



Pardes.

A tapestry of emotions, desires, and relationships experienced by migrant workers and their loved ones from Pakistan, documented and retold through a multidisciplinary artistic lens.

In this breathing of existence, work stands as the pivotal force for survival—an instinct ingrained in the very essence of humanity. Amidst the prevailing patterns of disparity, oppression, and control, our lives orbit around work, sculpting the contours of our emotions and relationships. Human connections, the unwavering pillars of sustenance and flourishing, bear the weight of this intricate existence of being.

Intimacy, a beacon of solace, undergoes a transformative shift in the crucible of oppressive work conditions. Structural inequalities and economic control cast a mirage of a better life, uprooting individuals in service to hegemonic economies, and birthing migrations in pursuit of elusive opportunities. The consequence? A life adrift, a narrative of non-belonging.

Enter 'Pardes,' a project inspired by the poignant odysseys of migrant workers from Pakistan to the Gulf, a quest for economic prosperity that leaves indelible imprints on the social fabric. Millions of families find themselves torn asunder, the breadwinner severed from the intimate embrace of kin, lost in a foreign land. This project seeks to chronicle the untold stories of Pakistani migrant workers to the Gulf States and those left behind—wives, parents, children, and siblings. It endeavors to engage in a dialogue with migrant/migrant workers about their yearnings for intimacy and love while navigating foreign landscapes.

'Pardes' aspires to be more than an event—it aims to be an immersive experience that transcends borders and resonates with the shared human experience. These creative forms will delve into the labyrinth of human connection, where the threads of longing and resilience weave a narrative that transcends time and place.

This collection of art emerges from a deep dive into the life stories of immigrant workers, exploring themes of

migration, belonging, home, and the intertwining of life with labor. Carefully selected elements enhance the emotional depth of these narratives: reclaimed wood, sourced from shipwreck scrap yards, symbolizes resilience and history, while paper from an itinerant painter's collection echoes the journey of migration.

Collaborating with Sajid Ali, a traditional street artist, we incorporate calligraphic elements, enriching our storytelling with layers of meaning. Through dialogue with Sajid, we intertwine documented stories with personal experiences, bridging past and present. Digital illustrations, a collaborative effort with Shabbir Mohammad, LuLuwa Lokhandwala, and Hussain Ahmed, serve as visual translations of migrant narratives, blending tradition with modernity.

The process is emotive, revealing new perspectives as we navigate the intersections of our lives with those we represent. Blending contemporary techniques with traditional approaches, we reinterpret these stories for a broader audience, fostering empathy and understanding across cultural boundaries.

This approach embodies participatory art principles, blurring lines between the artist and the audience. Inspired by relational aesthetics, social interactions drive artistic expression, fostering connections between individuals and communities. Drawing from narrative construction theories, storytelling shapes collective identities and cultural histories, challenging dominant narratives with alternative perspectives informed by postcolonial theory.

In essence, our art reflects the lived experiences of migrant workers and their families, embodying a blend of modern and traditional techniques to create visually compelling works that resonate emotionally and provoke thoughtful reflection.



Mazdoor (Labour)

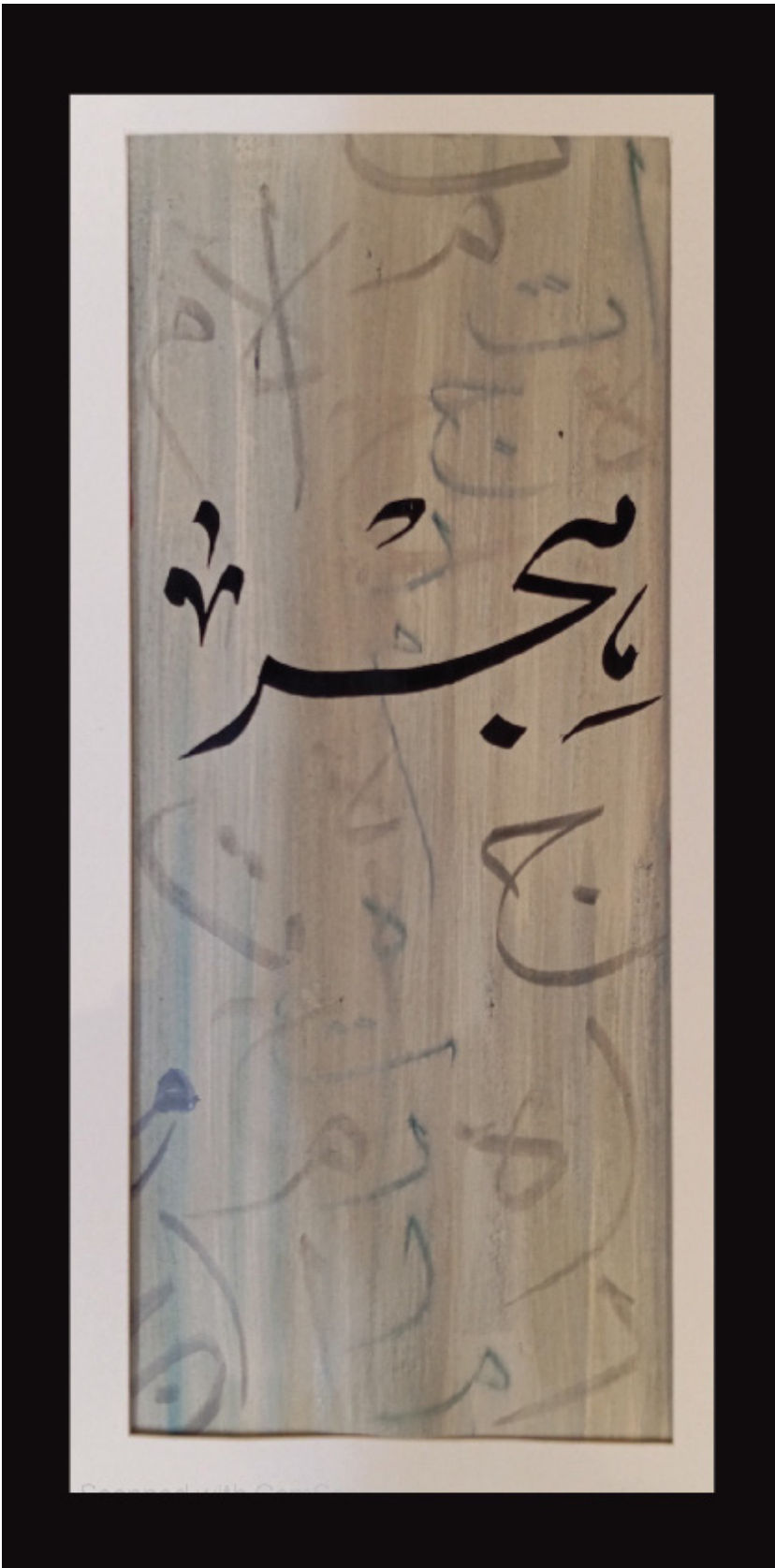
Sajid & Imran

Ink & paint on Paper

51 x 24 cm

2024

Suggested Price: CHF 500/-



Hijr (Separation, Migration)

Sajid & Imran

Ink & paint on Paper

50.5 21.5 cm

2024

Suggested Price: CHF 500/-



Kaun - Who (Who are you? Where do they come from? Who are they?)

Sajid & Imran

Ink & paint on wood

22 x 14 cm

2024

Suggested Price: CHF 800/-



Ghar - Home (Where is home? In this journey, I lost my self.)

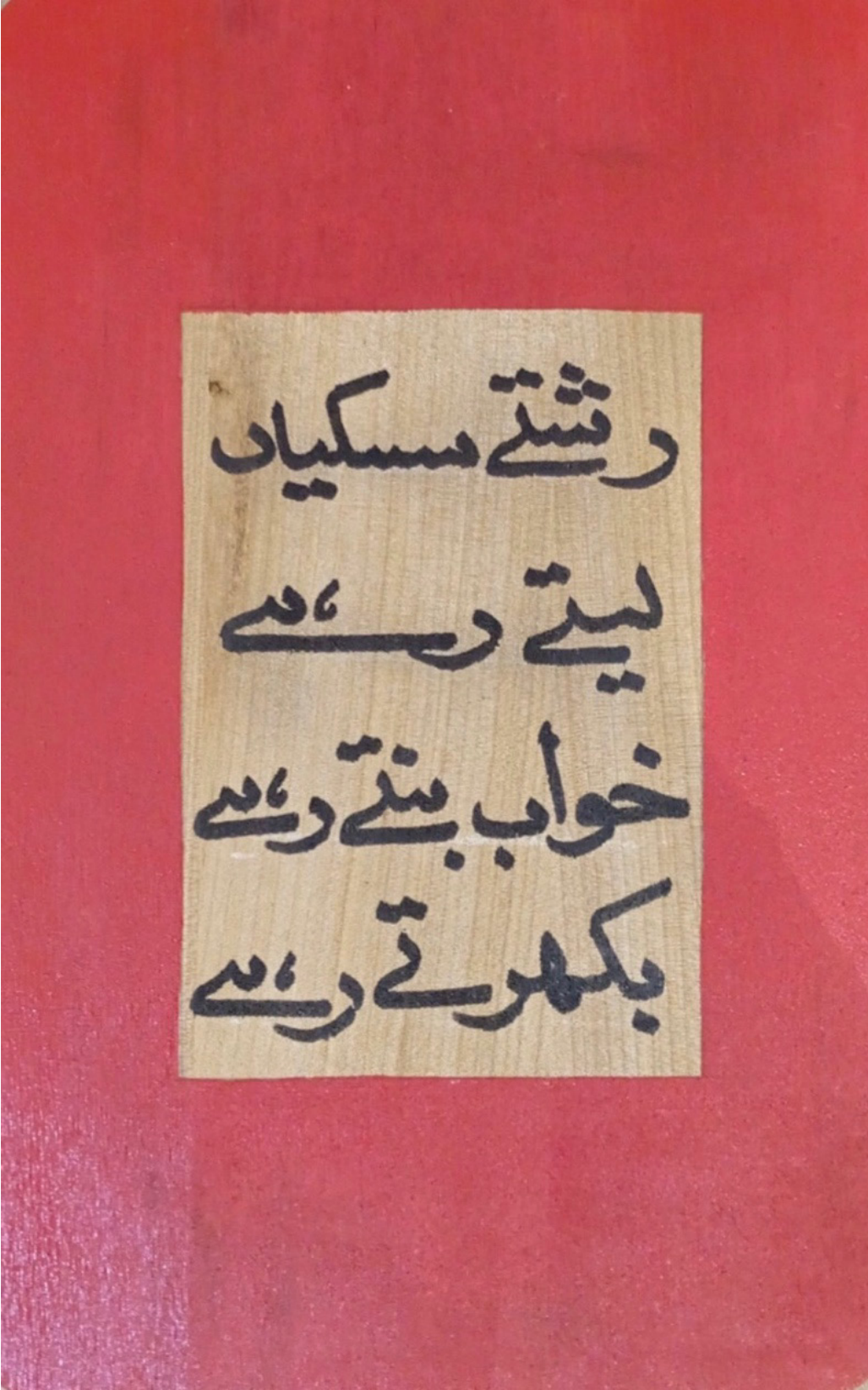
Sajid & Imran

Ink & paint on wood

22 x 14 cm

2024

Suggested Price: CHF 800/-



Dreams & Relations (Relationships continued to sigh, Dreams continued to form, And continued to scatter)

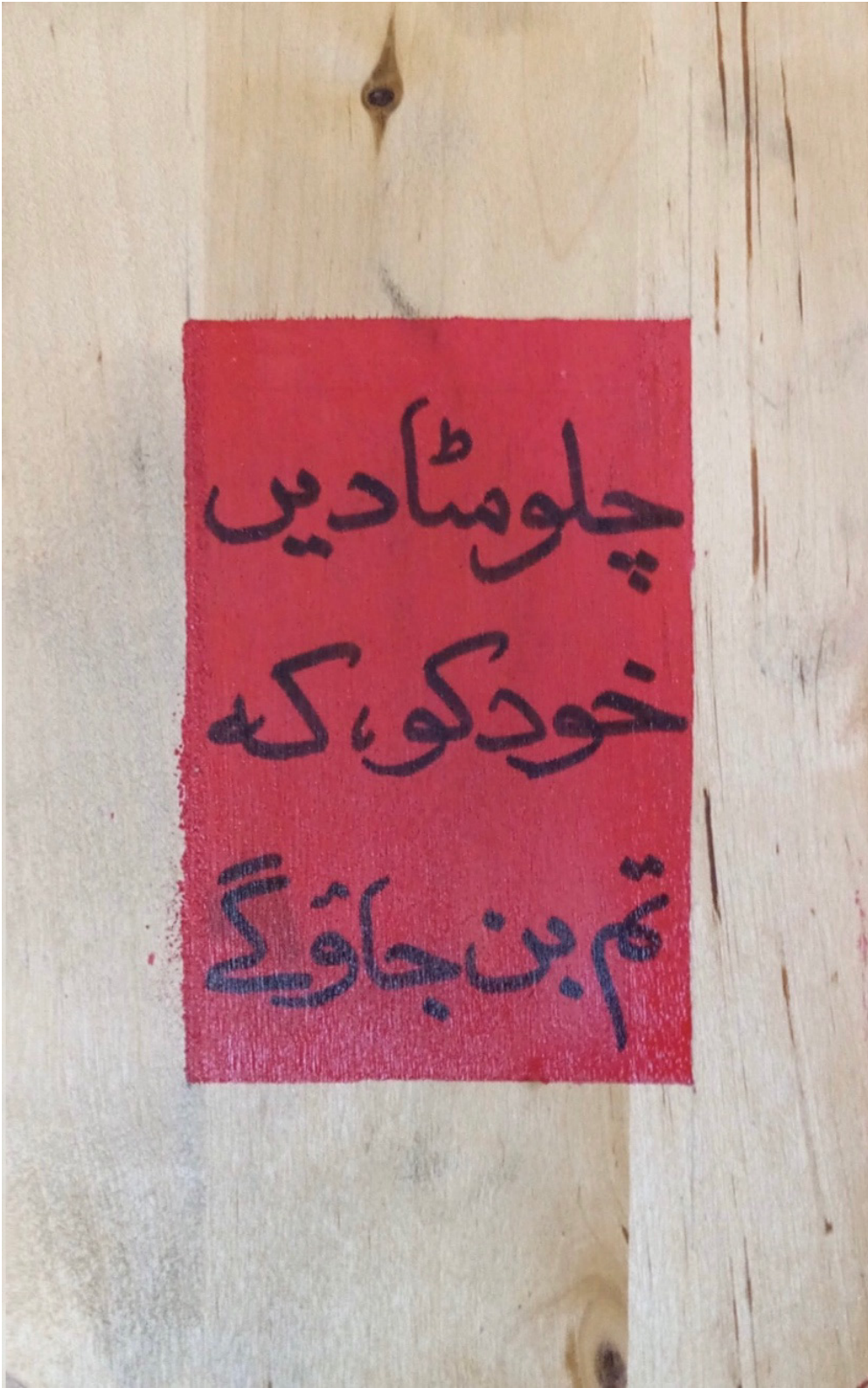
Sajid and Imran

Ink & paint on wood

22 x 14 cm

2024

Suggested Price: CHF 800/-



Sacrifice (Let me erase myself; so that you can become)

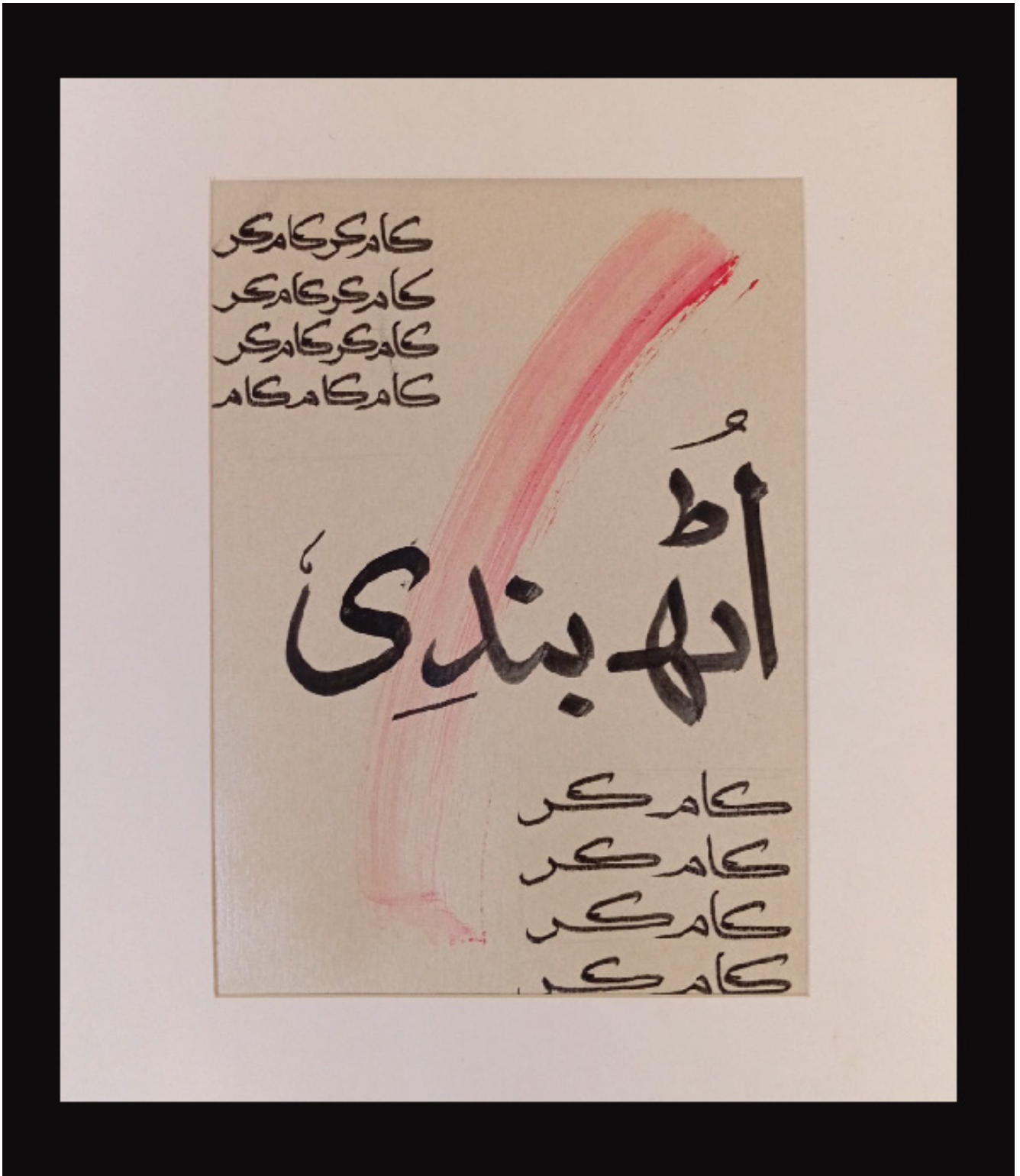
Sajid and Imran

Ink & paint on wood

22 x 14 cm

2024

Suggested Price: CHF 800/-



Uth - Refuge in work (Get up and work, work, work, work)

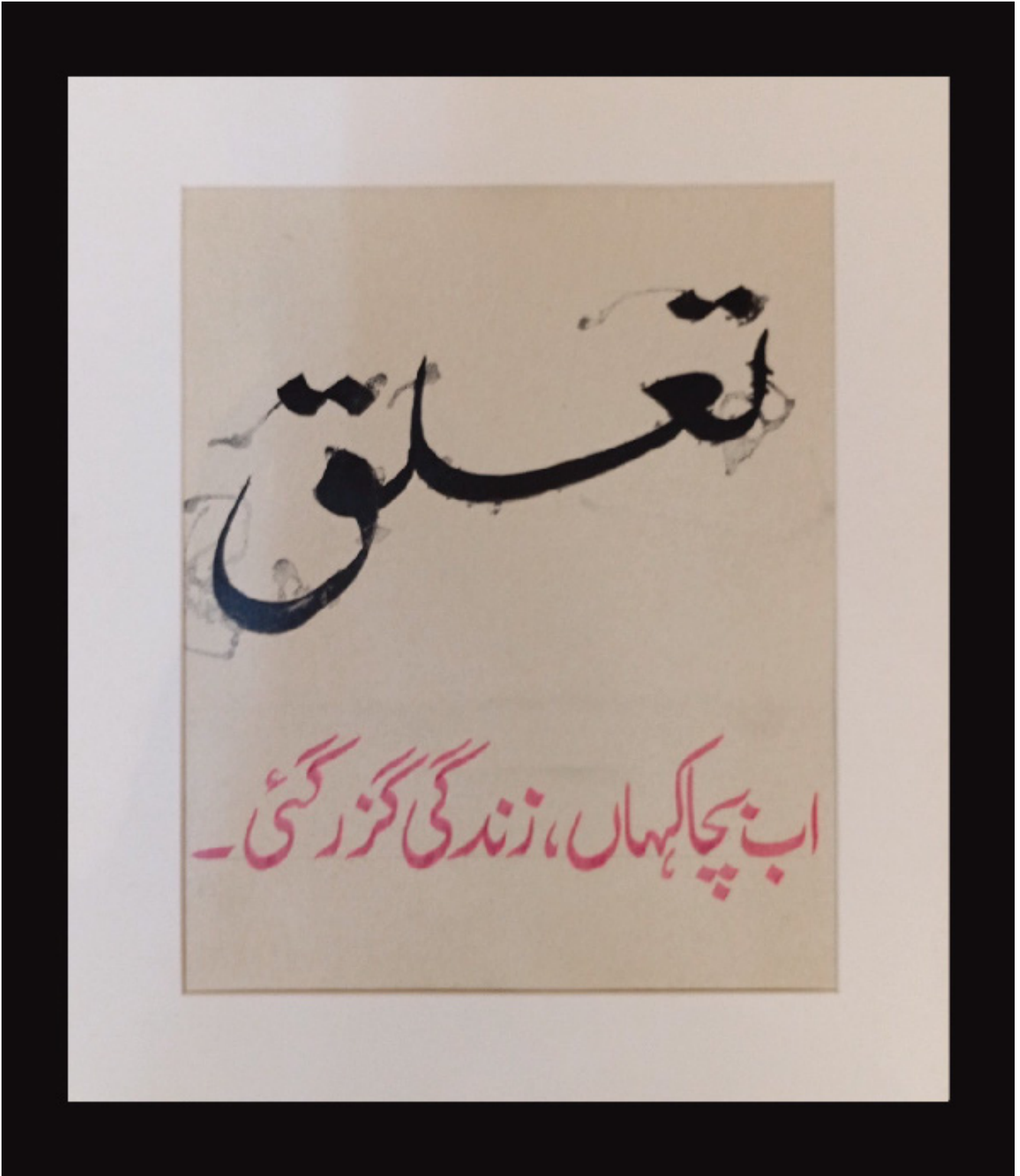
Sajid & Imran

Ink & paint on paper

26.5 x 19 cm

2024

Suggested Price: CHF 350/-



Broken Relations (Where are the ties now? Life has passed by.)

Sajid and Imran

Ink & paint on paper

26.5 x 12 cm

2024

Suggested Price: CHF 350/-



Letters - Hardships

Luluwa Lokhandwala

Print with Archival Ink

20 x 20 cm

2021

Suggested Price: CHF 250/-



Letters - Missing Home

Luluwa Lokhandwala

Print with Archival Ink

20 x 20 cm

2021

Suggested Price: CHF 250/-



Leave - 1

Shabbir Mohammed

Print with Archival Ink

20 x 20 cm

2021

Suggested Price: CHF 250/-



Leave - 2

Shabbir Mohammed

Print with Archival Ink

20 x 20 cm

2021

Suggested Price: CHF 250/-

08:00 - 20:00



Constructing life

Luluwa Lokhandwala

Print with Archival Ink

20 x 20 cm

2021

Suggested Price: CHF 250/-



Loneliness

Hussain Ahmed

Print with Archival Ink

20 x 20 cm

2021

Suggested Price: CHF 250/-



Lost and found loneliness

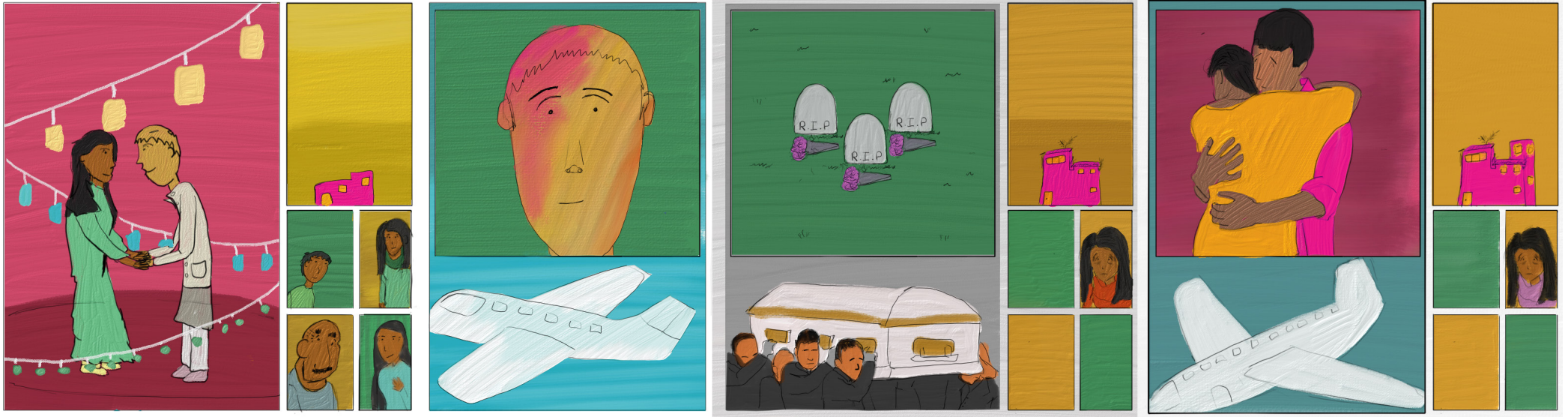
Hussain Ahmed

Print with Archival Ink

10 x 37 cm

2021

Suggested Price: CHF 400/-



Dream Unfulfilled
Shabbir Mohammed
Print with Archival Ink
10 x 50 cm
2021

Suggested Price: CHF 400/-

Note: Please note: The price range from CHF 250 to 800 is suggestive, and the funds collected will support the Dugdugi Artist Collective in Pakistan to create more work with diverse communities and establish a Dugdugi community art space in Karachi, Pakistan

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1. The title picture is part of a series created in collaboration with migrant workers. This specially curated series involves the use of wood panels salvaged from ship wreckage. Executed by a roadside artist in Karachi, this calligraphic work features the Urdu word "Mazdoor" (meaning "labour" in English) as a constant element, layered to accentuate the multifaceted and complex conditions faced by migrant workers.

2. "Pardes" encompasses the Urdu notion of a foreign land, and its inhabitant, known as a "Pardesi," embodies the spirit of one who ventures away from home in pursuit of a better life. Laden with sentiments of detachment and yearning, the term encapsulates the profound empathy towards these journeys. This project is an ongoing exploration, drawing inspiration from the "Dubai Chalo" initiative. In 2021, Karachi witnessed the poignant narratives of migrant workers unfold through diverse artistic forms. The subsequent phase of research has taken shape in collaboration with artist duo Trixa Arnold and Ilja Komarov from Freies Musik Theater in Switzerland.

