

**ALICE KETTLE, AMIN GULGEE, ARSALAN NASIR, HAMRA ABBAS, IMRAN QURESHI,
RASHID RANA, R.M.NAEEM, SVEN JOHNE AND VICTORINE MULLER AMONGST 100
ARTISTS RESPONDING TO KARACHI BIENNALE'S ECOLOGICAL CALL FOR ACTION**

Karachi Biennale Trust has today released the names of the 100 artists taking part in Pakistan's largest contemporary art event, Karachi Biennale 2019, which will showcase 90 projects at seven historic and iconic venues across the city of Karachi from 26 Oct - 12 Nov, 2019. The participating artists include globally-recognized names such as Alice Kettle, Amin Gulgee, Arsalan Nasir, Hamra Abbas, Imran Qureshi, Rashid Rana, R.M. Naeem, Sven Johne and Victorine Müller.

The theme for KB19, Flight Interrupted: Eco-Leaks from the Invasion Desk, focuses on the devastating 'developmental footprint'. Flight interrupted refers to the low flying birds local to Karachi that have lost their nesting places and gradually disappeared. The new information each artist will bring through research and observation are the Eco-leaks from different parts of a planet under threat.

Curator Muhammad Zeeshan wants to ensure this raising of awareness around the issue of ecology at this 'green biennale' goes as far as possible, and this is reflected in the choice of those selected to make work for the biennale.

"I have also invited architects and gardeners and engineers and sound technicians, theatre performers, and story tellers to participate. KB19 will not just be received by artists but by everyone, thus my vision has been to include people from varying disciplines and from the public, so that their different voices and messages will help our universal message spread faster and more effectively. These different voices will come together and will resonate with viewers differently, with some voices appealing more, or less, to people, depending on their own leanings."

The choice of venues has also been important. By bringing this body of art to public parks the curator is keen to make it a part of the visitors everyday experience and connect it to shared ecological concerns.

Visitors to the Biennale will navigate the seven venues across the metropolis with its ever changing cityscape from colonial to contemporary architecture, from public parks to barren concrete dwellings. Fourteen artists are showcasing their works at the Karachi Zoo, a verdant space with some of the city's oldest trees that serves as the lungs of the densely populated area.

Swiss-based artist Victorine Muller will create a performative piece with her 'larger than life' inflated elephant form in the environs of the elephant enclosure. Khalil Chishtee will fill a cage with a family of monkeys crafted from his signature material, plastic trash bags. The work of several other artists at the location also embody the personification of the animal spirit, while focusing on their endangered existence.

The Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture Gallery hosts six artists that investigate the extinction of Karachi's natural resource, the Mangroves. It's rapid deforestation has made land available for urban development along Karachi's coastline.

The artists have responded to the environmental crisis visually and metaphorically. Alice Kettle's colossal embroidered forest, installed at the Mahvash and Jehangir Siddiqui Gallery at Alliance Francaise Karachi, calls attention to disappearing global forests. Kettle has collaborated with 4,500 local embroiders to create the collage.

Hamra Abbas explores flora through the lens of Mughal Miniature paintings. Her work takes the form of a cube depicting four exquisite fruit bearing trees in marble inlay. This permanent work is to be installed at the Bagh Ibne Qasim as a gift to the city of Karachi.



In the words of Niilofur Farrukh, the Managing Trustee & CEO KB19 "Over a hundred artists from sixteen countries will interpret the theme through their own lens of their own context and experience to weave together local and global environmental conversations. Artists from Karachi are bringing stories from its endangered Mangroves and one local artist has transformed the harvest of the waves: driftwood, into a children's playground of swing".

Drawing their inspiration from the relationship between nature and time Amin Gulgee and R.M.Naeem create time-based works. Amin Gulgee's sundial responds to the movements of the sun evoking the lost practice to measure time with natural phenomenon. R M Naeem's human figures crafted from fresh chillies will take on a life of their own changing shape and colour over two weeks of exposure to the elements. The chillies (which will have turned from green to red over the 18 days of the biennale) will be used afterwards and made into spices.

According to Aquila Ismail, author and translator and Chairperson, Orangi Pilot Project, says "KB19's theme of ecology, focusing on living organisms and their interaction to their surroundings comes at a defining moment in man's co-existence with nature. Karachi's character in this global phenomena is sure to be portrayed with sensitivity and intellectual depth. The experience will help define to the audience their own place and indeed their role in the state of the earth in our beloved Karachi"

Arsalan Nasir, the winner of the 'KB19 Emerging Artist Prize', has invented a game that can be played on toy mobile phones. The interactive work invites visitors to engage in a game of 'ring-toss' that traps birds with rings and points to endangered avian species. German artist, Sven Johnes ties into this conversation with his video on the changing patterns of migratory birds. Mohsen Keiany adds to this sentiment with his dystopian interpretation of the bird crafted from metal scrap, that is aptly installed next to the aviary at the Karachi Zoo.

Meher Afroz, has defined history and ecology through her text-based works that are housed in the heart of Karachi at Sadequain Gallery, Frere Hall. Also here will be Imran Qureshi's installation that will consist of a heap of crumpled papers that recall flesh and blood. There is a sense of curiosity to the work where it is not what it seems, in fact the images on the sheets are images of flowers. Therefore, he has played with nature and the concept of blood or death together. In a manner, the work can be interpreted as the death of nature on a large scale.

A very special project that interacts with audiences beyond the venues is a collaboration between Rashid Rana and the largest national courier, TCS. For two months his works printed on their envelopes and boxes will circumvent the globe taking art to millions extending the life and impact of KB19. A digital program, connects design on the TCS material, to a full colour image of the original work.

Artists' Books by Adeel-Uz-Zafar, Rabeya Jalil and Abid Aslam are their versions of a publication for children. They will be printed and widely distributed to young visitors at the Biennale. Interactive works will engage children with themes of ecology, by Munawar Ali Syed, Qinsa Najm and Nabahat Lotia. These works give just a glimpse of the range of works that will be available to engage, provoke and inform visitors.

For more information, images, quotes and interview requests please contact:

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List of Artists

Artists 98, 89 Projects	
Germany(6)	
Folke Kobberling	
Susanne Kriemann	
Henrik Mayer/ Martin Keil	
Sven Johne	
Wolfgang Sphan	
United Kingdom (5)	
Sinta Tantra	
Alice Kettle	
James Alec Hardy	
Mohsin Kienay	
Usman Haque	
France (2)	
Jurgen Nefzger	
Christianne Geoffroy	
Italy (2)	
Carlo Galli	
Carmella Cosco	
Canada (2)	
Lyla Rye	
Libby Hague	
Netherlands (2) awaiting spnoship	
Robbie Cornelsian and Karin an Dam	
Switzerland (4)	
Studervandenberg: Monica Studer, and Christoph van den Berg	
Victorine Mueller	
Ursula Biemann	
USA (1)	
Ranu Mukherjee	
Sri Lanka (1):	
Halik Azeez	
Various Countries(5)	
Larissa Sansour and Soren lind(East Jerusalem and Denmark)	
Elia Nurvista (Indonesia)	
Juan Pablo Echeverri (Colombia)	
Laureana Toledo (Mexico)	
India (3)	
Manisha Gera Baswani	
Pooja Iranna	
Navjot Altaf	

Africa (4)
Dawit Abebe (Ethiopia)
Sergei Attukwei Clottey (Ghana)
Tamrat Gezahegn (Ethiopia)
Yassine Balbzioui (Morocco)
Diaspora (4)
Khalil Chishtee
Abdullah Syed
Simeen Farhat
Qinza Najm
Karachi (30)
Adeela Suleman
Asma Mundrawala
Munawer Ali Syed
Adeel Uz Zafar
Abdul Jabbar Gul
Omar Wasim
Sohail Zuberi
Amin Gulgee
Syed Faraz
Durriya Kazi
Seher Naveed
Seema Nusrat
Lali Khalid (Naila Mahmood)
Arshad Farooqui/Nurayah Sheikh Nabi
Sheema Kermani
Tofiq Pasha
Yasir Husain
Meher Afroz
Shahid Rassam
Zain Ahmed
Farhan Alam
Sara Pagganwala
Shazia Zuberi
Usman Ghorri (<i>late</i>)
Naima Dadabhoy
Nabahat Lotia
Maheen Zia/ Ayesha Quraishi
Arsalan Nasir
Hunza (1)
Imran Hunzai
Hyderabad (1)
Waheeda Baloch
Islamabad (1)
Sana Arjumand

Lahore (17)
Ali Kazim
Rashid Rana
Imran Qureshi
Jamil Baloch
Atif Khan
Waseem Ahmed
Abid Aslam
Irfan Gul
RM Naeem
Hamra Abbas
Rabeya Jalil
Imran Ahmed
Basir Mehmood
Quddus Mirza
Kiran Saleem
Sadaf Naeem
Groups/Collectives (7)
Natasha Jozi
Noorjehan Bilgrami, Zarmeene Shah, Marvi Mazhar, Tariq Alexander Qaiser, Sohail Zuberi, Sadia Salim



About the Karachi Biennale Trust

The Karachi Biennale Trust (KBT) was founded in 2016 when Karachi was facing its worst violence. A group of visual art professionals and educators saw the biennale as an intervention to bring together a fractured city by engaging with heritage sites, its history and diverse communities. KBT has evolved into a dynamic platform to promote creativity, innovation and criticality in the visual arts. We create opportunities for exposure and experience for artists and art professionals. Discursive exchanges, research and art scholarship to achieve critical perspectives. The mandate of KBT is also to create a audience for art by connecting art , the city and its people. The entrance to the Biennale is free and open to all . It has a strong public programming with tours, keynote talks, workshops throughout the two weeks.

www.karachibiennale.org.pk

