

**Foundation Art Divvy & Fakir Khana Museum present:**

***I, too, am a part of this history***

Aakif Suri  
 Aamir Habib  
 Affan Baghpati  
 Ahmed Faizan Naveed  
**Aisha Abid Hussain**  
 Ali Baba  
 Ali Kazim  
**Farida Batool**  
 Hasan Mujtaba  
**Hurmat & Rabbya**  
 Irfan Hasan  
**Maha Ahmed**  
**Mamoonia Riaz**  
 Mohsin Shafi  
 Noor Ali Chagani  
**Quratulain Shams**  
**Rehana Mangi**  
**Saba Khan**  
**Sana Durrani**  
**Sana Kazi**  
 Saud Baloch  
**Sophia Balagamwala**  
 Suleman Khilji  
**Wardha Shabbir**



**Friday 16 – Saturday 31 March 2018, 11 am – 5 pm**  
 Private View: Monday 19 March, 1 pm – 3 pm

Fakir Khana Museum & Haveli  
 Hakiman Bazar, Bhaati Gate, Lahore  
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**Foundation Art Divvy & Fakir Khana Museum** are delighted to present *“I, too, am a part of this history.”* The exhibition, which is a collateral of LB01: the Lahore Biennale, displays the work of twenty-four leading contemporary artists and will be on view from Friday 16 March – Saturday 31 March.

In an effort to highlight Lahore’s rich artistic legacy, and the importance of preserving and engaging with its cultural history, Foundation Art Divvy and Fakir Khana Museum have chosen to collaborate on a remarkable exhibition. This unique venture emphasizes the need to invest in future art movements and young artists.

Fakir Khana Museum, housed in the Fakir Khana Haveli in Lahore’s famed old city, is the city’s only private museum. It boasts a collection of more than 20,000 artworks, the majority of which date back to

between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The collection, amassed and protected by the Fakir family over several generations, includes stunning miniature paintings from the Mughal period, pieces from the Gandharan civilization, as well as the personal belongings of Ranjit Singh and his family, to whom the Fakir family was closely linked – the Fakir ancestors, Fakir Noor-ud-din, Fakir Aziz-ud-din, and Fakir Imam-ud-din were Ranjit Singh’s ministers and closest advisers.

Foundation Art Divvy has invited twenty-four artists to respond to the Museum, its exquisite collection of art and antiquities, its architectural structure, the historic Fakir family and the symbolism of the museum as representative of old Lahore. The artists in the exhibition have diverse and individual practices; they explore different mediums and aspects of the art making process. They have each conducted a series of site visits and have researched the history and collection of the museum. It has been particularly fascinating to observe in what way and to which aspects of the building and collection they have each responded to, since some are exploring mediums they do not traditionally work in.

The resulting artworks in the exhibition, which are a combination of modern miniature paintings, new media works, sculptures and installation based pieces, will be interspersed through the Museum and Haveli, creating a walkthrough tour between the generations of art, as a reflection and repetition of the Lahore Biennale’s interventions throughout Lahore. The show encourages visitors to interact with the works on display as well as the existing collection of the museum.

The title of the exhibition, “*I, too, am a part of this history,*” is a quote by Mr Faqir Saif-ud-din, the custodian and owner of the Fakir Khana Museum & Haveli. It encapsulates the essence of this show and the philosophy behind it, which is to remind visitors to the exhibition of their inexorable connection to Lahore’s history and their unavoidable obligation to engage with and preserve the legacy with which they have been endowed.

Foundation Art Divvy and Fakir Khana Museum are extremely grateful to the artists in the show, our sponsors and the supportive Fakir family.

**Fakir Khana** is the private museum of the Fakir Family of Lahore, who settled in the city in 1730, and ran a publishing house. It is one of the largest private museums in South Asia, and has been open to the public since 1901. Considered a hidden treasure of art, the museum paintings, sculptures, manuscripts, Chinese porcelain, Persian carpets and countless masterpieces of Art, it is situated in Bhaati Gate, an old section of the Walled City of Lahore, Punjab province of Pakistan.

The Museum gives the visitor interesting information on the culture and history of Punjab. The exhibits of the museum include gifts from Queen Victoria and Maharajah Ranjit Singh to Fakir Syed Aziz-ud-din and Fakir Syed Noor-ud-din who were ministers in his court. The Museum is currently managed by members of the Fakir Family. It is closed to the general public and visitations are by appointment only.

**Foundation Art Divvy** was established as a platform to present and showcase contemporary art from Pakistan, both within the country and internationally. It is a venture that highlights the unique stories of the extraordinary artists with whom we have worked and continue to build relationships. We are committed to supporting art projects and focussing on arts education in order to foster a greater appreciation of the arts and artisans of Pakistan.

**Aakif Suri** (b. 1982, Pakistan), lives and works in Lahore. He received a BFA from National College of Arts (2010) and received his MA from the same institution (2017). Suri's artworks involve drawing, painting, collage, wood and a range of mixed media. His art practice is notable for the high level of engagement he pursues with his subject matter.

**Aamir Habib** (b. 1976, Pakistan), originally from Kohat in KPK, lives and works in Karachi. He completed his BFA from Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, Karachi (2003). His work integrates sculpture with new media technology to highlight prevalent societal issues.

**Affan Baghpati** (b. 1991 Pakistan) lives and works in Karachi. Baghpati graduated with a BFA from Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, Karachi (2015) and an MA in Art and Design at SVAD, Beaconhouse National University, Lahore (2017). His practice revolves around collected, altered and fabricated objects. These discarded objects, once functional in regional Pakistani households, are either losing or have already lost their value, presence, and function.

**Ahmed Faizan Naveed** (b. 1989, Pakistan), lives and works in Lahore. He received his BFA from Beaconhouse National University, Lahore (2012). His work revolves around the idea of reality in displacement and coexistence, where they are parallel to each other in a particular setting of time and space.

**Aisha Abid Hussain** (b. 1980, Pakistan) lives and works in Lahore. She holds a MFA from Goldsmiths College, University of London (2012) and a BFA from National College of Arts, Lahore (2008). Hussain is a research based practicing artist who is fascinated by history and archival documents

**Ali Baba** (b. 1985, Pakistan), lives and works in Lahore. Ali Baba completed his BFA (2008) and MA (2012) from National College of Arts, Lahore. Trained as a painter but mostly works in sculpture and installations. His main concern has been the human existence and its condition, equipped with sculptural techniques.

**Ali Kazim** (b. 1979, Pakistan), lives and works in Lahore. He received his BFA degree from the National College of Arts, (2002) and an MFA from the Slade School of Fine Art, London (2011). Kazim is inspired and fascinated by remnants of former communities, and a compulsion to understand ancient cultures and delve into man's place within time.

**Farida Batool** (b. 1970, Pakistan), lives and works. She received her BA in Fine Arts from the National College of Arts, Lahore (1993), her MA in Art History and Theory from the College of Fine Arts at the University of New South Wales (2003), and her PhD from the Centre for Media Studies at The School of Oriental and African Studies, London (2015)). Her works attest to the scars in Pakistani society caused by decades of unrest.

**Hassan Mujtaba** (b. 1985, Pakistan), lives and works in Lahore. He graduated with a BFA from Beaconhouse National University, Lahore (2009). Mujtaba looks for clues to create a route to revisit the familiar notions, thoughts and subject matter which offer us other connotations and suggestions through various sets of approach.

### **Hurmat & Rabbya**

Hurmat-ul-Ain (b.1984) and Rabbya Naseer (b. 1984) are interdisciplinary artists and art educationists from Pakistan. They have a BFA from National College of Arts, Lahore and a Masters from School of The Art Institute Chicago. A constant effort to “be” in a body and express that “being” and in it, lies a stern disapproval to comply with prescribed notions. Reflecting on strategies of presence, embodiment and reciprocity.

**Irfan Hasan** (b. 1982, Pakistan), lives and works in Lahore. Hasan graduated from National College of Arts (2006) with a major in Indo-Persian miniature painting. The works he has produced for this project are an homage to Abu al Hassan Ghaffari, also known as *SaniolMolk*, one of the master water colourists from the Qajar period of Iran.

**Maha Ahmed** (b. 1989, Pakistan), lives and works in Tokyo. She completed an MA in Fine Art at Central Saint Martins School of Art, London (2015). Ahmed’s research is based on the discourse surrounding the identity of self in consequence of the other, questioning the formation of collective narratives that stem from gender, race and religious beliefs.

**Mamoona Riaz** (b. 1987, Pakistan), lives and works in Islamabad. Riaz is an interdisciplinary artist, art editor and curator. She received her BFA from National College of Arts (2011). She is interested in the divergence from one space to another works, and how, fragments of each encounter manifest in behavioral changes.

**Mohsin Shafi** (b. 1982, Pakistan) is an interdisciplinary artist who lives and works in Lahore, Pakistan. He received his Bachelors in Visual Communication (2008) and his Masters in Visual Arts (2011) from College of Arts, Lahore. Shafi questions the blurred edges between identity and the intentions of identity, and attempts to make the viewer see reality through the fiction of his eyes.

**Noor Ali Chagani** (b. 1982, Pakistan), lives and works in Lahore. He received his BS Degree in Computer Science, Karachi (2004) and then later received a BFA from National College of Arts, Lahore (2008). Chagani’s expanded his repertoire to create jewellery and armour out of clay. This is in line with his interest in using bricks to produce something soft and delicate.

**Quratulain Shams** (b. 1986, Pakistan), lives and works in Lahore. Shams received a BFA from National College of Art, Lahore (2009). The series of my new work "Fragile" and "handle with care" is a dialogue on traditional miniatures.

**Rehana Mangi** (b. 1986, Pakistan), lives and works in Lahore. She completed her BFA from National College of Arts, Lahore (2007), she completed her MA from Beaconhouse National University, Lahore. Mangi follows a complex stitching technique in which every stitch and pattern created is counted and calculated. She stitches patterns on wasli paper using her fallen hair.

**Saba Khan** (b.1982, Pakistan), lives and works in Lahore. Khan completed her BFA from National College of Arts, Lahore (2005) and MFA from Boston University, Boston (2010). Khan’s work is a comment upon the lack of trust in the meritocracy in one’s own institutions (and even commercial spaces), an artist really achieves success and credibility after going through a labyrinth of bureaucratic processes for visa approvals and customs.



**Sana Durrani**, (b. 1984, Pakistan) lives and works in Lahore. She received her BFA from Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan, and her MFA from Punjab University, Lahore (2008). Her intention is to promote an intuitive and spiritual understanding of reality to my witness. Her personal motivation is always to communicate with the lost era through studying spaces which people inhabit.

**Sana Kazi** (b. 1983, Pakistan), lives and works in Lahore. She received her BFA from the National College of Arts, Lahore (2006) and an MVA in Visual Arts National College of Arts, Lahore (2012). The works are a culmination of the elements of spirituality deeply rooted in collective memory as our history.

**Saud Baloch** (b. 1982, Pakistan), lives and works in the UK. Baloch studied Fine Arts at the University of Balochistan in Quetta before moving to Lahore in 2008 to graduate National College of Arts, Lahore (2013). Baloch's primarily sculptural and drawing based practice investigates the effect on human bodies of burdens and oppressions which might threaten to distort or disfigure them.

**Sophia Balagamwala** (b. 1987, Pakistan), lives and works in Karachi. Balagamwala received a BA from the University of Toronto (2010) and an MFA from Cornell University (2014). She creates work which exists in the space where history meets fiction and nonsense.

**Suleman Aqeel Khilji** (b. 1985, Pakistan) lives and works in Lahore. He received his BFA from National College of Art, Lahore (2011). He has been examining the process of painting and how a figure is continuously moving in a transitional space; a transitional space of a drawing, watercolour and oil on linen.

**Wardha Shabbir** (b. 1987, Pakistan) lives and works in Lahore. Shabbir graduated with a BFA from National College of Arts, Lahore (2011) and has recently been nominated for the Jameel Prize 2018. Stemming from her interest in the myriad of contradictions which inform human behaviour, the symbol of a path has become the guiding point in her work.

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