

3rd Majhi International Art Residency, 2021, Eindhoven, Netherlands – Press Release

- A yearly itinerant residency programme, initiated and produced by the Durjoy Bangladesh Foundation (DBF), the **Majhi International Art Residency** stages cross-cultural encounters between artists, scholars, and thinkers, with the aim of supporting and promoting art and research from South Asia and the Global South in a critical, international context and bridging artistic practices between east and west.
- The Majhi's third edition will be hosted at the historic **Steentjeskerk Church** in Eindhoven, Netherlands during October 2021 and will bring together ten artists and collective working in Europe, South and South-East Asia for a **two-week residency programme from October 10, 2021, culminating in an exhibition launching on October 21, 2021.**
- Curated by Bangladeshi independent curator and researcher **Kehkasha Sabah**, the residency & accompanying exhibition is titled Land, Water & Border and will address individual and collective experiences of the role played by land, border, politics, culture, heritage, nature and technology, bridging ten artistic voices from Bangladesh, Indonesia, the UK, the Netherlands and Italy.
- The first (2019) and second (2020) editions of Majhi were held in Venice, Italy, and Berlin, Germany respectively. The third 2021 edition in Eindhoven, will again be held in the context of social distancing and restrictive international travel, particularly for artists coming from South Asia and South-East Asia, and as such emphasizes the need for connection and collaboration, which the DBF is committed to cultivating despite the pandemic's challenges.
- The project also coincides with 50 years of Bangladesh's independence and celebrates 50 years of friendship between Bangladesh and the Netherlands. It comes on the back of further projects initiated in the Netherlands by the DBF, which includes a partnership with the Rijksakademie in support of a long-term residency programme for artists from South Asia.
- Participating artists for the 2021 Majhi Eindhoven edition include **Giulia Deval** (Italy), **Joydeb Roaja** (Bangladesh), **Non-Native Native** (Netherlands), **Moch Hasrul** (Indonesia), **Pier Alfeo** (Italy), **Satch Hoyt** (Jamaica/UK), **Shohrab Jahan** (Bangladesh), **Sounak Das** (Netherlands/Bangladesh), **Yu Zhang** (Netherlands/China), **Zihan Karim** (Bangladesh).
- The project initiator, **Durjoy Bangladesh Foundation (DBF)** is a private foundation set up by art patron and philanthropist **Durjoy Rahman** in 2018 to support and promote artistic development and art practices from across South Asia and beyond. It supports artists in creating new artworks and engages art practitioners in relevant exhibitions, publications, and residencies, often in collaboration with key international cultural institutions.
- **Kehkasha Sabah (b.1985)** is an independent curator, visual artist, and researcher based in Dhaka, Bangladesh. About a decade working in the visual arts sector,

Kehkasha's interest grew to cure art ecosystems through curating, archiving, and creating shared learning spaces. Her work focuses on different aspects of socio-political and cultural narratives, navigating experimental or contemporary mediums. Her ongoing seminal curatorial research investigates the decolonial framework. She is currently appointed a Guest Curator and Project lead of the third edition of Majhi International Art Residency, Eindhoven 2021.

OPENING NEWS:

- The Open Day Exhibition started on 21 October at 3pm. The opening ceremony started with Event Director, Eeshita Azad brief introduction with DBF and Majhi past activities. Founder of DBF, Mr. Durjoy Rahman given the opening speech thanking everyone and also spoke about all the hurdle behind project for Pandemic. Project lead and Guest Curator Kehkasha Sabah gave insight on the curatorial theme of this project and how it's being made with international artist selection and executing it in Eindhoven city. H.E Riaz Hamidullah, Ambassador of Bangladesh, Netherlands, inaugurated the exhibition following a speech, emphasising the need of strong cultural policies and presence from Bangladesh in foreign lands.

4 pm: Jamaican Artist Satch Hoyt played live sound composition from his painting 'Crossing Paths that lead to Cultural Amalgamations'. The work speaks about Afro-Sonic Mapping Tracing Aural histories via Sonic Transmigrations.

4.40 pm: Italian Artist Giulia Deval performed with her hand made sound dress 'Phonotrasparenze'. Phonotrasparenze is a performance with sound dress that reflects on the body as a deposit and transmitter of sounds, involuntary reservoir and intersection of trajectories determined by a rest or a walk.

5 pm: Bangladeshi Artist Joydeb Roaja, performed with his installation 'Poolang, the melody of the flute that brings unity'. Poolang is a unique flute made and played by 'Mro' community people (one of the oldest Bangladeshi indigenous community). Joydeb works is influenced by hill tracts life, Indigenous/tribal culture and nature.

- 22 October there was two Guest Artist Talk held from past two Majhi editions' participants. The participants are: Italian artist Andrea Morucchio (Majhi 1st edition), Belle Phromchanya (Majhi 2nd edition)
- 24 October Bangladeshi Curator Tanzim Wahab was invited for a guest Talk in conversation with Kehkasha Sabah, Project lead and guest Curator of Land, Water and Border.
- The exhibition housed 11 multimedia art installation, ranging from painting, mixed media, multimedia work, sensorial work, interactive design, and performances. The

exhibition also allowed one of the resident artist, Yu Zhang to present her one work as a part of Dutch Design Week. 24 October 8pm the exhibition ended.

3rd Majhi Residency Programme: 10 -24 October, 2021

10 – 20 October: Residency collaboration, discussion and Production

21 – 24 October: Public exhibition in the venue, public performance art and artist talks.

Residency title: Land, Water & Border

Venue: Steentjeskerk Church | Address: Sint Antoniusstraat 5-7, 5616 RT Eindhoven, The Netherlands

Curatorial Selection of Resident Artists:

1. **Giulia Deval**, Italy, <https://giuliadeval.com/>
2. **Joydeb Roaja**, Bangladesh, <http://www.topographyofmirrorcities.org/jodeb-roaja.html>
3. **Non Native Native (Collective)**, the Netherland, <https://nonnativenative.com/>
4. **Moch Hasrul**, Indonesia, <https://mochhasrul.com/>
5. **Pier Alfeo**, Italy, <https://pieralfeo.com/>
6. **Satch Hoyt**, Jamaica/UK, <https://www.satchhoyt.art/>
7. **Shohrab Jahan**, Bangladesh, <https://www.developmentalalternatives.net/burninghead>
8. **Sounak Das**, the Netherland/Bangladesh, <https://sounakdas.com/>
9. **Yu Zhang**, the Netherlands/China, <https://yuzhang.nl/>
10. **Zihan Karim**, Bangladesh, <http://zihankarim.blogspot.com/>

Zihan Karim and Shohrab Jahan will also represent the **Jog Arts Space** (Collective)
Nuankhanit Phromchanya will represent **Non Native Native** (Collective)

Guest Artists and detail live programs will be announced soon on the official Majhi website.

Organizer and founder: Durjoy Bangladesh Foundation, <http://www.durjoybangladesh.org/>

Project lead and Guest Curator: Kehkasha Sabah, Bangladesh, <http://kehkasha.name/>

Event Director: Eeshita Azad, UK, email: eazad8@gmail.com

Web and social media management: rumi@winnerscreations.com

Contact: info@durjoybangladesh.org

For information: <http://www.majhi.org>

Majhi International Residency, 2021 Edition

Durjoy Bangladesh Foundation (DBF) is delighted to announce the upcoming launch of the third edition of Majhi International Art Residency in Eindhoven, NL.

Ten international artists and art collective from Bangladesh, Indonesia, the UK, the Netherlands and Italy, will meet and work in the Netherlands for this curatorial residency, titled 'Land, Water & Border', to be held at Steentjeskerk Church, Eindhoven from October 10, culminating in an exhibition on October 21, 2021. As a part of the curatorial format, the residency will also host a few guest artists and curators, from Europe and Asia, to participate in discursive programs for wider audience.

Majhi Residency started in 2019 as a yearly itinerant program hosted in different European cities, bringing together art practitioners from different geolocations under a collective space to investigate contemporary new art languages. Majhi (মাজি)– is the ubiquitous boatman who ferries, from one bank to the other. Often, he is a solitary soul responding to the call of the mighty Padma; taking his small dinghy, battling against the tide. Holding onto such a poetic yet brave essence of Majhi, this residency was born in Bangladesh and has been navigating through the international art scene. The first (2019) and second (2020) editions of Majhi were held in the Venice, Italy, and Berlin, Germany celebrating the time of Venice Biennale and Berlin Biennale respectively. This year DBF has chosen the Netherlands to host the third edition of the residency with a group of international artists and curators.

Curatorial Concept & Project Format

This year's residency is led by guest curator Kehkasha Sabah, an independent curator and researcher based in Bangladesh. Under her curatorial theme, the project is entitled Land, Water & Border, an analytical conversation on Decolonial thinking and Anthropocene. Upon such curatorial scrutiny, the nine resident artists from Europe, South and Southeast Asia are coming together to create a broad spectrum of cross-cultural discourse. Sharing their knowledge and experiences on land, politics, culture, heritage, migration, environment, and so forth. The chosen resident artists are well known for their work locally and internationally, including participation in prestigious biennales and events.

The curatorial theme also draws attention to borders and restrictions in the social distancing context, and at the same time, it emphasizes the need for connection and collaboration. It wants to investigate the increasing debate on nature and technology to explore the new world order. Hence, it carefully considers all Covid-19 restrictions, regulations, and environmental impacts of creating new work. Here the project addresses sustainability, social

design, environmental impact, and the curator has chosen each artist for such commitments and philosophies. During the Residency production period, each artist will create new work for the final curatorial exhibition, reflecting different parts of the curatorial theme but navigating through immersive mediums, especially with auditory and sensorial experiences, to create minimal material residue with positive resonance in the social milieu. There will be several public discussions, online programs by guest artists, curators and academics as a part of the project's curatorial format. There will be workshop in-between by the resident artists, which are a part of their art production. The final exhibition will have artworks including multimedia installations, AI or sensorial interactive works, performances, and artist talks for the public. A comprehensive catalogue will be issued after the show, collecting together interviews and works by the participating artists.

From October 10th to October 20, 2021, the resident artists will live and work at the venue, the historic **Steentjeskerk Church**, and from October 21st the curatorial exhibition will be open for public viewing in the same location, continuing until October 24, 2021.

Host City & Venue

Being one of the vibrant art ecosystems, the Netherlands has been a strong focus for DBF to make long- term connections, and DBF has been working with Rijksakademie and Arnhem Museum in several capacities past two years. Also, this year is the 50 years' celebration of the friendship between Bangladesh and the Netherlands. Based on the curatorial theme, the invited resident artists and their projects have several social aspects and tech-based art and design explorations. Seeking a meaningful meeting place for the invited artists in the Netherlands, DBF found Eindhoven city has a lot to offer for art, design, technology and cultural exchange. Several art institutes, academics, design institutions and cutting-edge technologies are mutually beneficial for this project, especially in the month of October, the city will host Dutch Design Week allowing the finest artists and designers to meet.

Known as the Stone Church, Steentjeskerk is a national monument of Eindhoven City since 2001. Built-in 1919, it has experienced a lot of historical events. The building has a special connection to art and culture, especially when it housed the Museum Kempenland from 1984 to 2012. The church is now owned by Harrie Kolen, the owner of Kolen Keramiek en Natuursteen.

Durjoy Bangladesh Foundation (DBF)

The promoter of Majhi International Art Residency Programme, Durjoy Bangladesh Foundation (DBF), was initiated as a private foundation by art patron and philanthropist Durjoy Rahman in 2018 to support artistic development and art practices throughout the Global South, holding a special focus on Diaspora South Asian artists to draw attention to

their work in Europe. The foundation's core mission is to initiate and promote art and research programmes from South Asia and beyond in a critical, international art context, supporting artists in creating new artworks and engaging art practitioners in relevant exhibitions, publications, and residencies. DBF is committed to cultivating meaningful collaborations in its mission to bring international attention to Bangladesh and the Global South and highlight critical social issues, working with institutions including Kettle's Yard, University of Cambridge; Rijksakademie, Netherlands; Kunstmuseum Wolfburg, Germany and many more.

For more information: <http://www.durjoybangladesh.org/>
