

PRESS RELEASE**VOLUME****Mohammed Qasim Ashfaq****3 March – 30 April 2021****Vortic London Collective**

*VOLUME* is an exhibition about materiality, form and unity. It is composed of three specially made artworks by Mohammed Qasim Ashfaq that respond directly to the architecture of Vortic's gallery, challenging the limits of its space and software. Each monochrome work explores a singular plane of graphite rendered in divergent form, shimmering between pure surface and limitless depth. Born from the experience of Ashfaq's physical drawings — from meticulous geometric forms executed on paper to monumental orbital installations crafted directly onto the wall's surface — *VOLUME* explores the potential of the digital realm to express granular intensities of line, depth and aura. Its effect is a virtual hall of mirrors: velocities of light and mass entwine to exceed our rational expectations.

Ashfaq's work is an invitation to look at the world, to look again and look better. His visual language invokes the tessellation of Islamic ornament and mysticism sharpened with technological precision. It is a coinciding space, one of meditation and a slow but fierce propulsion to the future, one where ideals of modernism and science fiction take hold. Shapes we consider stable collapse, reconstructed as a fluid relationship of sculptural energy. Typically composed of stratifications of many single graphite lines, the translation of Ashfaq's work from analogue to digital brings to attention an environment in which the metaphysics of the image are central, caught as it is between spiritual transcendence and a fidelity to the raw materials of data, light and form.

**List of works**

Mohammed Qasim Ashfaq

*SHIFT*, 2016

Graphite on paper

Geometry diameter 60 cm

Sheet dimensions 111 x 80 cm

Framed dimensions 124 x 92 cm

MQA0113

Mohammed Qasim Ashfaq

*Reflections*, 2021

CGI graphite

350 x 900 x 0.1 cm

MQA0128

Mohammed Qasim Ashfaq

*Like clouds in the sky*, 2021

CGI graphite

350 x 820 x 0.1 cm

MQA0129

Mohammed Qasim Ashfaq's upcoming solo exhibition *INTERVALS* comprising 13 new drawings will open at the gallery in Peckham Wednesday 14 April and run through Saturday 29 May 2021.

**Mohammed Qasim Ashfaq** (born 1982, Falkirk, Scotland) lives and works in Dunfermline, Scotland. Qasim Ashfaq studied at The Slade School of Art, London, UK and Gray's School of Art, Aberdeen, Scotland. Solo exhibitions include *INTERVALS*, Hannah Barry Gallery, London UK (forthcoming - 2021); *BLACK SUN*, Hannah Barry Gallery, London UK (2017); *CLEAR BLACK SMOKE*, Hannah Barry Gallery, London UK (2014); *Mohammed Qasim Ashfaq*, Cairn, Fife, Scotland UK (2013); *Make me a black hole and I will believe you*, Amrita Jhaveri Space, Mumbai IN (2011). Selected group exhibitions include *Geometrica*, Tristan Hoare, London UK (2018); *We Are Not Alone*, British Council at ATHR, Jeddah SA (2017); *STERNE Kosmische Kunst von 1900 bis heute*, LENTOS Kunstmuseum Linz, Linz AT (2017); Drawing Biennial 2017, Drawing Room, London UK (2017); *Romanticism and the Sublime*, Lubomirov Angus Hughes, London UK (2016); *It's Me to the World*, Modern Art Oxford, Oxford UK (2016); *ROD*, Embassy Gardens Commissions, London UK (2015); *Mirrorcity*, Hayward Gallery, London UK (2014); *Open Heart Surgery*, The Moving Museum, London UK (2013); *TECTONIC*, The Moving Museum, Dubai UAE (2013); *Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art*, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane AU (2012); *Spiraling Skywards*, Sculpture at Nymans, National Trust, UK (2011); and *Let There Be Sculpture!*, New Art Centre, Roche Court, Wiltshire UK (2010). His work is part of the British Council Collection.