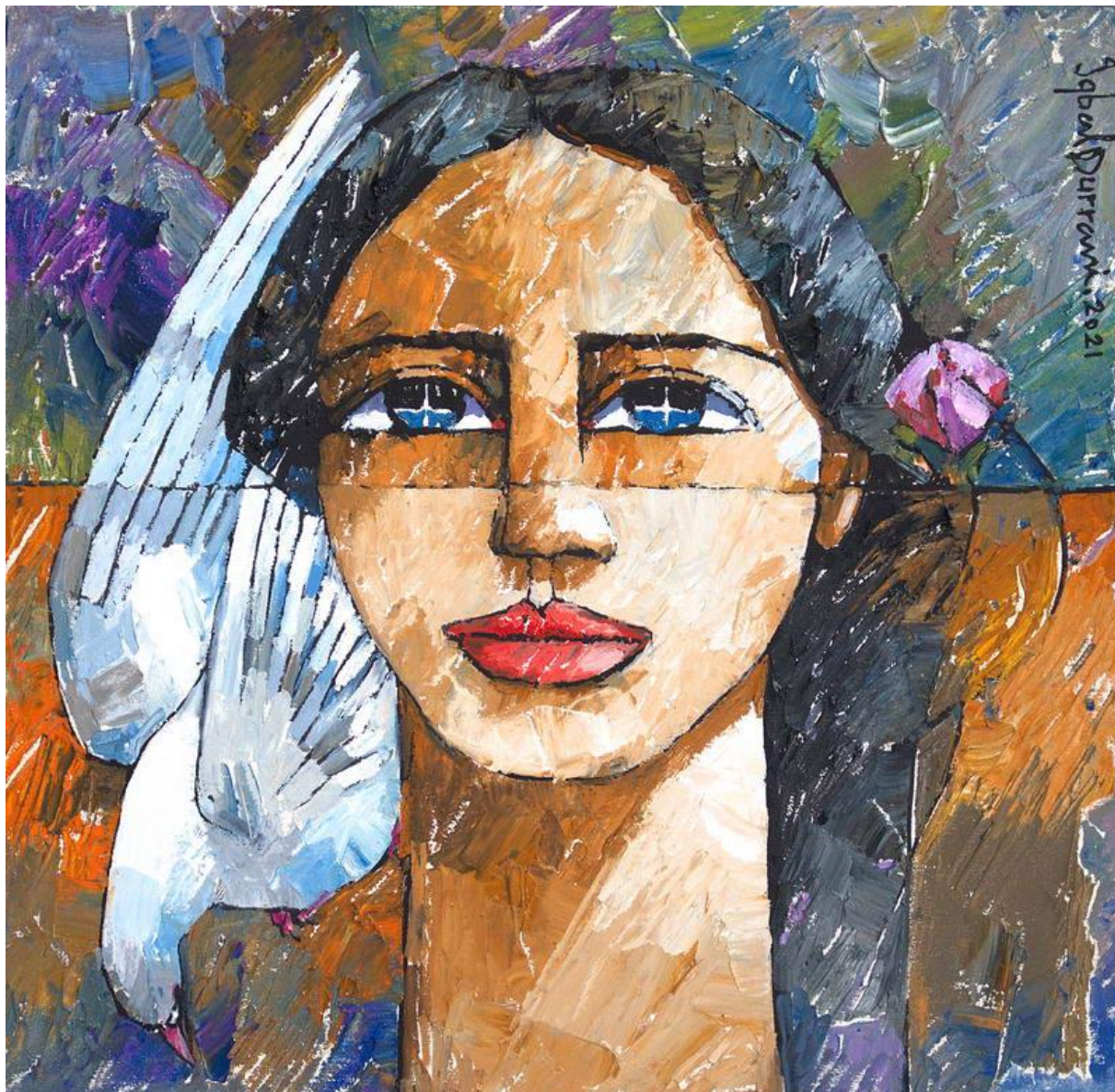
04, Restful Quartet, 18 x 18 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-200
Rs. 85,000 (\$ 381.16)



05, Confluence of Souls, 18 x 18 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-201
Rs. 85,000 (\$ 381.16)



06, Friends Trio, 18 x 18 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-202
Rs. 85,000 (\$ 381.16)



07, Desire Me, 18 x 18 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-203
Rs. 85,000 (\$ 381.16)



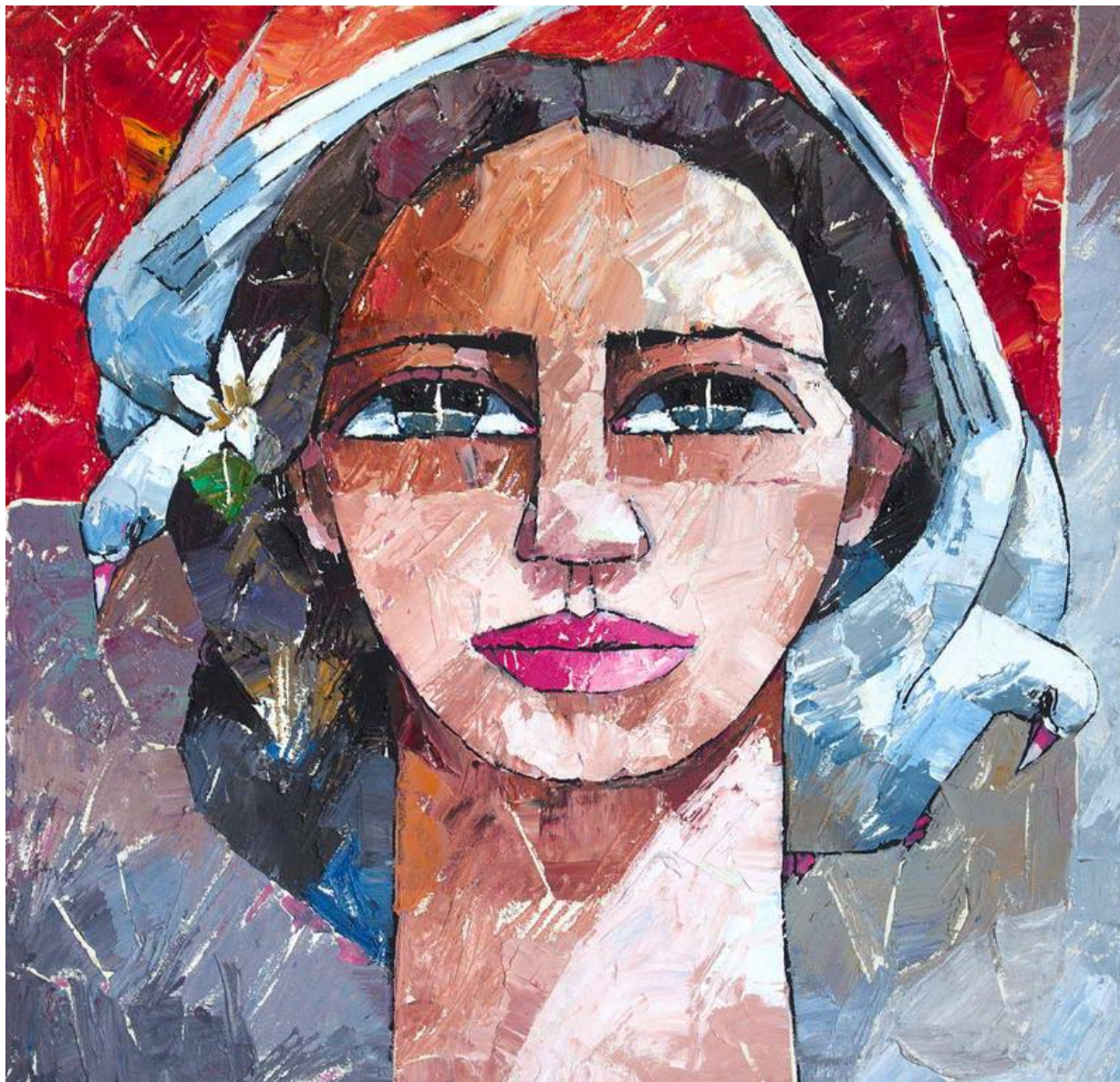
08, Peaceful Slumber, 18 x 18 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-204
Rs. 85,000 (\$ 381.16)



09, Fond Friends, 18 x 18 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-205
Rs. 85,000 (\$ 381.16)



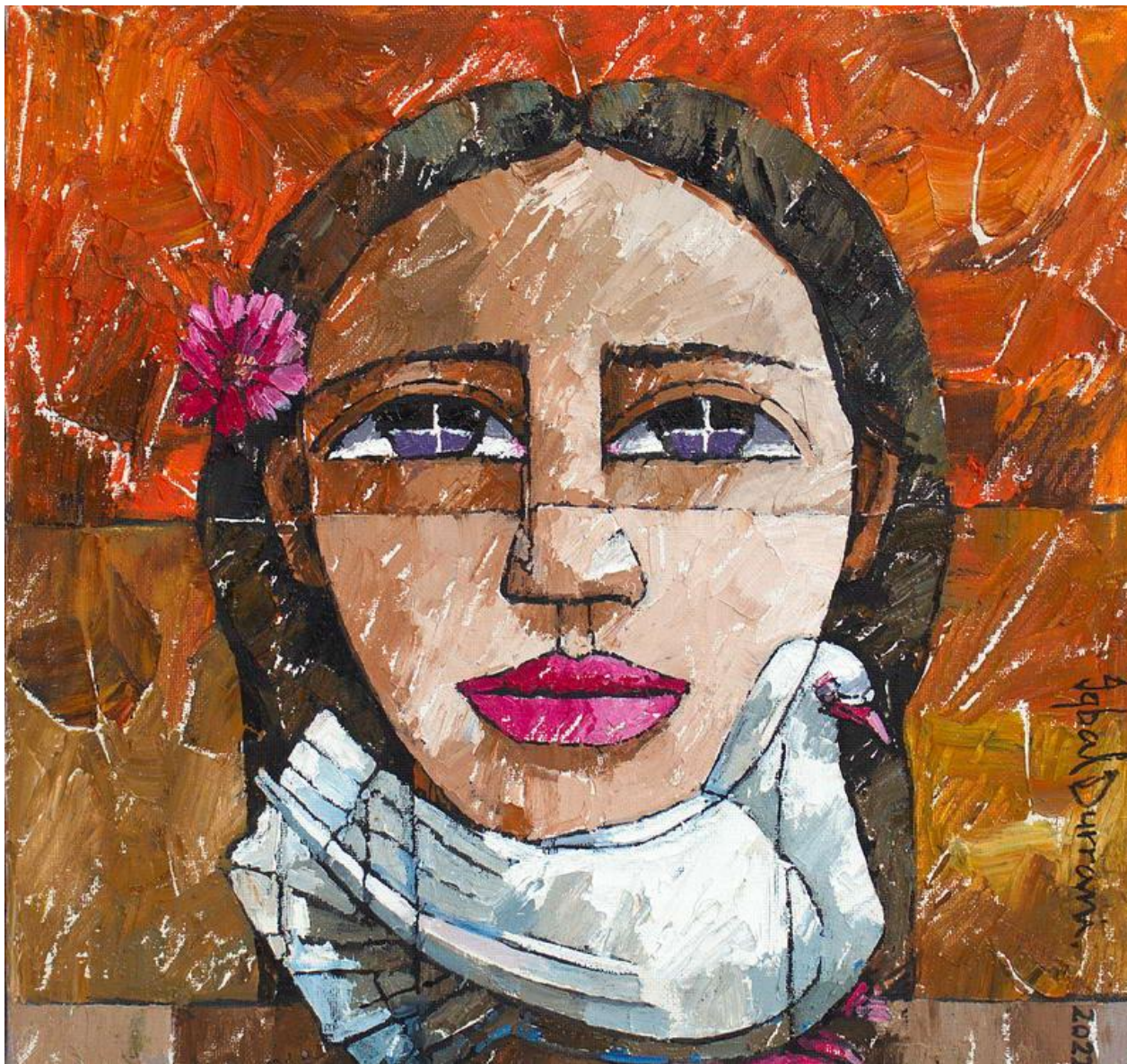
10, Silent Voices, 18 x 18 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-206
Rs. 85,000 (\$ 381.16)



11, Servile to Love, 18 x 18 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-207
Rs. 85,000 (\$ 381.16)



12, Sweet Slumber, 18 x 18 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-208
Rs. 85,000 (\$ 381.16)



13, Souls in Harmony, 18 x 18 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-209
Rs. 85,000 (\$ 381.16)



14, Togetherness, 18 x 18 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-210
Rs. 85,000 (\$ 381.16)



15, Talk to Me, 18 x 18 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-211
Rs. 85,000 (\$ 381.16)



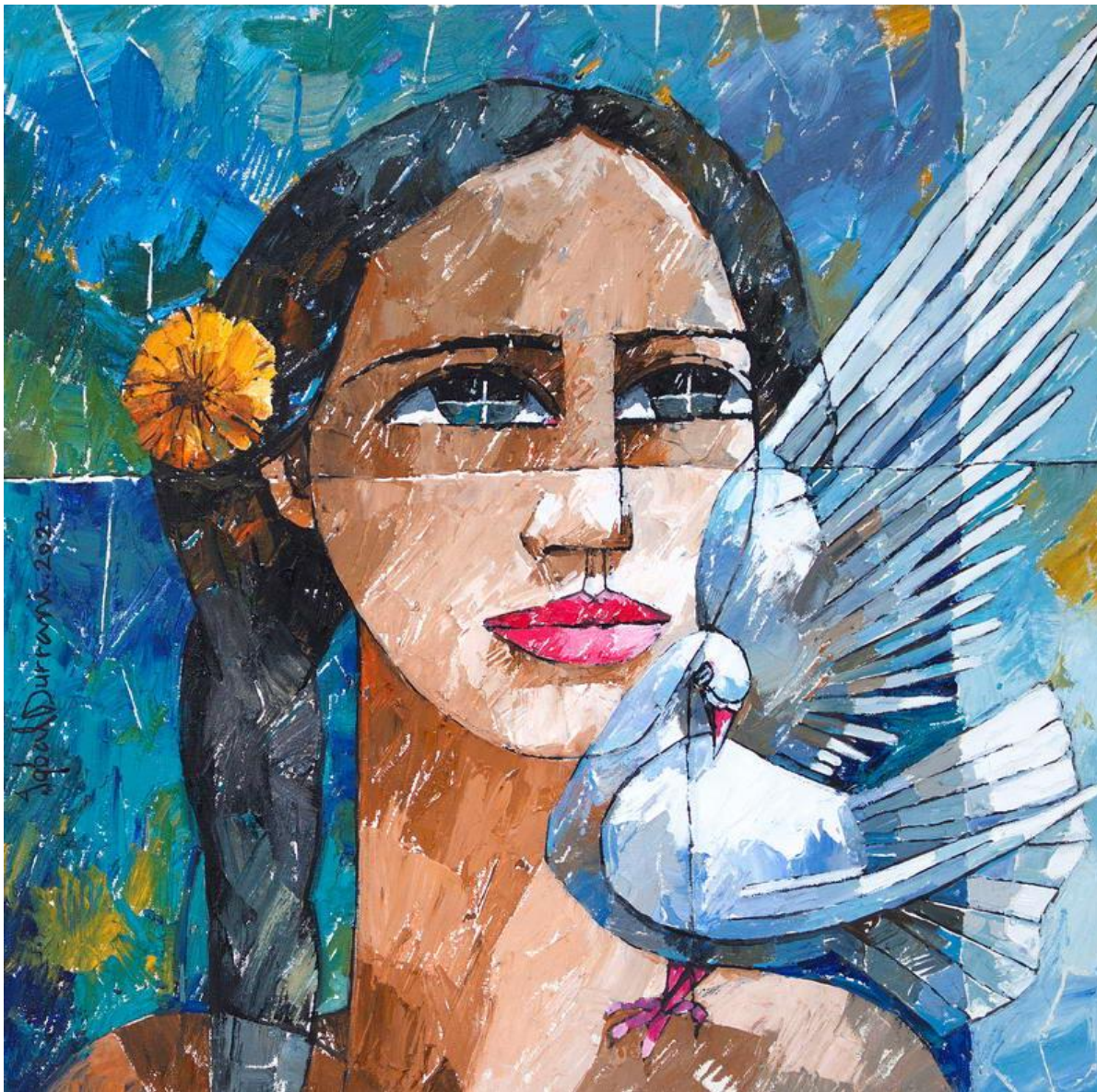
16, Warm Union, 18 x 18 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-212
Rs. 85,000 (\$ 381.16)



17, Urge to Talk, 18 x 18 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-213
Rs. 85,000 (\$ 381.16)



18, Afternoon Bask, 26 x 26 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-214
Rs. 180,000 (\$ 807.17)



19, Distant Memories, 26 x 26 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-215
Rs. 180,000 (\$ 807.17)



20, Early Flight, 26 x 26 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-216
Rs. 180,000 (\$ 807.17)



21, Sorrowful Departure, 26 x 26 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-217
Rs. 180,000 (\$ 807.17)



22, Envious Lover, 26 x 26 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-218
Rs. 180,000 (\$ 807.17)



23, Fusion of Spirits, 26 x 26 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-219
Rs. 180,000 (\$ 807.17)



24, Luring a Companion, 26 x 26 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-220
Rs. 180,000 (\$ 807.17)



25, Midair Rendezvous, 26 x 26 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-221
Rs. 180,000 (\$ 807.17)



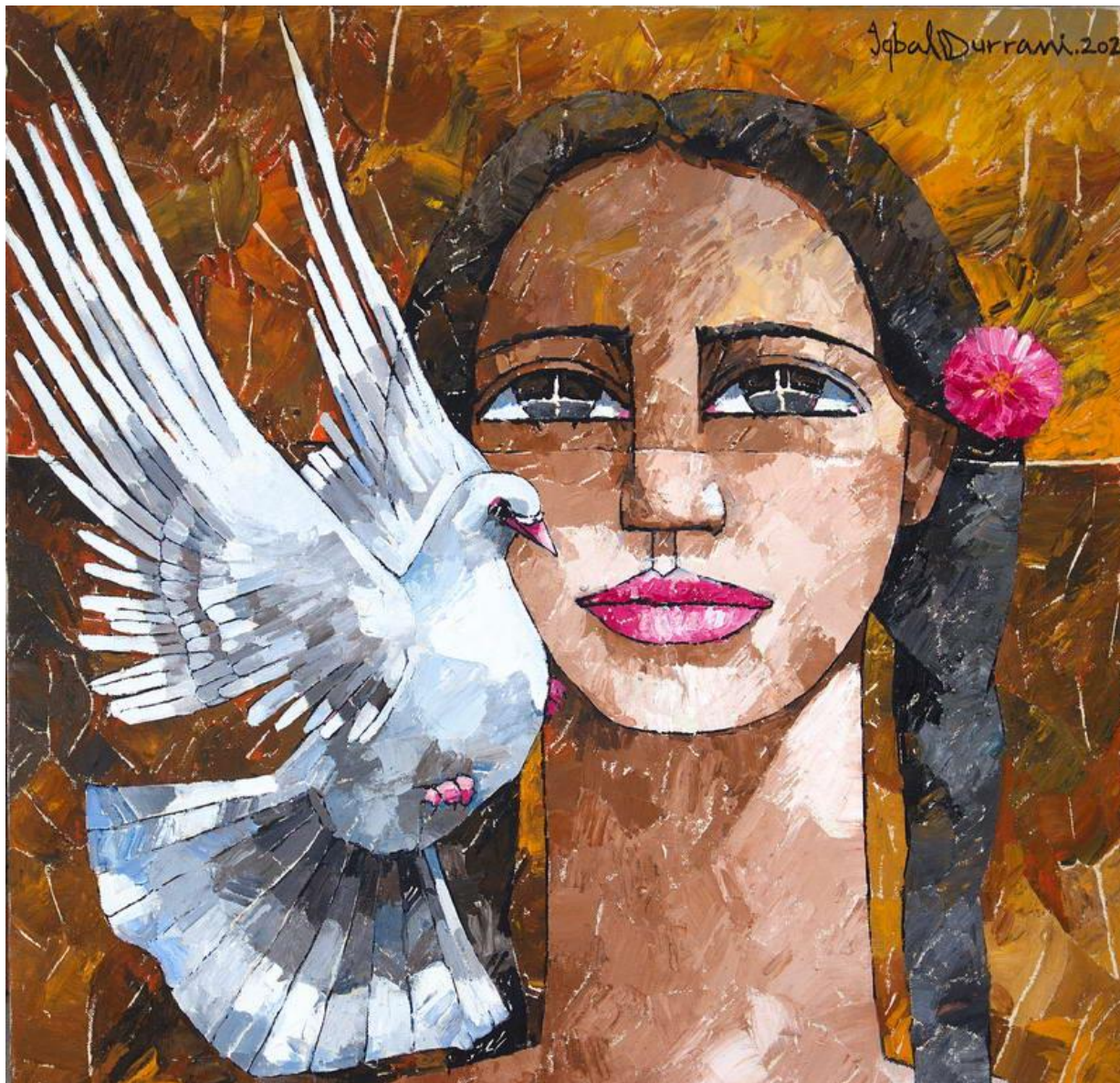
26, Parting Blues, 26 x 26 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-222
Rs. 180,000 (\$ 807.17)



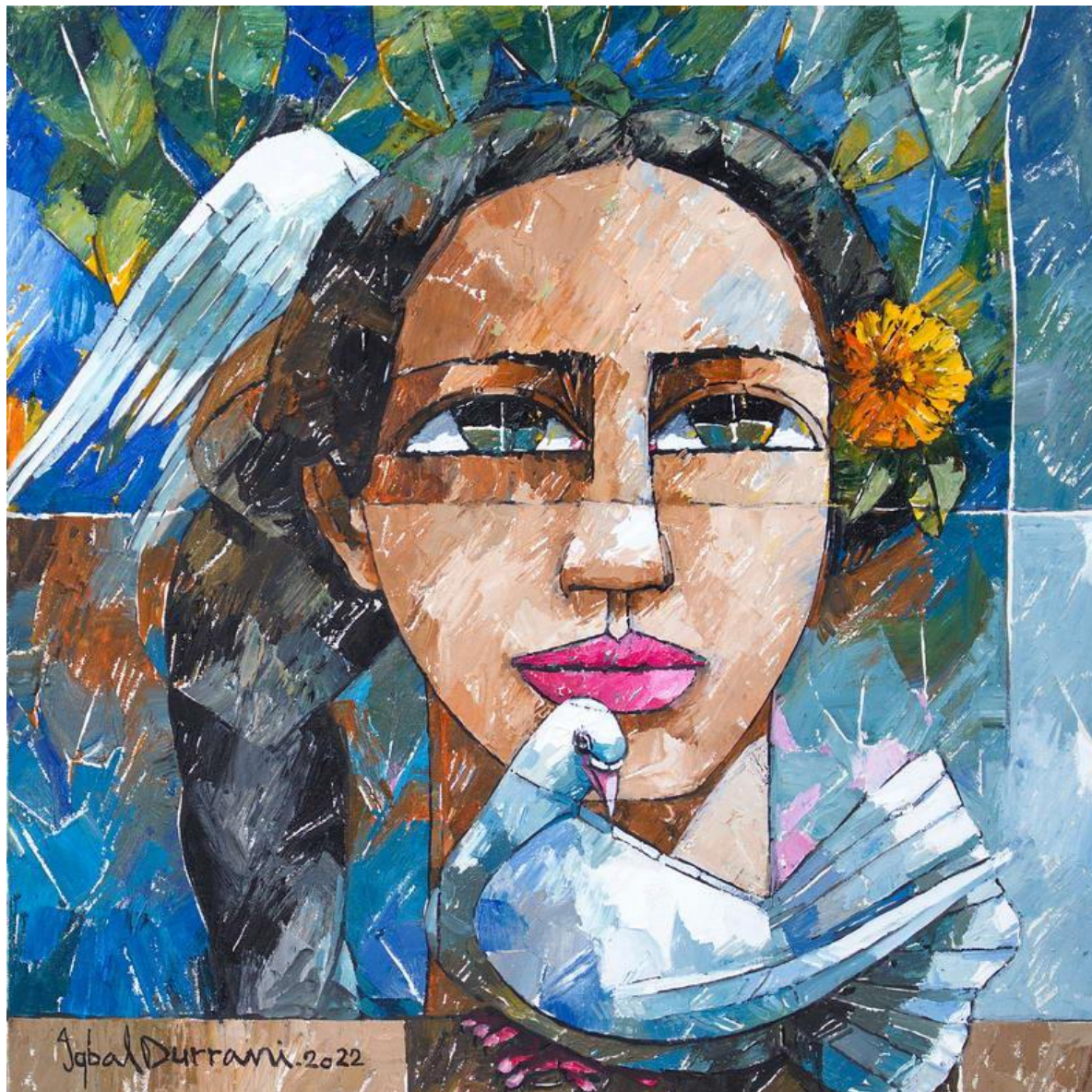
27, Secret Chat, 26 x 26 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-223
Rs. 180,000 (\$ 807.17)



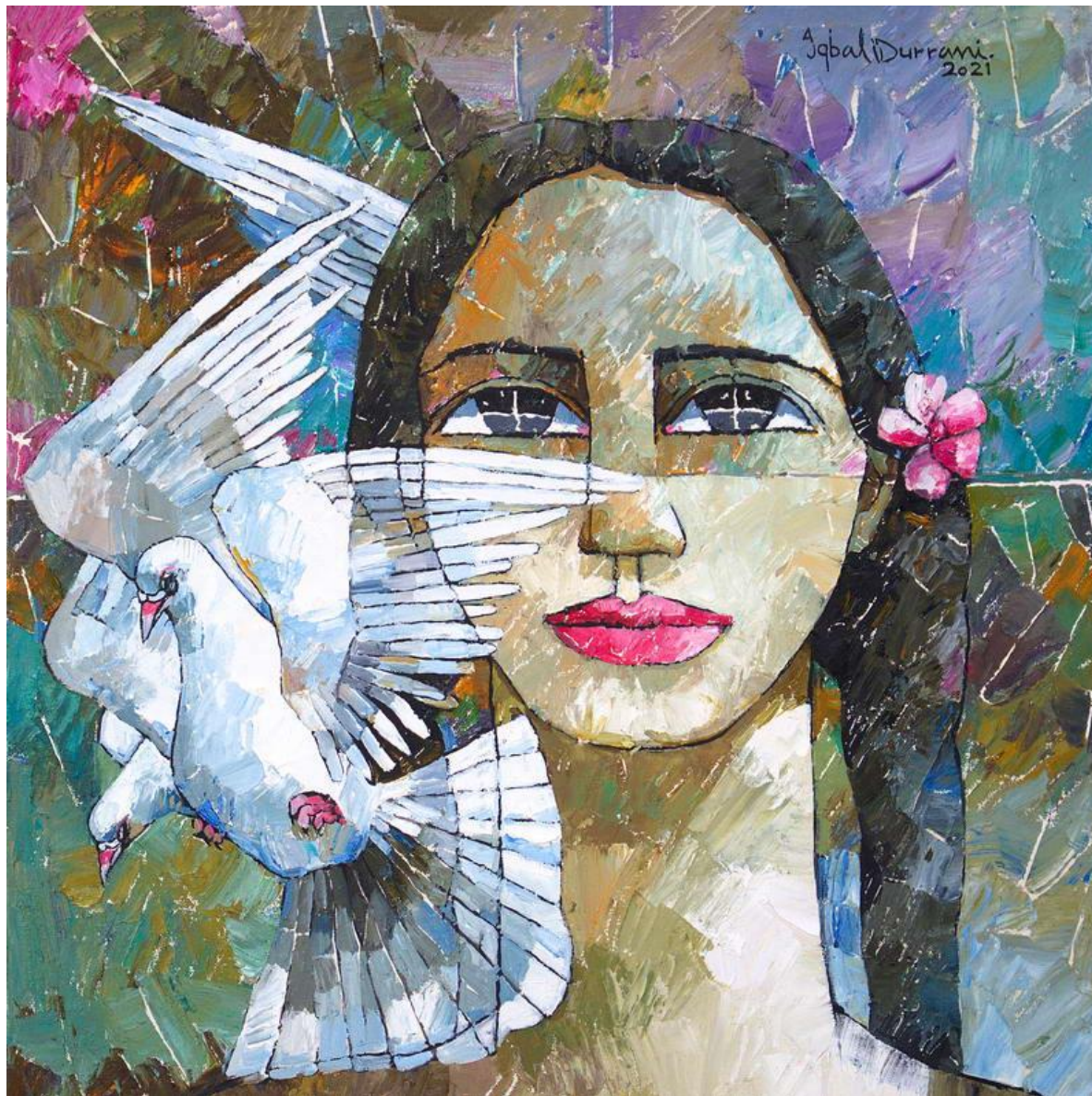
28, Sensuous Proximity, 26 x 26 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-224
Rs. 180,000 (\$ 807.17)



29, Silent Conversation, 26 x 26 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-225
Rs. 180,000 (\$ 807.17)



30, Spell of Vanity, 26 x 26 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-226
Rs. 180,000 (\$ 807.17)



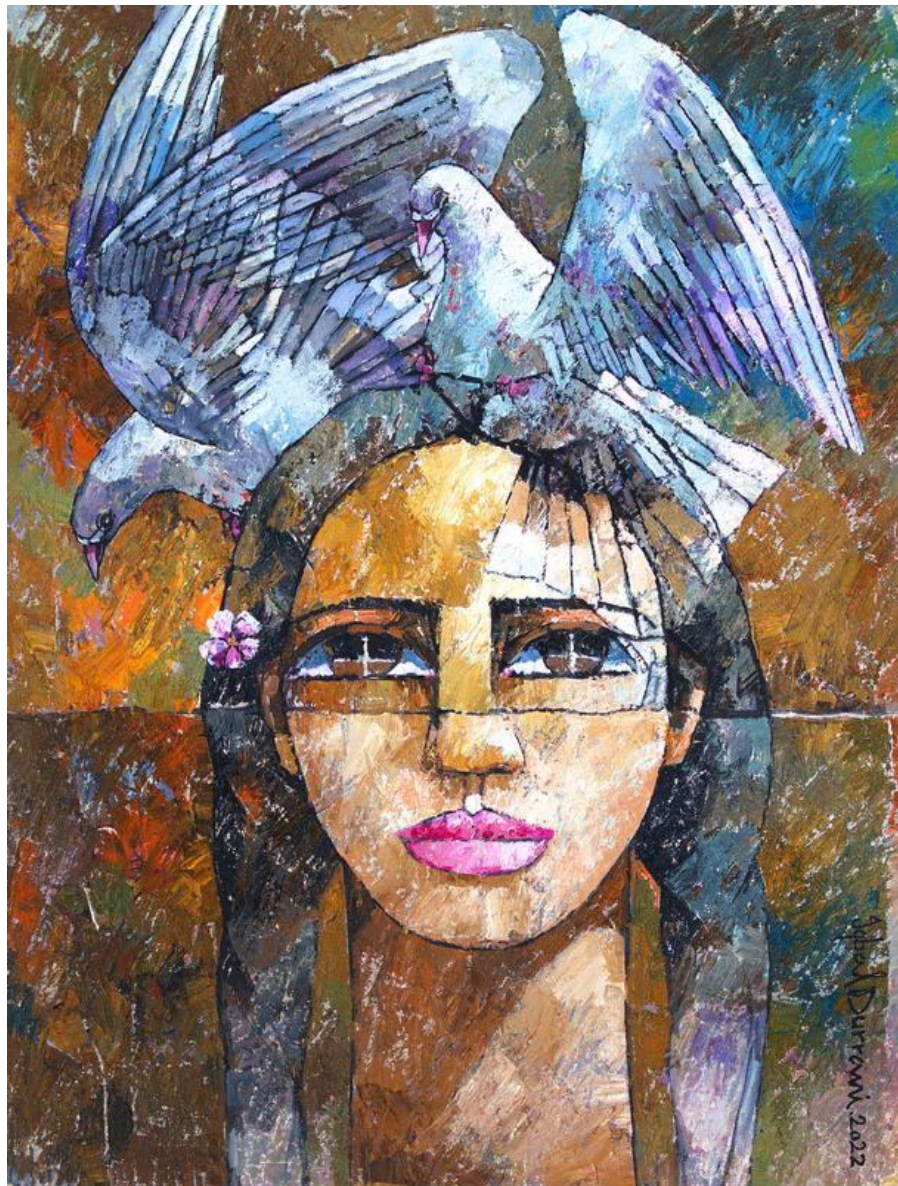
31, Amorous Intimidation, 26 x 26 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-227
Rs. 180,000 (\$ 807.17)



32, Transparent Souls, 26 x 26 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-228
Rs. 180,000 (\$ 807.17)



33, Whisper of Love, 26 x 26 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-229
Rs. 180,000 (\$ 807.17)



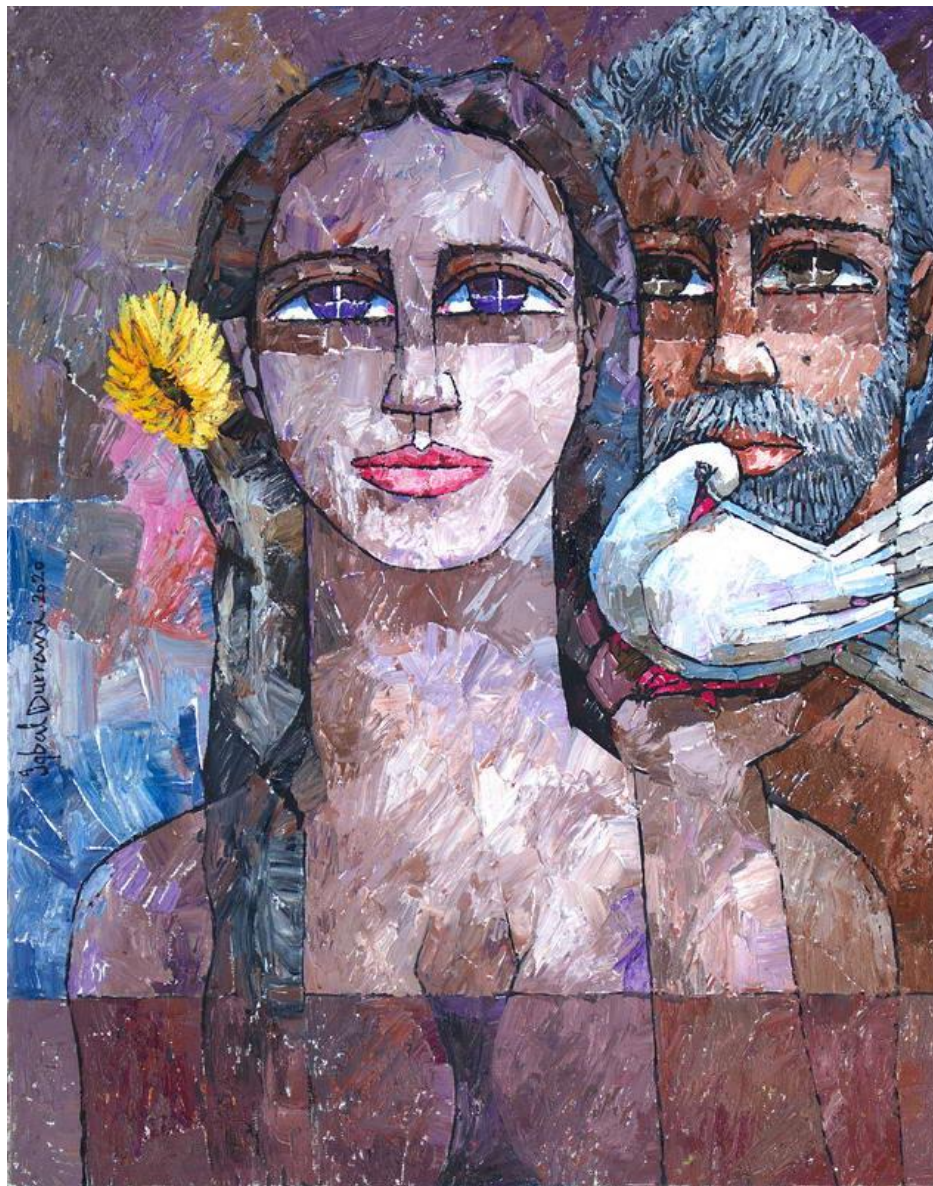
34, Dream Weavers, 24 x 30 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-230
Rs. 190,000 (\$ 852.01)



35, Flower for a Friend, 24 x 30 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-231
Rs. 190,000 (\$ 852.01)



36, Home and Safe, 24 x 30 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-232
Rs. 190,000 (\$ 852.01)



37, Lasting Companionship, 24 x 30 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-233
Rs. 190,000 (\$ 852.01)



38, Moon Blessings, 24 x 30 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-234
Rs. 190,000 (\$ 852.01)



39, Radiant Charm, 24 x 30 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-235
Rs. 190,000 (\$ 852.01)



40, Sohni's Friend, 24 x 30 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-236
Rs. 190,000 (\$ 852.01)



41, Talking Eyes, 24 x 30 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-237
Rs. 190,000 (\$ 852.01)



42, Envious Companion, 24 x 36 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-238
Rs. 200,000 (\$ 896.86)



43, Returning Home, 24 x 36 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-239
Rs. 200,000 (\$ 896.86)



44, Soul Mates, 24 x 36 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-240
Rs. 200,000 (\$ 896.86)



45, Timeless Flight, 24 x 36 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-241
Rs. 200,000 (\$ 896.86)



46, Wonderous Cluster, 24 x 36 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-242
Rs. 200,000 (\$ 896.86)



47, After Flight Respite, 18 x 48 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-243
Rs. 200,000 (\$ 896.86)



48, Cool Shadows, 18 x 48 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-244
Rs. 200,000 (\$ 896.86)



49, Autumn Gathering, 18 x 48 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-245
Rs. 200,000 (\$ 896.86)



50, Resting Birds, 18 x 48 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-246
Rs. 200,000 (\$ 896.86)



51, Blue Dreams, 18 x 48 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-247
Rs. 200,000 (\$ 896.86)



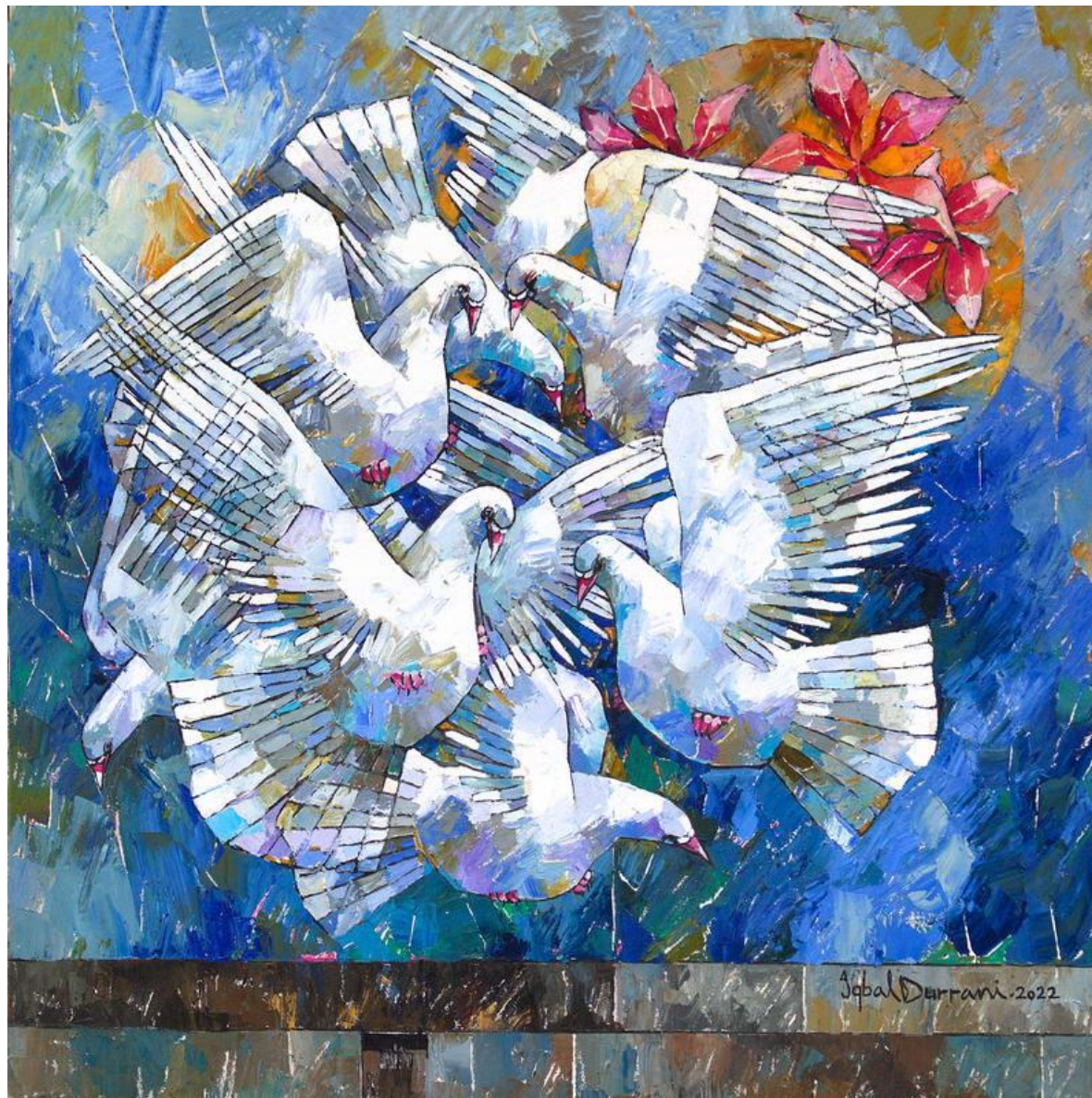
52, Chosen Friend, 18 x 48 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-248
Rs. 200,000 (\$ 896.86)



53, Hovering Fantasy, 18 x 48 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-249
Rs. 200,000 (\$ 896.86)



54, Moon Dance, 18 x 48 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-250
Rs. 200,000 (\$ 896.86)



55, Feathery Friends, 36 x 36 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-251
Rs. 350,000 (\$ 1,569.50)



56, Festive Gathering, 36 x 36 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-252
Rs. 350,000 (\$ 1,569.50)



57, Resisting Seduction, 36 x 36 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-253
Rs. 350,000 (\$ 1,569.50)



58, Liberal Intentions, 36 x 48 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-254
Rs. 450,000 (\$ 2,017.93)



59, Morning Frolick, 36 x 48 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-255
Rs. 450,000 (\$ 2,017.93)



60, Joyous Mingling, 42 x 72 Inch, Oil on Canvas, AC-IQD-256
Rs. 1,000,000 (\$ 4,484.30)

Exhibitions held by IQBAL DURRANI

1962	Born in Karachi	1994	Private Show, Dubai.
1979	Won First Prize of "Running Trophy of Ahmed Parvez Award"	1994	One-man show, Clifton Art Gallery, Karachi.
1980	Won again First Prize of "Running Trophy of Ahmed Pervez Award"	1996	One Day Private Show, Majmua, Karachi.
1982	Participated in group exhibition of painting Friendship House, Karachi.	1996	One-man show, Clifton Art Gallery, Karachi.
1982	Two-men show of paintings. Pakistan Arts Council Karachi.	1997	Live performance with Abida Parveen for ANZ Grindlays Bank, Karachi.
1982	Participated in group exhibition of "Artists of 4th generation". Pakistan Arts Council of Karachi.	1997	Participated in Melbourne, London.
1982	One-man show, Goethe Institute Karachi.	1997	One-man show, Clifton Art Gallery, Karachi.
1983	Won First Prize all Pakistan Calligraphy Competition, Arts Council Gallery, Karachi.	1999	One-man show, Majmua The Art Gallery, Karachi. 2003 One-man show, Dubai.
1984	Participated in Sindh Artists Exhibition, Karachi.	2005	One-man show, Malaysia and Thailand.
1985	One-man show, Goethe Institute, Karachi.	2007	One-man show, Indus Gallery, Karachi.
1986	One-man show, Chawkandi Gallery, Karachi.	2013	One man show, Creative Gallery, Karachi.
1987	One-man show, Vision Art Gallery, Karachi.	2015	Solo Show 'Fond Observations' at Citi Art Gallery, Karachi.
1988	One-man show, Pearl Continental Art Gallery, Karachi.	2015	Solo Exhibition, Creative Gallery, Karachi.
1989	One-man show, Art Views Gallery, Karachi.	2018	One-man Show, ArtCiti Gallery, Karachi.
1991	One-man show, Collectors Art Gallery, Karachi.	2019	One-man Show, ArtCiti Gallery, Karachi.
1992	One-man show, Indus Gallery, Karachi.	2020	One-man Show, Artciti Gallery, Karachi
1993	One-man show, Clifton Art Gallery, Karachi.	2022	One-man Show, Artciti Gallery, Karachi



Iqbal Durrani - Unbroken Promises



Candid Expressions of Iqbal Durrani

Every time I look at Iqbal Durrani's new works I find them more vibrant and exciting. In his customary style he paints with pleasant fluidity that keeps the eye in motion around the canvas. The artist's objective to achieve a unique set of hues has been effectively accomplished by confronting the challenges of meticulous blending. Impeccable color harmony across the canvases gives the entire collection a brilliant outlook.

Durrani's work is particularly interesting due to the textural characteristics of paintings. His technique of color application, mostly using a palette knife, sets him apart from most artists. I consider such rare methods of painting quite valuable and unique to indigenous art.

I have a particular liking for Durrani's minimalistic compositions that have been treated skillfully to culminate into phenomenal artworks. Works such as these usually become timeless and would be cherished for their inspirational beauty in every upcoming era. I am sure his work would become an important identity of the region in the near future.

I wish Durrani every success in his career as a professional painter.



Ustad Bashir Ahmed

Pride of Performance

Former Principal & Head of Fine Arts

National College of Arts

About ARTCITI

ARTCITI Gallery opened its doors in January of 2014 and in a period of 7 years has established itself as one of the most well known art galleries in Pakistan.

We are an art gallery with a very strong online presence, that has grown exponentially in the last few years! We are making strides to open a window to the world for talent possessed by very gifted artists of Pakistan. We have a wide collection of more than 3,500 art pieces from over 500 artists from all over Pakistan. No other gallery in Pakistan carries such a comprehensive collection.

We deliver art pieces across the world, both framed and unframed. Through hosting a vast array of original artwork and providing a choice between various styles and artists, we are proud to cater to all palates and preferences.





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