A Measure of Time is a solo presentation of sculptures and mixed media works on paper by internationally acclaimed artist Anila Quayyum Agha (b. 1965). Agha was born in Lahore, Pakistan where she received her BFA from the National College of Arts. She later immigrated to the United States and attended the University of North Texas, obtaining an MFA in Fiber Arts. Currently, she resides in Indianapolis, Indiana, and Augusta, Georgia, where she is a professor and the Eminent Morris Scholar of Fine Art at Augusta University. Drawing from her experiences as a Pakistani woman and immigrant, Agha’s work is global in scope—crossing cultures and boundaries to explore shared humanity.

With patterns inspired by South Asian, Middle Eastern, and North African designs, her large-scale suspended cube *A Beautiful Despair* uses light and shadow to transform the gallery into an enveloping, communal experience for people of all backgrounds.

*Stealing Beauty* likewise combines light and floral patterns that mingle historical and cultural references. Agha’s two-dimensional works on view encourage visitors to consider how certain materials and means of making art have been gendered. The exhibition reveals the deeply entwined relationships between culture, religion, labor, gender, and social codes to invoke dialogue and mutual understanding between people of different worldviews.

This exhibition is organized by Telfair Museums and curated by Erin Dunn, curator of modern and contemporary art.
ABOUT THE ARTIST

Anila Quayyum Agha was born in Lahore, Pakistan where she received her BFA from the National College of Arts, Lahore. She later immigrated to the United States and attended the University of North Texas, obtaining an MFA in Fiber Arts. Her cube installation *Intersections* (2014) won both the Public Vote Grand Prize and split the Juried Grand Prize at ArtPrize in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Other major awards and grants include the 2019 Painters and Sculptors Grant from the Joan Mitchell Foundation and the 2021 Smithsonian Artist Research Fellowship. Currently, Agha resides in Indianapolis, Indiana, and Augusta, Georgia, where she is a professor and the Eminent Morris Scholar of Fine Art at Augusta University.

Agha has won major awards including the 2019 Painters Sculptors Grant from the Joan Mitchell Foundation and the 2021 SARF (Smithsonian Art Fellowship). Exhibitions seen in several national museums like the Amon Carter Museum in Texas, Art Institute of Chicago, Dallas Contemporaries, Aicon Gallery in New York, Philbrook Museum of Art in Oklahoma, and The Toledo Museum of Art in Ohio; along with International Art Fairs like Masterpiece-London, Delhi Art-Fair, Abu Dhabi Art Fair, and the Armory.

ABOUT THE CURATOR

Erin Dunn is Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at Telfair Museums in Savannah, GA where she has been a member of the curatorial team since 2014. She has organized numerous exhibitions including *Watershed: Contemporary Landscape Photography, Feels like Freedom: Phillip J. Hampton,* and *Frank Stewart’s Nexus: An American Photographer’s Journey, 1960s to the Present* in collaboration with The Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C. Her writing has appeared in the exhibition catalogue for Phillip J. Hampton, *Late Night Polaroids: Photographs by Emily Earl,* and *Seven Rivers,* a monograph of photographer Ansley West Rivers. In addition, Dunn spearheads Telfair’s #art912 initiative, which raises the visibility and promotes the vitality of artists living and working in Savannah. Dunn was the recipient of the Fall 2023 Margie E. West Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Georgia’s Lamar Dodd School of Art. She holds a BA from Emory University and an MA from the University of Georgia.
SELECT WORKS ON VIEW

- Anila Quayyum Agha; A Beautiful Despair (detail), 2021; lacquered steel and halogen bulb; courtesy of the artist and Sundaram Tagore Gallery.

- Anila Quayyum Agha; Stealing Beauty (Steel Garden – After Dürer’s A Great Piece of Turf), 2022; mirrored stainless steel; courtesy of the artist and Sundaram Tagore Gallery.

- Anila Quayyum Agha; Of Love and Other Stories (detail), 2023; cut paper, embroidery and beads on paper and Mylar; courtesy of the artist and Sundaram Tagore Gallery. Randy Pace Photography.

- Anila Quayyum Agha; Warhead 1 (detail), 2023; cut paper, encaustic embroidery and beads on paper and Mylar; courtesy of the artist and Sundaram Tagore Gallery. Randy Pace Photography.
A MEASURE OF TIME: ANILA QUAYYUM AGHA

Telfair Museums - Jepson Center
June 14 - September 15, 2024
telfair.org
@telfairmuseums @anilaquayyumagha

RELATED PROGRAMMING

• INAUGURAL TELFAIR CONTEMPORARIES ARTY PARTY
  Thursday, June 13, 2024 at 5:30pm
  Jepson Center

• FREE FAMILY DAY
  Saturday, August 10, 2024
  Jepson Center

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PREVIOUS MEDIA COVERAGE

• Hyperallergic: Anila Quayyum Agha Sweeps ArtPrize, Winning Both Jury and Public Grand Prize Awards
• Artnews: The Best Booths at the Inaugural Edition of Singapore’s ART SG, From Bold Paintings to Cheeky References to Consumerism
• The New York Times: Anila Quayyum Agha Uses Patterns to Break Patterns
• Colossal: Immersive Installations by Anila Quayyum Agha
• MY MODERN MET: Incredible Installations of Cube-Shaped “Chandeliers” Cover Rooms With Ornate Geometric Shadows
• Independent: Kew Gardens to host exhibitions exploring Islamic culture
• VICE: Anila Quayyum Agha Sheds Light on Her Laser-Cut Shadow Cube

ABOUT THE TELFAIR MUSEUMS

Opening in 1886, Telfair Museums is the oldest public art museum in the South and the first U.S. museum founded by a woman. The museum features a world-class art collection in the heart of Savannah’s National Historic Landmark District and encompasses three sites: the Jepson Center for the Arts, the Owens-Thomas House & Slave Quarters, and the Telfair Academy. For more information about Telfair Museums, please visit www.telfair.org.