

# MARIA IQBAL

POP ARTIST

Maria Iqbal is a Dubai based POP artist known for her vibrantly detailed, hand painted furniture and accessories. She has been featured locally and internationally for her unique piece that spans fashion and the interior design world. She brings everyday items from home to life with a POP of color! She also revamps and customizes things to better channel personal style. She was born in Afghanistan, raised in Dubai, educated in the US, and found the courage inside to start her business. The business is still young yet she's rapidly made a name for herself with her recognizable chairs, but actually designs everything from dressing screens to handbags, wall art, and motorcycle helmets (which by the way were recently featured in Vogue Italia). There isn't anything vain about her.

“I'm not an artist who likes to sit by herself and paint,” she says. “I'm not an 'artiste'. I want to make things that make me happy and I want to share that happiness. I'm very influenced by fashion illustration, by TV shows and by movies. I'm not the kind of person that listens to music while I work. I have TV shows playing.”





She was heavily influenced by popular culture, her aim was to combine pop and art, using furniture as a canvas. Returning to Dubai meant that she would have easy access to the tailors, upholsterers, carpenters and painters who would help her transform her designs into reality.

She started experimenting with high-quality Italian chairs and other large furniture pieces, then moved on to smaller accessories such as cushions and tote bags. The results are lined up in her studio for all to see - rows of chairs emblazoned with skulls, eyes, hearts, oversized lips and cows; stacks of quirky cushions covered in oversized moustaches and bird motifs; and racks of tote bags in every conceivable colour.

