



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media contact: Tiffany Bradley

Associate Director of Communications | tbradley@smith.edu

CELEBRATED ARTIST SHAHZIA SIKANDER PRESENTS 2024 MILLER LECTURE IN ART AND ART HISTORY AT SCMA

*Sikander lectures on artistic practice from Manuscript Painting
to Contemporary Animation*



February 6, 2024, Northampton, MA – Smith College Museum of Art (SCMA) welcomes artist Shahzia Sikander to present the 2024 Miller Lecture in Art and Art History on February 20, 2024 at 5 pm. The lecture will be held in the Carroll Room of the Julia McWilliams Child '34 Campus Center, followed by a conversation with Ambreen Hai, Smith College Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities and Professor of English Language & Literature. This in-person event will be live streamed on Facebook @smithartmuseum. A reception will be held at the Brown Fine Arts Atrium, Smith College Museum of Art from 6 to 7:30 pm.

The Miller Lecture in Art and Art History is an endowed program established by Dr. Michael Miller in memory of his wife, Dulcy Blume Miller, who was a member of the class of 1946. Each year, SCMA invites a distinguished artist, art historian or curator to deliver a public lecture; previous lecturers have included Isaac Julien, Asma Naeem, Amanda Williams, Anne Pasternak, Maya Lin, William Kentridge, Lorna Simpson, Robert Rosenblum and Philip Pearlstein. For more information on this year's program, visit

<https://scma.smith.edu/calendar/miller-lecture-art-shahzia-sikander>

SCMA Director Jessica Nicoll notes “the Miller Lecture has become an important annual tradition that allows the Smith community to meet and hear from leading practitioners in the fields of art and art history. We’re excited to feature Shazia Sikander’s work in the exhibition *Painting the Persianate World* and to welcome her to campus to share insights about her creative work and the ways it engages with and adapts historical forms.” Sikander is widely celebrated for subverting Central and South-Asian manuscript painting traditions. Two of Sikander’s animations—*The Last Post* and *Reckoning*—are included in the SCMA exhibition *Painting the Persianate World: Portable Images on Paper, Cloth and Clay*. These works can be viewed in the museum after the lecture during the reception until 7:30 pm and during the run of the exhibition.

Born in Lahore, Pakistan, Shahzia Sikander earned a B.F.A. in 1991 from the National College of Arts (NCA) in Lahore. Sikander’s breakthrough work, *The Scroll*, 1989–90, received national critical acclaim in Pakistan and brought international recognition to this medium within contemporary art practices in the 1990s. Sikander received her M.F.A. at the Rhode Island School of Design in 1995. Over the subsequent twenty plus years, Sikander’s practice - which has expanded to include paintings, media work and most recently, sculpture, has been pivotal in showcasing art of the South Asian diaspora as a contemporary American tradition.

#

ABOUT SCMA

As a teaching museum affiliated with Smith College, SCMA is dedicated to connecting people to art, ideas and each other by engaging people with firsthand experiences of art, artists and museum practice; collecting, researching, presenting and preserving an expansive collection of art in the

service of learning, teaching and critical dialogue; and by fostering an environment that welcomes diverse perspectives and inspires imagination.

SCMA and the Museum Shop are open to the public year-round Tuesday–Sunday, 11 am to 4 pm. In SCMA’s galleries, classrooms and Cunningham Center for the Study of Prints, Drawings and Photographs visitors experience a world-class collection that includes modern and contemporary art, American and western European masterworks, antiquities, emerging collections of Asian and African art and a comprehensive collection of works on paper.

In 2023, a generous gift from Smith College alumnae Jan Fullgraf Golann '71 and Jane Timken '64 enabled the museum to eliminate all admission fees. Generous support is provided by Art Bridges Foundation’s Access for All program. This funding will be used to provide further access to art through a wide range of initiatives. SCMA will invest in access and audience development with extended hours, innovative programming and student outreach.

An accredited member of the American Alliance of Museums and a founding member of Museums10, a regional cultural collaboration, SCMA is also a member of the College Art Association and the New England Museum Association.

Smith College Museum of Art
20 Elm Street at Bedford Terrace
Northampton, MA 01063
Tiffany Bradley
tbradley@smith.edu

#30#