



COMMUNITY

A View From the Easel

"A ritual I have is to always scribble a line or word, or poem that stayed with me while listening to an audiobook or song, onto the wall in my studio."



Lakshmi Rivera Amin
August 21, 2026 — 3 min read

Welcome to the 351st installment of A View From the Easel, a series in which artists reflect on their workspace. This week, Rah Naqvi paints with soil and tends his studio as a garden of creativity.

Want to take part? Check out our [submission guidelines](#) and share a bit about your studio with us through [this form](#)! All mediums and workspaces are welcome, including your home studio.

Rah Naqvi, Amsterdam Noord, Netherlands



How long have you been working in this space?

Almost four years.

Describe an average day in your studio.

I have been listening to the anarchist audio library lately as I work. My routines shift greatly because I don't believe in working solely within the studio; so much of what I am moved by comes from outside.

On a studio working day, I'd have my coffee in the studio and start playing around with the work I intend to make. The audiobook usually fluctuates between a world radio station and excerpts of the book I'm listening to. I definitely work on multiple things at once because I get bored and distracted quite easily. The scattered interests keep me engaged longer, so I feel more fulfilled in the different mediums I am able to play around with. I think that really helps each medium better the other. A ritual I have is to always scribble a line or word, or poem that stayed with me while listening to an audiobook or song, onto the wall in my studio. It helps me keep track of what moved me and stays there as a reminder.



How does the space affect your work?

I guess the space challenges my movement and scale. It forces me to reimagine using what I have to make the most out of it. Sometimes it is in conversation with my anxiety and asks of me to reorient and clean up to focus again. Sometimes it draws me in, and on others, it pushes me out. I see the space as a living, breathing extension of thoughts brewing, so when I leave it behind, I leave it feeling lighter. Like unfinished thoughts you can revisit in a tangible sense.

How do you interact with the environment outside your studio?

I like to create community outside art, with kin I find through common interests, like volunteering at gardens or helping a neighbor with theirs. I feel enriched when I organize with shared intentions, when I forage in the park, or when I show a stranger my favorite tree.



What do you love about your studio?

Different messes scattered around the room, unfinished work, and reminders in objects that nudge me to remember who I am, in relation to others, my aspirations, ethics, morals, and my commitment to them.

What do you wish were different?

A skylight. That would make me feel like a plant growing in a greenhouse, strengthening to venture outside.

What is your favorite local museum?

My 85-year-old neighbor's house.

What is your favorite art material to work with?

Soil and found materials.



Community # A View From the Easel