

ALI KHAN OF ALI'S SEIZURE // FAREEHA HASHMI



Based in Lahore, Ali Khan is one of the most promising bright students GC has ever produced. He's an aspiring Photographer and Filmmaker. Reflecting his vision through his lens, he successfully reflects his artistic self through his shots and frames. Being a student of literature, he mixes his love for writing and passion for film making in the most unique ways possible. "The Dead Bird" and "The Dead-Tossed Waves" are the most remarkable short films by Ali's Seizure.

- **How did you start and how did you develop your personal style?**

It all starts from grade X when I was going through some extreme emotional trauma because of family crisis and I fell into major existential crisis, I battled with depression. The times were hard and I desperately needed a constructive outlet for all the negative energy that was building up inside me. I got myself an Iphone 3Gs and started phone photography, for me it turned out to be cathartic. I used to focus all my energy in taking a good shot and I always felt that I'm transferring my depression into the photos and that I've seized the moment with all its feels in the picture.

Then I saved all my Eid money and pocket money for years and bought my first DSLR and started taking pictures from it. I experimented with it and taught myself.

Secondly, when I first started and showed it to people, I got appreciation and compliments and as every other person I created a page on Facebook named Ali Khan "Photography" and I put commas around it. To gain fame and audience, I started doing mainstream photography and

captured what people wanted to see. As I matured a little as an artist and as a photographer I stopped people-pleasing my way through life and listened to what my inner self had to say.



- **How would you define your journey as a photographer?**

I belong to a typical dysfunctional brown family where several stereotypes are attached with Arts and Photography, all they thought was that the only scope for photographers is to cover weddings and that brings disrespect to the family. So they didn't let me study what I was passionate about but they couldn't stop me from following the passion.

I still remember the time 4 years ago when I was standing midway between NCA and GCU and the hardest choice of my life was ringing in front of me. I was terrified of the decisions I had to make. Yet I built up courage and decided to enroll in GC and resume my Photography and Film Making. Today, I'm a self-taught artist and I'm doing all what I dreamt of.

- **What is your relation with your art?**

If I had to define my work in one word, that word would be "Negative" because I like to capture darkness and smoke. I play with shadows and dim light and people like it because they relate to it. While going through a dark phase you find solace in aesthetically relatable objects and I think that's my relation with my art. I reflect myself and my mental state in my shots so it's kind of a mirror reflection relation



- **What are your biggest motivators?**

My goals have been my biggest motivators. I've seen too many hard times and have struggled a lot. Regardless of all the directions changes and slumps the only light I saw at the end of the tunnel were the goals I had for myself.

- **Who do you look up for inspiration and in terms of artistic grandeur?**

For me, it's not a person that inspires me or motivates me for my work. I like low budget films and B grade art movies from both Bollywood and Hollywood. Underrated and underground films are all I seek for inspiration. They inspire me a lot, the frames and the rawness of life presented in them is what I aim to achieve through my work.

- **A message for our readers and budding photographers?**

Everyone is an artist; and everyone is a good observer you just need to concentrate. Now adays everyone thinks that being a photographer means manipulating the photos with editing and Photoshop but it's nothing like that. Equipment doesn't matter, DSLR is not a necessity. Take out your phone, take pictures and express yourself.

For photographers, everything gets better when it is the right time and sometimes it's better to wait. In market, know the value of your work and don't let anyone exploit you.

Good Luck and may the odds be ever in your favor.