

Salman Toor

Time After Time

Exhibition October 26 – December 1, 2018

Press Preview & V.I.P. Reception: Friday, October 26, 6:00pm – 8:00pm

35 Great Jones St., New York NY 10012

Artist will be in Attendance

Aicon Gallery is pleased to present **Salman Toor's** third New York solo exhibition, *Time After Time*. Toor lives and works between his native Lahore and New York City. His painting varies in style and scale, often playing with autobiography, art history, and queer identity. Constructed from memory and fantasy, these new paintings are a hedonistic mix of leisure, sensuality and painterly panache. Cozy little narratives assert the protagonist's identity, one that oscillates between queer boy and brown Muslim man. Toor's young men are conjured as amalgams of art historical references with an exaggerated, long-nosed figuration peculiar to the artist.

Multiethnic couples embrace in boy bars and share cigarettes as a wine glass gleams in the whirl and rush of urban nightlife. Imaginary companions dance among themselves in cramped apartments full of books and music. There are reunions, chance meetings, tearful consolations, and quiet reveries in the glow of a smartphone. Painted with simplicity and tenderness, these pictures highlight the relationships that seem to define the queer experience. Causal liberties seem hard-won and vulnerable, in Toor's linear, agitated brush strokes.

Allegories of family love and the threat of a conservative patriarchy loom in these vignettes of freedom. They reveal the breadth of knowledge, the disquiet and joy that comes from living between cultures. There are scenes of romance, as in *The Palm Reader* in which a dark young man plays the lusty and sketchy fortune teller to a pale blond boy in a bar, recalling Orientalist imagery. *Man with Tote Bag and Laptop* hints at the dissonance and disquiet of crossing national and moral boundaries in an anxious, post 9/11 world in which ethnic and religious identity supersedes a culturally diverse one. This diversity glimmers in *Floating Bookshelf II* and *III*. A loosely painted collection of faded family photos, paintings and books — *The Spirit of Indian Painting*, *Modern Poetry of Pakistan*, *The Diaries of Susan Sontag*, as well as monographs on Rubens and Goya — are stacked beside a charging iPhone.



Salman Toor. *The Smokers*, 2018, Oil on panel, 24 x 20 in.



Salman Toor, *After Party*, 2018, Oil on panel, 18 x 18 in.

In the large and refined composition *Eleventh Street*, Toor evokes the ghosts of Baroque and Rococo masters. Potential lovers exchange a glance while the Friday prayer progresses at an urban mosque behind them. Between these two seemingly incongruent worlds of religion and sexual emancipation is a colorful barrier of literature and music created by two beatnik American booksellers familiar on downtown sidewalks. Two men dressed for prayer look over their shoulder at a pretty girl who is reading a book. Toor's art challenges and celebrates both his adopted culture of the United States and his native Pakistani culture in progressive ways.

Born in Lahore, Pakistan in 1983, Salman Toor received his MFA from Pratt Institute in 2009. Toor has had several solo exhibitions in the U.S. and Pakistan and has participated in significant group shows such as the **Kochi Biennale** in 2016, and the inaugural **Lahore Biennale** in 2018. His work has been featured in publications such as ArtAsiaPacific, Hyperallergic, Artsy, and Wall Street International.

Please contact Aicon Gallery (Andrew@Aicongallery.com) for more information.

Salman Toor



Salman Toor, *Eleventh Street*, 2018, Oil on canvas, 51 x 67 in.

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Salman Toor, *The Palm Reader*, 2018, Oil on canvas, 50.5 x 47 in.

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Salman Toor, *Male Audience*, 2018, Oil on panel, 30 x 30 in.

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Salman Toor, *The Palm Reader*, 2018, Oil on panel, 20 x 16 in.

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Salman Toor, *Floating Shelf I*, 2018, Oil on panel, 36 x 24 in.

Salman Toor



Salman Toor, *The Plan Maker*, 2018, Oil on panel, 12 x 9 in.

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Salman Toor, *Floating Shelf II*, 2018, Oil on panel, 36 x 24 in.

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Salman Toor, *East Village Iqbal Bano*, 2018, Oil on panel, 24 x 24 in.

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Salman Toor, *Man with Tote Bag and Laptop*, 2018, Oil on panel, 36 x 24 in.

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Salman Toor, *Time After Time*, 2018, Oil on panel, 16 x 12 in.

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Salman Toor, *Three Friends*, 2018, Oil on panel, 18 x 18 in.

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Salman Toor, *Shower Boy*, 2018, Oil on panel, 20 x 16 in.

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Salman Toor, *The Smoker*, 2018, Oil on panel, 24 x 20 in.

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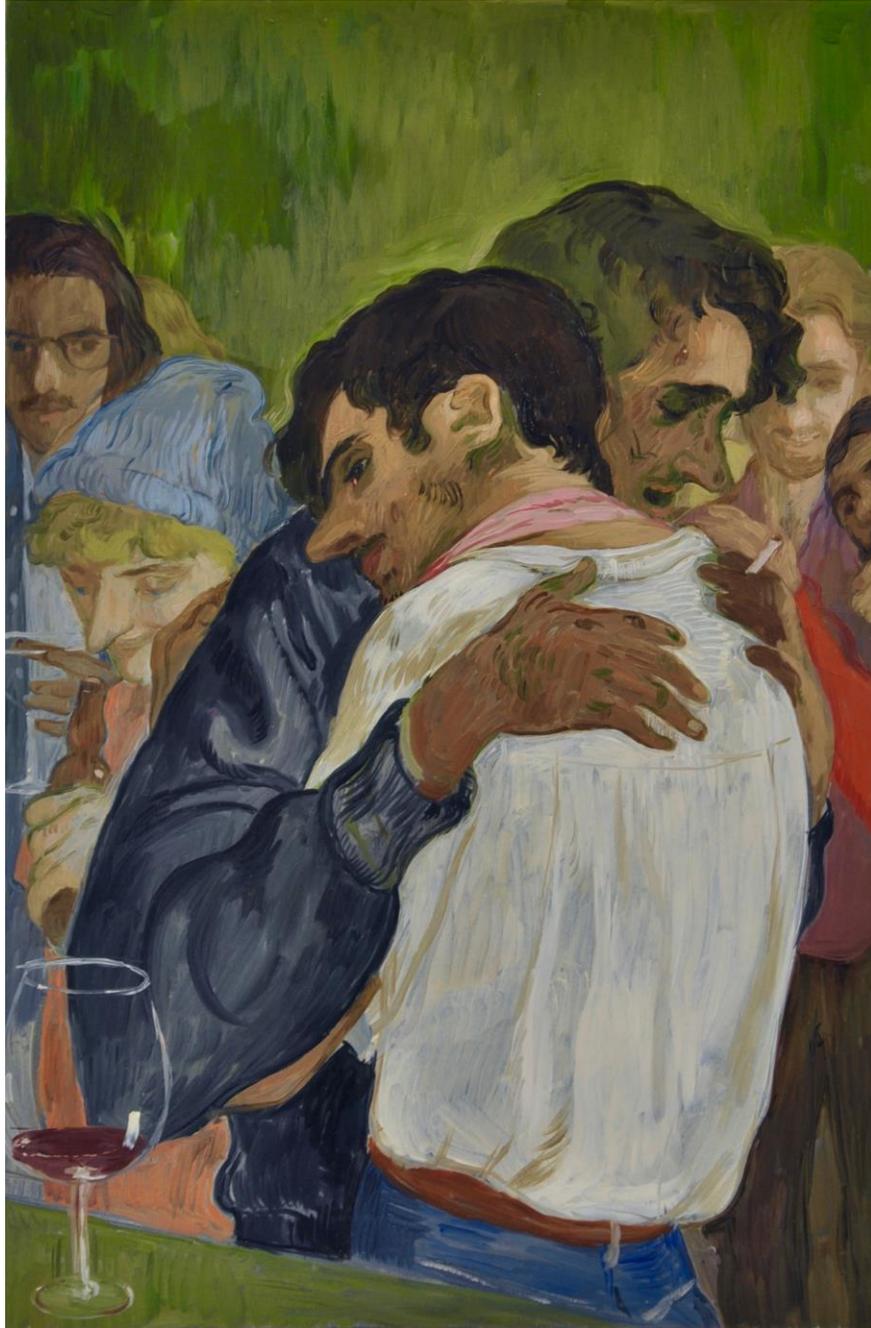
Salman Toor, *The Reader*, 2018, Oil on panel, 9 x 12 in.

Salman Toor



Salman Toor, *Reunion*, 2018, Oil on panel, 12 x 9 in.

Salman Toor



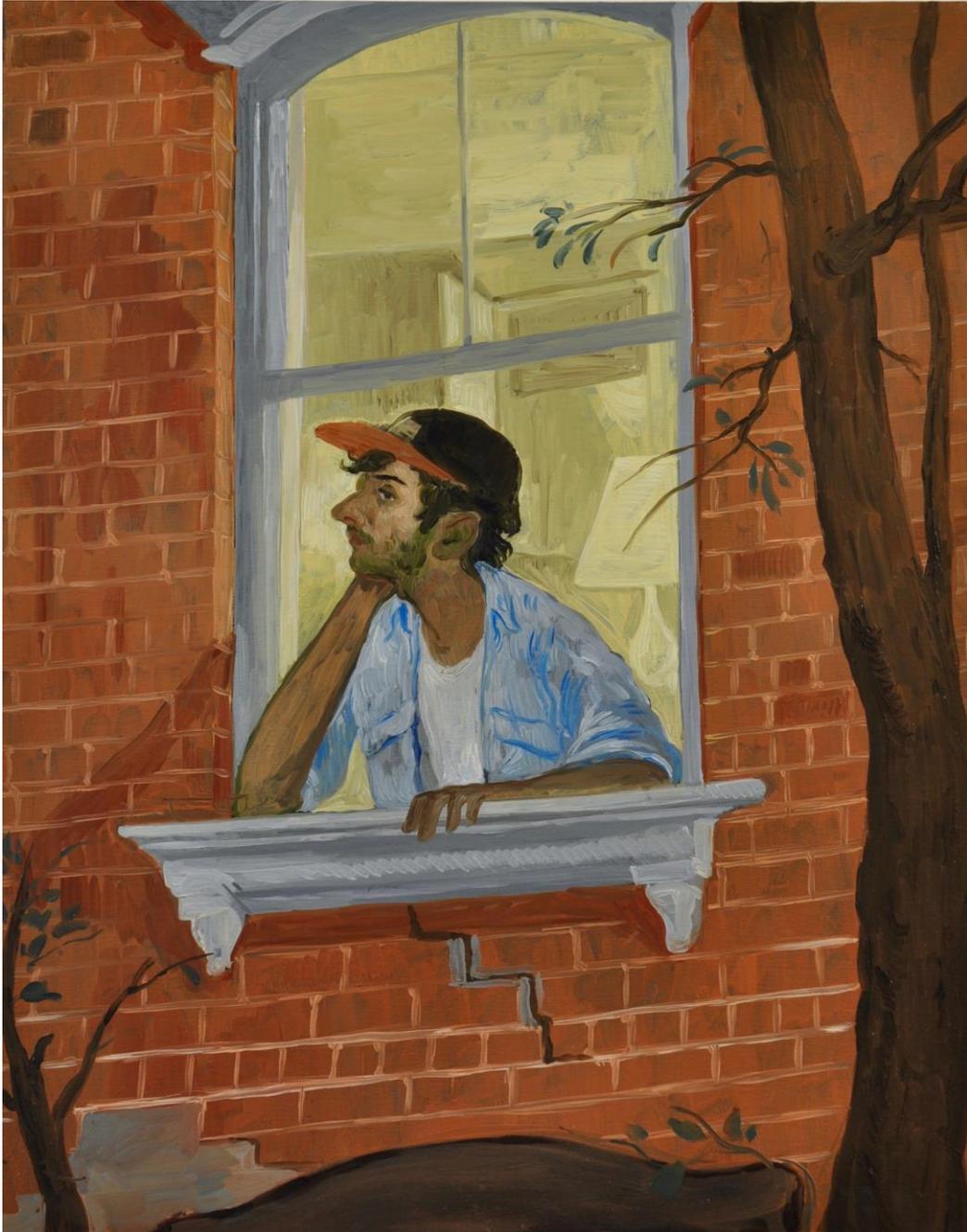
Salman Toor, *The Green Bar*, 2018, Oil on panel, 18 x 12 in.

Salman Toor



Salman Toor, *Fort Greene*, 2018, Oil on panel, 24 x 20 in.

Salman Toor



Salman Toor, *Boy in Window*, 2018, Oil on panel, 20 x 16 in.

Salman Toor



Salman Toor, *After Party*, 2018, Oil on panel, 18 x 18 in.

SALMAN TOOR

Born 1983, Lahore, Pakistan

Toor received his Masters of Fine Art (Painting) at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn in 2009. Toor's works have ranged in style from meticulously executed nineteenth century-style history painting to loosely painted and abstracted figuration employing design elements and visual language from both Eastern and Western pop culture. He has had several solo exhibitions in the U.S. and Pakistan and has been featured both as an artist and a writer in publications such as ArtAsiaPacific, Wall Street International, The Express Tribune, and The Friday Times. In 2016, he participated in the Kochi-Muziris Biennale in Kerala, India. In 2018, he participated in the inaugural Lahore Biennale.

The artist lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

Education

2009 Masters of Fine Art (Painting), The Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York
 2006 Bachelors of Fine Art (Painting and Drawing), with Honors, Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, OH

Select Solo Exhibitions

2017 *Short Stories*, Canvas Gallery, Karachi
 2015 *Resident Alien*, Aicon Gallery, New York
 2015 *Salman Toor: Drawings from 'The Electrician'*, Honey Ramka, New York
 2014 *Close Quarters*, Canvas Gallery, Karachi
 2013 *The Happy Servant*, Aicon Gallery, New York
 2011 *I ♥ Kitsch*, Rohtas II Gallery, Lahore
 2010 *New Paintings*, Canvas Gallery Karachi
 2009 *Three Paintings*, The Cultural Center, Kahlo Gallery, Hampshire College, Amherst Massachusetts
 2008 *Look See*, Studio O, Lahore
 2005 *The Return of the Real*, Alhambra Arts Council Gallery, Lahore

Select Group Exhibitions

2018 *Thought Bubble*, Aicon Gallery, New York
 2018 *Lahore Biennale*, Lahore
 2018 *Hyperreal*, Aicon Gallery, New York
 2017 *Culture of the Streets*, Aicon Gallery, New York
 2016 *Delicate Bond of Steel | Mumbai Exhibition*, Aicon Gallery, New York
 2016 *Kochi-Muziris Biennale*, Kochi, India
 2016 *Go Figure*, Aicon Gallery, New York
 2015 *Eat Pray Thug*, Aicon Gallery, New York
 2014 *Mapmakers III*, Aicon Gallery, New York
 2014 *Wretch*, Honey Ramka, New York
 2013 *Cinephiliac: Art Transcending Technology and Motion*, Twelve 'Gates Art Gallery', Philadelphia
 2013 *Return of The Native*, Rohtas II Gallery, Lahore
 2012 *Stop, Play, Pause, Repeat*, Lawrie Shabibi, Dubai
 2010 *All about Us*, Canvas Gallery, Karachi
 2009 *Wounds*, Aicon Gallery, London
 2009 *Purdah: Body Matters*, The Halvai Gallery, New York
 2009 Exchange Show, Montclair University MFA Gallery, Montclair, New Jersey
 2009 Pratt MFA Thesis Show, Stueben Gallery, Brooklyn, New York

2009 *I Think The Word Is Dignity*, Lumenhouse Gallery, Brooklyn, New York
2009 *Skin Deep*, Kips Gallery, New York
2008 *Pratt in Lucca*, Piazza del Anfiteatro, Lucca, Italy