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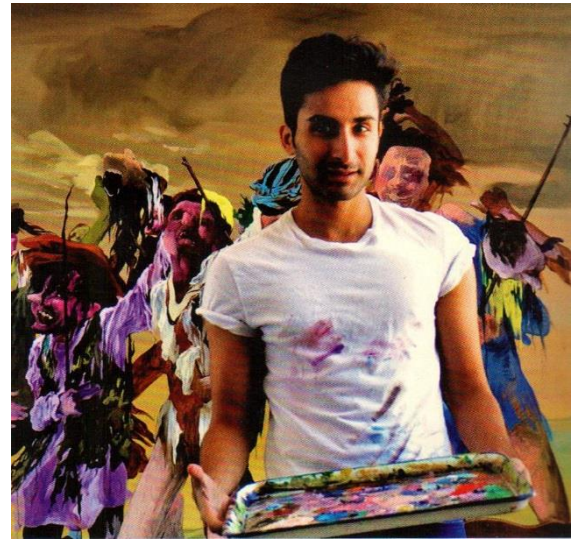
‘New York Studios Then...And Now’

BY BINA SARKAR ELLIAS



I was born and raised in Lahore, Pakistan. Having received my Masters of Fine Art at the Pratt Institute, Brooklyn in 2009, I stayed on to practice art in New York City. Here, I've had access to hordes of treasures of uninterrupted periods of Western Art History and it's colonial exchanges with the sub-continent. My interest, or rather my quarrel with Art History [Who writes it? And for whom?] has allowed me to see myself and the world through shifting sides of the so-called global divide. New York City has facilitated my cobbling together of seemingly divergent understandings of developing societies seething in turmoil, along with the microcosms of cultures like Brooklyn's art scene. Since I left Lahore, my work has developed in more abstract directions in order to host and superimpose imagined narratives and homelands in which personal and global concerns intersect. "

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Salman Toor's (b. 1983) works have ranged from meticulously executed 17th century-style genre painting to abstracted figuration employing design elements and visual language from both Eastern and Western pop culture. Toor's work deals with the issue of identity. In his latest show, Resident Alien at Aicon Gallery, NY, space is delineated with Sufi poetry and dribbling gibberish in the Persio-Arabic alphabet. The works show a fractured and unique vision of an outsider in multiple worlds, challenging and revitalizing notions of identity, place and time. Toor has had several solo exhibitions in the U.S. and Pakistan and has been featured in publications such as Art Asia Pacific, Wall Street International, The Express Tribune, The Friday Times, and Dawn News. Salmon Toor lives and works in New York.