



**LUBNA ASHRAF**

Ashurst Emerging Artists

# Ashurst Emerging Artists

Ashurst Emerging Artists is an initiative to showcase the work of new talent. To support and celebrate the exceptional skill of artists at an early stage of their career, and provide them with the exposure and mentoring support they need.

Art has the ability to question and shape our society and the lives we lead. Our response, both individually and collectively, can take a myriad of forms. But if there's one common thread to our response, perhaps it is best captured in the words of Picasso:

*"The purpose of art is washing the dust of daily life off our souls."*

By supporting, appreciating and raising awareness of emerging artists, we hope to encourage you to start dusting!

In this our inaugural exhibition of Ashurst Emerging Artists, we are delighted to present the work of Lubna Ashraf, in her debut series 'The World So Rich'. We invite colleagues, clients and visitors alike to engage with Lubna's work, and to provide feedback.

Anthony Clare, Partner

# Lubna Ashraf

Lubna Ashraf is a British Pakistani artist who lives and works in London. After graduating from the LSE in 2007, she continued to develop her unique style of working with oils to create vibrantly coloured compositions with depth and her signature striped-painting effect that resonates through all of her work.

Primarily rendered in oils, her paintings are intellectually challenging and aesthetically compelling pieces that explore diversity, especially as affected by race, gender and class. Her first series of oil-based portraits 'The World So Rich' includes images from Pakistan, Lesotho, The Gambia and Afghanistan.

## The World So Rich

Five paintings that encapsulate parts of the world we live in, and its diversity. These large oil paintings are all tied together by ideas which are fundamental to life and this world - diversity, colour, attitude, culture and age. They reflect on how beautiful and rich the world's heritage is.

The faces are portrayals of lives that are lived in various corners of the world where basic amenities, freedom, justice, food and water are scarce. The subjects in all five paintings are so poor, but their lives wealthier than we can ever imagine. Each facial expression is succinctly solemn; the faces are open for the audience to connect to in their own way.

The seriousness of Fatima's stare is balanced by the lightness and humour portrayed in Blankets and Bling and The Canoeist. Influenced by portrait photography, Lubna's choice of colour and style is rich, yet the subject is poor, on all occasions. All six personalities portrayed in the five paintings are protective of their riches. Fatima sits with her right arm placed directly in front of her in a manner that is on guard whilst The Likhomo Lady has her fist tightly clenched. The herd boys depicted in Blankets and Bling are not looking directly at the audience but the pose suggests a barrier they have placed. Silver Lining portrays an old lady camouflaged in the background and The Canoeist looks like a strong man who can fight for himself.

All five paintings display a sense of defence. These subjects are not able to trust us and they are not giving much away in how they are feeling but through what they wear and how they are depicted we can tell they live active enriching lives, contrary to what we may think. All with individual framing, the irony these frames distil further reinforces the story behind each portrayal.

Classically painted and composed, Lubna executes her paintings in a linear style. The objects have sharply defined forms filled with vibrant and non-restrained colours.

*'I do not paint a portrait to look like the subject; rather does the person grow to look like his portrait'*  
Salvador Dali

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

Atrium Gallery, The London School of Economics and Political Sciences, London  
5 September 2013 - 29 November 2013

mail@lubnaashraf.com



**Fatima**

Oil on canvas

2009

36.5" x 46.5" (93cm x 118cm)



**The Canoeist**

Oil on canvas

2010

52" x 44" (132cm x 112cm)

**Likhomo Lady**

Oil on canvas

2010

34" x 42" (86cm x 107cm)



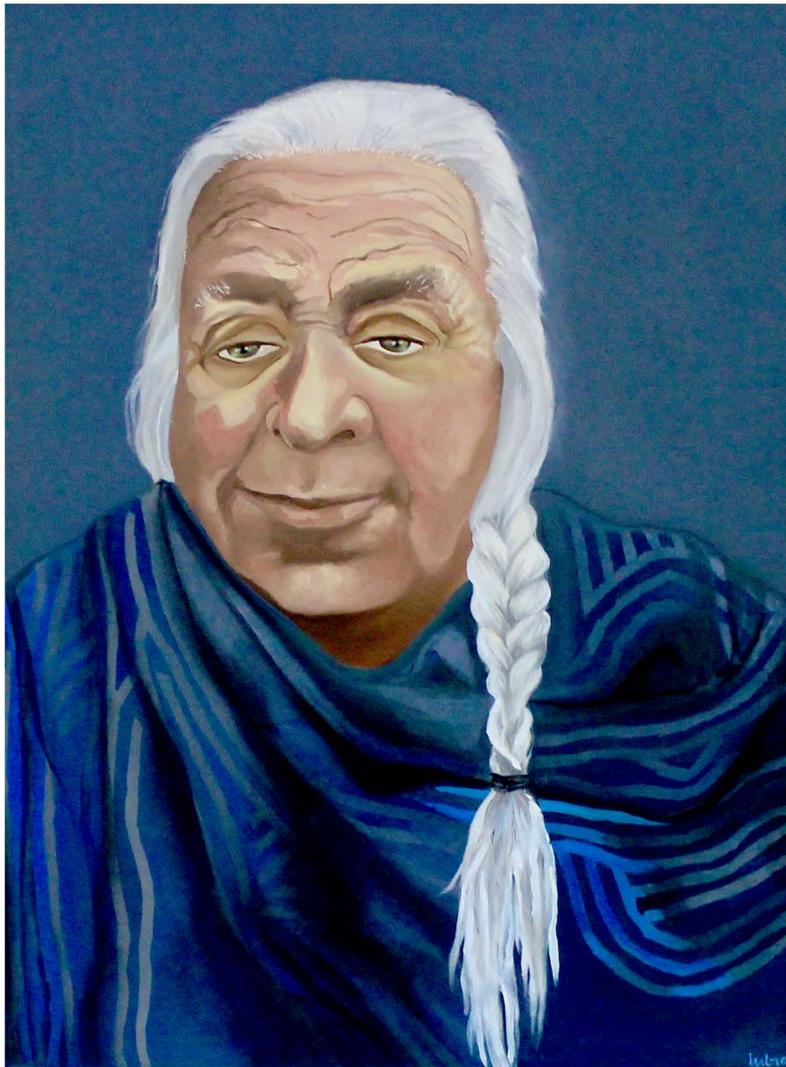


**Blankets and Bling**

Oil on canvas

2010

52" x 36" (132cm x 91cm)



**Silver Lining**

Oil on canvas

2012

39.5" x 52" (100cm x 132cm)



Atrium Gallery

Lubna Ashraf

The World S...



ashurst

**Ashurst LLP**  
Broadwalk House  
5 Appold Street  
London EC2A 2HA UK

**Lubna Ashraf**  
mob +44 7891 372 687  
mail@lubnaashraf.com

ashurst