

GALLERY WENDI NORRIS

AMBREEN BUTT CURRICULUM VITAE

Born in 1969 in Lahore, Pakistan
Lives and works in Dallas, TX

EDUCATION

1997 MFA Massachusetts College of Art, Boston, MA
1993 BFA National College of Arts, Lahore, Pakistan

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2023 Lay Bare My Arms, Gallery Wendi Norris, San Francisco
2019 Wife and Son of Badr Mansoor, IN THE WINDOW at Gallery Wendi Norris HQ, San Francisco
2018 Ambreen Butt: Mark My Words, curated by Orin Zahra, National Museum for the Women in the Arts, Washington DC
2017 What is Left of Me, curated by Justine Ludwig, Dallas Contemporary, Dallas TX
I need a hero, site specific installation curated by Pieranna Cavalchini at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston, MA
2016 Site specific Installation curated by Virginia Shore and commissioned by the State Department's Art In Embassies Program, USA Embassy Islamabad, Pakistan
2015 I am all what is left of me, Carroll and Sons, Boston MA
2013 Solo Project, Carrol and Sons, Pulse Art Fair, NY
2012 Beyond the ideas of rightness or wrongness, there is a field, I'll meet you there, Carroll and Sons Art Gallery, Boston, MA
2010 Dirty Pretty and other stories, Jeffe-Friede Gallery at Hopkinton center for the arts, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH
2008 Dirty Pretty, Anna Kustera Gallery, New York, NY
Ambreen Butt: Prints, Carroll and Sons, Boston, MA
2007 Cirque Du Monde, Bernard Toale Gallery, Boston, MA
I need a hero, Site specific installation, Flemming Museum University of Vermont, Burlington, VT
2006 Maud Morgan Prize: Ambreen Butt, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA
2005 I Need a Hero, Kustera Tilton Gallery, New York, NY
Demons, Roberts & Tilton Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
2003 What is past, or passing, or to come, Bernard Toale Gallery, Boston, MA
I must utter what comes to my lips, Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, MA
2002 Drawings by Ambreen Butt, Stephen L. Barstow Artist in Residence, University Art Gallery, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, MI
2001 Ambreen Butt: Home and the World, Bernard Toale Gallery, Boston, MA
1999 Artist is an Allure of the closed, Invitational Site-specific Installation, Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA
Bed of my own making, Bernard Toale Gallery, Boston, MA
1997 Ambreen Butt: New Paintings, Bernard Toale Gallery, Boston, MA

SELECT GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2026 Say It Loud: AAMARP, 1977 to Now, ICA Boston, Boston, MA (forthcoming)
2025 Truths Be Told: Artists Activate Traditions, Museum of International Folk Art, Sante Fe, NM
Counter History: Contemporary Art from the Collection, MFA Boston, Boston, MA
2022 Three Fates, Gallery Wendi Norris Offsite, San Francisco, CA
Say the Dream was Real and the Wall Imaginary, Jane Lombard Gallery, New York, NY

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- 2021 Paper Chase: Ten Years of Collecting, Cantor Arts Center, Stanford University, Stanford, CA
- 2021 Person of Interest, Sheldon Museum of Art, Lincoln, NE
- 2020 What We Do in the Shadows, de Cordova Museum of Art, Lincoln, MA
- 2020 Person of Interest, curated by Wally Mason, Sheldon Art Museum, University of Nebraska—Lincoln, Lincoln, NE
- 2019 Rio Intermetentes Matanzas, curated by Maria Magdalena Campos Pons, 13th Biennial de La Habana, Matanzas, Cuba
- Site Lines: Artists Working in Texas, curated by Bridget Bray for Asia Society Texas Center, Houston, TX
- Can't Lock Me Up: Women resist Silence, Turner Carroll Gallery, Santa Fe, NM
- 2018 Between Spirit and Magic, curated by Jaishri Abichandani, Rossi and Rossi Art Gallery, Hong Kong, China
- 2018 One in Three: Global Perspectives on Violence Against Women, Lunder Arts center, Roberts Gallery, Leslie University, Cambridge MA
- 2017 Sherezade's Gift, curated by Jaishri Abichandani, Center for Book Arts, New York, NY
- 2016 Deep Cuts: Contemporary Paper Cutting, Currier Museum of Art Manchester, NH
- 2016 I bear Witness, 12 Gates Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
- 2015 Printer's Proofs: 30 Years at Wingate Studio, Boston University Art Galleries, Boston, MA
- 2013 Illuminated Geographies: Pakistani Miniaturist Practice in the Wake of the Global Turn, curated by Justine Ludwig, Tufts University Art Gallery, Medford MA
- 2012 Art on Paper 2012: The 42nd Exhibition, Weatherspoon Art Museum, Greensboro, NC
- 2012 Lind Family Wing for Contemporary Art: Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA
- 2011 Realms of Intimacy: Miniaturist practice from Pakistan, Contemporary Art Center, Cincinnati, OH
- 2010 ArtAdia Boston, San Francisco Institute of Art, San Francisco, CA
- 2010 Have I ever opposed you? New art from India and Pakistan, Faye Fleming and Partner, Geneva, Switzerland
- 2009 In Stitches, curated by Beth Rudin de Woody, Lelia Taghinia-Milani Heller Gallery, New York, NY
- 2009 Out of Bounds: Art from the Collection of Driek and Michael Zirinsky, Whatcom Museum, Bellingham, WA
- 2009 Pretty Tough: Contemporary Story Telling, curated by Monica Ramirez Montagut, The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, CT
- 2009 Bazgasht - traditional methods and modern practice: revival of miniature painting from the sub-continent, Art Gallery of Mississauga, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada
- 2008 Portrait of a Museum, Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA
- 2008 Distant Shores: Cultural Exchange in Contemporary Art, curated by Deborah Disston, McIninch Art Gallery, Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester, NH
- 2007 Master Prints, curated by Peter Wayne Lewis, Sunshine International Museum, Beijing, China
- 2007 Global Feminism, Davis Museum and Cultural Center, Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA
- 2007 Global Feminisms Remix, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY
- 2007 Global Feminism, Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art, Brooklyn Museum, New York, NY
- 2007 Home Coming, Pakistan National Art Gallery, Islamabad, Pakistan
- 2006 Banquet: Feast for the Senses, curated by Chip Tom, Asia Pacific Museum, Pasadena, CA
- 2006 Holy Land: Diaspora and the Desert, Heard Museum, Phoenix, AZ
- 2005 Threads of Memory, curated by Margaret Mathews Berenson, Dorsky Gallery, Long Island City, NY
- 2005 Time's Arrow: Twelve Random Thoughts on Beauty, The Rotunda Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
- 2005 The Observed and Envisioned, Davis Museum, Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA
- 2004 Visualizing Diaspora: Constructing Self, Gallery Artists Studio Projects, Brookline, MA
- 2004 Tale Spinning, The Drawing Center, New York, NY
- 2004 I Want to Take you Higher, McKenzie Fine Arts, New York, NY
- 2004 For the Birds, Artspace, New Haven, CT
- 2004 Playing with a loaded gun, Kunsthalle Fridericianum, Kassel, Germany
- 2004 Masala Diversity & Democracy in South Asian Art, William Benton Museum of Art, University of Connecticut, Mansfield, CT

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- 2003 Playing with a loaded gun, Apex Art, New York, NY
Contemporary Miniatures: India/Pakistan, The Fine Art Resource, Berlin, Germany
- 2002 Get in Line, George Adams Gallery, New York, NY
Artists in Residence, McColl Center for Visual Art, Charlotte, NC
Painting in Boston: From 1950-2000, DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park, Lincoln, MA
India: Contemporary Responses, The Art Complex Museum, Duxbury, MA
- 2001 HOME? Crosscurrents in Contemporary South Asian/American Art, The Brush Art Gallery, Lowell, MA
Home and the World, India Center for Art and Culture, New York, NY
- 2000 Material Revelations: Variations on COLLAGE, Fuller Museum of Art, Brockton, MA
Palimpsest, Fuller Museum of Art, Brockton, MA
The Figure: Another Side of Modernism from 1950 to the Present, New House Center for Contemporary Art, Snug Harbor Cultural Center, Staten Island, NY
- 2000 Annual Exhibition, DeCordova Museum & Sculpture Park, Lincoln, MA
- 1999 Go Figure, Leroy Neiman Center for Prints and Drawings, Columbia University, NY
DNA Gallery, Provincetown, MA
Collectors Collect Contemporary 1990-1999, Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA
- 1998 Posing, Mills Gallery at Boston Center for the Arts, Boston, MA
Washington Arts Association, Washington Depot, CT
- 1997 Master of Fine Arts Thesis Exhibition, Bakalar Gallery, Massachusetts College of Art, Boston, MA
- 1996 Annual National Exhibition, National Art Gallery, Islamabad, Pakistan
Six Painters, Rohtas Gallery, Islamabad, Pakistan
Asar, Alhamra Art Gallery, Lahore, Pakistan
- 1995 Out of Pakistan, AMMAR Gallery, Boston, MA

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS AND RESIDENCIES

- 2025 Anonymous Was a Woman
- 2019 Artists' Talk: Ambreen Butt and Beili Liu, Site Lines at the Asia Society Texas Center, Houston, Texas
- 2013 Brother Thomas Fellow, The Boston Foundation, Boston MA
- 2010 Dartmouth College, Artist in Residence, Hanover NH
- 2009 Distinguished achievement as an artist, Massachusetts College of Art Alumni Association, Boston, MA
Artadia Boston, fund for Art and Dialogue, New York, NY
- 2006 Maud Morgan Prize, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA
Joan Mitchell Foundation, New York, NY
- 2002 Central Michigan State University, Stephen L. Barstow Artist in Residence, Mt. Pleasant, MI
McColl Center for Visual Arts, Artist in Residence, Charlotte, NC
- 2001 Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario, Canada
- 1999 Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston, MA, Artist in Residence
Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, James and Audrey Foster Prize, Boston, MA
- 1998 Saint Botolph Club Foundation Grant for Painters, Boston, MA
- 1997 ART/ OMI, Artist in Residence, New York, NY
Edward Albee Foundation, Artist in Residence, New York, NY
Joan Mitchell Foundation Award for Painters, New York, NY
- 1996 P.E.O International Peace Scholarship, Des Moines, IA

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SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Bridget Quinn, Beauty and Danger in the Art of Ambreen Butt, Hyperallergic, Dec 12, 2023
Mary Van Proyen, Ambreen Butt, Visual Art Source, Nov 28, 2023
Robert Aubry, Ambreen Butt: WETA Around Town, PBS station for Washington DC, Feb 26, 2019
Noelani Kirschner, Ambreen Butt: Mark My Words, The American Scholar, Washington DC, Feb 25, 2019
Vanessa H. Larson, Two Pakistani American Women reinvent traditional art with unconventional subjects, The Washington Post, Washington DC, Feb 6, 2019
Ari Post, Shutdown and Ambreen Butt at NMWA, The George Towner Museums, Washington DC, Jan 22, 2019
Menachem Wecker, Pakistani American Artist Ambreen Butt imbues Traditional Miniatures with timely social criticism, The Art Newspaper, Washington DC, Jan 16, 2019
Pakistani-American artist Ambreen Butt's latest work inspires women to 'make a mark,' The News International, Dec 8, 2018
Hady Mawajdeh, Artist Spotlight: A Big Push to Re-Think Miniature Painting, Art & Seek, KERA public radio, Dallas, TX, Aug 17, 2017
Joseph R. Wolin, Ambreen Butt at Dallas Contemporary, Glasstire, June 24, 2017
Beenish Ahmed, This Miniature Artist is Taking on Big Issues, OZY.com, April 16, 2017
William Batchelor, I Need a Hero, Museum Introduces a Female Heroine to the Gardner Museum, Boston Heights, Jan 25, 2017
Andrea Shea, Pakistani Artist Known for Miniature Paintings Goes Big, WBUR Public Radio, Boston Jan 12, 2017
Cate McQuaid, Ambreen Butt Demonstrates Art of Diplomacy, The Boston Globe, April 28, 2015
Francine Koslow Miller, Ambreen Butt at Carroll and Sons, Art in America, April 2013
Cate McQuaid, Global Miniaturists, Boston Globe, Feb 26, 2013
Christopher Capozzola, Illuminated geographies: Pakistani Miniaturist Practice in the wake of global turn, Art New England, Jan 2013
Cate McQuaid, Cultural divides, blurred and explosive, in Ambreen Butt's artwork, Boston Globe, Dec 11, 2012
Greg Cook, Traditional Contemporary, Ambreen Butt, The Phoenix, Dec 3, 2012
Christian Holland, Ambreen Butt at Carroll and Sons, Art New England, October 2012
Maria Seda-Reeder, Epic Miniatures: Contemporary Pakistani Miniaturist Techniques, AeQai, October 15, 2011
Benjamin Genocchio, Amazing Stories: Emotionally Charged Narrative in Pictures, The New York Times, Sep 13, 2009
Cate McQuaid, Politics and Nuance, The Boston Globe, Nov 5, 2008
Carol Armstrong, Global Feminisms, Art Forum International, May 2007
Cate McQuaid, A pattern of Success, The Boston Globe, March 17, 2007
Ken Johnson, A dream like glimpse of the cosmic and mundane, The Boston Globe, November 30, 2006
Atteqa Ali, New Platforms for Discussion, The Nations, September 25, 2006
Meera Rajagopalan, Miniature Artist Mixes Traditional Skills, modern ideas, India New England, May 15, 2006
Lilly Wei, Ambreen Butt: Kustera Tilton Gallery, Art News, October 2005
Atteqa Ali, Impassioned Voices: Art as Social Commentary in Pakistan, Art Asia Pacific, Fall 2005
Grace Glueck, Ambreen Butt: I Need a Hero, The New York Times, July 8, 2005
Judy Birke, A Fowl Menagerie, The New Haven Register, March 14, 2004
Benjamin Genocchio, Not Only Watching, Painting and Sculpting, Too, The New York Times, February 5, 2004
Serena Crivellaro, For the Birds not for the weak of heart, flighty, The Yale Herald, January 23, 2004
McQuaid, Cate, Miniature paintings convey great power, The Boston Globe October 17, 2003
Masood Haider, Miniature Galore, Dawn, September 27, 2003
Holland Cotter, Playing with a loaded gun, The New York Times, September 12, 2003
Mark Pickering, Art Exhibit Talks War, Gender, Independence, India New England News, May 1, 2003
Cate McQuaid, A woman of Many Worlds, The Boston Globe, April 11, 2003
Nancy Sheehan, Ambreen Butt: Finding a Voice Through Her Art, Worcester Telegram, March 23, 2003
Mary Sherman, Small Worlds show intricacies of India, Boston Herald, August 25, 2002

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Holland Cotter, Art Complex, Duxbury, The New York Times, August 23, 2002
Cate McQuaid, Small Paintings offer a big picture of India, The Boston Globe, August 23, 2002
Mellisa L. Grunow, Identity on Display, Central Michigan Life, April 10, 2002
Stephen Jermanok, Artists In Residence, Boston Magazine, February 2001
Brigid Watson, Exploring Identity: Artist Examines Tension Between East and West in New Series, South End News, November 25, 2001
Cate McQuaid, Painted Layers Reveal A Rich Self-Portrait, The Boston Globe, November 10, 2001
Cate McQuaid, In Lowell Exhibition: A Fusion of South Asian, American Cultures, The Boston Globe, March 29, 2001
Martin DesMarais, Mass Gallery Exhibits South Asian Artists, India New England News, March 2001
Mary Sampas, Brush Art Gallery Celebrates the Exotic Art of India, The Sun, February 27, 2001
Christine Temin, For the Love of Cod, The Boston Globe, September 14, 2000
Cate McQuaid, In Brockton: Embodiment of Change, The Boston Globe, June 28, 2000
Mary Sherman, Show Questions New York's Dominance, Boston Herald, July 2, 2000
Cate McQuaid, Disparate Solo Shows Strong at DeCordova, The Boston Globe, June 23, 2000
Denise Markonish, Defining a New Cultural Language, Art New England, June/July 2000
Karin Miller-Lewis, Recent Work by Artists of South Asian Descent in the USA, Art India, January 2000
Miles Unger, Bernard Toale Gallery/Boston -- Ambreen Butt: Works on Paper, Art New England, August /September 1999
Cate McQuaid, Miniature Myths, The Boston Globe, April 29, 1999
Gary Duehr, Global Art from Local Collections, The Boston Tab, April 13, 1999
Posing, The Boston Globe, December 31, 1998
Ann Wilson Lloyd, Ambreen Butt at Bernard Toale, Art in America, May 1998
Joanne Silver, Brush Strokes Free Painter from Her Constraints, Boston Herald, December 19, 1997

SELECT CATALOGS

2023 What Comes to My Lips, essays by María Magdalena Campos-Pons, Quddus Mirza, and Sara Raza, Black Dog Press, London, UK
2011 Dirty Pretty and Other Stories, essay by Joseph R. Wolin, Jaffe-Friede Gallery, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH
2007 Ambreen Butt, Bernard Toale Gallery, Boston, MA
Global Feminisms, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY
2006 Holy Land: Diaspora and the Desert, Heard Museum, Phoenix, AZ
2005 Observed and Envisioned, Davis Museum and Cultural Center, Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA
2003 Contemporary Miniatures from India/ Pakistan, Fine Art Resource Center, Berlin, Germany
I Must Utter What comes to my lips, Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, MA
2002 Painting in Boston, from 1950-present, DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park, Lincoln, MA
2001 Home and The World, India Center for Art and Culture, New York, NY
HOME? Crosscurrents in Contemporary South Asian/American Art, Brush Art Gallery, Lowell, MA
2000 The 2000 DeCordova Annual Exhibition, DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park, Lincoln, MA
The Figure: Another Side of Modernism, Snug Harbor Cultural Center, Staten Island, NY
1999 Collectors Collect Contemporary, Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA

SELECT COLLECTIONS

Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH
Art Complex Museum, Duxbury, MA
Art OMI, Ghent, New York, NY
Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD
Cantor Center for Visual Arts, Stanford University, Stanford, CA

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Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati, OH
Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, OH
Davis Museum, Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA
de Cordova Museum & Sculpture Park, Lincoln, MA
Edward Albee Foundation, Montauk, New York, NY
Harvard Art Museums, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
Hood Museum, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH
Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA
Library of Congress, Washington, DC
Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, MN
Mulvane Art Museum, Washburn University, Topeka, KS
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX
Mount Holyoke College Art Museum, South Hadley, MA
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA
National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, DC
Sheldon Art Museum, University of Nebraska—Lincoln, Lincoln, NE
U.S. Art in Embassies, Islamabad, Pakistan
Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, MA