sculpture
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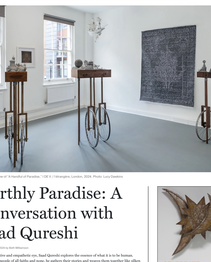

Installation view of *A Handful of Paradise*, 1 Gil & I Vitrangers, London, 2024. Photo: Laura Cavanna

Earthly Paradise: A Conversation with Saad Qureshi

Interview By Editor Mariella Lai

With a sensitive and empathetic ear, Saad Qureshi explores the essence of what it is to be human. Through his practice, he delves into the complexities of human relationships, exploring themes of rites of passage, defining memories and imaginings into otherworldly sculptural "landscapes" that give a spatial presence to the narratives that help to make sense of life. His enduring fascination with ideas of paradise may have taken root during his upbringing in a religious household, but he has developed his thinking to truly unique, expansive ways.

From early large-scale projects such as *Paradise For Sinner* (2002) and *Congregation* (2004) to the towering, monumental pieces shown in "Something About Paradise" (Yorkshire Sculpture Park, 2016) and recent exhibitions and commissions, Qureshi's work has been shown in many prestigious venues, such as *A Handful of Paradise*, at 1 Gil & I Vitrangers—one of two current exhibitions in London showcasing his work—offers a more intimately scaled vision, he exquisitely crafted works once again delving into human hearts and minds with curiosity, warmth, and consideration. In an often polarized society, Qureshi's work is for his work to generate dialogue and unity. He aims to forge bridges between people, between ideas, between what is and what could be. We paused to drive directions.

Something About Paradise II, 2016. Mixed media including wood, wool, Carrara, Venetian, marble, resin, sand, and paint, 183 x 213 x 60 cm. Photo: Jonny Weeks

Rob Williamson: You studied painting at art school. How did the shift to sculpture come about?

Saad Qureshi: I was painting at the Slade School of Fine Art, and I was very, very, very,