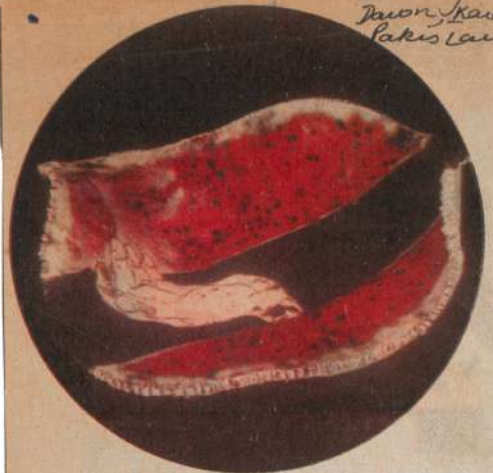


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Shazia's stunning stones

An exhibition of more than 100 works of ceramic art titled "The Weight of Stone" by Shazia Zuberi were displayed at Momart on 30th December 2002 to mark her solo show. The show will continue until further announcement. This was her 3rd one-person exhibition in Karachi and second at Momart. Earlier, Chawkandi Art mounted an exhibition of ceramic pieces by the Islamabad based Ms. Zuberi in November 2000.

Philosophising her medium, Shazia comments that from clay emerges life and with life stands art hand in hand. For her clay becomes a

tribe of beings rather than clay. Her fondness for dance is obvious in the figures she draws on her ceramics. One sees aerobic and acrobatic figures on her pots. Her figures on pots are reminiscent of the pottery found in the ruins of the Indus Valley; but Shazia's figures are fast in movement and give flying impressions. Their movements seem to be crying for human liberty.

In her current show at Momart, she has added pebble as a metaphor of existence despite going through the mill of times. She elevated this ignored beauty to the level of art by speckling and scratching or smoothly glazing it.



metaphor of life, its joys and sorrows and its blessings and misfortunes. When she molds centuries old clay into various shapes for her personal expressions, the feel gives her an unfathomable ecstasy. Shazia feels one with clay and when she runs her hand to shape clay into figures, her lines are similar, and at times, exactly the same that she draws with brush on paper. Her exhibition at Momart exactly 26 months back also carried some of her drawings. One could see a lot of similarity between the two. In fact, Shazia started her career as a painter in Islamabad, but switched to ceramics. Her work was first seen at VM Art Gallery in 1998.

Islamabad-based Shazia has many facets of her artistic talent. She gives vent to her feelings and thoughts through paints, pots and drawings as well as Kathak, Bharatnatyam and contemporary dance. She has been fascinated by clay since her childhood. At the age of 13, when she was in a boarding school, in her art class she had the experience of ceramics. While at college she did short duration courses in the subject. She actually realised her calling when she was studying economics at Allegheny University, Pennsylvania, USA. Her minor subject in B. A. was art with emphasis on figure drawing and ceramics in 1992. She studied Hand building with Slip Decoration Techniques at Beeba Hamati Dubai International Art Centre, Dubai. Her first exhibition in

Shazia claims that all her pieces are hand-made. She thinks the use of moulds in the process is cheating. In this case clay seems to be like an

International Art Centre, Dubai, 2002. Her first exhibition in

