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NEWS RELEASE

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THE DRAWING CENTER ANNOUNCES

Nasreen Mohamedi: Lines among Lines***FIRST NEW YORK SOLO EXHIBITION OF THE INFLUENTIAL INDIAN ARTIST'S DRAWINGS***

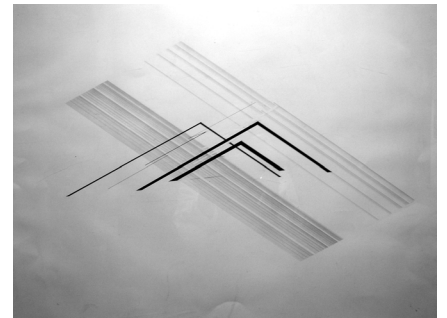
March 19 – May 21, 2005

Opening Reception Friday, March 18, 6–8 pm

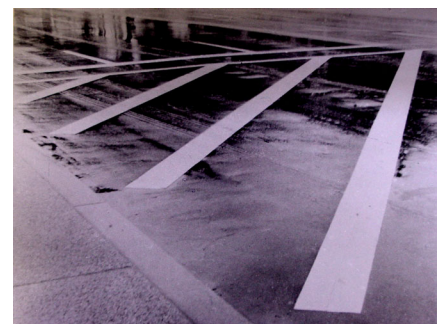
New York—From March 19 to May 21, 2005 in the Drawing Room, The Drawing Center will present *Nasreen Mohamedi: Lines among Lines*, introducing the contemplative abstract drawings and photographs of the influential yet under-recognized Indian artist Nasreen Mohamedi (1937–1990). *Lines among Lines* will be the first solo exhibition in New York to focus primarily on Mohamedi's drawings.

The Drawing Center's exhibition will feature 30 of Mohamedi's fine-line geometric drawings, for which she is best known in India, and 15 of her black and white photographs. Mohamedi's complex and spare drawings, created between the early 1960s and the late 1980s, are informed by ideas of modernity and by the geometry of Islamic architecture. In the mid 1960s, Mohamedi traveled to Bahrain, Turkey, and Iran. The photographs she took during these travels reflect an interest in architectural spaces, urban streets, and modern technological inventions. Throughout her work, there is an exchange between her abstract drawing and photography. In both media, Mohamedi reduces structures and spaces to patterns of diagonals and planes.

This Drawing Room exhibition is presented as a counterpart to The Drawing Center's concurrent main gallery exhibition, *3 x Abstraction: New Methods of Drawing by Hilma af Klint, Emma Kunz, and Agnes Martin*. Both exhibitions will re-visit rarely seen abstract geometric drawings by innovative women artists. Although Mohamedi's drawings may suggest visual similarities to Constructivist compositions, Futurist diagrams, and the grids of Agnes Martin, her works are part of an inspired visual language that emerged from an alternative modernity in India.



Nasreen Mohamedi, *Untitled*, ca. 1982.
Ink on paper, 22 x 28 3/8 in.



Nasreen Mohamedi, *Untitled XVII*,
ca. 1981. Black and white photograph,
10 3/8 x 14 in.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Nasreen Mohamedi was born in Karachi, India (now Pakistan) and raised in Bombay. After studying at St. Martin's School of Art in London from 1954 to 1957, she returned to India and joined the Bhulabhai Institute for the Arts. While there, Mohamedi's interest in abstraction revealed significant differences from the figurative approach of many of her peers. Through her mentorship with the renowned abstract painter V.S. Gaitonde, Mohamedi developed her personal sense of the sublime in abstraction. In 1961, the artist had her first solo exhibition at Gallery 59 in Bombay. She traveled throughout the Middle East in the mid 1960s and was influenced by Islamic architecture. From 1972 to 1988, Mohamedi was on the Faculty of Fine Arts at the M.S. University in Baroda, India, where she was revered as a teacher. In 1990, Mohamedi died of Parkinson's disease in Kihim, India.

During her lifetime, Nasreen Mohamedi's work was included in the Third Triennial in New Delhi, India (1975) and *Artists Indiens en France* at the Centre National de Arts Plastiques in Paris, France (1985). Her work has since been presented at the Jehangir Art Gallery, Bombay, India (1991); inIVA, London (*Drawing Space*, 2000); and in the exhibition *The Last Picture Show* (2003-2004) at The Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, and the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles.

PUBLIC PROGRAM

On **Saturday, April 9 at 4 PM**, The Drawing Center will present a free gallery talk on the exhibition, led by Deepak Talwar, Director, Talwar Gallery.

PUBLICATION

Accompanying the exhibition will be a 28-page issue of the *Drawing Papers*, number 52 in a series of publications devoted to drawing. **Drawing Papers 52** will feature 12 images of Mohamedi's work and essays by Susette Min, Associate Professor of Asian American Studies and Art History, University of California, Davis, and Geeta Kapur, an independent critic and curator living in New Delhi, India. The publication will be on sale at The Drawing Center for \$15.

HOURS & ACCESSIBILITY

Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10 AM to 6 PM, and Saturday, 11 AM to 6 PM (closed Sundays and Mondays). The Drawing Center is wheelchair accessible.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Drawing Center is the only not-for-profit U.S. museum to focus solely on the exhibition of drawings, both historical and contemporary. It was established in 1977 to provide opportunities for emerging and under-recognized artists; to demonstrate the significance and diversity of drawings throughout history; and to stimulate public dialogue on issues of art and culture.