

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HG Contemporary New York
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New York, NY – HG Contemporary is pleased to announce an exhibition of new work by Mehwish Iqbal: MIND | BODY | STATE. The exhibition will run from March 7 through April 2, 2019.

Mehwish Iqbal's *Mind, Body, State* is an eclectic body of work that has evolved over a period of three years, in conjunction with her active engagement with women and children from refugee and migrant communities across Australia essentially influencing her art practice and thinking around the notion of home and belonging and mass migration globally. On a deep level the works also excavate her personal journey, childhood experiences, abstract layers of memory, dislocation, loss of family members and a constant shift of mind, body, state through alien landscapes.

In her work she subliminally portrays a parallel and symbiotic relationship of the fragile and complex state of human agency experiencing a makeshift and vernacular environment fueled by forced migration leading to the vulnerable, physiological, emotion and psychological state. The underlying concerns in her work also draw attention to the expulsion and acceptance of individuals based on their social, cultural and religious identity and the impact of restricted movement, border conflicts on the construction and deconstruction of society at large.

The creative process of works on cloth pattern paper incorporates several layers of print including silkscreen, collography and etching further exploited with a tactile pallet of embroidery, testing the strength of material and how much it can take. This is a highly unique and distinct visual vocabulary that she has evolved over a period of ten years and is remarkably laborious, meticulous and unparalleled. The mouth blown glass sculptures and exquisitely carved porcelain bodies further accentuate the diversity of media incorporated within her practice, posing a plethora of questions associated with susceptible wear and tear of human life, its endurance to survive in extremely harsh conditions and grow from those experience as transformed individuals.

“As an artist I am highly concerned with the position of women in society and treatment of children in detention centres. My work strongly advocates issues related to social justice and highlights the voices of minorities and marginalized communities.” —Mehwish Iqbal.

ABOUT MEHWISH IQBAL

Mehwish Iqbal works in mediums across painting, printmaking, textiles, ceramics, sculpture and installation art. Her work takes on provocative measures, bringing attention to notions of womanhood, courage, liberation, and power. In addition to exploring various themes involving migration, the influx of refugees and migrant diaspora, monopoly of power-play, commodification of human agency, and hybrid identities. Iqbal holds a Masters of Art from COFA, UNSW with High Distinction in Printmaking 2011. She has participated in several prestigious residency programs, New York Artist League 2011 *USA*, Megalo Print Studio 2013 *Australia*, Halka Arts Projects 2014 *Turkey*, Bundanon Trust 2014 *Australia* and Blacktown Art Centre Residency 2015. She has been a finalist in many art awards and prizes including; Hobart Art Prize, Blake Prize, Fisher Ghost Art Award, Paramor Art Prize and International Emerging Artist Award. She has also been the recipient of Victoria Marinov Award *UNSW*, Ian Potter Travel Grant, Australia Arts Council Grant and Public Art Commission CoLABS.

Mehwish Iqbal has widely shown her work across Australia, Pakistan, USA, Turkey and Hong Kong. Her work is held in prestigious collections both locally and internationally. She has participated in Istanbul Contemporary, Hong Kong Art Central and Karachi Print Biennial and Sydney Contemporary Art Fair.

ABOUT HG CONTEMPORARY

Founded by Philippe Hoerle-Guggenheim, HG Contemporary is a breakthrough global gallery founded in 2014. The gallery has built a reputation for unearthing distinct artists and producing shows that embrace groundbreaking aesthetics and concepts. The gallery is committed to developing an international contemporary program that is ambitious as well as diverse. The gallery's locations include New York, Madrid, Napa Valley and Brooklyn. This commitment carries with it an innovative and clear vision about producing exceptional art exhibitions as well as a deep understanding of visual culture's function within and beyond the walls of the gallery.

HG Contemporary hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 11am to 6pm. For further information please call: +1-212-366-4490 or email: info@hgcontemporary.com

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