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## ‘Conversations Both Personal and Political in Peabody’

BY JAN GARDNER



“Intersections” by Anila Quayyum Agha at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem.

The Peabody Essex Museum in Salem is hosting an afternoon with an artist and a writer that promises to be personal and political. Carla Power, a journalist who spent a year studying the Koran, and Anila Quayyum Agha, an artist whose installation “Intersections” is on view at the museum, will be in conversation at 1 p.m. Feb. 7 about bringing together opposing forces and inhabiting a sacred space.

Power, who grew up in the Midwest and the Middle East, was a 2015 National Book Award finalist for **“If the Oceans Were Ink: An Unlikely Friendship and a Journey to the Heart of the Quran”** (Holt), praised for its insights into bridging the divide between the West and Islam. Agha, who grew up in Pakistan and now lives in the United States, explores themes of inclusion, exclusion, women, and Islam in her art. Illuminated by a 600-watt light bulb, her one-room installation creates a host of shadows based on the geometric patterns associated with Islam.

At 2:30 pm., the two women, joined by Kirun Kapur, a poet and founder of the Tannery Series, will lead a writing workshop about drawing on opposing forces, such as alienation and belonging, shadow and light. Preregistration is required only for the workshop. Call 978-745-9500. Both events are free with museum admission.