

*Shamim Subzali* born in Nairobi, Kenya, is a native of Arusha, Tanzania. A desire to draw had taken root since her early childhood. What was unique about her was that she had the ingenuity to use her left hand.

Lo and behold! In certain settings, this would be discouraged.

The Nursery School teachers advised the family because she is naturally inclined this way, that she be permitted to draw and write using her left hand. They clarified that any potential artistic ability she possesses could be disoriented, and lost permanently. They further encouraged her left hand to be her dominant hand so that her mortar skills would be nurtured to develop fully.

At the ripe age of 8, she was admitted into a boarding school in the United Kingdom which was run by an Army Colonel in Dorset, England. Interestingly, Princess Salimah Aga Khan, née Sarah Frances Croker Poole (Mother of Mawlana Shah Rahim AL-Hussaini His Highness Aga Khan V, the 50th Imam of the Shī'a Isma'ili Muslims) had also attended the same school. Shamim's initial intent was to pursue Art, however, she ultimately worked in the field of Law, a different world entirely.

Moving forward some 25 years, Shamim now lives in the U.K. and visits Kenya for long periods regularly, each year. She has resumed her ingrained passion for the Arts and has taken up painting afresh in the exploration of new original artworks, which has been showcased in her recent exhibitions. Last year during the exhibit held in May, her art was displayed in the "Affordable Art Show" at the Kenya Museum Society in Nairobi, comprising the largest collection of talent across East Africa. She has also been blessed to have participated in exhibitions held at Chez Mahmadi in Nairobi, Kenya, which accommodates an Art Gallery and Wellness Centre concertedly, where her talent has been admired most impressively.

Her journey is onward bound as she delves further into the Mysticism of Sufism.

For Shamim, "Art from the Heart ~ Crafted with Love" has been a satisfying, monumental journey!

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