

**Project Title:**Modern Art Of Pakistan: Lahore Art Circle 1947-1957

**Abstract:**

My PhD dissertation will explore the modern art of Pakistan from 1947-1957 with focus on the Lahore Art Circle. In the early 1950's, a group of five young artists and writers founded "The Lahore Art Circle," (LAC) which became a seminal marker of the modernist movement in Pakistan. With modern and progressive ideas, these artists introduced a language of modern art synonymous with modernism in the West, thus making an effort to connect Pakistani modern art with global modern art. My dissertation will investigate and examine the role of the LAC in constructing modernist sensibilities and secular trends within the larger nation-building rhetoric of Pakistan from 1947-1957. I am also interested in using a postcolonial lens to further my studies on the works of the artists of the LAC. My research methodology will include transcribing extensive oral histories via interviews with the immediate family members and friends of the artists of LAC, since none of the artists are alive anymore. This study will initiate the overdue documentation of Pakistani art history from 1947-1957, and enhance the understanding of the thought processes and contributions of the intelligentsia of Pakistan in its formative years. This will also contribute to the study of global modernism in reference to postcolonial discourse.