

School of Art Newsletter

Vol.2, Issue.7, July 2024

Seek Knowledge for Wisdom and Peace



Thesis project by Textile design student Rameen Asif entitled "Threads of Devotion: Artistic Representation of Data Darbar"

Data Darbar is an Islamic shrine located in Lahore city of Punjab province. It is the largest Sufi shrine in South Asia which was built to house the remains of al-Hujwiri, commonly known as Data Ganj Baksh or more colloquially as Data Sahab, a Sufi saint from Ghazni in present-day Afghanistan, who is believed to have lived on the site in the 11th century CE. The site is considered to be the most sacred place in Lahore, located in the centre of Old City. It is renowned for its religious harmony, tranquillity, and meditative atmosphere that allows souls to relax and connect with their inner self. It is believed that the spiritual powers of great Sufi saints are attached to their burial sites. The shrine is also a focal point for devotees seeking solace, blessings and spiritual enlightenment. Keeping this idea in mind, textile design student Rameen Asif has created her thesis project that explores the intersection of spiritual percep-

tions and textile arts, with a particular focus on representing the diverse spiritual ideas and beliefs of people surrounding Data Darbar in Lahore. The study delves into the unique spiritual atmosphere of Data Darbar and its surroundings, aiming to capture the various perspectives and concepts held by the community. Through the utilization of mixed media and textile techniques, the research endeavors to contemporize and manipulate these spiritual perceptions into tangible and visually compelling textile art forms. By intertwining traditional beliefs with innovative artistic methodologies, the thesis seeks to create a visual narrative that not only represents the spiritual essence of Data Darbar but also reflects the dynamic and evolving nature of spiritual perspectives in the contemporary context. Rameen Asif has done an exploration of diverse textile techniques



Textile design student Rameen Asif with her thesis display

and materials which have become a means to encapsulate and convey the rich tapestry of spiritual beliefs within the vibrant cultural landscape of Lahore.



Thesis Display 2024

The fall 2024 Thesis display of students from Textile design and Graphic design department narrates a journey of creativity, experimentation, exploration and a presentation of profound ideas communicated to the viewer through an array of artworks. These artworks presented an amalgamation of traditional and contemporary design sensibilities along with a synthesis of materials and techniques that resulted in captivating and visually stunning designs. The projects were created by interweaving traditional techniques and innovative artistic methodologies that are meant to encapsulate and convey a rich tapestry of our vibrant culture, while also challenging the conventional narratives. The projects created by the students of textile department comprised of a diverse range of inspirations that displayed a versatility in exploration of topics that include **Threads of Devotion** by Rameen Asif that presents an artistic representation of Data Darbar, **Metamorphosis** by Nimra Sajjad that is based on her personal transformation through her phases of life, **From Trash to Trend** by Basma Ahmed that is centered on the transformative concept of repurposing accumulated waste into innovative fashion pieces, **Panoply** by Nageen Fatima that is inspired from the splendor of the attires of Rajput warriors, and **Feudalism and Shaping of Spatial Identities** by Tayyab Bin Tahir that challenges the masculine mindset immersed in the legacy of feudal culture. The materials and techniques used to create these projects included mixed media, traditional techniques like tilla and zari, unconventional materials like door wire net and sieves, creative incorporation of weaving techniques and experimentation with leather printing.



Textile design student Tayyab Bin Tahir explaining his thesis project to Chancellor



Textile design student Basma Ahmed showing her thesis project to Chancellor

The final year graphic design thesis projects revealed an incredible range of work produced by the students. Each project was a testament to the unique journey embarked upon by the students, bringing fresh perspectives and innovative ideas to the forefront of contemporary design. The projects beautifully intertwined indigenous design elements with modern aesthetics, showcasing the rich heritage of traditional symbolism through captivating visual storytelling in advertising material. The projects by students ventured into the realms of UI and UX design, creating apps that enhance tourism experiences, cater to bikers, or explore social behavior. The tactile design project, featuring a braille storybook, highlighted the importance of inclusivity and accessibility in design. The exploration of the philosophy of the inner child added a layer of depth to the work, reminding us of the compassion and empathy that drive us toward our goals. The concept of JOMO (Joy of Missing Out) proved particularly relevant in today & social media-driven world, offering a refreshing counter-narrative to the constant need for connectivity. Endeavors in Urdu typeface design and its applications celebrated the beauty and functionality of our linguistic heritage. The projects delving into the works of great Sufi poets, expressed through experimental black and white photography, seamlessly blended poetry and visual art, creating an evocative and profound experience. The diversity and innovation in these projects are truly commendable and the work reflects not only individual talents but also contributes to the ever-evolving landscape of graphic design. The projects showcase an array of innovative ideas with a variety of execution styles, demonstrating the students' ability to work with different mediums and pushing the boundaries of contemporary design. Chancellor Mr. Muhammad Faisal Janjua viewed the work of the thesis students and appreciated the efforts of both students and faculty members.



Chancellor Mr. Muhammad Faisal Janjua viewing the work of Graphic design student Aqeel Suhail



Graphic design student Hamna Rafique explaining her project to Chancellor IAC and Dean SOA

Summer Camp at SOA

Summer vacations can be a time of excitement and exploration for children as they get an opportunity during this period to engage in thrilling activities that can enhance their personal growth by getting to learn new skills and techniques. While children and young adults might not get enough time and opportunity to do so during school days, summer camps are an excellent way to bridge this gap, offering education in a fun and exciting way. The summer camp offered at School of Art, Institute for Art and Culture is designed to activate children and young adults for exploring creative expression and imaginative skills through a set of finely curated activities. Each day of the summer camp is designed to focus on and enhance different genres of art and craft based on their age group, creative ability, and personal interest. Our approach is based on the idea of learning through creative means. It

involves different activities in which children are engaged to co-create with their instructors, where both inspire each other in the process of learning and creation, leading to a more enjoyable and productive camp experience. This engaging environment helps in building confidence and self-esteem while providing the students with a chance to think out of the box. This summer camp program focused on arts and crafts such as glass painting, textile print design, and motion graphics that allowed students to explore their artistic side. Such artistic activities helped to nurture creativity and imagination, enabling kids to express themselves more accurately through these enriching experiences. These activities can also help in teaching new skills, while they can also contribute towards discovering potential career paths for the summer camp students in future.



Glass painting students working in class on their projects during summer camp



Textile print design student practicing weaving during summer camp



Textile print design student working in supervision of instructor Ms. Sania Mubarak

The summer camp course titled "Textile Print Design" aimed to introduce learners with brief exercises to practice diverse techniques and mediums that included design composition skills, motif development while learning about recent trends and color theory with respect to design process. The glass painting course was conducted by introducing the idea of design development with principles of composition and learning about color combinations by

utilizing color wheel and solid color or gradient painting styles. These techniques were then practiced on different surfaces like glass and mirror. In the motion Graphics course, students learned the basics of graphic design and motion graphics. This summer camp course aimed to cover text and object animation, combined with audio for use in multimedia projects as well as other key elements, providing a solid foundation for creating dynamic visual content.



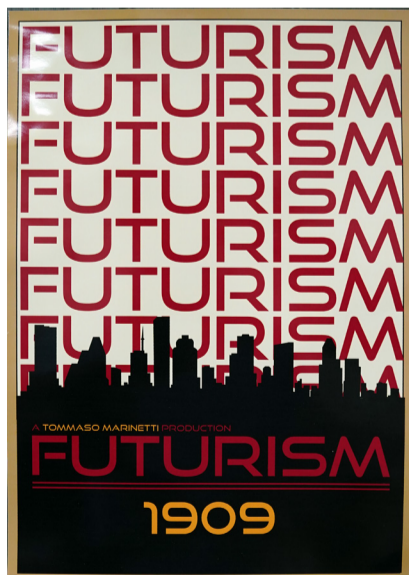
Glass painting and Textile print design students busy working in class during summer camp



Motion graphic students working in class on their projects under the supervision of instructor Mr. Kashif Rafique

The Art of Fabric Manipulation

Fabric manipulation involves intentionally changing, or modifying, how a fabric looks or feels. The aim behind practicing fabric manipulation is to convert fabric to become more dimensional, reshaping the fabric or textile material or changing its texture from flat surface to 3D. Some of the most common fabric manipulation techniques are tucks, pleats, smocking, patchwork, gathers and ruffles. Immersed in the world of artistic expression, under the supervision of instructor Mr. Meer Hamza, students of third semester from the textile design department were given a group project of experimenting with the technique of fabric manipulation where they embarked on an awe-inspiring journey delving into the vast ocean of creativity. Their chosen technique was fabric manipulation because it is a versatile medium through which they can unravel the enigmatic wonders of marine life. Using their technical skills and boundless imagination, these budding artists crafted this masterpiece weaving together a tapestry that unveils the secrets of the deep ocean. The materials used for exploring this technique included wool, cotton fabric and calico while following the color scheme white on white. Each stroke and fold of fabric served as a brush stroke on a canvas, a portal into the mesmerizing expanse of the sea bed. Through intricate techniques and skilled manipulation, the students were able to breathe life into their artwork, summoning forth an underwater realm pulsating with vibrant hues, captivating textures and an array of fascinating creatures.



Posters: Design is History

Graphic design is the art and profession of selecting and arranging visual elements—such as typography, images, symbols, and colours—to convey a message to an audience. The evolution of graphic design as a practice and profession has been closely bound to technological innovations, societal needs, and the visual imagination of practitioners. For budding graphic designers, it has become essential to learn about the history of graphic design as knowing design history can empower them to learn about how the field of graphic design evolved throughout history with new inventions, advancements in technology and the introduction of new philosophies and ideas. Social, political, geographic and economic factors also had a huge impact on the field of graphic design, and learning about them can

help in getting a holistic view of how the different design movements had an influence on the contemporary field of graphic design. With this in mind, students of graphic design were taught about the major design movements from history, and were given the project of creating contemporary posters inspired from the selected design movement or designer by instructor Ms. Naima Muzaffar. This initially prompted students to do an in-depth research, and the posters created as a result were either recreation of already existing posters, or presented the important ideas and personalities from history of graphic design in a contemporary manner. Such exercises can help students in not just realizing and learning about key design trends of the past, but can also lead to being inspired from these trends in the future.

Acknowledgements:

Supervised by: Prof. Dr. Shahida Manzoor - Dean, School of Art

Designed and Compiled by: Ms. Naima Muzaffar

Contributors: Ms. Sania Mubarak, Ms. Nimra Sajjad, Mr. Mazhar Hussein, Mr. Meer Hamza, Mr. Kashif Rafique, Ms. Naima Muzaffar

