

RAJA CHANGEZ SULTAN
Trinity Class of 1972
Doctor of Fine Arts

Your father, a kind-hearted man not defined by material wealth but a passion for a free and fair South Asia, introduced you to the arts with the gift of poetry by Sir Allama Mohammad Iqbal, a Pakistani writer, philosopher, and politician. Iqbal's poetry in the Urdu language is considered among the greatest of the 20th century and helped inspire you to lead a life of meaning.

As one of Pakistan's most prolific creatives—a painter and poet of equal stature—you can trace your interest in painting to 1967, when, after completing education in Pakistan and England, you arrived on the Trinity College campus. It was 'neath the elms that you penned your first poem, "The Mirror." Sitting in the cafeteria the next day, Trinity English Professor Hugh Ogden read your poem with the encouraging instruction to keep writing. Taking his advice, you have forged an intellectual journey where your internationally renowned poems and paintings have garnered unquestioned universal appeal.

After earning a B.S. in psychology from Trinity in 1972, you completed two master's degrees, one in journalism and the other in creative writing and painting, at Columbia University, where you were awarded the coveted Henry N. Taylor Award in the graduate school of journalism as its top foreign student.

Following your service to the United Nations and working for the World Health Organization in Geneva, you and your wife returned to Pakistan, where you worked in the tourism sector for 25 years, holding senior-level positions for the Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation. You were then appointed director general for the Pakistan National Council of the Arts in Islamabad. In this role, you continued to paint, write, and inspire while helping advance the work of artists, thinkers, writers, and the visual and performing arts in Pakistan.

Your career spans more than 50 years with more than 50 solo exhibitions and group shows to your credit. Inspired by your countless works of written poetry, your paintings have been exhibited extensively in Austria, England, Switzerland, Oman, and Pakistan. As you are an eternal optimist, your paintings have transcended boundaries, real as objects themselves, and your poems are natural and erudite. Rooted in expressionism and impressionism, your art allows another to interpret it the way it is seen, evident by several of your principal series, including *The Divided Self*, exploring the intricacies of the human psyche, and *The Himalayan Odyssey*, inspiring landscapes where dreams are endless.

Through diligent study and a relentless pursuit of your passions, you persevered in a country where power often was prioritized over wisdom, constraining the meaning of art and the hope of visionaries. You let individuality and your values, ideals, and moral character guide you to becoming one of Pakistan's most influential figures—even though you never sought or desired recognition, fame, or attention for your contributions, even today as Trinity bestows upon you this honor.

The college could not be prouder about how you gracefully allowed the medium of art to lead and inspire a generation. You express your values through words so eloquently written and on a canvas in a balanced approach that embodies the liberal arts and a joyful pursuit of learning and mastery.

In recognition of your distinguished career in the arts and for your devotion to a more just society for your home country and for the world, I have the honor of presenting you, Raja Changez Sultan, for the degree of Doctor of Fine Arts, *honoris causa*.