



60x60 Secs

Artist Info & Film Synopsis - Pakistan

David Chalmers Alesworth

Joank (Leech/Slug)

Synopsis

The artist and his housekeeper meet in the vegetable garden to try and discuss the problems of some equally displaced Italian tomatoes. David in his worst Urdu and Jahangir in his poor English.

Biography

The turning point in David Alesworth's artistic career was his relocation to Pakistan from England in 1987. Having previously studied at the Wimbledon School of Art he subsequently won the Picker Fellowship at Kingston University and then took up a teaching assignment at Glasgow School of Art. His encounter with Pakistani culture in the early eighties opened up his practice to a range of new materials and an entirely new aesthetic sense based on the decorative flourishes of the urban bazaars.

His central themes of environmental degradation and nuclear proliferation informed such whimsical yet lyrical works as *Two Bombs Kiss* (1993) and resonate throughout a career that keeps stylistically reinventing itself. Working with truck artists in the mid to late nineties, Alesworth was involved in producing a number of highly acclaimed installations, conceived in collaboration with Durriya Kazi. These generated substantial interest at local and international showings, and influenced an entire generation of artists to focus their attention on the cultural politics and aesthetics of cinema hoardings, truck art, bazaar artefacts, and commercial sign paintings.

Unum Babar

Chrysalis

Synopsis

Clothes become the artist's skin, almost an obsession, as she gradually loses her physical identity to supposedly inanimate apparel that come to life somewhat preposterously.

Biography

Unum graduated in 2007 from Beaconhouse National University, Lahore with a distinction in Fine Art. Her interests lie mainly in photography and video installation art besides also producing drawings. Since graduating, she has been enrolled in a Post-graduate Diploma in Art Education at BNU. She is currently teaching in the Art History Department at BNU, and working towards her upcoming shows later in the year.

Nida Bangash

Keep this Game out of Reach of Adults!

Synopsis

Children - Lego - Wall - Play - Game - Camouflage - Border - KEEP THIS GAME OUT OF REACH OF ADULTS!

Biography

Nida Bangash is an artist formally trained in the miniature discipline at the National College of Art. Based in Pakistan, and of part Iranian parentage, she has also gained experiential knowledge over the years of carpet weaving and miniature painting in Mashhad, Iran. Currently she is amidst completing her MA (Hons) Visual Art in Lahore and researching towards a new body of work.

Nida has exhibited her work both nationally and internationally. Drawing from her traditional skills and techniques, she continuously evolves her medium and questions the perimeters of her practice. Her thematic considerations range from the abstract to the blatant, political to the apolitical and ephemeral to the structural. Her interdisciplinary approach to work creates an overall sensory experience for an audience, thus, enabling them to rediscover the obvious.

Joshinder Chaggar

Light

Synopsis

Over a little ditty, we see three calm people representing different cultures. They start to dance serenely, in their own unique style, shining bright and complementing each other. They begin to twirl in ecstasy and shine as a bright white light - the light of hope that only love can bring.

Biography

Joshinder was born in Faridabad, India. Aged 3, she moved first to Nigeria with her parents, and then to Australia in 1990. In 2007, she relocated to Karachi to take advantage of the media boom.

For the last eight years, whilst living in Australia, Joshinder worked as a Bollywood dance choreographer and performer. Her most recent career highlight was releasing a DVD *Get Fit with Bollywood Dance* in November 2006, which has been distributed across Australia.

In 2003, she enrolled in a short film course at Fox Studios in Sydney. As a result, she wrote and directed her first short film. Since then, she has worked on a few other shorts and done some acting work.

Shazieh Gorji

Ans wered

Synopsis

This film searches for a response to a question immigrants frequently encounter: "Where are you from?" Notions of a multilayered existence, movement, remembrance, endurance, nostalgia, and reassurances coupled with justifications as to one's sense of self, are explored. This performance based piece attempts to not only provide answers to recurring threads of identity, migration and globalisation, but also offers a platform to further revisit and intimately explore personal stories.

Biography

Shazieh Gorji graduated from Bennington College in Vermont, USA. She acquired a Visual Arts degree with a focus in ceramics and education. As a ceramic artist in the beginning stages of her career, she has been exhibiting her work in group shows, and maintains a private studio where she also teaches Raku workshops.

She is the founder of Karachi's first Adventure Club at The Lyceum School, and has worked as an artist coordinator for a public art project in collaboration with CITYarts New York's *Pieces for Peace* mosaic. An intrepid explorer, she creates platforms for youth empowerment through pro-active and hands on experiential learning.

Mazhar Hussain

the beginning...

Synopsis

From independence to the present day, this film presents segments from the life of Pakistan. Tuning frequencies to the sweet melodies of the legendary singer Noor Jahan to a budding cyber romance, intercut with lack of basic needs as citizens to terrorism *The Beginning...* offers hope!

Biography

Born in Multan on the 4th of June 1966, Mazhar graduated from NCA in 1989 and went on to the UK to specialise in animation and film from the University of Humberside in Hull in 1993. From 1992 till 1994, he worked on various motiroti projects. Since his return to Pakistan he worked in advertising as an art director and has worked for all the major advertising agencies.

Currently he is working as the Creative Group Head for Red Communication Arts, Lahore for the last six years. He is part of a creative team that develops concepts for TV commercials and has worked on various projects that include the Paktel GSM launch, PEL Corporate, Nirala Doodh, Tetra Pak UHT. Mazhar also serves as an external juror for the National College of Arts.

Ferwa Ibrahim

Estrangement

Synopsis

Estrangement addresses the notion of change and transience in identity. It questions the conventions of boundaries as the shadow grows out of its demarked boundary and then struggles to fit back in.

Biography

Ferwa Ibrahim was born in Lahore, Pakistan, in 1985. She graduated from the Beaconhouse National University Lahore, Pakistan in 2007. She works primarily in performance, sound and drawing as she addresses themes such as self-identity, home and social conventions. She aims to explore the equivocal connection between the world and herself through her rather literal 'process-driven' practice. She is currently living and teaching in Lahore, Pakistan.

Juhi Jaferii & Taimoor Tariq & Komail Naqvi

505

Synopsis

The film presents the parallel journey of a 5 Rupee coin and a 500 Rupee note. We see the different lives they live, the different places they inhabit and the different people they meet.

Biography

In September 2006, Juhi Jaferii, Taimoor Tariq and Komail Naqvi came together at The Lyceum School for A-Levels in Karachi. Two months was all they needed to discover that they shared something more than the clueless expressions they had on in Economics - they discovered they all wanted to make films.

In the two years they spent at Lyceum together they not only learnt about the monetary and fiscal policies governments use to tackle inflation, they also made two documentaries based on diverse aspects of Karachi and a total of seven short films (this being their favourite since it blessed them with some extra pocket-money without making them baby-sit or do a boring internship at a bank).

They are all 18 and currently drowning in a sea of University applications.

Shalalae Jamil

July – September 2007

Synopsis

A random collage of news images from Britain, India and Pakistan that makes us question the location, the context and the time specific events worthy of the news.

Biography

Artist and educator, Shalalae explores the pervasive psychology of 'difference' exemplified by class, culture and morality. She exhibits her works internationally, teaches at universities and other schools, and collaborates on long-term cultural projects with various organisations. Her work emphasises the social, political and interventionist capabilities of art and contributes to the creation of an alternative order in Pakistan.

Shalalae graduated from Bennington College, Vermont and School of the Art Institute of Chicago, concentrating on photography, film, video and new media. While in the USA, she curated screenings and exhibitions that focused primarily on the South Asian diasporic experience. Following completion of her M.F.A and return to Pakistan, she is currently teaching at Karachi University, Beaconhouse National University, and has been one of the central organisers of *Shanaakht* (The Identity Project) launched by the newly formed Citizens Archive of Pakistan.

Roshaan Khattak

Disintegration, Epiphany, Liberation

Synopsis

The film is about a man on the verge of mental disintegration and break down. It explores his varied and often conflicting influences, stimuli and impressions ranging from historical images to recent events, from religious & dogmatic symbols to political and social symbols, from the sources of his information to globalisation trends. He finally resolves his inner struggle for a unified Weltanschauung (world view) by giving up his once integral part of identity- chauvinism and parochialism. Only then is he able to open his mind's door and go beyond for a final awakening and liberation.

Biography

A 21 year old studying computers, with an interest in philosophy, astrophysics, psychology, the psychoanalytical school of thought and photography. Roshaan has been taking photographs for some years now and loves it most when using the cheapest of cameras capturing people, streets and unusual settings that make an analogy to socially relevant issues. He has just begun filmmaking and has made some experiMental shorts (read: absurd, crazy).

Adnan Malik

Telephone Pyaar

Synopsis

An intimate voice-over telephone conversation between an unidentified man and woman is laid over archival material sourced from Lollywood films. As the provocative nature of the conversation gains momentum, the visuals become progressively more suggestive. Extracted from sixty years of Pakistani cinema, these metaphoric representations of love and sexuality point to a rich cultural engagement with sexual identity; a history that is often sidelined, suppressed and/or unacknowledged today.

Biography

Adnan Malik is a Vassar College educated, Karachi based 'slashie': a filmmaker/ actor/model/vj. The majority of his work uses pop culture and identity as a point of investigation. He has directed *Bijli*, a multi-award winning short film about a Muslim drag queen in New York, *The Forgotten Song*, Pakistan's first feature length documentary on Lollywood, as well as having contributed to films such as the Sundance winning *Why We Fight*, and *A Jihad for Love*. Adnan has also been on the organising committee of the Karachi Film Festival for the last four years.

Kohi Marri

Fragments of a confused place

Synopsis

Historic sites scattered across Karachi and how they have evolved over the years seen through photography, video and drawings.

Biography

An Architecture graduate, Kohi enjoys being versatile, flexible and values the mechanics behind things as well as the processes that they encompass.

Since graduating, he has undertaken courses in filmmaking and animation to expand the scope of his work. He is well versed in most major design programmes and capable of working in various media, ranging from hand drawing, CAD, 3D to photography, film and animation.

For the past eight years Kohi has been heavily involved in design, photography, film and music. He set up his freelance design company whilst a student and has since then collaborated with musicians, dancers, filmmakers and artists on various projects, gaining insight and developing different skills. This learning contributes to the unique perspective that permeates his projects.

Asma Mundrawala

Love Song

Synopsis

Popup paper constructed art works set the stage for old family photographs and the opulence of urban architecture in Karachi from the 60s and 70s. The calm of which is slowly taken over by the movement and frenzied laughter of vultures singing the love song of a city both beloved and beleaguered.

Biography

Asma Mundrawala received her BFA degree from the Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, Karachi in 1995 and an MA in Contemporary Art and Performance Theory from the Wimbledon School of Art, UK in 2002. Asma has been a practicing artist, exhibiting in several national and international exhibitions, for the past 12 years.

She has also been a performer with the Karachi based theatre group Tehrik e Niswan since 1997, where she has worked as an actor and designer in both urban and community theatre productions. Asma has performed in Pakistan and internationally in theatre festivals, and worked with directors from Pakistan as well as from Bangladesh, India and Germany.

An interest in 'theatre for development' has led Asma to pursue this as her PhD research subject. She is currently a D.Phil student at the University of Sussex (UK) and is conducting field research in Pakistan.

Mehreen Murtaza

The Trans-Channel Anxiety Buildings...

Synopsis

An animation of a hybrid world of skewed logic and science fiction – where the future is now! Where Sufis fly in the distance, fleets of aerodynamic rickshaws, and pseudo-scientific mysticism reigns supreme... setting controls for the heart of the Sun as the mystics raise their skinny fists like antennas towards heaven, tasting like futurism.

Biography

Mehreen is a scientific conundrum monkeying in Lahore since 1990. Originally conceived in Riyadh, the chemical process and ingredients involved were simple enough but somehow the final product is still highly experimental. She is a sub-calculation of some cocky wordings and sometimes hyphenates her name just for kicks. She can currently be located at her headquarters, Beaconhouse National University until the 29th of May 2008, completing her innocuous degree in Fine Art.

Syed Ali Nasir

Around the World in Sixty Seconds

Synopsis

Woken up by an alarm clock, a man manages to travel around the world before the day is over, getting back in time to watch some television.

Biography

Syed Ali Nasir grew up in Karachi and spent his college years in Boston before heading back to Pakistan to take up his true passion, filmmaking. Since then, he has travelled all over the region, directing documentaries and news reports for a diverse group of clients including Channel 4 and USAID. His short film *Lust* won him the Best Emerging Talent award at the 2004 KaraFilm Festival in Karachi. After working with Geo Television as an AV Director, he now directs documentaries under the banner of Periscope.

Muzzumil Ruheel

ME

Synopsis

The artist searches for meaning within the surroundings of where he is. In order to understand his surroundings, he argues that he needs to first understand himself.

Biography

Born in Lahore, Pakistan, Muzzumil was trained as a traditional calligrapher by renowned calligrapher Khurshid Alam Gohar. He received a Bachelors degree in Humanities and is currently studying Visual Arts at Beaconhouse National University, Lahore. In recent years he has started to incorporate text with moving imagery alongside his two dimensional practice. In his work he questions his self, his cast, and religion. All these issues inspire him to develop his visual vocabulary.

Zarmeene Shah

One Step

Synopsis

The film speaks of identity or rather of the loss of that identity through external forces - of the fleeting, fragile quality that something as distinctive and intrinsic as our identities and our voices have come to be endowed with at this time.

Biography

Zarmeene Shah graduated with a BFA from the Indus Valley School of Art & Architecture in December 2003 and has since been practicing as an artist and an educator. She is primarily a painter, who has also worked extensively with drawing, photography and the digitally manipulated image.

Her work has explored issues that have naturally arisen from her own experiential context in a post-colonial, bi-lingual society, where issues of authentic art practices versus received notions of excellence are still keenly debated, questioning notions of 'purity' and an 'authentic traditional practice' in these times. The female figure or presence has remained constant in being the means through which questions of identity, personal or public, are posed.

Although many of the same issues remain, recently her work has taken on a more personal, and emotive tone, much more minimal in its delivery, with her concerns being symbolically alluded to rather than directly stated.

She is currently living and working in Karachi, Pakistan

Vasiem Siddiq

Slate

Synopsis

Local people pose with a slate and words written in chalk... Delivering the message of PEACE.

Biography

For as long as he can recall, Vasiem has always been drawn to the arts. Despite not holding an arts degree, he has worked with computer graphics, painting, sculpture, photography and music and is currently employed as an Art Director by one of Pakistan's leading telecom companies. Originating from Lahore, Vasiem feels blessed to live within such a diverse and vibrant culture. He feels surrounded by stories that trigger imagination.

He has practiced his art on the streets of Lahore as well as throughout the country. Vasiem believes that the British have left behind a strong cultural imprint, which still resonates in Pakistan. Today, aged 29, he feels that he has only just started to think creatively and finds the cultural and artistic landscape so wide and broad that he cannot imagine boundaries. Vasiem's only wish is to keep responding to the call of the arts.

Sehban Zaidi

Eternal Immigrant

Synopsis

The rituals that accompany the beginnings of the artist's own journeys, some of which are inspired by tradition, while others dictated more by the socio-political, like shaving in seven different directions so that no inkling of a beard appears as he approaches the airport.

Biography

Born in Karachi in 1981, Sehban has since tread across a few lines in the sand and embarks on an eternal struggle to both shape his own narrative and to develop the vernacular through which to express it.

Maheen Zia

Before Waking

Synopsis

The ever-present memory and the ever-moving present.

Biography

Maheen Zia is a Karachi based director of short films and documentaries. She is also a founding member of the KaraFilm Society and has been working as an organiser and programmer of the KaraFilm Festival since its inception in 2001. In addition, she has been a judge at several international film festivals and is a central committee member for the Union of Short Filmmakers from Muslim Countries (USFMC) and teaches filmmaking at the Department of Visual Studies, University of Karachi.

Maheen recently won the Berlin Today Award for her short film *Match Factor*.

Before Waking is her first experimental film. Having said that, she believes all films are experiments.