





MA Degree Show
Birmingham School of Art
Birmingham City University
31st August to 4th September 2022

Private view:
Thursday, 1st September
18:00 – 20:00

Aqsa Khan Nasar, MA Art & Design
The burden no one asked for...
(*Divided By Borders, United By Spices*)



Your new-caught, sullen peoples, Half-devil and half-child. Colonialism was, and remains, the wholesale destruction of memory, land, and culture. Identities are lost and stolen while languages are ripped from mouths. The collective loss to humanity is incalculable, as cultures, ideas, species, habitats, traditions, cosmologies, possibilities, patterns of life and ways of understanding the world were destroyed. Countless ecological traditions – involving diverse ways of being with nature – were swept away. Among the three major strategies of colonialism, the third and most important strategy of the colonialist rule was “Divide and Rule”. The life-long effects of colonialism have left constant unease and unrest between ethnic groups of Pakistan. The subcontinent was divided into three major countries, and even today there is turmoil

between ethnic and religious groups, for example, the ethnic groups within Pakistan suffer major ethnical and racial stereotyping leading to violence, rivalries, and unsettlement within cultures on daily basis.

As a Pashtun coming from the West of Pakistan from the province of Baluchistan which is underdeveloped and struggling for this very reason. Fellow Pashtuns and I have suffered unimaginable generalisation and marginalisation at the hands of the imperialists. What caught my attention was the way Rudyard Kipling puts it in *The White Man's Burden* “Your new-caught, sullen peoples, Half-devil and half-child” remind me of how Pashtuns are described and treated by the masses in Pakistan as “wild and barbaric”.

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