

CHRISSE COTTER GALLERY
31A Pidcock St, Camperdown, NSW, 2050

12-29 March 2026
Thursday – Sunday, 11am – 4pm

PETALS OF REGROW

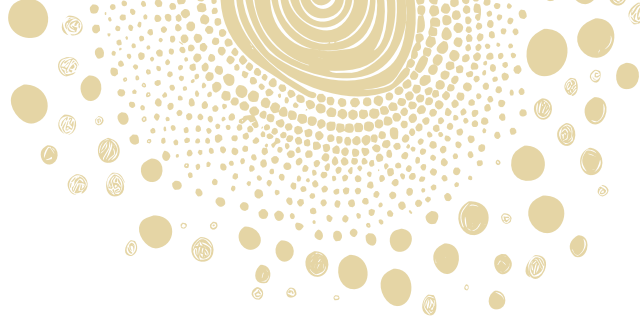
Where culture blossoms and
resilience takes root



Hosna Saif

Maryam Hussaini

Rodaba Qureshi



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledging the Gadigal and Wangal of the Eora Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land which this exhibition is held.

We pay our heartfelt respect to Elders past and present.

We give thanks for their care of water, sky and Country for over 65,000 years.

We recognise the strength and wisdom in cultural, spiritual, and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We recognizes that sovereignty never ceded.

Always was, always will be Aboriginal land.



ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

"Petals of Regrow" brings together three newly arrived female artists from Afghanistan whose paintings and multi-sensory cultural installations explore the intertwined themes of women's rights and Nowruz. Nowruz, meaning "new day", is an ancient celebration of the New Year, observed for over 3,000 years across Afghanistan, Iran, Central Asia, and beyond. It symbolises rebirth, hope, and the triumph of light over darkness.

Through vibrant visual storytelling and culturally rooted decoration, each artist reclaims this moment of renewal to amplify her voice as one who resists, rebuilds, and rises. The exhibition space becomes a sanctuary of transformation, where culture fuels strength, and creativity becomes a form of resistance. The title evokes both fragility and power: petals as symbols of growth, healing, and cultural blossoming.

HOSNA SAIF

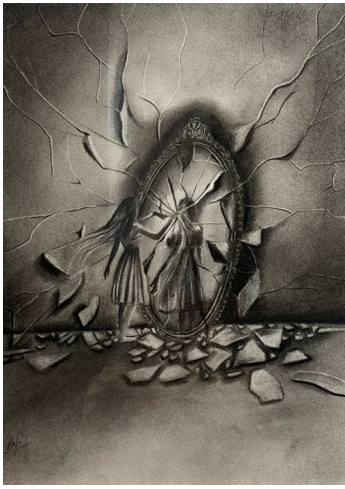


Hosna Saif's journey is one of resilience and hope. Born and raised in Kabul, Afghanistan, she grew up surrounded by challenging circumstances that made pursuing her dreams difficult. Though she discovered a deep passion for art, drawing, and painting, her dreams of higher education were shattered under Taliban rule, leaving her uncertain about her future.

In search of freedom and new opportunities, Hosna left Afghanistan and moved to Pakistan, where her drawing titled "Gender Equality" won a prize. This achievement strengthened her commitment to using art as a voice to advocate for women's rights.

In August 2024, she arrived in Australia and began rebuilding her dreams. Now settled in her new home, she is studying Law with the goal of making a meaningful impact on women's rights and society, while continuing her artistic journey.

The hardships she witnessed in her homeland have become a powerful source of inspiration for her work. Her art includes a collection of charcoal and acrylic pieces that reflect strength, perseverance, and hope. Through her story and her art, she hopes to inspire others facing similar struggles, showing that even in the most difficult circumstances, it is possible to rise and thrive.



MARYAM HUSSAINI



Maryam Hosseini is an Afghan artist who has dedicated over 15 years to visual arts across Afghanistan, Iran and Australia.

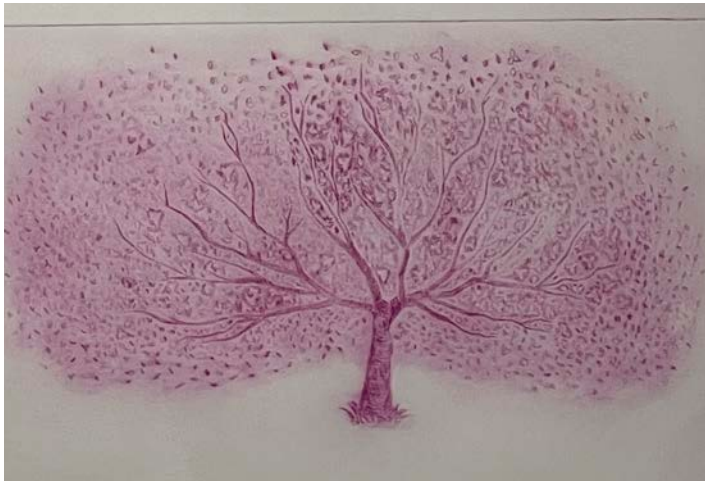
Her work spans various styles, including Realism, Surrealism, Abstract, and Impressionism, employing diverse painting methods and materials such as oil paint, watercolour, gouache, pencil, and charcoal. Maryam's art primarily focuses on abstract themes, with each piece conveying a profound message to her audience.

Her artwork has been featured in numerous exhibitions, such as the Beyond Borders exhibition at 1 Elizabeth and The Spirit of Welcome at Community Refugee Welcome centre. She has also participated in group exhibitions in Tehran in 2023, 2015, 2014, and 2012, and

showcased her work at the ECO Cultural Institute in Tehran in 2021. In 2025, Maryam was commissioned to create "Seeds of Welcoming" for CuriousWorks as part of the Rituals of Welcome program.

Maryam has received official recognition from the Afghan Embassy and the General Directorate for Refugees and Immigrants Affairs in Iran. She has received multiple awards, including second place nationally in the 2015 Art Competition and first place in Shahriar art competitions in 2014, 2013, 2011, 2010 and 2009. In 2014, Maryam was also a member of the Refugee Scholars and Artists Association in Iran.

Maryam is currently studying toward the Diploma of Visual Arts at TAFE and is an art teacher in an Afghan community organisation.



RODABA QURESHI



Rodaba Qureshi (Afghanistan) is a visual artist whose practice is shaped by memory, migration and cultural identity. She first studied at the Institute of Fine Arts and Industry in Afghanistan, where she graduated with honours in 2016.

In 2018, she continued her formal education through a Bachelor of Fine Arts at Kahramanmaraş Sutcu Imam University, Turkey. After completing a year of Turkish language studies, she immersed herself in studio practice and graduated with honours in 2023.

Working professionally as an artist for over seven years, Rodaba has developed a visual language rooted in self-expression and cultural reflection. She paints as a way of understanding herself and to articulate her inner world, using art as a bridge between memory and present experience.

Deeply inspired by Afghanistan's rich cultural heritage, her work incorporates

traditional Afghan clothing, symbolic elements and vibrant, expressive colours that interact dynamically with her figures. Through these visual narratives, she seeks to challenge the limited perception of Afghanistan as merely a war-torn country, instead revealing its beauty, dignity and cultural depth. Her paintings aim to awaken the viewer's subconscious awareness of what is hidden.

Since moving to Australia in mid-2025, she has continued to expand her practice, creating works that connect past and present while shaping a contemporary artistic voice grounded in resilience, identity and transformation.

Rodaba has exhibited in Afghanistan, Turkey and in Australia, including in SSI's and Macquarie Bank's "Beyond Borders".

Rodaba lives, works, and studies School-Based Support Assistance in Sydney, and she aspires to become an art teacher.





LIVE AT THE EXHIBITION: A NOWRUZ CELEBRATION

Join us for an inspiring afternoon featuring a live cultural performance by Zari, interactive art-making workshop, traditional music performance by Mahya Panahi & Faezeh Sepehr Sadeghian, along with light cultural food and drinks. Come celebrate art, resilience, and the spirit of renewal in a warm and welcoming community gathering.

Nowruz, meaning "new day," is the ancient celebration of the new year in the region, observed for over 3,000 years across Afghanistan, Iran, Central Asia, Kurdistan, and beyond. It symbolises rebirth, hope, and the triumph of light over darkness.

Sunday 22nd March, 2pm-4pm





Exhibition Producer

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Exhibition Design & Installation

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Flyer & Brochure Design

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