

Editors. "Best of 2021: Our Top 10 New York City Art Shows." *Hyperallergic*, December 7, 2021.

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2. Shahzia Sikander: Extraordinary Realities, at the Morgan Library and Museum of Art



Shahzia Sikander, "Epistrophe" (2021) gouache and ink on tracing paper (photo by Seph Rodney)

This exhibition covers the first 15 years of Sikander's career: her initial work within the tradition of miniature or manuscript painting which she studied in Lahore, Pakistan, the work that came out of her study at the Rhode Island School of Design, her fellowship in Houston at the Museum of Fine Arts, and the paintings and drawings she produced after settling in New York. The show demonstrates Sikander's virtuosic visual citation of several different cultural traditions — Hindu, Safavid, Mughal, European, African American — to weave together her own unique style. In doing so, the show reveals Sikander to be a model for syncretic absorption and reinterpretation, instead of cavalier appropriation. And the through line pulling the visitor from one end of the exhibition to the other is the myriad ways the artist reimagines and represents the power of women — a theme that in her hands feels fresh and primed for further exploration.