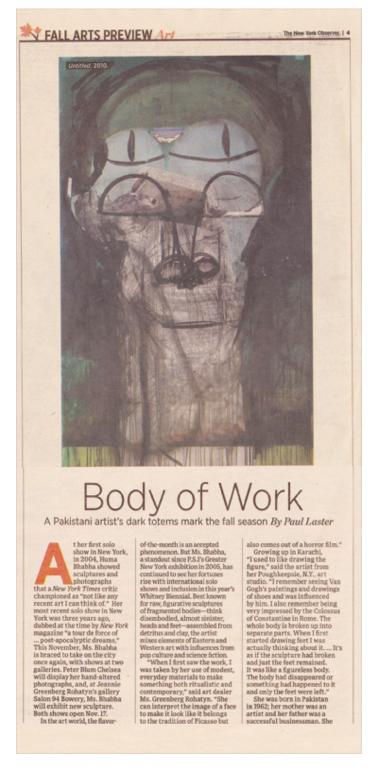


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FALL ARTS PREVIEW Art

moved to America in 1981 to attend art school at Rhode Island School of Design, where she received a B.F.A. in 1985 and later returned to earn an M.F.A. from Columbia in 1989. While she returns annually

MR.A. from Columbia in 1989.
While she returns annually to Pakistan, in some respects she took to Western culture immediately. "I watch a lot of movies and television," said the artist. "I like a lot of horror and science fiction films and the idea of monsters. You look at whatever inspires you." After marrying a former classmate, artist Jason Fox, the artist stayed in the states and started experimenting with sculpture—a medium that she had not favored in school, but soon came to master.

Influenced by Greek, Egyptian and Indian works, Ms. Bhabha aimed towards an intuitive earthiness, where things always look a little gritty. "I look around and know that there are devastating things going on, environmentally and man-made," said the artist. "If one is aware of things other than oneself, I don't think you can avoid it."

Who are her artistic inspirations? "I look at a lot of Picasso (who taught me) it doesn't matter if things look a little dirty. It just adds to the intuitive way that I'm approaching the drawing," she

said. "I enjoy doing portraits. If you look at Expressionism, you see a lot of use of the head—artists like Basquiat and Picasso. I look at whatever few art books I have and there's a lot of art history," But few of her art-historical choices have been discussed as much as her unusual choice of medium. She explained: "The choice of materials for

as much as her unusual choice of medium. She explained:
"The choice of materials for many years came from not having a lot of money. New York is a marketplace where people throw out everything. I've been using different kinds of found material for a long time." But why Styrofoam? "I've been using Styrofoam? "I've been using Styrofoam? since I first started making sculpture been using Styrofoam since I first started making sculpture because it's very light, but also sturdy. I don't know how to weld and I'm not such a great carpenter. I basically work the way that I can do everything by myself. I like using Styrofoam because it's easy to handle. I can carve it. I can stack it. I find it a very interesting medium. It's almost like soft marble."

At Peter Blum, the artist will show large-scale photographs that are altered with ink and collage. The photographs are mostly landscapes from Karachi, where she visits her family every year. Without a specific plan in mind, she draws figures—especially

'She can interpret a face to make it look like it belongs to the tradition of Picasso but comes out of a horror film.'

heads and feet—on top of the photographs, which sometimes get completely covered.
At Salon 94 Bowery, Ms. Bhabha will exhibit new sculptural works. Cobbledtogether pieces from diverse material like Styrofoam and deritus, these assemblages poetically address the fragile state of 21st-century humanity. Asked if her vision is really post-apocalyptic, Ms. Bhabha answered, "Not really, I think we're living in the apocalypse now."

Huma Bhabha's new work is Huma Bhabha's new work is on view at Salon 94 Bowery (243 Bowery Street), Nov. 17 –Dec. 23, 2010, and Peter Blum Chelsea (526 West 29th Street), Nov. 17, 2010–Jan. 15, 2011.



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