

Amna Asghar

A Meadow in the Clouds

January 6 - February 11, 2023

OPENING RECEPTION:

Friday, January 6, 6-8PM



Amna Asghar's studio, Detroit, MI, 2022.

Klaus von Nichtssagend Gallery is proud to announce Amna Asghar's third solo show at the gallery, titled *A Meadow in the Clouds*. This front-gallery exhibition will consist of landscapes and skies painted entirely with airbrush. Although realistically rendered, Asghar's subjects are imagined, drawn from Bollywood film stills, pediatrician office decor, the artist's iPhone library and some terrain just outside of her studio. The aesthetic of the airbrush technique gives a dream-like feeling to the work, while each painting's imposing scale lends a seriousness to their subjects.

When conceiving the show, Asghar looked at late 19th century Orientalist photography made by Western commercial photographers. These antique images of Asian and Middle Eastern subjects were staged in a portrait studio, with the subjects wearing traditional clothing and standing against backdrops of deserts and palm trees, oaks and ferns. Asghar's paintings conflate this imagery with multiple other sources, painted in a smoothly cohesive way to create seamless scenarios. These fantasy environments can be read as utopic or universally human, and point to the idea that a fictional world is familiar and mirrors our "real" world. Unlike the Orientalist photographers' creations, Asghar's paintings have no figures; they are open for anyone to inhabit. She thinks of her practice as setting a stage — one made for the viewer.

Amna Asghar (b. 1984, Detroit, MI) lives and works in Detroit. Her first institutional solo show, Well Wishes, curated by Jova Lynne, opened at the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit in 2021. In addition to two previous shows at Klaus von Nichtssagend, Asghar has had solo as well as group shows with Belle Isle Viewing Room, Detroit. Her work was a part of a series of group exhibitions curated by Sally Howell, Osman Khan, and Razi Jafri titled Halal Metropolis across metro Detroit and two exhibitions curated by Larry Ossei-Mensah, Parallels and Peripheries: Migration and Mobility, and On The Road II at VisArts, Rockville, MD and at Oolite Arts in Miami, FL respectively. Asghar received her BFA at Michigan State University and her MFA at the Rhode Island School of Design.

For images or more information please contact the gallery at klaus@klausgallery.com or call 212-777-7756

Gallery Hours: 11AM–6PM, Tuesday through Saturday

Subway Directions: 1 at Franklin Street, 4 5 6, J M, N R Q W, and A C E at Canal Street