

North Dakota Museum of Art

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Contact: Brian Lofthus

blofthus@ndmoa.com

707-777-4195

Museum Displays the work of Sophiya Khwaja

The work of Sophiya Khwaja is currently running through June 21 at the North Dakota Museum of Art. The Pakistani artist's work depicts the culture shock of moving back to Pakistan after living in the United States. This is the first solo Museum exhibition by Khwaja. The show is comprised of works on paper including prints and drawings plus six or seven etchings made while in the United States.

Born and raised in Islamabad, Pakistan, Sophiya attended the National College of Arts (NCA) in Lahore, where she selected Printmaking as her field of choice. After three years of intensive etching, she pursued a two-year Printmaking Masters program at the renowned Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) that she attended on a Fulbright Scholarship awarded in 2004. Her focus through the duration of her MFA at RISD was also primarily on etching.

Back from RISD, Sophiya now resides in Islamabad, Pakistan, with her husband and is currently exhibiting work both in Pakistan and the United States. She is also a visiting professor of Printmaking at NCA.

The exhibit shows a story of a young, 21st century woman living in two cultures. Khwaja says, "Currently I am working on a series of around ten drawings that deal with the rapid and recent change in a relatively tolerant, modern Pakistani Moslem society towards extremism. The drawings express both the comic and the terrifying side of the situation that I suddenly found myself in on my return to Pakistan."

Khwaja has been ranked amongst the top 110 upcoming finest talents around the world in 2008 by *Wallpaper* magazine, a design, interiors, fashion, art, and lifestyle magazine.

The North Dakota Museum of Art is located on Centennial Drive on the University of North Dakota campus. The Museum hours are weekdays from 9 am to 5 pm and weekends from 1 am to 5 pm. The Museum Shop is open during these hours. There is no general admission for viewing exhibitions, visiting the Museum Shop or the Museum Café.