



1977-1968

**1977-1988 | Zia-ul-Haq Regime**

A period of regression. Dance and Kathak were pushed out of public visibility through censorship and moral policing, creating a rupture in Lahore's performance culture. Yet within private homes and underground gatherings, women quietly sustained the memory of movement through resilience and resistance.

**1977-1988 | Women's Resistance During the Zia Regime**

Despite censorship and the banning of dance performances under the Zia-ul-Haq regime, women artists such as Sheema Kermani and members of Tehrik-e-Niswan sustained classical dance through underground rehearsals and private performances, resisting the erasure of movement and female artistic expression.

**Sheema Kermani**

Classical dancer, theatre director, women activist and founder of Tehrik-e-Niswan

**1986 | Defiance at Alhamra At Alhamra Arts Council,**

legendary singer Iqbal Bano performed Faiz Ahmed Faiz's "Hum Dekhenge" wearing a black sari banned by the regime, transforming the venue into a symbol of cultural resistance and artistic defiance.

1986

**2019 | The Colony**

Houses Pakistan's longest-running signature contemporary dance exhibition inside a historic 1933 theater building.

2019

**2024 | Tagh'eer Lahore**

Launched its creative community space and began hosting curated artistic workshops, including Kathak.

2024

**2024 | Studio Beyyet**

Operates primarily as an underground residency space. Its students perform during private studio showcases, collaborative fusion art projects, and local community-driven pop-up festivals across DHA. The studio is founded by a self-taught dancer Fatema Amjed whose talent emerged through social media.

Artwork Title: Performing Resistance  
Date: 2026  
Medium: Digital Miniature Illustration  
Artist: Author  
Collection: Personal Archive  
Source: Original artwork by the author. Visual elements were developed using historical and archival reference images from multiple secondary sources.

03.2

THE BESTIARY OF RITUALS  
MUJRA