FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 9, 2026

Entangled Light

Solo exhibition by Sobia Ahmad

Opening reception:
Saturday, September 19, 2026, 4–6pm
On view September 19 through November 7, 2026
1353 U St NW, Washington, DC 20009

Sobia Ahmad, *All One*, 2026.

Washington, DC: Hamiltonian Artists is thrilled to present *Entangled Light* | ربطِ نُور , a solo exhibition by Sobia Ahmad. The immersive multimedia installation—composed of experimental gelatin silver photographs and hand-processed 16mm film—explores and expands upon an ancient Sufi parable of moths drawn to a flame. Paralleling the moth's pull toward light with the artist's labor in the darkroom, the project frames artistic practice as a form of spiritual inquiry shaped by uncertainty, trial, reverence, and revelation.

Entangled Light considers analog film and photographic practice as both method and metaphor, where slippage and error become generative conditions for transformation. Photographs are produced through Ahmad's biodegradable photochemical processes and homemade developers made from kitchen compost, coffee, washing soda, salt, and plants. Using different recipes, she allows chemical residues, light leaks, fingerprints, and variations in tone to accumulate on film and photographic paper, embracing chance and unexpected outcomes.

Ahmad, working with an entomologist, photographed and filmed moths and attended evening *mehfils*[1], where Qawwali singers carry the moth-and-flame parable through poetry and oral tradition. Images of her own hands appear alongside those of the entomologist and the hand gestures of Qawwali singers during devotional recitations. Bringing these forms of knowledge together, the work reveals how scientific observation, spiritual practice, and artistic labor offer interconnected ways of attending to the world and glimpsing a larger whole.

Throughout the installation, repetition becomes a form of seeking. Images are returned to, altered, reprinted, and developed again, echoing the iterative nature of both devotional practice and scientific inquiry. Rather than offering a single way of knowing, *Entangled Light* places science, mysticism, and embodied experience in direct conversation, suggesting that seeking is not a movement toward certainty, but a practice of staying open.

[1] intimate gatherings of Sufi poetry and devotional music.

Please join us for an artist-led walkthrough at 3 pm on September 19, followed by an opening reception from 4–6 pm. **Link to register here.** The Reed Society for the Sacred Arts will present additional programming in congruence with the exhibition, including a performance of Sufi devotional music by scholar, teacher, and composer Bilal Chishty, and, on October 24th, a devotional poetry workshop led by Anoosha Imran, writer and founder of the Adabi Baithak poetry club. Visit the Hamiltonian Artists website and follow @hamiltonian_artists on Instagram for more information.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Sobia Ahmad was born and raised in Pakistan and moved to the United States at the age of fourteen. She holds an MFA from Carnegie Mellon University (2024), a B.S. in Community Health (2015), and a B.A in Studio Art (2016), both from the University of Maryland College Park. Her work has been reviewed in several major publications such as Al Jazeera English, The Washington Post, and The Huffington Post and has been included in multiple collections. She has exhibited internationally—including at the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art (Ithaca, New York), Craft Contemporary (Los Angeles), Queen Mary University (London), Museum of Craft and Design (San Francisco), and the Women Filmmakers Festival at the Smithsonian American Art Museum (Washington, D.C.). Her work has been supported by Washington Project for the Arts' Wherewithal Research Grant (2025)The Pittsburgh Foundation's Exposure Artist Grant (2024-2025), and Allegheny County's Art Revival Grant (2022). She has attended SOMA Summer Residency in Mexico City (2024), Halcyon Arts Lab's yearlong socially engaged art fellowship (2019-2020) and has exhibited her work in a solo exhibition at the Corcoran School of the Arts and Design in Washington D.C. (2019). Ahmad is a 2024-2026 fellow at Hamiltonian Artists in Washington D.C.

ABOUT HAMILTONIAN ARTISTS

Hamiltonian Artists' mission is to nurture community and increase access to space, opportunity, and resources for emerging artists, through impactful programs and exhibitions.

The organization reaffirms and expands upon its originating vision as an incubator for the professional development of emerging visual artists, serving as a hub for Washington, DC's, creative economy and a vibrant center for contemporary art in the DC area. With its unique investment in emerging artists, Hamiltonian Artists provides resources to aid their development in important business skills, professional experiences, and visibility to support and sustain their art career.

Through the fellowship program, exhibitions, studios, artist talks, public events, membership program for art collectors at all levels, and so much more, the organization contributes to the vitality of the area's arts scene by deepening the appreciation for contemporary art and culture throughout Washington, DC, and beyond.

HOW TO VISIT

Location: Hamiltonian Artists, 1353 U Street NW, Washington, DC 20009
Hours: Thursday–Saturday, 11am–6pm
For more information visit hamiltonianartists.org.

CONTACT

For press inquiries and additional info, contact Anisa Olufemi, director of programs and curator anisa@hamiltonianartists.org.

Images available here.