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LAHORE BIENNALE LB03
“OF MOUNTAINS AND SEAS”
CURATED BY JOHN TAIN

Features More than Sixty Artists,
with over Forty New Commissions

6TH OCTOBER – 8TH NOVEMBER 2024
LAHORE, PAKISTAN



Zheng Bo. Phoenix, 2024, still from video.

Press Images Available for Download [Here](#)

Lahore, Pakistan — 6th October 2024 — The **Lahore Biennale Foundation (LBF)** announces *Of Mountains and Seas*, the third edition of the Biennale, curated by John Tain. **LB03** builds on the

success of the inaugural Lahore Biennale in March 2018 and the second edition in early 2020, curated by Hoor Al Qasimi, by showcasing groundbreaking contemporary art from around the world centred on the themes of ecologies and sustainable futures. ***Of Mountains and Seas*** showcases the convergence of art, environmental awareness, and global collaboration to help imagine alternative futures.

The Biennale invites some **sixty artists** from over **thirty** countries to present an array of site-specific exhibits and immersive installations that draw attention to issues caused by environmental degradation, along with illuminating vernacular and indigenous heritage as transformative resources for future sustainability. It explores these themes from the perspectives of Pakistan and the Global South more broadly.

The Lahore Biennale has become a noteworthy platform for contemporary art in the region, showcasing artworks from a range of disciplines and media. The previous editions and on-going projects highlight the **Lahore Biennale Foundation's** commitment to promoting cultural exchange, inclusivity, and accessibility through the arts.

Qudsia Rahim, Executive Director of **LBF** notes, *“As a public-facing organisation, the Lahore Biennale Foundation is committed to creating sustained and meaningful cultural programming.”* Rahim further added; *“Given the relative scarcity of regional dialogues within South Asia, the Biennale aims to foster a deeper and multifaceted exchange within Asia and the rest of the world and to contribute to a shared and sustainable future. At the same time, the city of Lahore becomes a wonderful catalyst for engaging local audiences with contemporary art and incorporating regional artists into the global art scene”.*

Exhibition artworks, many of them new commissions, will be featured across a dozen venues across the city, including UNESCO World Heritage sites: the Lahore Fort in the Walled City that also featured spectacular installations in the first two editions; and the Shalimar Gardens, a treasure of Islamic garden design and hydrology that will be showcased for the first time for the Biennale.

John Tain, Curator of **Lahore Biennale (LB03)** states, *“By placing historic sites in dialogue with more contemporary works, LB03 brings to light the ways the city’s celebrated culture, architecture, and gardens, generally understood to symbolise its palimpsest of connections to Asia and Europe through trade routes and the migration of people and knowledge, also connects with more recent conversations about the significance of historical and indigenous forms of knowledge and practices as necessary alternatives to the extractivism that plague modern societies. Evidence of these local and vernacular forms can be abundantly found everywhere in the architecture, art, cosmology, cuisine, and literature, as well as in the diversity of its inhabitants – people whose relation to local and regional ecosystems have been fine-tuned over millennia of cohabitation and adaptation”.*

Raza Ali Dada, Lead Architect & Sceneographer for **LB03** observes, *“LBF prioritises the city and its urban spaces when planning the spatial design of its exhibitions and projects. The rediscovery and reappropriation of these locations are crucial means of public engagement and have initiated new and regenerative projects across Lahore. The approach to designing exhibitions and installations is deeply rooted in honouring the artists’ visions and ensuring that designs are simple and sensitive to sustainability concerns.”*

LB03 will install ambitious works of contemporary art throughout cultural heritage sites across the city, including:

- **Lahore Fort** and **Shalimar Gardens**, both UNESCO World Heritage Sites, are masterpieces from the Mughal era, which reached its splendour during the reign of Emperor Shah Jahan (1628-1658). The Fort contains marble palaces and mosques decorated with mosaics, and terraces with lodges, waterfalls and large ornamental ponds. The Shalimar Gardens were built to symbolise a Persian paradise garden envisioned to create a representation of an earthly utopia in which humans live in perfect harmony with all elements of nature.
- **Lahore Museum** is an important example of Indo-Saracenic architecture constructed under British rule. It holds the country's largest and oldest collection of historical, cultural and artistic objects.
- **Pak Tea House**, located on the historic Mall Road near the Lahore Museum and many educational institutes, is a restaurant known for its association with progressive academics and left-leaning South Asian intelligentsia, and noted for being the birthplace of the influential Progressive Writers' Association.
- **Bradlaugh Hall**, built in the 19th century on Rattigan Road, is a symbol of revolution against the British occupation of Indian subcontinent, as it served as the epicentre of organised resistance against colonial rule in Lahore.
- The **YMCA** building is a testament to the identity of Lahore as a city of poets, artists, and visionaries. The building was commemorated to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1887 and is a significant part of the colonial narrative of Lahore. Since the time of Queen Victoria to the Partition and the modern era of Pakistan, the YMCA has been a symbol of inclusivity that recognizes individuals without regard for race or religion.

- **Nasir Bagh**, a historic landmark situated across town hall and traditionally known as Gol Bagh, holds a unique place in Lahore's history. After the Partition in 1947, it was renamed Nasir Bagh after Jamal Abdul Nasir of Egypt. Through time, this park has been a host to some of the nation's most consequential socio-political events that have left an indelible mark on Pakistan's history.

LB03's gathering of artists from South and Southeast Asia and beyond thus addresses urgent topics in a region that in recent years has seen calamitous floods and degraded environment aggravated by agricultural disasters, urban pollution, and social inequality. These problems, which now cannot be ignored, have long been in gestation. The exhibition will feature contributions by artists that suggest aesthetic, sensorial, conceptual, and collective ways to address such challenges, while also underscoring resonances between the histories of Lahore and Pakistan, with other parts of the world that face similar issues.

John Tain notes, *"By positioning Lahore as a strategic location for global efforts to mitigate and adapt to the climate crisis, LB03 signals the need to shift agency for environmental discourse to the very societies that will be most affected"*.

Free and open to the public, the Biennale commences on Sunday, 6th October, and will run through Friday, 8th November, complemented by a number of collateral exhibitions and programs scattered all over the city. During the opening (6th – 8th October), in addition to experiencing the Biennale and other shows, visitors will have the opportunity to partake in a number of special events, including private collection viewings, studio visits, artist talks and programs, live performances, and other cultural events (such as heritage and culinary tours) across the city. The guests will be able to fully enjoy Lahore's famous hospitality.

For its closing program (2nd – 8th November), the Biennale builds on the solidarity of these parallels by convening a mix of leading and emerging researchers, artists, curators, and other practitioners for the Climate Congress, which under the stewardship of Iftikhar Dadi and John Tain, offers an occasion for South-South conversations around the role of the arts and humanities to meaningfully contribute to wider efforts to build. The Climate Congress is supported by a grant from the Getty Foundation.

Researchers and artists from over 42 countries and numerous institutions will participate in the Climate Congress. They include participants from Brown University, Cornell University, McGill University, Nanyang Technological University, National University of Singapore, Yale University, University of Amsterdam, University of California-Berkeley, University of Cape Town, University of Melbourne, and Museum of Modern Art (MoMA NYC), among others.

In resonance with the Lahore Biennale, many local institutions, such as Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), Kinnaird College, National College of Arts (NCA), Beaconhouse National University (BNU), Punjab University, and COMSATS University, amongst others, will also conduct collateral programming within their campuses.

-End-

[Note: Overlapping with **LB03**, Qatar Museums in collaboration with the future Art Mill Museum in Doha will hold the exhibit *MANZAR: Art and Architecture from Pakistan 1940s to Today* (1st November 2024 – 31st January 2025). A fascinating showcase of visual art and architecture from Pakistan and its diasporas.]

LB03 ARTIST LIST

-Hamra Abbas
-Bani Abidi
-Ravi Agarwal
-Zahoor ul Akhlaq
-Nurjahan Akhlaq
-Nilofar Akmut
-Basil Al-Rawi
-Sheherezade
Alam
-Elyas Alavi
-Farida Batool
-Carolina Caycedo
-Imran Channa
-Heman Chong
-Chow & Lin
-DAVRA
-Discostan
-Köken Ergun and
Fetra Danu
-Cristina Flores
Pescorán
-Gidree Bawlee,
Salma Jamal
Moushum &
Kamruzzaman
Shadhin
-Simryn Gill &
Stolon Press
-Dryden Goodwin

-Feroza Hakeem
-Ehsan ul Haq &
Iqra Tanveer
-Inland
-Saodat Ismailova
-Raheem Jaan
-Mella Jaarsma
-Zihan Karim
-Ali Kazim
-Karim Khan
-Fiza Khatri
-Yasmeen Lari
-Lo Lai Lai Natalie
-Abuzar Madhu
-Salahuddin Mian
-Zarina
Muhammad
-Hira Nabi & Nida
Rehman
-Leeroy New
-Ailbhe Ní Bhriain
-Niamat Nigar
-Abraham
Onoriode
Oghobase
-Fauzan Omar
-Daniel Otero
Torres
-Sopheap Pich

-Tariq Alexander
Qaiser
-Imran Qureshi
-Fazal Rizvi
-Usman Saeed
-Tomás Saraceno
-Sin Wai Kin
-Anshu Singh
-Phaptawan
Suwannakudt
-Jennifer Tee
-Subash Thebe
Limbu
-Udeido Collective
-Womanifesto
-Wong Kit Yi
-Birender Yadav
-Haegue Yang
- Trevor Yeung
- Zheng Bo

BIOGRAPHY OF THE CURATOR - JOHN TAIN

John Tain, curator of “Of Mountains and Seas”, previously was based in Hong Kong as Head of Research at Asia Art Archive, (AAA, 2017-2023). His projects there include “Expansions, Translations,” for *documenta fifteen* (2022); the *Art Schools of Asia* seminar and symposium (2021-22); the exhibition *Crafting Communities* (2020), devoted to Thailand-based Womanifesto; MAHASSA (Modern Art Histories in and across Africa, and South and Southeast Asia, 2019-2020), a collaboration with the Dhaka Art Summit and the Institute for Comparative Modernities at Cornell University; as well as the Guerrilla Girls first commission in Asia (2018). He has served as a series editor for Afterall’s Exhibition Histories, and is a co-editor for the *Intersecting Modernisms* project, with Pamela Corey, Iftikhar Dadi, Salah Hassan, Mari-Carmen Ramirez, and Ming Tiampo. He also serves as an advisor for Asia Forum, an ongoing collateral event at the Venice Biennale, and on the advisory committee of the Hauser & Wirth Institute. He was previously a curator for modern and contemporary collections at the Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles (2007-2017).

ABOUT THE LAHORE BIENNALE FOUNDATION

The Lahore Biennale Foundation (LBF) is a Lahore-based non-profit organisation committed to advancing cultural exchange by working with local and international artists and researchers and fostering social transformation through art. Through its flagship project, the Lahore Biennale, LBF provides a platform for art that encourages methodologically informed discourse and collective action in response to global and local issues. LBF is working to transform physical spaces in Lahore into discursive public spaces by elevating the relevance of contemporary art in Lahore’s vernacular, bringing together different communities and stakeholders to explore new ways of experiencing and interacting with their environment.

In addition to its primary event, LBF organises workshops, talks, and other events that engage audiences of all ages and backgrounds. Furthermore, LBF has initiated a *Green School Certification Program* in collaboration with the Government of Pakistan as a key stakeholder, WWF-Pakistan, and the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS). This program recognizes environmentally sustainable schools that promote awareness among students and environmental consciousness among young people in Lahore. The aim is to create a generation of environmentally responsible citizens who can contribute to the sustainable development of their communities and the world at large.

Other major initiatives of LBF include the *Research Unit* and *Afforestation Lahore*. An integral part of the Lahore Biennale Foundation, the Research Unit initiated in 2018, provides a platform for investigative learning, focusing on modern and contemporary art, visual culture and its social dimensions in Pakistan and its diasporas. It is committed to supporting creative art practices, promoting a diverse cultural ecology, and encouraging interdisciplinary approaches and outcomes.

Climate change presents a tangible threat and given its severity it is imperative to have all stakeholders united on one single platform. The *Afforestation Lahore* project is a landmark initiative of the Commissioner Office Lahore in collaboration with the Lahore Biennale Foundation (LBF). It focuses on supporting research and development – by building relationships with private, government, institutional and corporate partners, both at domestic and international levels.

At its core, the foundation seeks to democratise access to the arts and to emphasise engagement and capacity building for local cultural actors. LBF engages with underrepresented groups, and attempts to overcome socio-economic and geographical barriers



while ensuring that its programs are accessible within the cultural ecosystem. By promoting inclusivity, accessibility, and sustainability, LBF hopes to strengthen the relationship between the arts and the community, creating a cultural space that is vibrant, engaging, and reflective of the diverse social and cultural realities of Lahore and the wider region.

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پریس ریلیز
۶ اکتوبر ۲۰۲۳
لاہور بینالے، ایل بی ۰۳

"کوه و بحر"

مہتمم: جان ٹین

ساٹھ سے زائد فنکاروں کی شمولیت
چالیس سے زائد نئے کمیشن

۵ اکتوبر سے ۸ نومبر ۲۰۲۴ تک

لاہور، پاکستان

لاہور، پاکستان - ۶ اکتوبر ۲۰۲۳ - لاہور بینالے فاؤنڈیشن (ایل بی ایف) نے جان ٹین کی زیر نگرانی
بینالے کے تیسرے ایڈیشن "کوه و بحر" کے انعقاد کا اعلان کیا ہے۔ اس سے قبل، مارچ 2018 میں حور
القاسمی کی زیر نگرانی پہلے لاہور بینالے اور 2020 کے اوائل میں دوسرے لاہور بینالے کے کامیاب
انعقاد نے تیسرے لاہور بینالے کو بڑی اچھی بنیاد فراہم کی ہے۔ پچھلے دونوں ایڈیشنوں میں ماحولیاتی تحفظ

اور پائیدار مستقبل کے موضوعات پر دنیا بھر کے معاصر فن کی نمائش کی گئی۔ کوہ و بحر نے فن، ماحولیاتی شعور، اور عالمی تعاون کو ایک ساتھ اکٹھا کیا ہے تاکہ متبادل مستقبل کا تصور کیا جاسکے۔

بینالے نے تیس ممالک سے لگ بھگ ساٹھ فنکاروں کو مدعو کیا ہے کہ وہ نمائشوں کے لیے منتخب معروف مقامات کی مناسبت سے اپنے فنی شہکار پیش کریں اور جاذبِ نظر نمائشیں لگائیں جن سے ماحولیاتی تنزیلی سے جنم لینے والے مسائل اجاگر ہوں اور ساتھ ہی ساتھ یہ بھی دکھائیں کہ ہمارے علاقائی و مقامی ورثے میں ایسے پُر اثر وسائل موجود ہیں کہ جن سے ہم اپنے مستقبل کو محفوظ بنا سکتے ہیں۔

لاہور بینالے خطے کے معاصر فن کے فروغ کے لیے اہم پلیٹ فارم بن چکا ہے جہاں مختلف طرح کے فن پاروں کی نمائش ہوتی ہے۔ گذشتہ ایڈیشن اور رواں منصوبے ظاہر کرتے ہیں کہ لاہور بینالے فاؤنڈیشن فنون کے ذریعے ثقافتی تبادلے، اجتماعی شمولیت اور فنون کو لوگوں کی دسترس میں لانے کے لیے بہت زیادہ پُر عزم ہے۔

ایل بی ایف کی ایگزیکٹو ڈائریکٹر قدسیہ رحیم کہتی ہیں، "عوام سے براہ راست تعلق رکھنے والے ادارے کی حیثیت سے، لاہور بینالے فاؤنڈیشن پائیدار اور با معنی ثقافتی تقاریب کے لیے پُر عزم ہے۔ رحیم کا مزید کہنا تھا؛ "علاقائی مکالموں کے قدرے فقدان کے پیش نظر، بینالے کا مقصد ایشیا کے اندر اور دیگر دنیا میں میل ملاپ کی فضا قائم کرنا اور مشترکہ و پائیدار مستقبل کے لیے مثبت کردار ادا کرنا ہے۔ اسی کے ساتھ، شہر لاہور مقامی سامعین کو دورِ حاضر کے فن سے جوڑنے اور علاقائی فنکاروں کو فن کے اظہار کے عالمی اکٹھے میں شمولیت کا شاندار موقع بھی فراہم کرتا ہے۔"

فن پاروں کی نمائش شہر بھر کے درجن بھر مقامات پر ہوگی جن میں کئی کو یونیسکو نے عالمی ورثے کا درجہ دے رکھا ہے: قدیم اندرون شہر میں قلعہ لاہور جہاں پہلے دو ایڈیشنوں میں بھی فنون کی دلکش نمائشیں لگ چکی ہیں؛ اور شالیمار باغ جو کہ اسلامی طرز تعمیر اور مطالعہ آب کا اہم ذریعہ ہے جہاں پہلی بار بینالے کے زیر اہتمام فنون کی نمائش ہوگی۔

لاہور بینالے (ایل بی ۰۳) کے مہتمم جان ٹین کہتے ہیں، "معاصر فن پاروں تاریخی مقامات پر آویزاں کرنے سے شہر کی مقبول عام ثقافت، فن تعمیر، اور باغات کو تاریخی و مقامی علوم و روایات کی اہمیت بارے ہونے والے مکالموں سے پیوست ہونے کا موقع بھی ملے گا۔ انہی علوم و رواجوں کی مختلف شکلوں کو قدرتی وسائل کے بے دریغ استحصال پر مبنی ترقی کا ناگزیر متبادل تصور کیا جاتا ہے۔ ان مقامی اور دیسی شکلوں کے آثار شہر بھر کے فن تعمیر، آرٹ، علم کائنات، کھانا پکانے کے سلیقوں، اور ادب، نیز شہر کے باشندوں کے مختلف طرز زندگی میں بہ کثرت پائے جاتے ہیں۔"

ایل بی ۰۳ کے لیے فن تعمیر اور منظر نگاری جیسے امور کے نگران نامور فن کار رضا علی دادا کہتے ہیں، "ایل بی ایف اپنی نمائشوں اور تقاریب کے لیے مناسب مقامات کا انتخاب کرتے وقت شہر اور اس کے تہذیبی مقامات کو ترجیح دیتا ہے۔ ان جگہوں کی بازیافت اور واگزاری عوام کے باہمی میل ملاپ کا اہم ذریعہ ہے اور اس نے لاہور بھر میں جدید و قدیم فنی منصوبوں کو جلا بخشی ہے۔"

ایل بی ۰۳ لاہور قلعہ، شالیمار باغ، لاہور عجائب گھر، پاک ٹی ہاؤس، بریڈ لاہال، وائے ایم سی اے اور ناصر باغ سمیت شہر بھر کے معروف ثقافتی مقامات پر عصری فن کے شہکاروں کی نمائش کرے گا۔

لہذا، ایل بی ۰۳ کے دوران جنوب و جنوب مشرقی ایشیا اور دیگر خطوں سے آنے والے فن کاروں کا اجتماع اس خطے کے فوری توجہ طلب معاملات کا جائزہ لے گا۔ یہ خطہ حالیہ برسوں میں تباہ کن سیلاب اور خراب ماحول کے باعث کئی مسائل سے دوچار ہوا ہے جو زرعی آفتوں، شہری آلودگی اور سماجی نابرابری کی وجہ اور زیادہ گھمبیر ہو چکے ہیں۔ یہ مسائل جن سے اب آنکھیں نہیں چرائی جا سکتیں، عرصہ دراز سے نمودار رہے ہیں۔

بینا لے ہفتہ ۵ اکتوبر سے لے کر جمعہ ۸ نومبر تک جاری رہے گا جس میں عوام کی مفت و کھلے عام شمولیت کو یقینی بنایا جائے گا۔ شہر بھر کے مختلف مقامات پر فنی نمائشوں اور تقاریب کا اہتمام ہوگا۔

اپنے اختتامی پروگرام (۲ سے ۸ نومبر) کے دوران بینا لے نے موسمیاتی کانگریس کے لیے قد آور اور ابھرتے محققین، فن کاروں، منتظمین، اور دیگر پیشہ ور ماہرین کو اکٹھا کرنے کا منصوبہ بنایا ہے۔ افتخار دادی اور جان ٹین کی رہنمائی میں کانگریس بہتر مستقبل کی تعمیر کے لیے فنون اور سماجی علوم کے کردار پر ترقی پذیر اقوام کے درمیان مکالموں کا اہتمام ہوگا۔ موسمیاتی کانگریس کے لیے مالی مدد گیلٹی فاؤنڈیشن نے فراہم کی ہے۔ لگ بھگ 42 ممالک اور کئی مقامی و عالمی اداروں سے وابستہ فن کار اور دانش ور موسمیاتی کانگریس میں شریک ہوں گے۔



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