

FIZA KHATRI



JHAVERI CONTEMPORARY

FIZA KHATRI

SAILOON AND
OTHER STORIES

14 JUN—31 JULY 2021

In dialogue with *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous*, Jhaveri Contemporary presents Fiza Khatri, *Sailoon and other Stories*. Working in oil, Khatri tenderly and frankly documents her day-to-day encounters and the parameters of queer acceptance and performance. Her painterly vignettes are a generous invitation into the close-quarters of her world.

The Sink takes us to the corner of her tiled bathroom. Beneath shelves of familiar toiletries a ceramic sink leans forward from the wall. It's speckled with cuttings of Khatri's hair. The soft fluffy tufts, that leave their trace for days to come, are the debris of her self-administered transformation. For Khatri, constructing her hair is an act of empowerment and ownership. Her short, razor-cut style jars with a well-established South Asian lexicon of femininity that values luscious, painstakingly grown and manicured locks, and conversely the annihilation of body hair. *Big Sink* similarly refutes this hair conservatism. With a ritualistic undertone, the white bowl strewn with accoutrements, speaks of her personal index of beauty. Served up from a low perspective, the scene equally toys with notions of purity and hygiene. Painted so that we peer into the dark clippings, Khatri plays into sensitivities around loose strands of hair.

There is a more convivial summons in *Heartbreak Pakoras*. Khatri pushes towards us a plate of crisp, oily snacks and offers up a seat at a plasticky table in *(Queen of) Ming Court*. This hospitality is, however, limited. Her steely characters cut short any further engagement, their attention directed elsewhere. In *Iva's Spread* our companion is engrossed in a set of tarot cards anticipating her fate. Umair gazes through us while in *Two Heads* a couple of women turn their backs meeting us with their tussled hair. These inner moments of her family life replete with glimpses of much adored pets like *Spark and Bite* are guarded. Khatri's selective vision for her viewer and the protective streak reflect the importance of preserving the queered spaces she has so meticulously carved.

Dr. Cleo Roberts-Komireddi

FIZA KHATRI



Shining, 2020
Oil on canvas
91.5 x 122 cm

FIZA KHATRI



Big Sink, 2021
Oil on canvas
91.5 x 122 cm

FIZA KHATRI



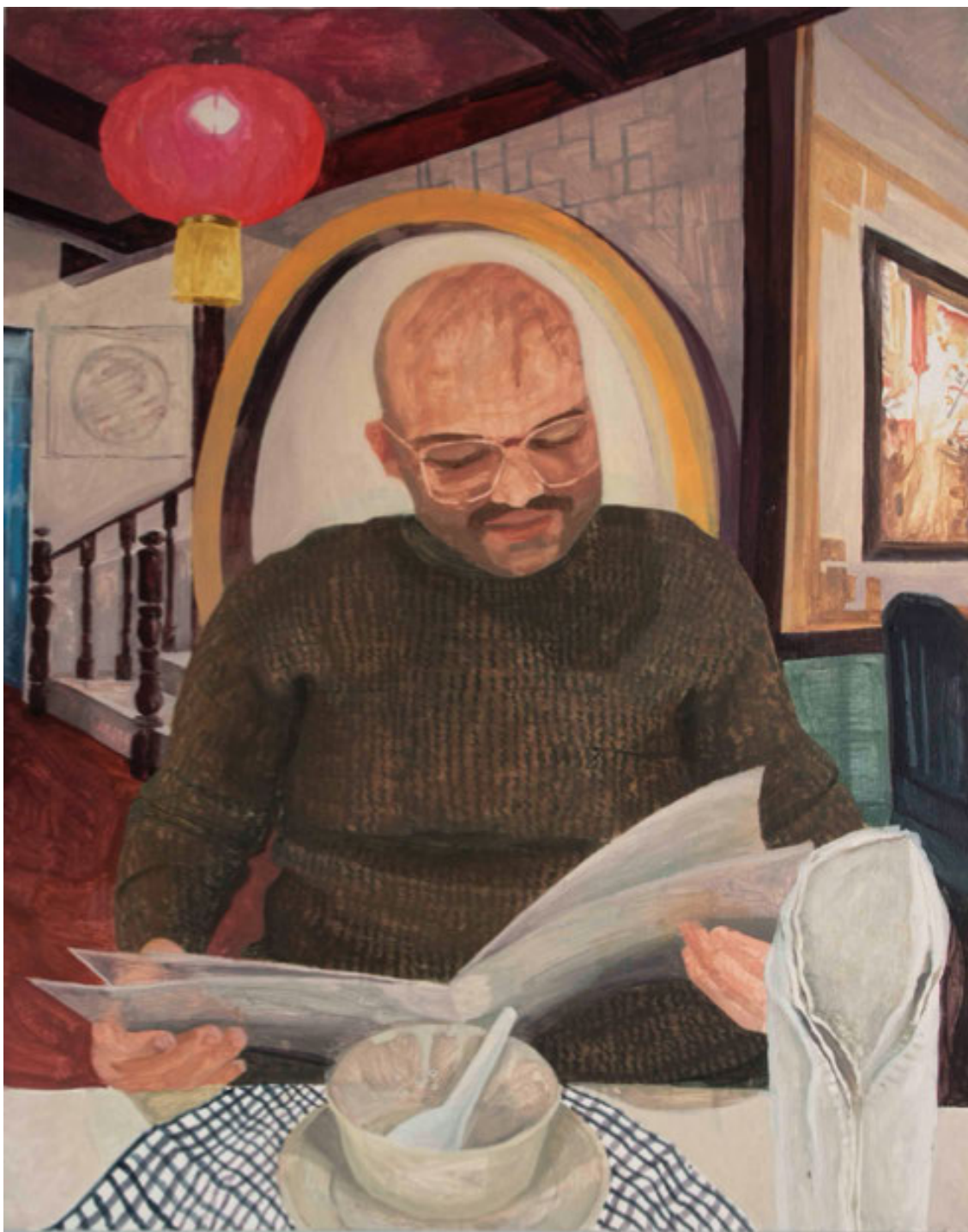
The Sink, 2020
Oil on canvas
76.2 x 61 cm

FIZA KHATRI



Iva's Spread, 2020
Oil on canvas
76.2 x 61 cm

FIZA KHATRI



(Queen of) Ming Court, 2020

Oil on canvas

76.2 x 61 cm

FIZA KHATRI



Heartbreak Pakoras, 2020
Oil on canvas
76.2 x 61 cm

FIZA KHATRI



Umair, 2021
Oil on canvas
45.7 x 45.7 cm

FIZA KHATRI



Umair with Plant, 2020

Oil on canvas

45.7 x 45.7 cm

FIZA KHATRI



Two Heads, 2017 Emulsion
and dye on canvas
25.5 x 30.5 cm

FIZA KHATRI



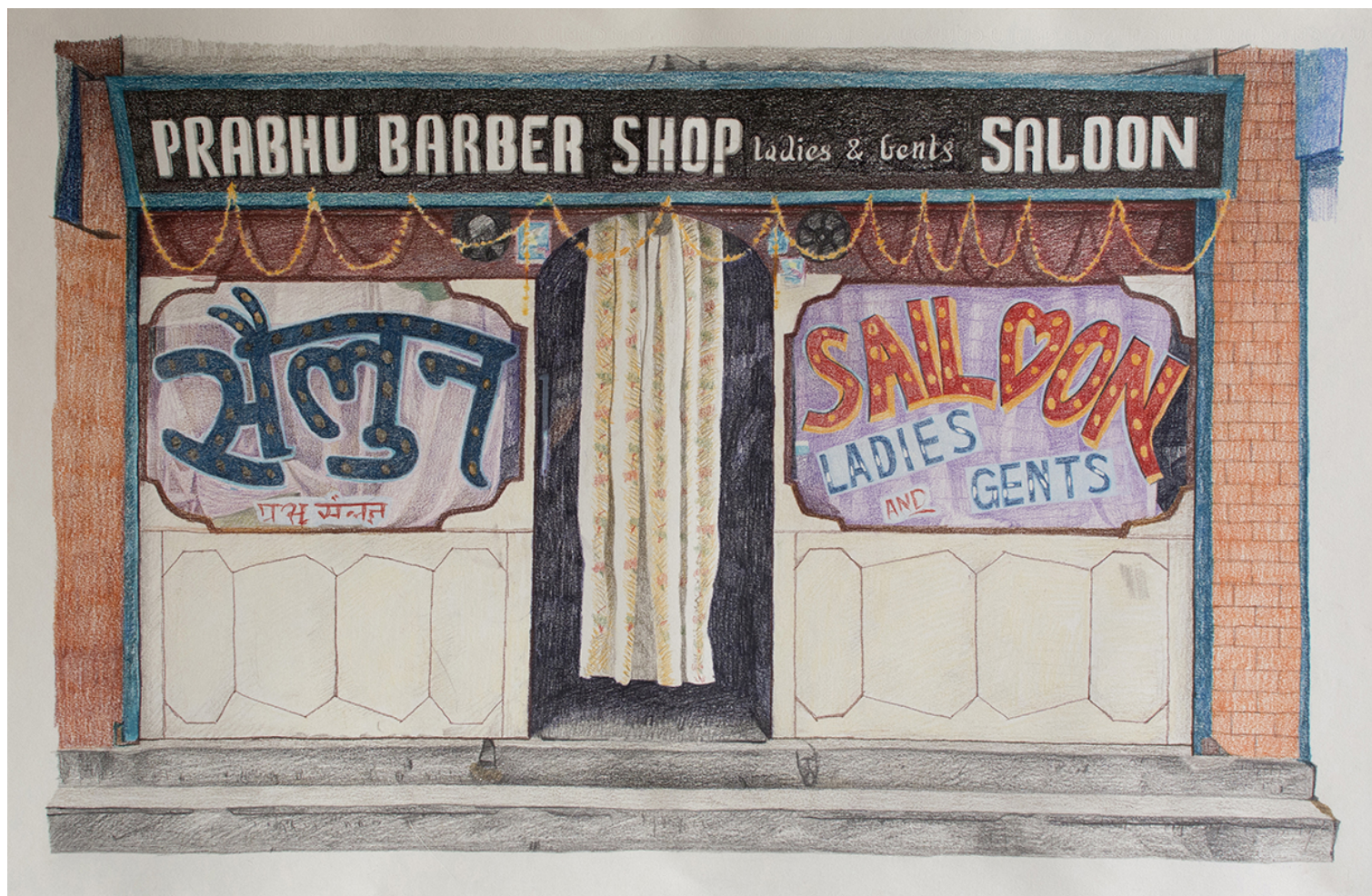
Storm and Cookie, 2020
Oil on canvas
76.2 x 61 cm

FIZA KHATRI



Spark and Bite, 2021
Oil on canvas
61 x 45.7 cm

FIZA KHATRI



Sailoon, 2019
Drawing, colour pencil on paper
42 x 63.5 cm

FIZA KHATRI



Feminine, 2020
Drawing, colour pencil on paper
28 x 20.2 cm

FIZA KHATRI

BIO

Fiza Khatri (b.1992, Karachi. Lives and works in Karachi) paints and draws a catalogue of intimate moments from her immediate environment. Her tender, spirited brushwork courses with affection and pulls us through the spaces in which she operates. Pointing to the social constructions that shape her world, Khatri speaks to the complexities of articulating and, to an extent, performing queerness. Khatri is expected to receive her MFA from Yale School of Art in 2023, and was awarded her BA from Mount Holyoke College, Massachusetts in 2015.

Her work has been exhibited, most recently at IVS Gallery, Karachi (2019); The Research and Publication Center, Lahore (2019); Photo Kathmandu, Kathmandu (2018); Lahore Biennale Collateral, Lahore (2018); The New York Studio School, New York (2015); Fowler-Kellog Art Centre, Chautauqua (2014).

She has curated projects at VM Art Gallery, Karachi (2020); AAN Gandhara Art Space, Karachi (2018); FOMMA Trust, Karachi (2018); Faraar/The Second Floor, Karachi (2017).

CONTACT

jhavericontemporary.com

info@jhavericontemporary.com
+91 22 2202 1051

Gallery Address

3rd Floor, Devidas Mansion
4 Mereweather Road, Apollo Bandar
Colaba, Mumbai, 400 001—India

Registered Office

AM art India Pvt. Ltd
26 B.G. Kher Marg
Mumbai, 400 006—India

JHAVERI CONTEMPORARY