

The Other Pakistan



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Photography Exhibition

Sponsored by the American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS)
And the Center for South Asia (CSA), University of Wisconsin
37th Annual Conference on South Asia
Madison, Wisconsin, October 16-19, 2008

This exhibition of 30 photographs by 19 members of the Pakistan Photographers Group (PPG) showcases images that reflect the rich texture, beauty and dignity of everyday life in Pakistan. The theme of "The Other Pakistan" appears timely since the international media have recently focused almost exclusively on a politically turbulent Pakistan, promoting stereotypical images of a violent country infected by fanaticism.

The following photographers wish to thank CSA and AIPS for the opportunity to show their work:

Muhammed Reza, Lahore
Nida Shams, Karachi
Ittiqa Abbas, Karachi
M Iqbal Khatri, Karachi
Rizwan Ghias, Lahore
Imran Maskeen, Islamabad
Waheed Zubei, Karachi
Muhamamd Danial, Karachi
Amir Abbas, Karachi

Abdul Qadir, Karachi
Farid Gujjar, Lahore
Asif A Jehania, Lahore
M Omair, Karachi
Aliraza Khatri, Karachi
Waheed Khalid, Lahore
Usman A Malik, Lahore
Arifa Jamil, Karachi

Organizing Committee and Jury

Yasir Nisar, Lahore
Michael Foley, USA

Naeem Ur Rashid, Lahore
Elisabeth Braun, USA

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Kalash Girl in Rambur
Hindu Kush mountain range
Chitral District
North West Frontier Province
By Ittiqua Abbas, Karachi, Pakistan (c) 2008

Legend has it that the Kalash, also known as the "Wearers of the Black Robes," are the descendants of soldiers in Alexander the Great's legions who did not return with him but settled in Chitral.



Bliss of Freedom.

Hazrat Mian Mir's Tomb, Lahore

By Naeem Ur Rashid Lahore (c) 2008

A Sufi saint in 16th century Lahore, Hazrat Mian Mir was the spiritual instructor of Dara Shikoh, the eldest son of the Mughal Emperor Shah Jehan but did not succeed him to the throne.



Women at Bhit Shah

**By Muhammad Omair, Karachi, Pakistan
(c) 2008**

**Women on a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Shah
Abdul Latif Bhittai (1689-1752) in Bhit Shah.
He is the patron saint of Sindh Province.**



Tent Pegging

By Yasir Nisar, Lahore, Pakistan (c) 2008

Tent pegging is an ancient cavalry sport. Although its precise origins are lost in time, it is commonly assumed that the game began in medieval India in an attempt to debilitate war elephants. Tent pegging was also said to have been exercised when mounting a surprise raid on horse on an enemy camp. By uprooting their pegs the tents would collapse and thus lay open the enemy camp.



Sad Faces

Empress Market, Karachi

By Aliraza Khatri, Karachi, Pakistan (c) 2008

The Empress Market was built in Karachi in 1889 in honor of Queen Victoria, Empress of India. A vast space, it provided room for 280 shops and stall keepers.



Holy Night - Minhaj-ul-Quran
Badshahi Mosque, Lahore
By Farid Gujjar, Lahore, Pakistan (c) 2008

Farid Gujjar writes: "The crowd raised hands for prayer and asked for forgiveness of their sins on the 27 day of Ramadan."



KESC Blues

By Amir Abbas, Karachi, Pakistan (c) 2008

Amir Abbas suggests this title for his photograph: "Thanks to the Karachi Electric Supply Co. (KESC) we can sleep without a fan."



Mother and Child

By Abdul Qadir, Karachi, Pakistan (c) 2008

A mother and her child, eyes fixated ahead, pray at the Shrine of Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai (1689-1752) in Bhit Shah, Interior Sindh. He is the patron saint of Sindh Province.



Pilgrimage
Women at Bhit Shah
By Muhammad Omair, Karachi, Pakistan (c) 2008

**Women on their way to the Shrine of Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai
(1680-1752).**



The Bridal Party
Badshahi Mosque, Lahore
By Elisabeth Braun (c) 2008

The bride's demure expression may suggest that she is unhappy. If so, it is not because she does not look forward to her marriage but because she is leaving her family.



This is my Song ...

By Abdul Qadir, Karachi, Pakistan (c) 2008

A flute player "singing his song" at the Shrine of Sindh Province's patron saint Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai (1689-1752) in Bhit Shah. "This is my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace, for lands afar and mine ..."



Illusive image!

At the End of the Day

By Arifa Jamil, Karachi, Pakistan (c) 2008

**After a long day looking for customers
toride his horse on the beach, this man
now leads himself and his horse to rest
for the night.**



Father and Daughter

By Asif A Jehania, Lahore, Pakistan (c) 2008

Asif A Jehania writes: "Regardless of time, faith and place, the love between father and daughter is read best in their eyes."



Lahore Fort Courtyard
Elisabeth Braun (c) 2008

This photograph of the Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1981, is printed on a contemporary version of wasli paper which miniature painters used at the Mughal court to allow for very fine lines. The same technique now allows a photographic print to emerge as quite the opposite, that is, an almost impressionistic painting.



Kutwal Lake, Himalayas

By Farid Gujjar, Lahore, Pakistan (c) 2008

In the shadows of Haramosh (7409 m) and Mani (6684 m) Peaks and flanked by the Mani Glacier in the Himalaya mountain range, this is indeed a fairytale lake and wonderful trekking country.



Malhakra - a Competition
By M Omair, Karachi, Pakistan (c) 2008

This wrestling competition was part of the 5th Annual Sindh Festival at Clifton, Karachi, in March 2008.



New Experiment

By M Iqbal Khatri, Karachi, Pakistan (c) 2008

The pottery created in Hala, Sindh, is made from raw clay mixed with water and turned on a grinding wheel. "The whirl and the touch," M Iqbal Khatri writes, "give a face to the soil."



Badshahi Mosque at Night, Lahore

By Michael Foley (c) 2008

The Badshahi Mosque, the "Emperor's Mosque", was built in 1673 by the orthodox Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb, and despite repeated destruction and reconstruction, has ever since been considered a symbol of the beauty and grandeur of the Mughal era. Its courtyard can accommodate over 50 000 worshippers in its courtyard.



Optical Illusion

Maryam Zamani Mosque, Lahore

By Michael Foley (c) 2008

Mariam-uz-Zamani Begum Sahiba was a Rajput princess from Amer, now Jaipur, who married the Mughal Emperor Akbar I (1542-1605), became his Empress and gave birth to Salim, the later Emperor Jahangir.



Let's go back

By Muhammed Reza, Lahore, Pakistan (c) 2008

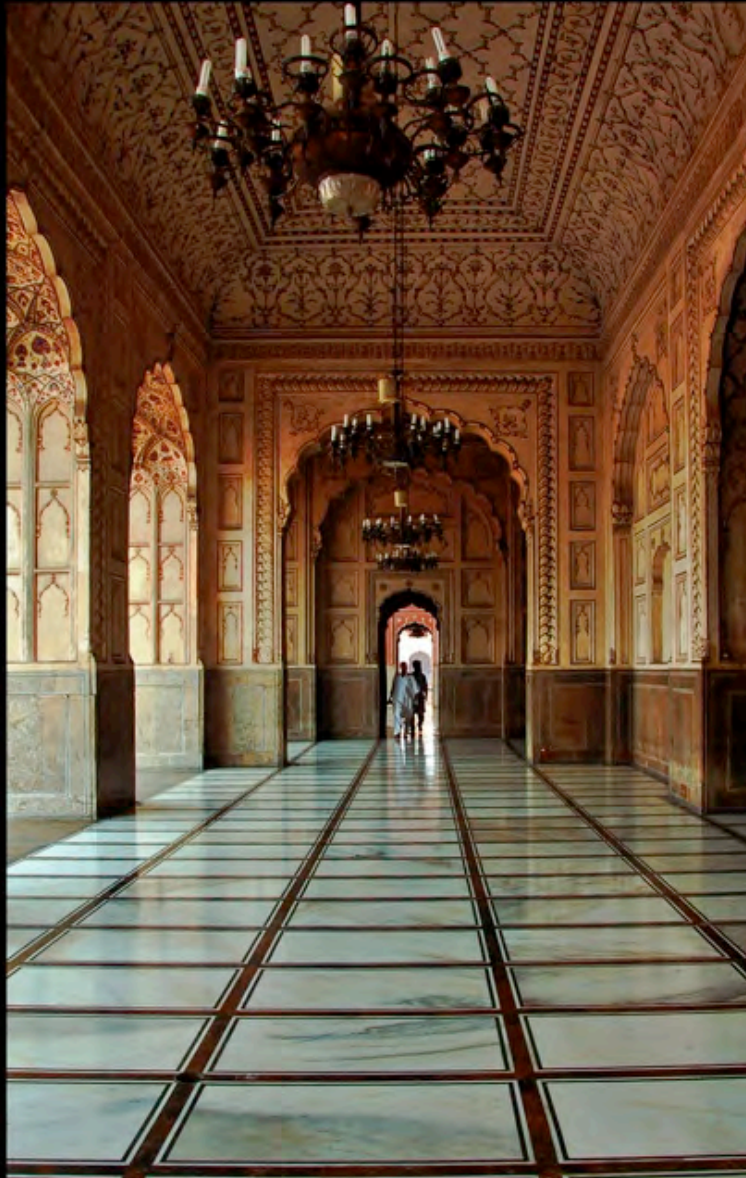
This photograph was taken near Safari Park, near Raiwind Road, close to Lahore.



Clock Tower, Multan

By Muhammad Danial, Karachi, Pakistan (c) 2008

Multan, in southern Punjab on the east bank of the Chenab river, is one of the oldest cities on the Asian subcontinent now coping with modernity. It is also known as the city of Sufi saints. According to local legend, Multan is the place where Satan landed when he fell to



Badshahi Mosque, Lahore

By Naeem Ur Rashid, Lahore, Pakistan (c) 2008

With its long corridors and archways, the architecture and design of the Badshahi Mosque are closely related to the Jama Masjid in Delhi, India. It was built in 1648 by the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb's father and predecessor, Emperor Shah Jehan.



The Storyteller

Lahore Fort, Lahore

By Naeem Ur Rashid, Lahore, Pakistan (c) 2008

Although we do not know what story is being told and who is listening, we do know that story telling is a much revered tradition in Pakistan's cultural heritage.



Walking with the Times

Kati Bunder Town, Thatta, Sindh

By Nida Shams, Karachi, Pakistan (c) 2008

A historic town in Sindh Province east of Karachi, Thatta once commanded the delta of the Indus river and its commerce but has since lost importance.



Sunset at Uch Shareef

By Usman Ahmed Malik, Lahore, Pakistan (c) 2008

An ancient and medieval town, Uch is also known as "Alexandria at the head of the Punjab." Alexander the Great is said to have founded the town at the confluence of the Chenab and Indus rivers and named it after himself.



Shahi Masjid, Thatta

By Waheed Zubei, Karachi (c) 2008

Thatta was also known as the El Dorado of the east with a rich heritage of Muslim architecture. The Shahi Masjid, or Shah Jehan Mosque, with its 93 domes and 33 arches is a splendid example of exquisitely laid mosaics highlighting blue and white tiles.



Kashmir Valley

By Yasir Nisar, Lahore, Pakistan (c) 2008

Belying the recent fractious history of Kashmir, this photograph is reminiscent of a time when the Kashmir Valley was rhapsodized for its extraordinary beauty and serenity.



Freestyle Polo in Shandur

By Usman Ahmed Malik, Lahore, Pakistan (c) 2008

Shandur Top, a 12 000 feet high mountain pass connecting Chitral and Gilgit is also the location of the highest polo ground in the world. Every year in July a team from Chitral competes there against a team from Gilgit thus keeping alive an equestrian sport that had its origins in Central Asia as far back as the 6th century BCE.



Nanga Parbat, Himalayas
By Yasir Nisar, Lahore, Pakistan (c) 2008

Also called the "naked mountain", Nanga Parbat is the 9th highest mountain on earth and, at 26 000 feet, was first ascended in 1953.



Wazir Khan Mosque at Sunset, Lahore
By Waheed Khalid, Lahore (c) 2008

The mosque, famous for its extensive faience tile work, was built in record time during the reign of the Mughal Emperor Shah Jehan in the 1630s by the Governor of Lahore who was commonly known as Wazir Khan. Located in the inner city of Lahore, it is a haven of peace and quiet in the bustling surroundings of bazaars and residential quarters.



The children of Jabba Camp