



In the Realm
of the Cacti
Shahid Jalal 2024



EJAZ
ART GALLERY

Ejaz Gallery proudly presents the final cacti series by the late Shahid Jalal.

His paintings are more than just visual treats; they are a celebration of life, imbued with his sunny disposition and exuberant spirit. They serve as a lasting testament to his meaningful life, his support for various causes and charities, and his enduring presence that continues to bring joy and comfort to his loved ones and art enthusiasts alike.

In the Realm of the Cacti

My father's love of painting cacti goes all the way back to when I was a little girl, accompanying him on his visits to his mentor and master landscape painter, Khalid Iqbal's house. Khalid sahib, as my father would refer to him, had with great love and painstaking effort, created a beautiful cacti garden in his front lawn. We would sit out in Khalid sahib's front porch, from where one could view the exotic cacti with their unusual shapes rising from the ground. This was around the time when my father was working on his Lawrence garden series, and he would bring some of his paintings over to be critiqued by Khalid sahib. It was over the course of many such visits that my father would decide to have the garden be the inspiration behind an entire exhibition. His faithful rendering of the cacti garden immortalized and captured its beauty in his paintings, reflecting a place that no longer exists.

His current cacti series, capture the same fascination with the geometric and otherworldly shapes of this unusual plant species. In some paintings, he revisits the same setting either at a different time of day or from another angle, in order to create multiple variations in tone and light and view. In others, we view clusters of organic geometric cacti shapes emanating from the ground. In others , we see anthropomorphic prickly forms looming above the grass, capturing light perfectly on their surface.

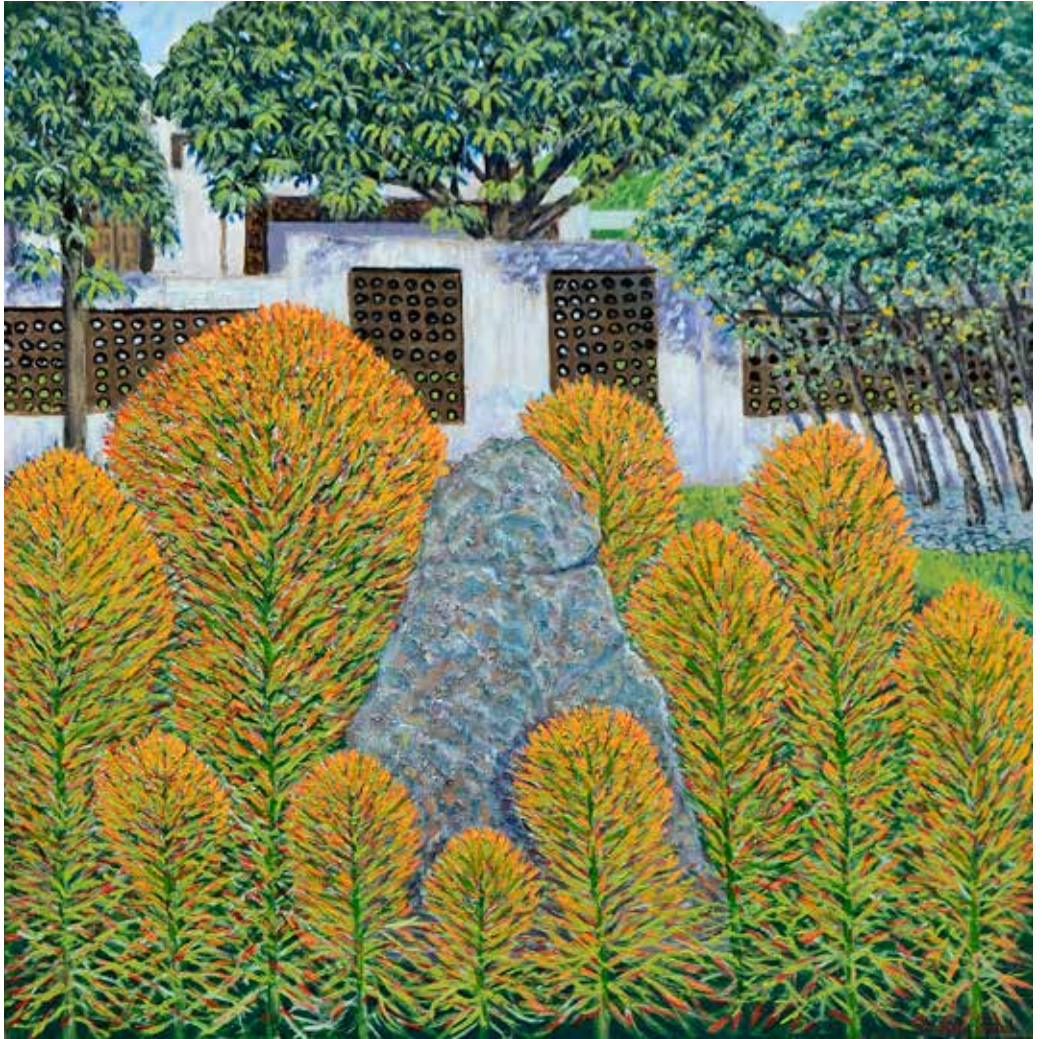
This cacti series, is the final series of paintings my father was working on, as included in the exhibition are a few unfinished canvases, which remind us of his unexpected and untimely demise. As with each and everyone of his exhibitions and paintings, these paintings also reflect a complete dedication and perfection of his craft . He made it look

easy, effortless almost, with the uncanny ability to capture light and shadow so convincingly on a two dimensional canvas and all the while working on multiple canvases simultaneously. His paintings are ultimately representative of his pure joy for life, his sunny, exuberant disposition present in each inflection of his brushstrokes. They are also reflective of his patience and dedication to his passion, building layer upon layer , in order to create the rich textured brilliance of his canvases. It is also a reflection on how to live a meaningful life, paintings through which he immortalized his presence beyond his earthy life, paintings that he created to support causes and charities close to his heart, paintings that bring joy and meaning into our everyday lives, and comfort his loved ones with his continuing presence.

Sehr Jalal



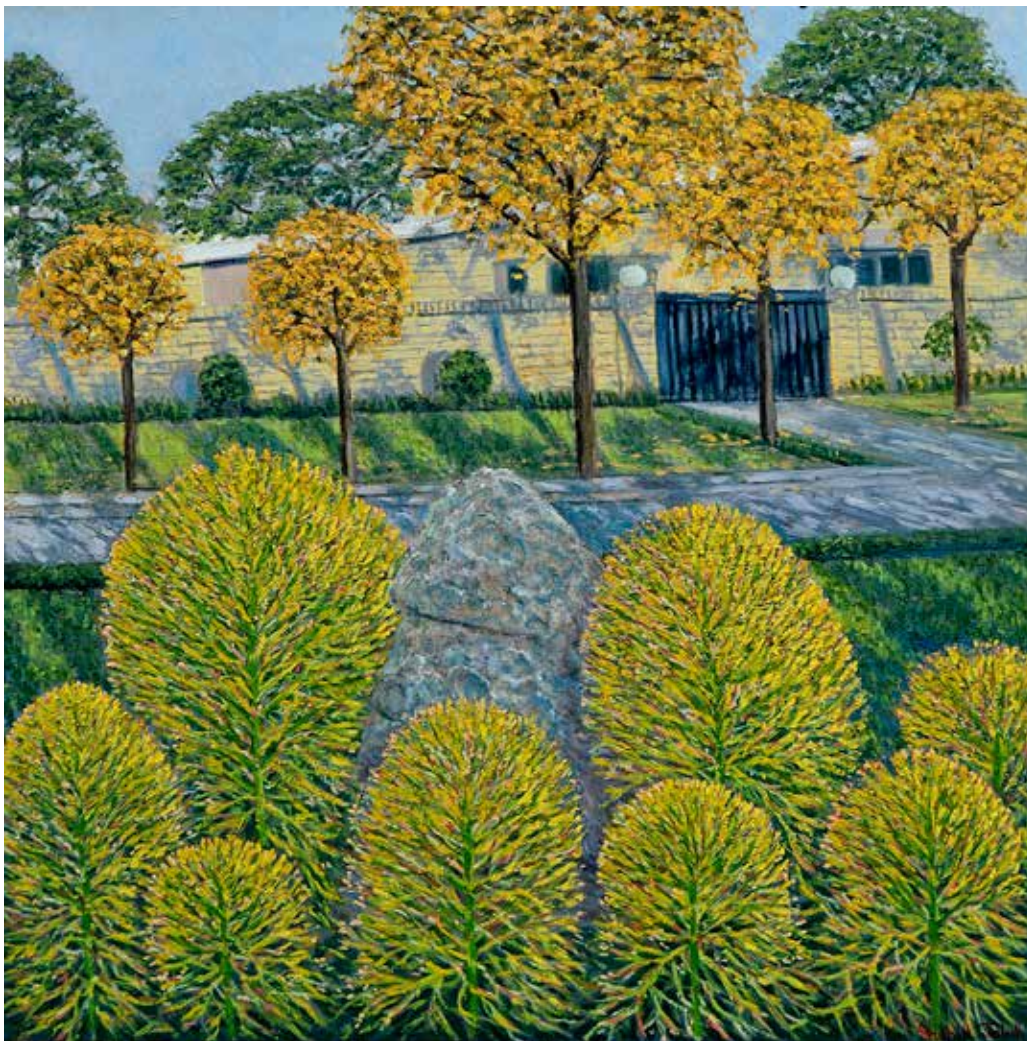
Title: The Blooming Garden Medium: Oil on Canvas Size: 31".5 x 31".5



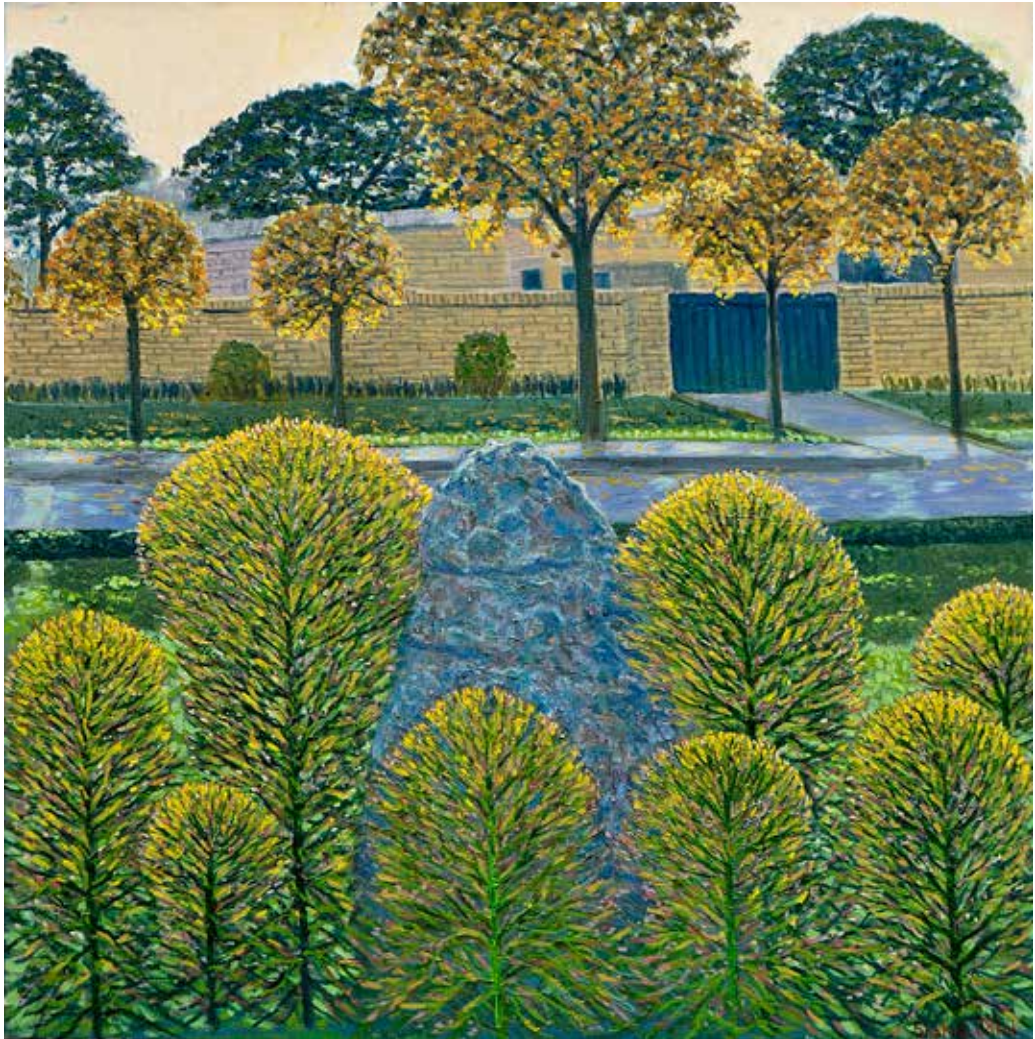
Title: Afternoon Shade Medium: Oil on Canvas Size: 31".5 x 31".5



Title: A Rock amongst Thorns Medium: Oil on Canvas Size: 31".5 x 31".5



Title: Under the Trees Medium: Oil on Canvas Size: 31".5 x 31".5



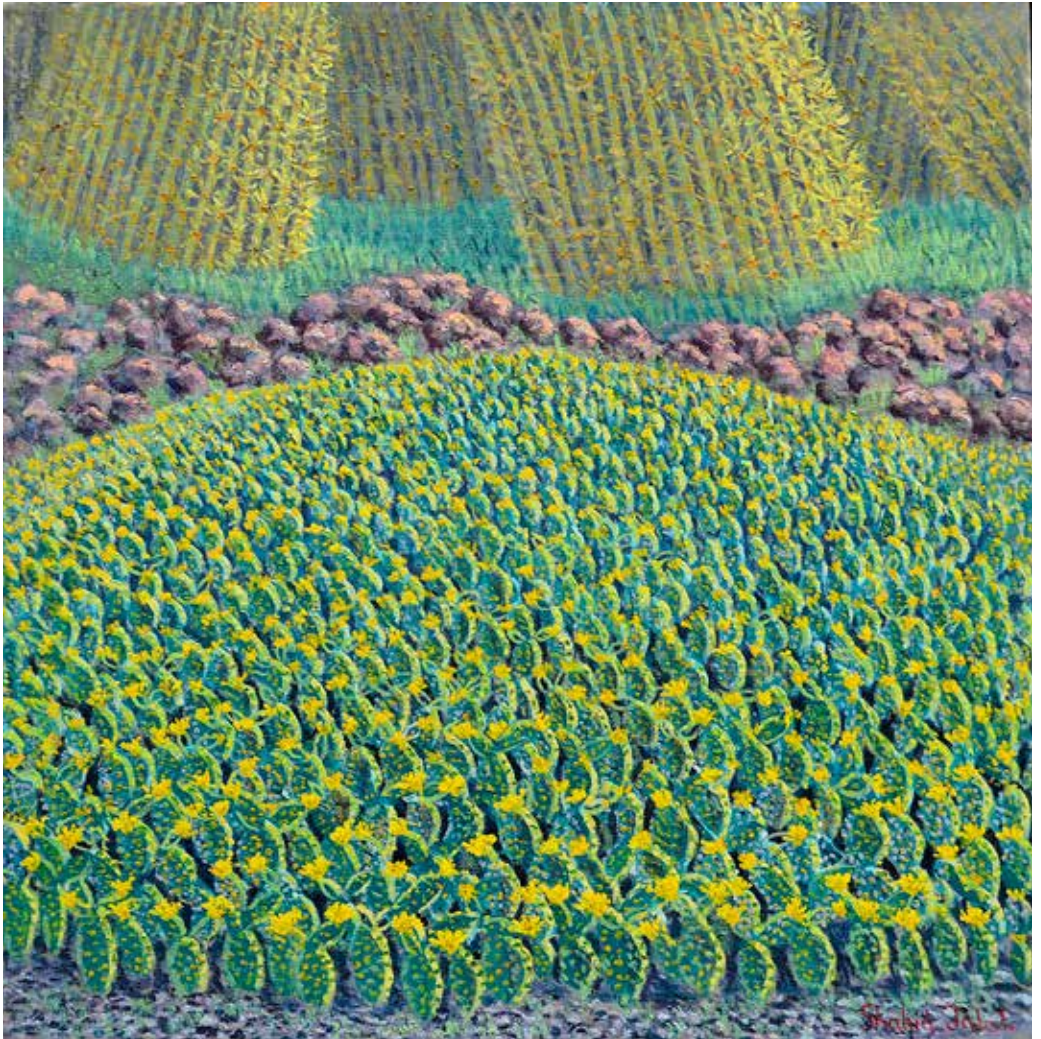
Title: Beyond Horizons Medium: Oil on Canvas Size: 31".5 x 31".5



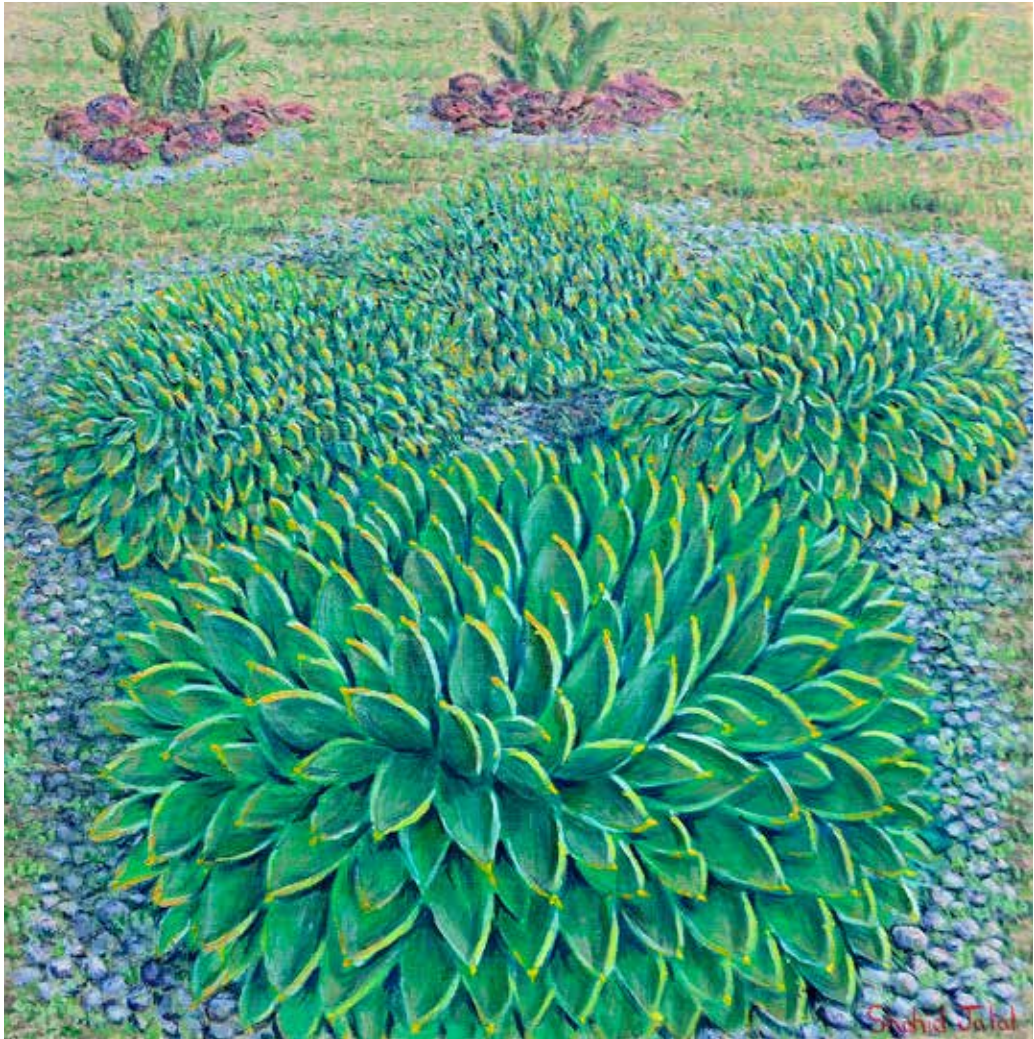
Title: Nature's Palette Medium: Oil on Canvas Size: 31".5 x 31".5



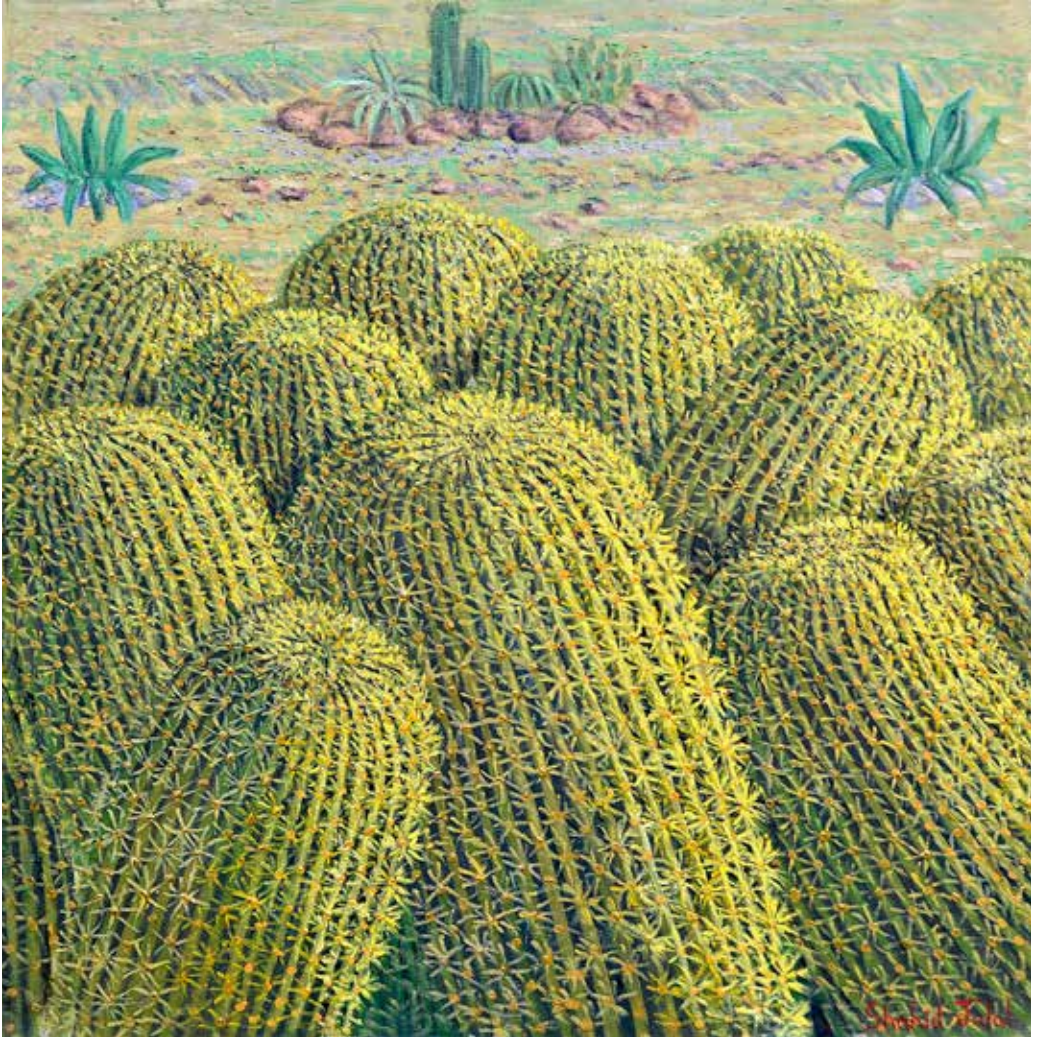
Title: Cacti Medley Medium: Oil on Canvas Size: 24" x 24"



Title: Lost in the Landscape Medium: Oil on Canvas Size: 24" x 24"



Title: Converging Cacti Medium: Oil on Canvas Size: 24" x 24"



Title: Lean In Medium: Oil on Canvas Size: 24" x 24"



Title: Rebirth Medium: Oil on Canvas Size: 24" x 24"



Title: Dome of the Cacti Medium: Oil on Canvas Size: 24" x 24"



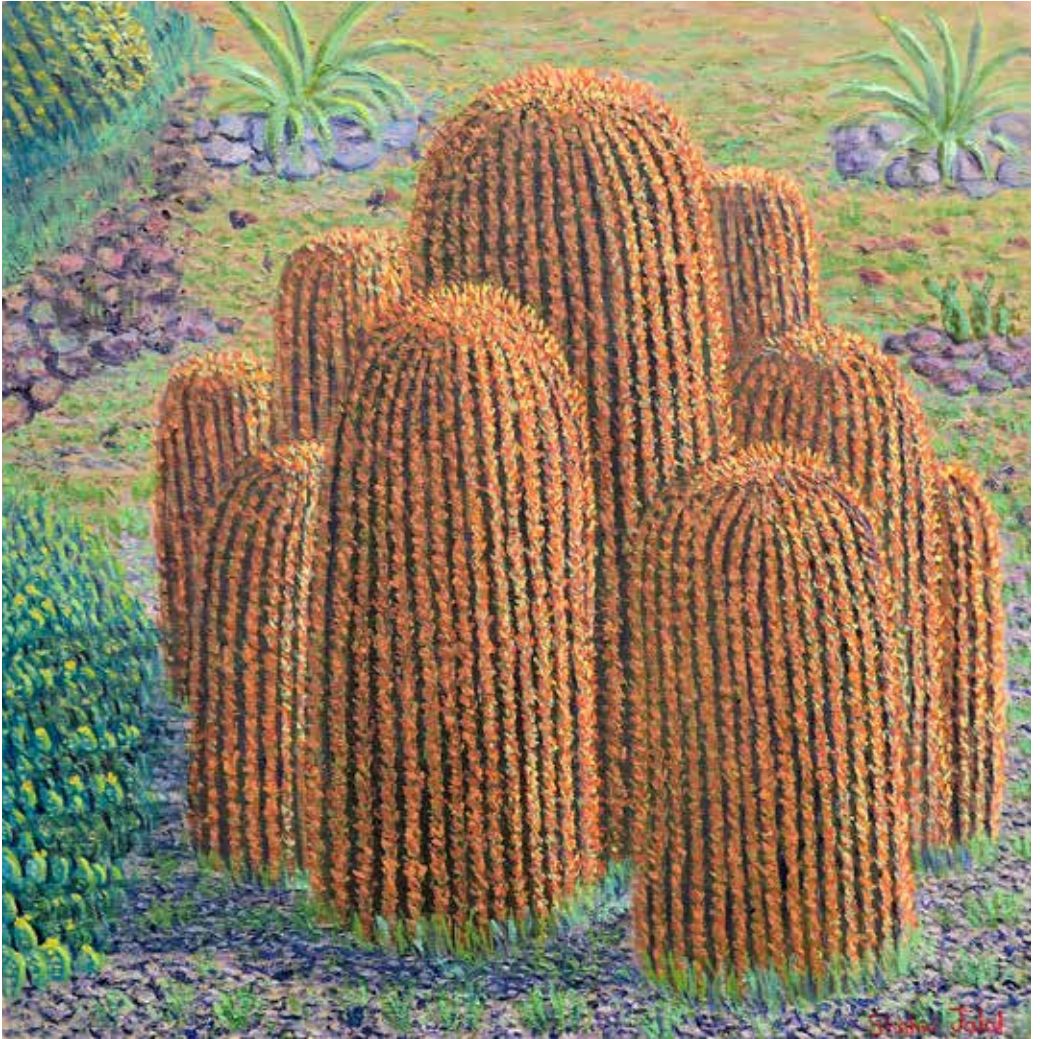
Title: Blooms in Reds Medium: Oil on Canvas Size: 24" x 24"



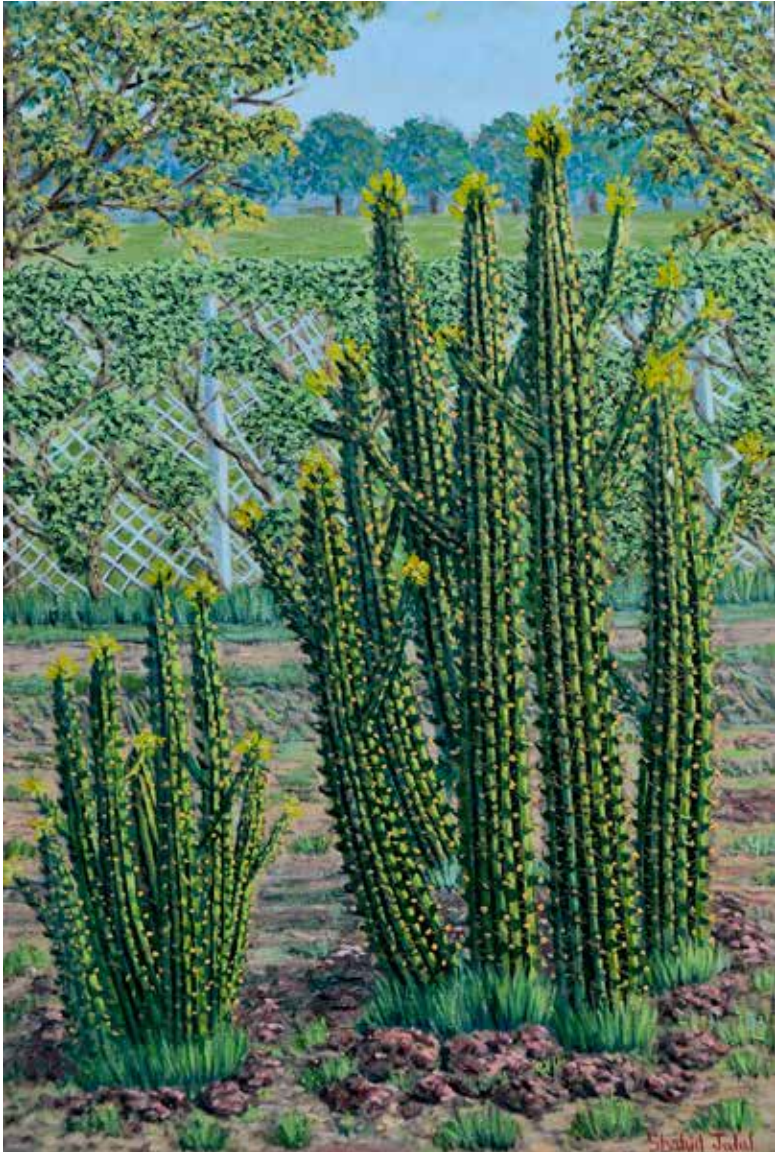
Title: Emergence Medium: Oil on Canvas Size: 24" x 24"



Title: The Cactus Garden Medium: Oil on Canvas Size: 24" x 24"



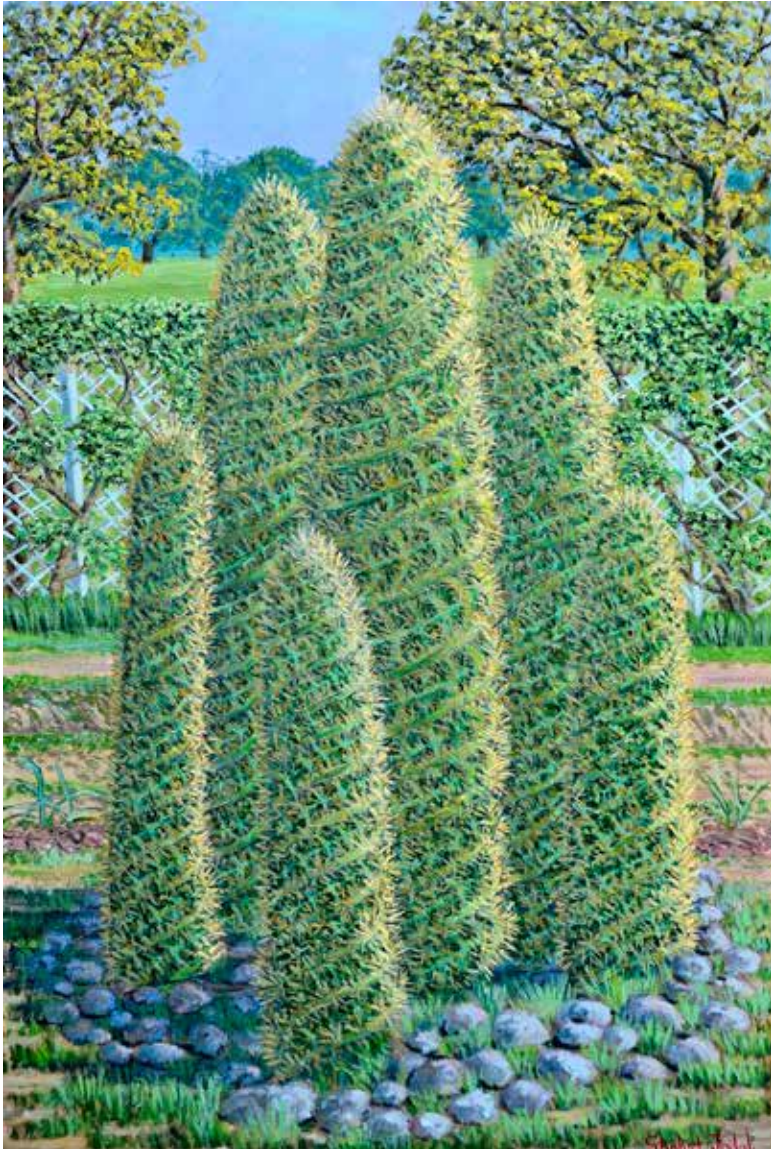
Title: Cacti Towers Medium: Oil on Canvas Size: 24" x 24"



Title: Thorns and Tranquility Medium: Oil on Canvas Size: 24" x 36"



Title: Entwined Medium: Oil on Canvas Size: 24" x 36"



Title: The Spiral Staircase Medium: Oil on Canvas Size: 24" x 36"



Title: Echoes of Earth Medium: Oil on Canvas Size: 24" x 36"



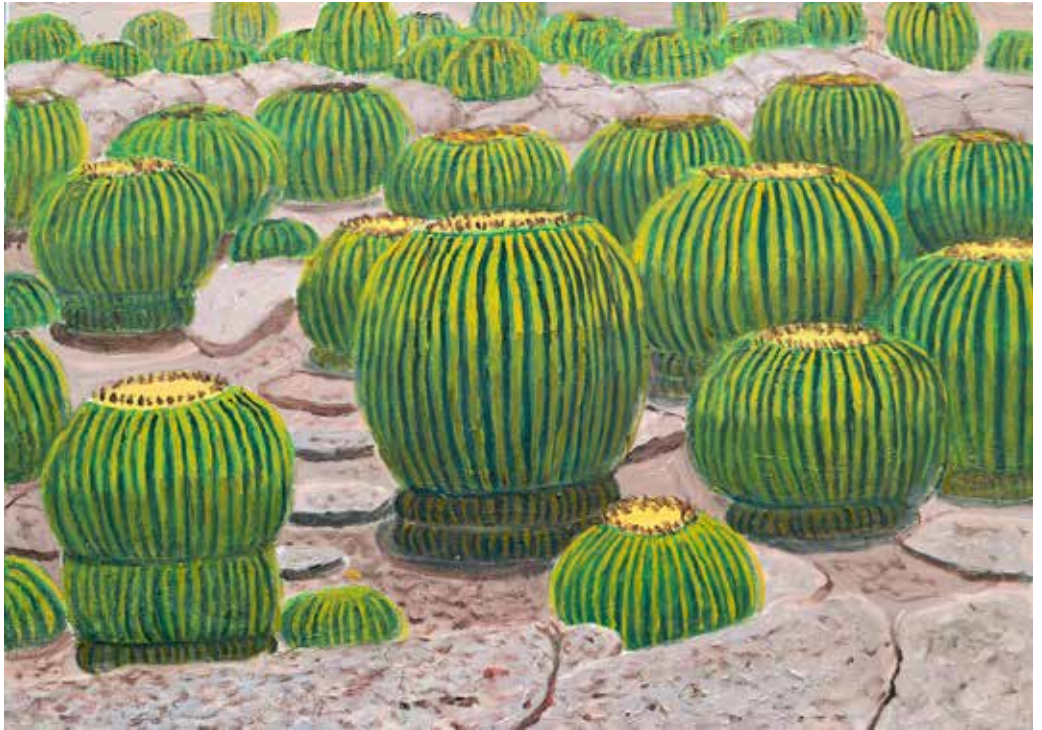
Title: The Rising Hand Medium: Oil on Canvas Size: 24" x 36"



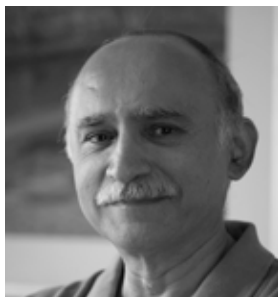
Title: Untitled Medium: Oil on Canvas Size: 28.5" x 23.5"



Title: Untitled Medium: Oil on Canvas Size: 24" x 30"



Title: Untitled Medium: Oil on Canvas Size: 27.5" x 19.5"



Shahid Jalal

Born on 13th August 1948

Died 18th August 2020, Lahore

Education

FCA England
National College of Arts

Shows

I have exhibited abroad in Washington, Stockholm, Delhi, and Sotheby's London. I have held several solo and group shows all across Pakistan.

Awards

Prize at the Punjab Painters Exhibition in 1989. Recipient of the President's Award for Pride of Performance in the field of Paintings in 1994.





Collections

Collections owned by the National Gallery of Pakistan, the National Assembly, Prime Minister's House, World Bank, Pakistan, Foreign Office and Pakistan House, Delhi as well as by many other public and private organizations.

List of Shows

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| Oct 1980 | Punjab Council of the Arts, Freemason Hall, Lahore. |
| Oct 1981 | Punjab Council of the Arts, Freemason Hall, Lahore. |
| May 1982 | Golf Galleries, G.O.R Lahore. |
| Sep 1982 | Holiday Inn, Islamabad. |
| Mar 1984 | 6- Nisar Road, Lahore Cantt. |
| Nov 1985 | Alhamra Art Gallery, Lahore. |
| Jun 1986 | Holiday Inn, Islamabad. |
| Nov 1987 | Alhamra Art Gallery, Lahore. |
| Nov 1990 | Pursuit of the Red, World Bank, Washington. |
| Jan 1991 | Lahore Art Gallery, Pakistan. |
| May 1991 | 7th Dehli Trinale, India. |
| Oct 1992 | Saarc Art Festival, Bangladesh. |
| Jan 1993 | Lahore Art Gallery, Pakistan. |
| Apr 1995 | Lahore Art Gallery, Pakistan. |
| Jun 1998 | Contemporary South Asia Paintngs, Sotheby's, London. |
| Feb 2003 | Ejaz Art Gallery, Lahore, Pakistan. |
| Dec 2005 | Group Show To raise funds for the earthquake Victims, 'The Art of Giving,' Long Room, Lords, London. |
| Feb 2007 | Ejaz Art Gallery, Lahore, Pakistan. |
| Mar 2009 | The Pool Garden." An Art Auction for The Citizen's Foundation Hall at: Ejaz Art Gallery, Lahore, Pakistan. Tanzara Gallery, Islamabad. Canvas Gallery, Karachi. |
| Feb 2011 | Ejaz Art Gallery, Lahore, Pakistan |
| Mar 201 | ArtScene Gallery, Lahore, Pakistan |
| Nov 2014 | Auction for The Citizens Foundation Hall at, Ejaz Art Gallery, Lahore, Frere Hall Karachi |
| Feb 2017 | Ejaz Art Gallery, Lahore |
| Mar 2017 | ArtScene Gallery Karachi. |
| May 2022 | Ejaz Art Gallery, Lahore |
| Aug 2024 | Ejaz Art Gallery, Lahore |



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