

ADEELA SULEMAN

Born 1970 in Karachi, Pakistan

The mainstay of Suleman's artistry explores a series of dichotomies that point to the fragility and ephemerality of life. By juxtaposing her intricate – initially pastoralized scenes as rendered in the filigree tradition of Islamic art – against the hard, formidable qualities of the stainless steel medium, Suleman's sculpture is reminiscent of the precarious nature of the human condition inherent in the flux of societies.

The recurring motifs in Suleman's work – organic subjects such as birds and flowers – form detailed, repetitive patterns, which are replete with symbolic meaning. Abstracted notions of loss and disappearance quietly resonate through her sculptures. In lieu of tombs, memorials, and funerals, the works confront our earthly fears while suggesting transcendental relief. They may be seen simultaneously as symbolic representations of the coexistence between a love of nature and the chaos of man, in addition to the fragmented documentaries referencing recent violent and catastrophic occurrences within the artist's sociopolitical landscape.

Adeela Suleman received her BFA from the Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, Karachi in 1999 and did her MA in International Relations from Karachi University in 1995. Currently, Suleman is Associate Professor and visiting faculty at the Indus Valley School of Art & Architecture, Karachi, Pakistan, where she served as the head of the Department of Fine Art from 2008 - 2019. She is the founding member and director of Vasl Artists' Association, Karachi, Pakistan.

Suleman has exhibited in numerous solo exhibitions and group exhibitions at notable Museums and foundations including, Art Gallery NSW, Sydney, Australia; PICA- Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts, Perth, Australia; Manchester Art gallery, Manchester, UK; Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich, Germany; Kasteel Van Gaasbeek, Brussels, Belgium; Singapore Art Museum, Singapore; National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taichung, Taiwan; Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, USA; Devi Art Foundation, Gurgaon, India; Asia Society Museum, New York USA; Mohatta Palace Museum, Karachi, Pakistan; Kiran Nader Museum of Art, New Delhi, India; National Gallery of Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia; La Triennale di Milano Museum, Milan, Italy; National Gallery of Modern Art, Bombay, India; Kunsthalle Fridericianum Kassel, Germany; National Art Gallery, Islamabad, Pakistan; Fondazione 107, Torino, Italy and Apex Art, New York, U.S.A and 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, Sydney, Australia.

She has also participated in the KB- Karachi Biennale (2017 & 2019); Singapore Biennale (2016); Asian Art Biennial, Taichung, Taiwan (2013); + Sea Triennial, Jakarta, Indonesia (2013); Asia Triennial II, Manchester, UK (2011); 2nd Fukuoka Asian Art Triennial, Fukuoka, Japan (2002).

Her work has been reviewed by several magazines, catalogs, and newspapers such as The New York Times, The Guardian, Art Forum, BOMB Magazine, Wall Street International, Publications, Art Radar Asia, Art Link Magazine and Art Asia Pacific, Human Rights Watch, BBC News, VOA (Voice of America), France 24 - The Observers, The Wire, Hyperallergic, Newsweek, Art News, Biennial Foundation, Arab News, Gulf Today, FORUM-ASIA, Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development, Aljazeera, Geo News, DAWN News, The Tribune, The News, SAAMA TV, and The DAWN Newspaper.

Works are part of notable international public collections including the Barts Health-NHS London, UK; Devi Art Foundation, Gurgaon, India; Kiran Nader Museum of Art, New Delhi, India; Art in Embassies Collection, USA, Art Gallery New South Wales, Australia; Orlando Museum of Art, Orlando, Florida, USA; Flame Towers, Baku, Azerbaijan; Four Seasons Hotel, New Delhi, India, Manchester Art Gallery, Manchester, UK; Pinakothek Der Moderne, Munich, Germany, and The Kier Foundation, Sydney, Australia.

The artist lives and works in Karachi, Pakistan.

Education

1999	BFA in Sculpture with Distinction, Indus Valley School of Art & Architecture, Karachi, Pakistan
1995	MA in International Relations, University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan
1992	Bachelor of Arts, St Joseph College. Karachi, Pakistan

Select Solo Exhibitions

2020	<i>Dubai Art Fair-</i> Bawwaba Artists curated by Nancy Adajani, Solo Booth, Canvas gallery, Dubai
2019	<i>Ashes to Ashes</i> , Sullivan + Strumpf Gallery, Singapore
2019	<i>Dubai Art Fair</i> , Aicon Gallery - Solo Booth, Dubai
2018	<i>What May Lie Ahead-</i> Canvas Gallery, Karachi
2017	<i>From the Ruin to Rust</i> – Galleria Davide Gallo, Milan
2017	<i>Not Everyone's Heaven</i> , Aicon Gallery, New York
2017	<i>Fragmented Landscape</i> , Gandhara Art Space, Karachi
2015	<i>Dream of Carnage</i> , Canvas Gallery. Karachi
2014	<i>Towards the End</i> , Aicon Gallery, New York
2013	<i>Impulse</i> , Aicon Gallery Booth I-5 at Pulse Art Fair, New York
2012	<i>I had no choice but to hear you</i> , Canvas Gallery, Karachi
2012	<i>Solo Exhibition</i> , Alberto Peola Arte Contemporanea, Torino
2011	<i>Recent Works</i> , Aicon Gallery, London, in conjunction with site-specific sculpture
2011	<i>Drained</i> (2011), for the Manchester Cathedral as part of Asia Triennial Manchester
2010	<i>After All It's Always Somebody Else....</i> , Aicon Gallery, New York
2008	<i>Uncertainty</i> , Rohtas 2, Lahore
2007	<i>Confinement</i> , Commune Artist Colony

Select Group Exhibitions

2020	<i>A Perfect Society</i> , Aicon Contemporary, New York
2020	<i>India Art Fair</i> , Aicon Contemporary, New Delhi
2020	<i>Amish Quilts Meet Modern Art</i> , State Textile and Industry Museum Augsburg, Germany
2020	<i>Tapestry of Fading Gardens</i> , IX1 Gallery, Dubai
2020	<i>IMPART Collector's Show 2020: Material Agenda</i> , curated by Tan Boon Hui, Singapore
2019	<i>Karachi Biennale</i> , Pakistan
2019	<i>Abu Dhabi Art Fair, New Horizons</i> , Aicon Contemporary, Abu Dhabi
2019	<i>Art Dubai</i> , Aicon Contemporary, Dubai
2019	<i>Very Very Sweet Madina: 1990's Artistic Innovation in Karachi</i> . Curated By Aziz Sohail and Bani Abidi, Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah
2019	<i>Ecology & Environment KB19 (Karachi Biennale 2019)</i> , Curated by Mohammad Zeeshan, Karachi, Pakistan
2019	<i>Burnish Tarnish</i> , Curated by Girish Shahane, Palette Art Gallery, New Delhi
2019	<i>Art Theorem</i> , organized by Imago Mundi, Benetton Foundation
2019	<i>'FUTURE PAST: Tradition and Transgression in Contemporary Art from Asia'</i> , Sullivan+Strumpf Sydney, Sydney
2019	<i>India Art Fair-</i> Aicon Gallery Booth, Delhi, India- January 2019
2018	<i>4th Faiz International Festival</i> , Alhamra Art Gallery, Lahore

- 2018 *Art for Education*, curated by Salima Hashmi & Rosa Mario Flavo, Museo Diocesana, Milan
- 2018 *Objects We Behold*, curated by Amra Ali, Gandhara Art Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan.
- 2018 *Fearless -Contemporary South Asian Art*, Art Gallery NSW , Sydney, Australia.
- 2018 *Art Basel Hong Kong*, Hong Kong.
- 2018 *Trompe-l'œil*- Curated by Dr. Mikala Tai , Sullivan + Strumpf Gallery , Singapore
- 2017 *The Artist / Knight*, Gassbeek Castle Museum, Belgium
- 2017 *I don't want to be there when it happens*, Curated by Mikala Tai and Kate Warren - 4A, Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, Sydney
- 2017 *Witness*, Karachi Biennale, Karachi
- 2017 *South Asian Design - Exploring how South Asian traditional crafts are inspiring exciting contemporary art, design and fashion*, Manchester Art Gallery, Manchester
- 2016 *An Atlas of Mirrors*, Singapore Biennale, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore
- 2016 *Hopes of Paradise, Contemporary Art of Pakistan*, Grosvenor Gallery, London
- 2016 *The 70's Pakistan Radioactive Decade*, Curated by Niilofar Farrukh & Amin Gulgee, Amin Gulgee Gallery, Karachi
- 2015 *The Lay of The Land*, Curated by Anushka Rajendran, Latitude28 gallery, New Delhi
- 2012 *Headlines*, Curated by Munawar Ali Syed, April 3-13, at the Frere Hall, Karachi
- 2013 *SEA Triennale 2013*, Curated by Jim Supangkat. Suwarno Wisetrotomo, Asikin Hasan, Rizki A. Zaelani, and Rikrik Kusmara. National Gallery of Indonesia, Jakarta
- 2013 *Everyday Life - Asian Art Biennial*, National Taiwan Museum of Fine Art, Taiwan
- 2012 *Phantom of Asia*, Asian Art Museum, San Francisco
- 2012 *Band Baaja Baarat*, IVS Gallery, Dubai Art Fair, Dubai
- 2012 *Indian Art Summit*, New Delhi
- 2012 *Mein – the Artist and the Self*, Koel Gallery, Karachi
- 2011 *Reprise*, Aicon Gallery, New York
- 2011 *Asia Triennial Manchester II*, Manchester Cathedral, U.K.
- 2011 *Home Spun*, Devi Art Foundation, New Delhi
- 2011 *Group Show*, Drawing Room Art Gallery, Lahore
- 2011 *Mad in Karachi 3D*, Art Chowk Gallery, Karachi
- 2010 *Rising Tide*, Mohatta Palace Museum, Karachi
- 2010 *In Defisa*, Fondazione 107, Torino
- 2010 *Svelando l'Utopia*, Alberto Peola Arte Contemporanea, Torino
- 2010 *Resemble Reassemble*, Devi Art Foundation, New Delhi
- 2009 *Failing States: Recent works by Tazeen Qayyum*, Aicon Gallery, London
- 2009 *Steel Life*, La Triennale di Milano, Milan
- 2009 *Hanging Fire: Contemporary Art from Pakistan*, Asia Society, New York
- 2009 *The Emperor's New Clothes: Dress, Politics and Identity in Contemporary Pakistani Art*, Talwar Gallery, New York
- 2009 *Signs taken for Wonders: Recent Art from India and Pakistan*, Aicon, London
- 2008 *Farida Batool, Adeela Suleman and Tazeen Qayyum*, Aicon Gallery, New York

2004	<i>Spielen mit Geladenem Gewehr</i> (Playing with the loaded gun), Kunsthalle Fridericianum, Kassel, Germany
2003	<i>Twenty-four Shots per second</i> , Kara Film Fest, Karachi
2003	43 Premio Suzzara, Associazione Galleria Del Premio Suzzara, Italy
2003	<i>Playing with the loaded Gun</i> , Apex Art, New York Canvas Gallery, Karachi
2002	<i>Imagined Workshop</i> , Second Fukuoka Asian Art Triennial, Fukuoka
2001	<i>The Thakhti Show</i> , Freer Hall, Karachi
2008	<i>Tradition, Technique, Technology – II; Contemporary artists from Pakistan, Featuring Farida Batool, Ayaz Jikhio and Adeela Suleman</i> , Aicon, Palo Alto
2008	<i>Video Loop 08'</i> , Barcelona
2008	Fiera Internazionale d'Arte Contemporanea International Exhibition of Contemporary Art-Bologna, Italy
2008	<i>Women of Light</i> , Galerie Davide Gallo, Berlin
2007	Preview Berlin, The emerging art fair, Berlin
2007	<i>An Intensity of Space & Substance</i> , National Art Gallery, Islamabad
2007	<i>Love</i> , National Art Gallery, Islamabad
2007	<i>Articulating the Subtext</i> , Alliance Francaise, Karachi
2006	<i>Flights of Fancy</i> , Royaat Gallery, Lahore
2006	<i>Body</i> , Amin Gulgee Gallery, Karachi
2006	<i>Calligraphy</i> , Amin Gulgee Gallery, Karachi
2005	<i>Urban/Culture</i> , CP Open Biennale, Jakarta
2005	<i>Beyond Borders</i> , National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai

Collections & Public Commissions

Art in Embassies, U.S. Dept. of State, Islamabad & Karachi, Pakistan

Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

Barts Health NHS Trust, London, U.K.

Devi Art Foundation, Haryana, India

Flame Towers, Baku, Azerbaijan

Four Seasons Hotel, New Delhi, India

The Kier Foundation, Sydney, Australia

Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, New Delhi, India

Manchester Art Gallery, Manchester, UK

Mohatta Palace Museum, Karachi, Pakistan

Orlando Museum of Art, Orlando, Florida, U.S.

Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich, Germany

Samdani Art Foundation, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Qatar Museum, Qatar

