

## ADEELA SULEMAN

Born 1970 in Karachi, Pakistan

The mainstay of Suleman's artistry explores a series of dichotomies that point to the fragile and fleeting 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, but remain suggestive of transcendental relief. They may be seen simultaneously as symbolic representations of the coexistence between 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 studied Sculpture at the Indus Valley School of Art and completed a Master's degree in International Relations from the University of Karachi. She is currently the Coordinator of Vasl Artists' Collective in Karachi, in addition to being the Coordinator of the Fine Art Department at Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture. Suleman has participated extensively with group and solo exhibitions worldwide, including *An Atlas of Mirrors - Singapore Biennale* at the Singapore Art Museum, *Phantoms of Asia* at the Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, the *2013 Asian Art Biennial* at the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Art, *Hanging Fire – Contemporary Art from Pakistan* at The Asia Society, New York; Gallery Rohtas 2, Lahore; Canvas Gallery, Karachi; Gandhara Art Space, Karachi; Alberto Peola Gallery, Torino; Aicon Gallery, New York; and, the International Exhibition of Contemporary Art, Bologna, Italy (2008). Reviews and features of work appear in Artforum and the New York Times, among other publications. The artist lives and works in Karachi, Pakistan.

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### Education

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

### Select Solo Exhibitions

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| 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 *Recent Works*, Aicon Gallery, London, in conjunction with site-specific sculpture
- 2011 *Drained* (2011), for the Manchester Cathedral as part of Asia Triennial Manchester
- 2010 *After All It's Always Somebody Else...*, Aicon Gallery, New York
- 2008 *Uncertainty*, Rohtas 2, Lahore
- 2007 *Confinement*, Commune Artist Colony

### Select Group Exhibitions

- 2020 *A Perfect Society*, Aicon Contemporary, New York
- 2020 *India Art Fair*, Aicon Contemporary, New Delhi
- 2020 *Amish Quilts Meet Modern Art*, State Textile and Industry Museum Augsburg, Germany
- 2020 *Tapestry of Fading Gardens*, IX1 Gallery, Dubai
- 2020 *IMPART Collector's Show 2020: Material Agenda*, curated by Tan Boon Hui, Singapore
- 2019 *Karachi Biennale*, Pakistan
- 2019 *Abu Dhabi Art Fair; New Horizons*, Aicon Contemporary, Abu Dhabi
- 2019 *Art Dubai*, Aicon Contemporary, Dubai
- 2019 *Very Very Sweet Madina: 1990's Artistic Innovation in Karachi*. Curated By Aziz Sohail and Bani Abidi , Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah
- 2019 *Ecology & Environment KB19 (Karachi Biennale 2019)*, Curated by Mohammad Zeeshan, Karachi, Pakistan
- 2019 *Burnish Tarnish*, Curated by Girish Shahane, Palette Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 2019 *Art Theorem*, organized by Imago Mundi, Benetton Foundation
- 2019 *'FUTURE PAST: Tradition and Transgression in Contemporary Art from Asia'*, Sullivan+Strumpf Sydney, Sydney
- 2019 *India Art Fair-* Aicon Gallery Booth, Delhi, India- January 2019
- 2018 *4th Faiz International Festival*, 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
- 2008 *Tradition, Technique, Technology – II; Contemporary artists from Pakistan, Featuring Farida Batool, Ayaz Jokhio and Adeela Suleman*, Aicon, Palo Alto
- 2008 *Video Loop 08'*, Barcelona
- 2008 Fiera Internazionale d'Arte Contemporanea International Exhibition of Contemporary Art-Bologna, Italy
- 2008 *Women of Light*, Galerie Davide Gallo, Berlin
- 2007 Preview Berlin, The emerging art fair, Berlin
- 2007 *An Intensity of Space & Substance*, National Art Gallery, Islamabad
- 2007 *Love*, National Art Gallery, Islamabad
- 2007 *Articulating the Subtext*, Alliance Francaise, Karachi
- 2006 *Flights of Fancy*, Royaat Gallery, Lahore
- 2006 *Body*, Amin Gulgee Gallery, Karachi
- 2006 *Calligraphy*, Amin Gulgee Gallery, Karachi
- 2005 *Urban/Culture*, CP Open Biennale, Jakarta

- 2005            *Beyond Borders*, National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai
- 2004            *Spielen mit Geladenem Gewehr* (Playing with the loaded gun), Kunsthalle  
Fridericianum, Kassel, Germany
- 2003            *Twenty-four Shots per second*, Kara Film Fest, Karachi
- 2003            43 Premio Suzzara, Associazione Galleria Del Premio Suzzara, Italy
- 2003            *Playing with the loaded Gun*, Apex Art, New York Canvas Gallery, Karachi
- 2002            *Imagined Workshop*, Second Fukuoka Asian Art Triennial, Fukuoka
- 2001            *The Thakhti Show*, Freer Hall, Karachi

### **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