**Bashir Mirza** (1941-2000) Born in Amritsar , British India in 1941.

**Bashir Mirza paintings:**

The First Pakistani artist to open an art gallery in karachi. Bashir mirza is no less than an icon in Pakistani art history.

Before joining NCA (formerly Mayo School of Arts) His parents demanded that he start earning some money and knowing of his interest in drawing, suggested he become apprenticed to a signboard painter.

The first painting Bashir Mirza produced at the NCA, Shakir Ali preserved in his own collection and Bashir took great pride in his fact, mentioning it often. The "Lonely Girl" painting series was shown and gifted to the Seoul Olympic Art Museum when he was invited by the Seoul Olympic Committee.

He is remembered by his contemporaries as being particular about his clothes, always neat and totally focused on his work.

**Career:**

Bashir graduated in 1962 from the department of design with distinction, Bashir set off for Karachi to seek fame and fortune.He opened up an art gallery (the first ever in Karachi) at Kutchery Road in 1965 It became a central meeting place for artists and many lively evenings took place discussing art.

In 1994, Mirza departed for Australia as Pakistan's cultural attaché. But he soon got tired of the diplomatic life and returned to Pakistan in 1996. By then he was also sick.On his return, he opened up an art gallery and an advertising agency in Karachi. He returned in 1996, and began his last poignant series `Save the Margallas.’

**Prominent Exhibitions:**

1989 "Dawn of Democracy"
1971 "Lonely Girl Series"
1963 Solo Exhibition, Karachi, at Nigerian ambassy

**Bashir Mirza Painting Size:**

Bashir Mirza has painted paintings from small to large you can find his master paintings at Clifton Art Gallery in 22 x 28, 36 x 48 and 36 x 36 in. size.

**Government Recognitions**

1994 received Pride of Performance by the President of Pakistan.

[](http://cliftonartgallery.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Acrylic-on-Canvas-22-x-28_1050x12001.jpg)

Medium: Acrylic on Canvas
Size: 22 x 28
Code: BM-MC-001
Status: Sold

[](http://cliftonartgallery.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Acrylic-on-Canvas-36-x-48_1600x1173.jpg)

Medium: Acrylic on Canvas
Size: 36 x 48
Code: BM-MC-002
Status: Sold

[](http://cliftonartgallery.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Bashir-Mirza-zoomed.jpg)

Medium: Acrylic on Canvas
Size: 36 x 36
Code: BM-MC-003
Status: Sold

[](http://cliftonartgallery.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Bashir-Mirza-Z.jpg)

Medium: Acrylic on Paper
Size: 22 x 28
Code: BM-MC-004
Status: Sold

[](http://cliftonartgallery.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/BM-Zoomed.jpg)

Medium: Acrylic on Paper
Size: 22 x 28
Code: BM-MC-005

Early life and education[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Bashir_Mirza&action=edit&section=1" \o "Edit section: Early life and education)]

Born in [Amritsar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amritsar), [British India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_India) in 1941, Mirza joined the Mayo School of Arts (now [National College of Arts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_College_of_Arts) (NCA), [Lahore](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lahore), where he was one of [Shakir Ali](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shakir_Ali_%28artist%29%22%20%5Co%20%22Shakir%20Ali%20%28artist%29)'s favorite students of art. Shakir Ali was the *principal* at the National College of Arts in Lahore at that time.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bashir_Mirza#cite_note-BusinessRecorder-1)[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bashir_Mirza#cite_note-Dawn-2) Bashir graduated in 1962 from the department of design and was amongst the first batch of graduates of the renamed school.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bashir_Mirza#cite_note-ncapg6-3)

Career[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Bashir_Mirza&action=edit&section=2" \o "Edit section: Career)]

He never stayed for long with one theme or style, fluctuating between realistic, abstract and non-objective styles. Mirza looked out for new ventures of earning a living. He opened up an art gallery (the first ever in Karachi) at Kutchery Road in 1965 but in 1969 left town to go abroad. He also published an Art Journal called *Artistic Pakistan* but in 1968 sold it off. Marjorie Husain, an art critic and writer of Bashir Mirza's biography, 'The Last of the Bohemians- Bashir Mirza' (2006) called the artist "innovative and brilliant who emerged as one of the best among his generation of the painters of the 1960s." According to her, Bashir was outspoken, fearless but had great respect for the talent of his peers.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bashir_Mirza#cite_note-Dawn-2)

He exhibited his controversial "Lonely Girl" painting series in 1971.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bashir_Mirza#cite_note-Dawn-2)

The "Lonely Girl" painting series was shown and gifted to the [Seoul Olympic Art Museum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seoul_Olympic_Art_Museum) when he was invited by the Seoul Olympic Committee. His exhibition "DAWN OF DEMOCRACY" was inaugurated by [Begum Nusrat Bhutto](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Begum_Nusrat_Bhutto) and sporadic highs and lows followed in his career. In 1994, Mirza departed for Australia as Pakistan's [cultural attaché](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultural_attach%C3%A9). But he soon got tired of the diplomatic life and returned to Pakistan in 1996. By then he was also sick. On his return, he opened up an art gallery and an advertising agency in Karachi. There were subsequent lukewarm exhibitions, the latest being at Chawkandi in August 1999 just months before his death on 19 January 2000.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bashir_Mirza#cite_note-Dawn-2)

Stamp design[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Bashir_Mirza&action=edit&section=3" \o "Edit section: Stamp design)]

Mirza designed two stamps of the 1963 stamp series "Freedom from Hunger" for the [Pakistan Postal Services](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan_Postal_Services).[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bashir_Mirza#cite_note-ncapg6-3)

Postage stamp[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Bashir_Mirza&action=edit&section=4" \o "Edit section: Postage stamp)]

On 14 August 2006, [Pakistan Post](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan_Post) office issued a Rs. 40 sheetlet of stamps to posthumously honour 10 Pakistani Painters. Besides Bashir Mirza, the other 9 painters are: [Laila Shahzada](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laila_Shahzada), [Zubeida Agha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zubeida_Agha), [Sadequain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sadequain%22%20%5Co%20%22Sadequain), [Ali Imam (painter artist)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ali_Imam_%28painter_artist%29), [Shakir Ali](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shakir_Ali_%28artist%29%22%20%5Co%20%22Shakir%20Ali%20%28artist%29), [Anna Molka Ahmed](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anna_Molka_Ahmed), [Zahoor ul Akhlaq](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zahoor_ul_Akhlaq%22%20%5Co%20%22Zahoor%20ul%20Akhlaq), [Ahmed Pervez](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ahmed_Pervez) and [Askari Mian Irani](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Askari_Mian_Irani%22%20%5Co%20%22Askari%20Mian%20Irani).[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bashir_Mirza#cite_note-4)

Awards[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Bashir_Mirza&action=edit&section=5)]

* [Pride of Performance](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pride_of_Performance) (1994) by the [President of Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_Pakistan)[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bashir_Mirza#cite_note-ncapg6-3)[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bashir_Mirza#cite_note-BusinessRecorder-1)[[2](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bashir_Mirza#cite_note-Dawn-2)