

RICHARD
TAITTINGER
GALLERY

PRESENTS

ME MERASELF AND I - MARIA QAMAR

VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

OPENING JULY 9, 2020

NEW YORK 9 AM / LONDON 3 PM / MUMBAI 6:30 PM / TOKYO 10 PM



Me Meraself and I, 2020, Ink and acrylic on canvas, 45 x 53 in. (114.3 x 134.6 cm.)

2020 is the beginning of a new Zamana*.

A global pandemic and the start of racial reckoning in North America have left many of us trying to understand our personal emotions while also grappling with social, political, and economic realities as communities, families, and nations. At RICHARD TAITTINGER GALLERY we have been working from home, talking to our artists via zoom, and exploring new art online. We are pleased to present our first online exhibition *Me Meraself and I*, by **Maria Qamar (b. 1991)**.

Presenting Qamar's second solo exhibition with RICHARD TAITTINGER GALLERY digitally at a time where mobility is still restricted, and the threat of pandemic looms is apt for an artist who got her start in the digital space. Qamar has been communicating and sharing her art digitally with fans for years and her work is easy to enjoy both on and off-line. *Me Meraself and I* is intimately reflective of her own experiences over the past few months. The specificity of her paintings is what gives them a universal appeal. By using an innovative online approach RTG allows viewers worldwide to reflect on their own experiences of staying at home mediated through her paintings. Justifying one more *laddoo* as you sit at home alone, or the desire to quarantine with a lover are relatable. Art is vital in times of upheaval, change, and suffering. It reflects and interprets the world around us and can also inspire and engender hope.



AND THEN YOU BROKE UP WITH ME ON ZOOM, 2020, Ink and acrylic on canvas, 50 x 50 in. (127 x 127 cm.)

Qamar's work in 2020 reflects her personal experiences of this extraordinary year. The experience of being alone, the feelings of uncertainty and anger all find their place in these works. She taps into feelings of depression, lust/loneliness, and anger, which many of us have felt throughout this time of quarantine and isolation. She also creates hope through work which captures the outrage, resolve, and strength many of us have found in quarantine, particularly in the wake of protests fighting against racial injustices. We are living through a time of unprecedented learning and participation that is galvanizing entire generations who are working to reshape the world and societies we live in, including the digital communities that supplement and expand our physical communities which connect across borders and time zones.

Me Meraself and I was initially developed out of the ennui and despondency of COVID isolation. The works thematically express the depression and loneliness of extended solitude. Qamar engages with ways in which we turned to social

media and technology to reach out and to cope. Works such as *Naach* and *Then You Broke Up with Me on Zoom* speak to space digital apps have been occupying in our lives. *Theek Thaak*, a play on *Tik Tok*, points to the limited capacity of digital apps. Often the things we use to feel better can become a crutch and leave us feeling more alone.

As news shifted from COVID to police brutality, the experience of social distancing shifted for many of us. *Nainsaafi* and *Nainsaafi No More* reflect this shift in the cultural conversation. There is also a sense of determination and a desire for justice and change in this body of work. *Laraku* is a painting based on a surprising interaction Qamar had with her mother, who encouraged her to go outside and fearlessly join the fight for racial justice. With *Seedhi Saadhi* and, *Ronadhona* Qamar offers examples of who have built a foundation of strength and defiance on the common ground of depression, loneliness and anger. They stare out from the canvas resolved to create a new world. In four short months the world has changed drastically.



NAINSAAFI NO MORE, 2020, Ink and acrylic on canvas, 60 x 150 in. (152.4 x 381 cm.)

*Qamar also lets us hope that these changes are going to stick and we are going to emerge stronger and ready for a new **Zamana**.*



ZAMANA, 2020, Ink and acrylic on canvas, 53 x 45 in. (134.62 x 114.3cm.)

Me Meraself and I capture elements of that experience. Qamar also lets us hope that these changes are going to stick and we are going to emerge stronger and ready for a new **Zamana**.

By sharing her experiences of this tumultuous year, Qamar offers us both reprieve and encouragement. Her experiences are hers, but by expressing them through her work she offers both humor and justified outrage, allowing this body of work to stand as both commentary and archive in the wake of the first half of 2020.

Richard Taittinger's Inaugural Virtual Exhibition ***Me Meraself and I***, by **Maria Qamar** opens **July 9, 2020 in New York 9 AM / London 3 PM / Mumbai 6:30 PM / Tokyo 10 PM**. RSVP via Eventbrite for access. The interactive virtual exhibition will be on view through August 9th. Thanks to our partners StudioMDA and Artistic Visions for their work on this exhibition.

10% of all sales proceeds will go to support the **American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)** in support of racial justice.

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#RichardTaittingerGallery
#MariaQamar
#MeMeraselfAndI

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