

Artists & Curators CV - Hamja Ahsan

Artist/ Curator. Born 1981. Lives and Works in London. Email: hamjaahsan@gmail.com

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Artists Statement: I am an artist and independent curator from the Bengali-Islamic diaspora who initially trained as a conceptual artist. I am interested in rethinking representing national & region representation, indexing time, diaspora politics and new formations of Imperialism. My curatorial projects aim to reanimate formats of the regional survey show, models of public access, historical revisionism and cross-cultural exchange. I aim to provide platforms & produce archival work for Bangladeshi contemporary art and history within a global framework. My practice encompasses the entire span of media: drawing, sound, painting, appropriated text work, sculpture, photography, performance, video, publishing, producing documentary, directing exhibitions and critical writing.

Education

(2008-2009) MA Critical Writing and Curatorial Practice - Chelsea College of Art and Design

(2005-2008) BA Fine Art, 1st Class Honours - Central Saint Martins

Selected Exhibitions / Curated Programmes/ Productions

(2010) *Structures Within an Intervention* – group show curated by Meenakshi Thirukode - The Guild (New York, USA)

- *East is East, 2 video work presented on Bengali Diaspora in East London* - Tate Britain
- *Bangladesh Independence Day Commision* – Rich Mix
- *Antepress Commision: Keywords Vs. The Machine* – Resonance FM
- *Neighbours: A Parasitic Response to Where 3 Dreams Cross* – Mews Project Space
- *Import/ Export – Lecture & Curated Video Art Programme*. Shilpakala Academy (Chittagong), Bangladesh

(2009) *Enter 09: Award for South Asian Media Artists* – Watermans Arts Centre

- *Shahidul Alam Interview Session* – Video Production with Riffat Ahmed
- *A Cup of Tea with Oreet Ashery & Larissa Sansour* – Palestine – Video Production with Riffat Ahmed
- *Rerun Pakistan* – Old Police Station (temporarycontemporary)
- *Arches Pakistan* – Deptford Project Space
- *The Jinnah Papers* – Departure, London
- *Manton 789: curated 3 hour* – Tate Britain,
- *You are King, Tea is Queen* (curated) – Forkey Festival (Northern Ireland)
- *Project Biennale Symposium* - SIAD Gallery, Sheffield
- *Newspaper Vendors* – Alhamra Centre – Lahore (Pakistan)
- *Redo Pakistan* (new artwork presented and assistant curator for commissions from London-based artists)– Shakaant Festival, (Karachi)
- *Who Invented the Afternoon Tea? An Evening of Short Film and Performance* (curated) – Departure, London
- *A Cup of Tea Solves Everything* – Departure, London
- *The Reception* – Wimbledon Gallery, London
- *Departure and Epiphany* – St. Annes, London

(2008) *Sound Art* – Resonance FM (courtesy of Another Roadside Attraction gallery)

- *The Liberation War Museum* (curated Film Screening) - Departure
- *InFormation – Other Asias* – Current 1 – Noliias Gallery

- *Family Time*. Debut Solo Exhibition – Departure, London.

Residencies: (2010) *Porapara Artists Space* – Chittagong, Bangladesh. Introducing new curatorial ideas to South Asian context.

(2009) *Warwick University Conference Centre*: Manifesto Group with Arts Council England. Bangladeshi artists including curator Shahidul Alam (DRIK/Majority World)

(2006) *Summer Residency -Trinity Buoy Wharf*: Site-specific sound art work produced “Dwelling”

Published Writing: (2010) *Nukta Magazine* (Pakistan) : Commentary on Photography, Public Museums and Asian diaspora.; (2010) *Garageland* : *article on Identity and Migration*; (2009) *Project Biennale* Authored section: “National Pavillion” Launched at the *Venice Biennale 2009* in collaboration with University of Essex, Sheffield Hallam University and University of the Arts, London. (2009-) *Redo Pakistan* Newspaper. Printed in a Limited edition of 2000 distributed in UK, USA, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Public Presentations: (2010) *Artworld Aparthied: Why Bangladesh Will Take Revenge on the Artworld* – London Free school

(2010) *Falafel Road*. Panel on Art & Activism with Jacqueline Rose. Serpentine Gallery Edgware Road Project.

(2008-2009) Public Film Screenings of Bengali Art Cinema, Documentary and Artists Film and Video with discussion and writing produced with *Other Asias* and *Bengali Diaspora Arts Exchange*. Regularly held at Departure, London.

Awards: 1) Deptford X Jury Selection 2009 ; 2) Enter 09 – Best South Asian Arts & Media graduates

Related Employment :(May – November 2010) Curator-in-Residence. *Watermans Arts Centre*

(April 2010) *Solidarity Camp*. Borderline Research Think Tank. Chelsea College of Art & Design. Practice-based Researcher.

(April 2010) *Bangladesh Workers Association: Bangladesh Oral History Project*: Steering Group/ Exhibition & Display Curator

(June 2007- September 2009) *Hollybush Gardens*. Gallery Assistant
Advisory work for Art projects: Rich Mix, Tower Hamlets, Clemy Sheffield, Cageprisoners NGO Prisoner Artwork Exhibition, various curators interested in Bangladesh & Pakistan

Educational Workshops : (May 2010-2009) *Apolna Painting Workshops* – Baishakhi Mela, London. Family Tent.

(September 2008 Onwards) I am the founder and co-director of exhibitions and events of *Other Asias* a radical Pan-Asian contemporary arts movement based in London, Lahore and Dhaka. We have produced exhibitions, film screenings, radio sessions, talks, workshops, reading circles, archives, symposiums and networking events in UK and overseas. We have also presented new commissions of short plays, dance, music and fiction integrated into the overall exhibition programme. I am the web editor and we publish a quarterly newspaper of artists project, distributed Internationally.

Referees (on request): 1. Dr. Amanda Beech, Course Director : MA Critical Writing and Curatorial Practice. Email: a.beech@chelsea.arts.ac.uk /Phone: 079646533101

2. Stuart Currie, Exhibitions & Events Manager (Departure), Email: artstucurrie@gmail.com /Phone: 07854447553