



Maria Qamar

b.1991 Karachi

Summary

Maria Qamar is a first-generation Canadian from a traditional South Asian family. She moved to Canada at the age of nine in 2001 and was forced to endure bullying and racism as a young girl in a post 9/11 Toronto. Qamar found her artistic voice through Instagram where her illustrations resonated with the Desi community, particularly the second generation. Art became a means for her to handle realities of being brown and South Asian in an early 2000s North American context. Her work is collected by Mindy Kaling and was featured on *The Mindy Project*. She is an Instagram sensation and the author of the *Trust No Aunty* published in 2017. Her artwork has been shown in the Art Gallery of Ontario, Mumbai Comicon, and the Oxo Tower Wharf in London, England. Maria currently lives and works in Toronto, Canada. *Fraaaaandship!* is Maria's first solo show in New York City, and her first show with Richard Taittinger Gallery.

Solo Exhibitions

2019 *FRAAAAANDSHIP!*, Richard Taittinger Gallery, New York, NY

Bibliography

2019 Gupta, Alisha Haridasani, *Maria Qamar's Bold Art Is Both Therapy and Weapon*, exhibition review of Maria Qamar's exhibition, "Fraaaaandship!" (August 1 - September 2, 2019) at Richard Taittinger Gallery, New York, *The New York Times*, August 15, 2019.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/15/arts/design/maria-qamar-art-richard-taittinger.html>