



19TH  
ASIAN  
ART BIENNALE  
BANGLADESH  
2020



১৯তম  
দ্বিবার্ষিক এশীয়  
চারুকলা প্রদর্শনী  
বাংলাদেশ  
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## Participation Guidelines

১-৩১ মার্চ ২০২১

1- 31 March 2021

Creative Bangladesh



বাংলাদেশ শিল্পকলা একাডেমি  
BANGLADESH SHILPAKALA ACADEMY



MINISTRY OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS  
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



### Concept Note

Confronted with emerging realities artists across Asia are increasingly adjusting their strategies to the global preference for new and mixed media while working within traditions where artistic expressions are seen to reflect the interconnectedness of art, society and environment. They are looking to create works that are not only socially engaged but are also embedded in the diction of the current digital age. Bangladesh has always encouraged artists to explore their social realities, cultural and aesthetic values and histories, and, at the same time, engage with the contemporary cultural and technological trends from beyond its borders. The overlap between the local and the global is happening everywhere; it is in art that it takes a stimulating creative dimension.

The overlap has also been taking a disturbing dimension over the years: the increase in the incidents of forced migration and displacement, in addition to rise in other forms of migration. This is contesting and redefining the idea of home which has always inspired artists to explore the different forms it takes, from domestic space to nation. In choosing the theme -Home and Displacement-the 19th Asian Art Biennale will be remembering the victims of forced displacement everywhere in the world and pledge to stand by them so that those still alive do not become forgotten souls.

The 19th Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh 2020 will thus focus on the complexities that the globalized world is witnessing where, on the one hand economic and other classes of migrants establish their presence in different cultural landscapes, and, on the other forced displacement is uprooting entire communities from their lands and planting them in faraway places. While the concept of home and homeliness has always been a stable signifier of social condition, displacement destabilizes it and forces a new understanding of such terms as unhomeliness and ethnic cleansing. How does an artist react when home for many becomes a distant memory, or a constant reminder of trauma to be lived over and over again? What emotions does exile evoke? How do exile and displacement impact human creativity? Above all, at a time when rights the media picks up a terrorist attack or hate crime in Europe for a worldwide coverage, why are these unfortunate people consigned to media oblivion? How do they figure in official discourses? In art and literature? These questions should and do engage artists. The 19th Asian Art Biennale would like to see artists of Asia respond to them.

The Biennale will of course keep open other options, such as the fast-track developments in communication technology, the expansion of the visual media and urbanization, the rise of ideologies in our time or the disappearance of green from our lives. As artists explore these options, it is our belief that a link with the Biennale's main theme will offer itself.

Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh, since its beginning in 1981, has attempted to display various artistic endeavours of our time in which continuity and change come together. The geographical parameter is important only in a generic sense and also for identification of sponsorship in this pioneering venture. It was inevitable that with time, other regions that share, more or less, the same artistic impulses and face the same challenges of development and identity would be included in the exhibition as has happened in recent years.

### Exhibition Information

The 19th Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh 2020 will be inaugurated on 1 March 2021 and will continue till 31 March 2021 at the National Art



Gallery of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka. The month-long exhibition will display two and three dimensional artworks such as painting, prints, photography, sculpture, installation, new media art etc.

A two-day seminar will be held on 2 and 3 March 2021 at the auditorium of the National Art Gallery. The topic of the seminar will be announced soon.

### **Directions/Procedures for Participation in the 19th Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh 2020:**

#### **I. Eligibility:**

1. Participating artists must be aged above 22 years and should have participated in at least two international level exhibitions.
2. Artwork to be displayed in the exhibition must have been created after 1 January, 2019.

#### **II. Application procedure:**

1. Participating artists are requested to apply online for registration. Registration form (Downloadable PDF Format) is available at [www.asianartbiennale.org.bd](http://www.asianartbiennale.org.bd).  
After completion of registration, participants will get more information through an email for further processing. After final selection by the selection committee, participants will receive a confirmatory mail for final procedure. The selection result will also be posted on the website.
2. Participating artists can also apply through email. For email submission they must attach all relevant documents required by the organizers.
3. Participating artists can apply directly by sending hard copies of relevant documents through courier or bring the in person to the organizers' office

#### **III. Required documents:**

1. Participating artists must submit the details of their artworks (list of artworks, including information on title, medium, size, elements used, execution date, signature) of each artwork to be displayed in the exhibition along with concept note. Images of the artworks in TIFF or JPEG format with a minimum 200 DPI resolution and CMYK colour mode must also be submitted. All images should be properly colour corrected, cropped or retouched by the participants. Email files should be prepared in JPEG/TIFF/PNG format with a minimum of 72 DPI resolutions. Each file size should be within 1MB. Participating artists should also mention the value (in USD) of each of their artworks along with information on insurance.
2. Participating artists must submit their personal details (along with a photograph) in CV format highlighting their name, date of birth. A scanned copy of the relevant pages of passport (for foreigners) should also be accompanied with documents on education, profession, experience, art-related achievements etc.
3. Foreign participating artists are required to submit an authorization letter from relevant national authority (Ministry of Culture/National Art Museum/Council or Gallery) to represent their country.
4. Each participating country must submit an introductory write-up in 300 words on the country's contemporary art practices for the exhibition catalogue.
5. Participating artists are welcomed to attend the seminar sessions, but they are requested to register for the seminar. Seminar panel discussants should submit their paper on the seminar topic within 1,000 words by 31 January



2021 for publication in the seminar catalogue. In the seminar, each participant will get 15 minutes for presenting the paper. The organizers however, encourage multimedia presentation. For multimedia presentation participants must provide the presentation file in advance to the organizers.

#### **IV. Display and installation:**

1. Each participating country will be allotted 16-metre-long (running) wall space and 30 metres (square) floor area. Because of space restriction participating countries are requested to limit each of their sculptures to 120 cm in height, 90cm in length and breadth and 60kg in weight.
2. Participating artists are requested to send their framed original artwork (painting, prints or photography) to be displayed in the 19th Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh 2020. In cases this cannot be done, the organizers will help in framing the artworks in Dhaka upon cost provided by the artists.
3. The Display Committee reserves the right to select the place of display of artworks. Participating artists may assist in guiding how they want to display their artworks.
4. For any installation work, participating artists will have to work at the venue with relevant personnel for proper display.
5. For any video art installation, participating artists must bring their own laptops and projectors. The organizers may assist in arranging projectors and laptops if needed but the cost of rent of installation materials must be provided by the participants.

#### **V. Deadlines:**

1. Registration and submission of participation documents: 30 November 2020
2. All artworks should reach to the Asian Art Biennale Cell, Fine Arts Department, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on or before 31 January 2021
3. VISA request for travelling (for on-arrival VISA): 31 January 2021
4. Arrival: 26 February 2021

#### **VI. Dispatch deadline and details:**

1. Exhibits selected by the selection committee and listed on the entry form and checklist must reach Dhaka not later than 31 January 2021 for the completion all formalities of customs etc. well in advance. Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy will bear all transportation, unpacking and re-packing expenses within the country. The freight charges to and from the port of entry in Bangladesh shall be borne by the participating country or artist. Participating country or artist must send invoice, packing list, airway bill, shipment and insurance information of artworks through email to the organizers before shipment.
2. Participating artists must confirm all the information on their artwork to the organizers. The organizers will not be responsible for any damage to artwork during transit to and from Bangladesh.
3. Participating country or artist is responsible for insurance of their artworks.
4. Participating artists will organize the return shipment of their artworks on their own after the completion of the exhibition.
5. Participating artists are advised to keep in touch with the organizers during shipment of artwork until their final return.
6. Participating countries or artists will be responsible for their artworks from the point of dispatch until they arrive at the port of entry in Bangladesh



and during their transit back to the point of origin. Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy will be responsible for the artworks from the time they are received at the port of entry in Bangladesh till they are dispatched.

7. All dispatches should be addressed to the Director, Department of Fine Arts, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (National Academy of Fine and Performing Arts of Bangladesh), 14/3 Segunbagicha, Ramna, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.

#### **VII. Jury:**

A jury panel comprising five members with one from Bangladesh and four from other countries will be responsible for judgment of displayed artworks in the 19th Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh 2020 and will select best artworks for three grand prizes and six honourable mention prizes.

#### **VIII. Awards:**

Names of the recipients of three grand and six honourable mention prizes will be announced at the inauguration ceremony of the 19th Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh 2020 to be held on 01 March 2021. Each of these awards will be accompanied by a medal and a cash prize of Bangladeshi Taka 500,000 (five hundred thousand) for grand prize and Taka 300,000 (three hundred thousand) for each honourable mention prize.

#### **IX. Hospitality:**

1. As the host, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy will provide local hospitality for up to 7 days to a maximum of four persons from each country. Any additional delegate will have to bear their own expenses, however the organizers can assist in arranging accommodation, food, local transport etc.
2. Local hospitality includes accommodation, food, local transport, airport pickup and drop of etc.
3. Participating countries/artists will bear international travel cost.
4. Physically challenged participants are requested to inform the organizer before travelling to Bangladesh so that necessary assistance can be provided.
5. Participating artists are required to confirm their participation to the organizers in advance. They must collect VISA from Bangladesh mission in their respective countries showing the invitation letter provided by the organizers. If there is no Bangladeshi mission in a particular country, participating artists of that country should inform the organizers so that visa on arrival can be arranged for them.

#### **X. Contact**

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*Please visit [www.asianartbiennale.org.bd](http://www.asianartbiennale.org.bd) for more details.*