

کوه و بحر

OF MOUNTAINS  
AND SEAS

CLIMATE  
CONGRESS

02-08 NOV, 2024



LAHORE  
BIENNALE  
FOUNDATION







## Introduction

As the closing program of the third edition of the Lahore Biennale, the Climate Congress extends the histories and research developed as part of the main exhibition by convening a mix of leading and emerging researchers, artists, curators, and other practitioners for conversations, discussions, and workshops. Developed under the direction of Iftikhar Dadi and John Tain, the Congress offers an occasion for South-South conversations around the role of the arts and humanities to meaningfully contribute to wider efforts to generate awareness and support for imagining and future sustainable futures.



Scan QR Code for Readings

# Schedule

Event in **bold** are **public programs**; non-bold events are for internal reference only.

## 2 Nov

10:00am - 12:30pm

**Biennale Visit: Shalimar Garden**

12:30pm - 2:00pm

**Biennale Visit: Lahore Museum**

2:15pm - 3:00pm

Lunch

3:00pm

**Biennale Visit: Nasir Bagh**

4:00pm

**Biennale Visit: YMCA, Pak Tea House**

6:00pm - 8:00pm

**Lahore Museum Auditorium  
Talk: Tamara Chin, "The Climate of Silk Road Studies"  
Conversation: Haegue Yang and John Tain, "Eco-motion"**

## 3 Nov

10:00am - 12:30pm

**Biennale Visit: Lahore Fort (Royal Kitchens, British Barracks, Akbari Mahal)**

1:00pm

**Site Visit: Walled City  
Delhi Gate**

2:00pm

Lunch

10:00am - 12:30pm

Biennale Visit: Bradlaugh Hall & Alhamra Art Gallery

4:45pm

**Alhamra Art Gallery**

5:00pm

**Abuzar Madhu & Saleema J. Khawaja Performance, "Cry of Dying Ravi"**

6:00pm - 8:00pm

**Alhamra Art Gallery, Hall 3  
Talk: Anthony Acciavatti, "Groundwater Earth: The World before and after the Tubewell"  
Saif Samejo (Lahooti) and Invisible Flock, "An Evening with Echoes of Karoonjhar"**

9:00pm

Dinner

## 4 Nov

10:00am - 12:30pm

Seminar: Anthony Acciavatti, "Object Lessons"

12:30pm - 2:00pm

Lunch

2:00pm - 4:00pm

Site Visit: Lawrence Gardens

4:00pm - 5:30pm

**Alhamra Art Center, Hall 3  
Asia Forum Arts and Environment Roundtable: Communities**

6:00pm - 7:30pm

**Alhamra Art Center, Hall 3  
Talk: Anna Gade, "U. Wisconsin Muslim Environmentalisms: Theory and Practice"  
Performance: Elyas Alavi, "Desert Whispers زمزمه های دشت"**

8:30pm

Dinner

## 5 Nov

10:00am - 12:30pm

Seminar: Sonal Khullar, "Dead Tigers, Wild Parrots: Natural Histories & Art Histories in South Asia"

12:30pm - 2:00pm

Lunch

2:00pm - 4:00pm

Site Visit: Lahore Waterways Tour

4:00pm - 5:30pm

**Lahore Museum Auditorium  
Asia Forum Arts and Environment Roundtable: Organizations and Collectives**

6:30pm - 7:30pm

**Lahore Museum Auditorium**  
**Talk: Nida Rehman, "The Intractable Garden: Improvement and Unruliness in Lahore's Landscapes"**  
**Screening and Conversation: Vikram Divecha and Muhammad Shabbir Ahmad Din, "Dohrana"**

8:30pm

Dinner

**6** Nov

10:00am - 12:30pm

Seminar: Chang Jiat Hwee, "Thermal Governance and Citizenship: Spaces, Things, and Cooling Technologies in the Anthropocene"

12:30pm - 2:00pm

Lunch

2:00pm-4:00pm

Site Visit: Museums

4:00pm - 5:30pm

**LUMS SS Auditorium**  
**Asia Forum Arts and Environment Roundtable: Land**

6:15pm - 7:45pm

**LUMS SS Auditorium**  
**Panel: "Urban Ecologies: Infrastructures and Lived Realities"**

**Amen Jaffer, LUMS**

**Ameem Lutfi, LUMS**

**Nosheen Zaidi, PU**

**Aneeqa Wattoo, writer & translator**

**Maryam Ibrahim, LUMS (moderator)**

**Performance: Wong Kit-Yi, "The Bed She Made"**

9:00pm

Dinner

**7** Nov

10:00am - 12:30pm

Seminar: Anna Gade, "Islamic Environmentalism"

12:30pm - 2:00pm

Lunch

2:00pm - 4:00pm

Site Visit: Sufi Ecologies

4:00pm - 5:30pm

**Lahore Museum Auditorium**  
**Asia Forum Arts and Environment Roundtable: Publications**

6:15pm - 7:45pm

**Lahore Museum Auditorium**  
**Sugata Ray, "Avian Entanglements in the Age of the Sixth Mass Extinction" (Talk)**  
**Screening: Natasha Raheja, "Human and Animal Ecologies Across the Thar Borderlands"**

**8** Nov

8:00am - 12:30pm

Site Visit: "Hiran Minar & Jahangir's Tomb"

12:30pm - 2:00pm

Lunch

2:00pm - 4:00pm

Seminar: Sugata Ray, "Environmentalism of the Poor"

4:00pm - 5:30pm

Climate Congress Wrap-up Discussion

6:15pm - 7:45pm

**LUMS NIB Auditorium**  
**Panel: "Climate Narratives: Storytelling, Advocacy, & Environmental Justice"**

**Saba Pirzadeh, LUMS**

**Ahmad Rafay Alam, environmental lawyer & activist**  
**Fazilda Nabeel, LUMS**

**Sana Khosa, LUMS (moderator)**

7:00pm - 8:00pm

LBF/LB03 Panel, Call to Action: Taking Climate Humanities Forward in Pakistan

8:00pm

Dinner

9:30pm

Private Hosted Closing Event

# Delegates

## **Yujia Bian**

Artist

## **Melissa Carlson**

Independent Researcher,  
University of California, Berkeley

## **Thanavi Chotpradit**

Assistant Professor, Silpakorn  
University

## **Kiko del Rosario**

MA Student, Universidad Nacional  
Autónoma de México (UNAM)

## **Wulan Dirgantoro**

Lecturer, University of Melbourne

## **Kathleen Ditzig**

Curator, National Gallery  
Singapore

## **Amina Ejaz**

PhD Candidate, University of  
Victoria

## **Chabib Duta Hapsoro**

PhD Candidate, National  
University of Singapore

## **Samina Iqbal**

Associate Professor, Lahore  
School of Economics

## **Taushif Kara**

Lecturer in Modern Islamic  
History, King's College London

## **Sooyoung Leam**

Lecturer, Seoul National University

## **Vera Mey**

Co - Artistic Director Busan  
Biennale 2024 / Lecturer in Art  
Curating, University of York

## **Zohreen Murtaza**

Lecturer, Department of Cultural  
Studies, National College of Arts,  
Lahore

## **Roger Nelson**

Assistant Professor of Art History,  
Nanyang Technological University



**Marian Nur Goni**

Assistant Professor, Université  
Paris 8

**Deborah Philip**

PhD Candidate, The Graduate  
Center of the City University of  
New York

**Chanon Kenji  
Praepipatmongkol**

Assistant Professor of  
Contemporary Art, McGill  
University

**Carlos Quijon, Jr.**

C-MAP Fellow for Southeast and  
East Asia, Museum of Modern Art

**Anissa Rahadiningtyas**

Curator National Gallery,  
Singapore

**Santhosh Kumar  
Sakhinala**

Assistant Professor, Kala Bhavana,  
Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan

**Dipti Sherchan**

PhD Candidate, University of  
Illinois Chicago

**Simon Soon**

Lecturer, University of Melbourne

**Amie Soudien**

Lecturer, University of Cape Town

**Iffath Neetha  
Uthumalebbe**

Art Historian, Lecturer, Swamy  
Vipulananda Institute of Aesthetic  
Studies, Eastern University, Sri  
Lanka

**Greer Valley**

Senior Curator, Zeitz Museum of  
Contemporary African Art





Artwork: Niamat Nigar,  
*Into the Earth, 2024*

## Conveners

**Iftikhar Dadi** is John H. Burris Professor and Chair of Cornell University's Department of History of Art, and resident director of Cornell's Institute for Comparative Modernities. He researches modern and contemporary art from a transnational perspective, with an emphasis on intellectual history, and a focus on South and West Asia. Another research interest examines South Asia's film, media, and popular cultures. He has authored *Lahore Cinema Between Realism and Fable* (2022), *Modernism and the Art of Muslim South Asia* (2010), and edited *Lahore Biennale 01 Reader* (2022) and *Anwar Jalal Shemza* (2015). He has co-edited *Lahore Biennale 02 Reader* (2024), *Art and Architecture of Migration and Discrimination: Turkey, Pakistan, and Their European Diasporas* (2023), *Lines of Control: Partition as a Productive Space* (2012), and *Unpacking Europe: Towards a Critical Reading* (2001). Co-curated exhibitions include *Pop South Asia: Artistic Explorations in the Popular* (2022–23) and *Lines of Control: Partition as a Productive Space* (2012–13). Dadi serves on the editorial and advisory boards of *ARTMargins*, *South Asian Studies*, *Archives of Asian Art*, and *Bio-Scope: South Asian Screen Studies*. As an artist, Iftikhar Dadi collaborates with Elizabeth Dadi to make work that explores questions of identity and borders, and the capacities of the informal urban realm in the Global South.

**John Tain**, curator of LB03 Of Mountains and Seas, previously was based in Hong Kong as Head of Research at Asia Art Archive (AAA, 2017-2023). 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 is 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).

## Facilitators

**Nida Rehman** is a Pakistani-born urban geographer and architect, and Assistant Professor at Carnegie Mellon University, where she serves as Track Chair for the PhD in Architecture program. She examines histories, politics and ecologies of urban landscapes, and how people engage urban nature to create possibilities for change. She explores these issues through her research on cultural landscapes and political ecologies in Lahore, Pakistan; through collaborative work as co-founder of the South Asia Urban Climates collective; and community-centered approaches to environmental and spatial justice in the Mon Valley. Rehman is working on a book, *The Intractable Garden: Improvement and unruliness in Lahore's landscapes*, which examines how the material history of changing climates under colonial improvement in Punjab continues to press on, and is challenged in, the contemporary megacity.

**Sanjukta Sunderason** is a historian of 20th-century aesthetics, working at the interfaces of visual art, left-wing thought, and historical transition. Her research focuses in particular on the entanglements between (left-wing) aesthetics and 20th-century decolonization in South Asia and across transnational formations in the Global South. In her first monograph, *Partisan Aesthetics: Modern Art and India's Long Decolonization* (Stanford University Press, 2020) she argued for a conceptual apparatus that can accommodate the contradictions that shape entanglements of modern art and (anti-colonial) left-wing political movements. *Partisan Aesthetics* won the Best Art Publication Accolade at the 2021 ICAS Book Prize.

**Ming Tiampo** is a Full Professor in Art History and Director of the Institute for Comparative Studies in Literature, Art and Culture at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada, as well as a curator, best known for *Gutai: Splendid Playground*, a 2013 exhibition at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum. Tiampo's foundational study of Japan's most significant postwar movement, *Gutai: Decentering Modernism* (honorable mention, 2012 Robert Motherwell Book Award), sheds light upon this important yet forgotten group, but also establishes a critical methodology for situating and theorizing non-Western modernisms transnationally. Tiampo has published on Japanese modernism, war art in Japan, globalization and art, multiculturalism in Canada, and the connections between Inuit and Japanese prints.

## Speakers

**Anthony Acciavatti** works at the intersection of landscape and the history of science and technology. He is the author of *Ganges Water Machine: Designing New India's Ancient River*, *Building a Republic of Villages* (forthcoming), and is currently working on his third book while a fellow at the American Academy in Rome on the hidden front line of climate change: groundwater. His work is in the permanent collection of the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, and he has exhibited work at the Milan Triennale as well as biennales in Venice, Seoul, Quito, and Rotterdam. He is the Diana Balmori Assistant Professor at Yale University and leads the Ganges Lab at Collaborative Earth.

**Elyas Alavi** is an Afghan-Australian artist, poet, and curator whose visual work spans painting, sculpture, installation, moving image, and performance. His practice often examines the complex intersections of race, displacement, gender, religion, and sexuality. More specifically, his work complicates histories in the South West Asia and North Africa (SWANA) region and thinks through the links between the globalized condition, settler colonialism, and who is implicated in mobility and displacement of Black and Brown bodies. His work has been shown at the 4A in Sydney, UCCA in Beijing, MUSMA in Matera, Italy, among others. Alavi has also published three critically acclaimed poetry.

**Tamara Chin** is an Associate Professor of Comparative Literature at Brown University. A specialist in comparative approaches to the ancient world, she has published widely on early China and the Silk Road, including *Savage Exchange: Han Imperialism, Chinese Literary Style, and the Economic Imagination* (Harvard 2014). She is currently completing a book on the modern study of the connected past that focuses on how different communities and disciplines approach a shared antiquity in radically different ways. Her talk gives a brief history of the modern study of the Silk Road that showcases its importance for both ecological and anti-ecological thought.

**Muhammad Shabbir Ahmad Din** was born in Pakistan in the Punjab Province. He has spent over a decade working as a gardener for the Sharjah Municipality, and recently returned back home in 2024. Shabbir has collaborated with Divecha for almost a decade, spanning projects from hedge design, to urban farming and a film exploring urdu poetry. Shabbir's participation and aesthetic sensibilities have been crucial in shaping the artistic voice of these projects.

**Vikram Divecha** is an artist and educator based in Dubai. He holds an MFA in Visual Art from Columbia University and participated in the Whitney Museum's Independent Study program. Divecha has taught at the American University of Sharjah in the College of Architecture, Art, and Design and brings extensive experience as a creative professional in the cultural and media sectors. Divecha's practice often brings invisible structures into plain view to raise questions about agency, ethics, and value. Working with available material, space, and labor, Divecha attempts to realign the social and urban systems we inhabit by introducing alterations and interventions. Disrupting maintenance rigor with vernacular gestures, *Beej* (2017) activates the potential for farming amongst Sharjah's municipal gardeners. His film *Dohrana* (2021) continues his collaboration with Sharjah's municipal gardeners, exploring Urdu poetry and choreography within the ever-green aesthetics of urban landscaping.

**Anna M. Gade** is Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor in the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin, currently a Visiting Professor in the Program in Climate Change at the Indonesian International Islamic University in Jakarta. Her books include *Muslim Environmentalisms: Religious and Social Foundations (Columbia)* and *The Qur'an: An Introduction (Oneworld)*. Gade's research in Environmental Humanities covers topics in southern Asia and the Pacific such as rights of nature and Islamic law, forestry and water resource management, climate and architecture, and sustainability and global environmental health. Her current work is on environmental ethics of materialisms.

**Chang Jiat Hwee** teaches in the Department of Architecture at the National University of Singapore, focusing on modern architecture in Asia, sustainable design, and environmental histories. His research examines the intersection of architecture, urbanism, and environmental issues, especially in tropical Asia, emphasizing sustainable practices and the impacts of modernization. Chang's acclaimed book, *A Genealogy of Tropical Architecture*, explores the colonial origins and transformations of tropical architecture in Southeast Asia. Widely published, his work integrates perspectives from architectural history, climate adaptation, and urban studies, contributing to innovative approaches in sustainable design and resilient urban futures in the region.

**Invisible Flock** is a multi-award-winning interactive arts studio, based at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park and the Wellcome Collection, London, with Land Body Ecologies. Research processes and long term global collaborations are how they make their work, often in the form of spaces and installations where human and planetary health meet. They dedicate their practice to understanding and exploring the complexities of environmental and climatic change we are all living through and how as artists we might foreground alternative and unheard perspectives of our world. The medium of technology has always been the best way for the to articulate new questions and generate alternative understandings of complex systems. They believe in challenging, manipulating and playing with technology to look at the world we live in from different perspectives.

**Sonal Khullar** is W. Norman Brown Associate Professor of South Asian Studies, Department of the History of Art, University of Pennsylvania. She specializes in South Asian art from the eighteenth century onward, exploring global art history through feminist theory, anthropology, and postcolonial studies. Her research interests include cosmopolitanism, art historiography, feminist geography, and the anthropology of art. Her first book, *Worldly Affiliations*, traces the modern Indian art world, examining artists Amrita Sher-Gil, M.F. Husain, K.G. Subramanyan, and Bhupen Khakhar. Currently, she is completing *The Art of Dislocation*, which addresses collaborative contemporary South Asian art amid regional conflicts. Khullar has also edited *Old Stacks, New Leaves* and is developing projects on Sri Lankan war art and postcoloniality in India and Britain.

**Natasha Raheja** is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Performing and Media Arts at Cornell University. She received her PhD in Anthropology from NYU and her BS in Biology and MA in Asian Languages and Literature with a focus on Urdu from UT Austin. Her projects explore questions of migration, belonging, and majority-minority politics. Her writings have featured in peer-reviewed journals and her films have screened at festivals and colleges nationally and internationally. Dr. Raheja is the director of *Cast in India*, an observational portrait of the Bengali metal workers who manufacture New York City manhole covers. She is currently working on a book and film series tracking human, animal and object movement across the India-Pakistan border.



**Sugata Ray** is Associate Professor of South and Southeast Asian art and architecture in the Departments of History of Art and South & Southeast Asian Studies and Director of the South Asia Art Initiative and the Climate Change Initiative at the University of California, Berkeley. His research is on post-1400s art and architecture in South Asia with a focus on climate change and the environment, postcolonial geophilosophy, and posthumanist thought. Ray's recent books include *Climate Change and the Art of Devotion: Geoaesthetics in the Land of Krishna, 1550–1850* and *Water Histories of South Asia: The Materiality of Liquescence* (coedited).

**Saif Samejo** as a music producer, cultural practitioner, and founder of Lahooti, Samejo is driven by a profound love for his motherland, Sindh, and its rich heritage. His lyrical storytelling merges the traditional and contemporary worlds, harmonizing melodies from the mountains, lakes, and rivers of Tibet, Nepal, Ladakh, Baltistan, and into the serene landscapes of Sindh. In 2013, he created Lahooti, a platform where he collects melodies from every corner of Pakistan, infuses them with a global essence, and presents them to the world, resonating with the rustic fragrance of their cultural heritage, connections and conversations.

**Wong Kit Yi** is a New York-based artist who received an MFA from Yale (2012), and works at the intersection of speculative imagination and research. In her relational karaoke-lecture-performances, she moves fluidly between the voices of academia, memoir, philosophy, and song, aggregating content from her research. Wong's work has been shown at Surplus Space, Wuhan (2019), FRONT Triennial, Cleveland (2022), Tate Modern, London (2023), M+, Hong Kong (2023), and the Kitchen in New York (2024).

**Haegue Yang** lives and works in Berlin and Seoul, and is a professor at the Städelschule, Frankfurt. Her work in sculpture, collage, and installations frequently engage not just sight but also touch, sound, and even smell, while highlighting issues such as labor, migration, and displacement. She has had solo exhibitions at the Leeum, Seoul (2015), MCAD Manila (2020), Pinacoteca de São Paulo (2023), and the Hayward Gallery (2024).

## Climate Congress Patrons



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