



18th Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh 2018 *583 artworks by 465 artists from 68 countries*

Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh, the oldest international art biennale in Asia, is a space for cultural convergence and the creation of the new. It trails a glorious history of more than three decades. It has played a catalytic role in the region's artistic growth since its inception in 1981 without any break. Launched with the aim to explore Asian modern and contemporary art with an additional focus on internationally circulating practices, the month-long exhibition today serves as a platform for diverse modes of artistic creation and discursive intervention.

The 18th edition of Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh 2018 will begin on 1 September at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, the city's cultural hub. The inauguration ceremony took place in the morning at the National Theatre Hall in presence of dignitaries from the cultural arena of the country, a host of local and international artists, distinguished guests and art enthusiasts.

Running from September 01 to 30 at the National Art Gallery of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, the month-long biennale is hosting around 583 artworks by 266 foreign artists and 199 Bangladeshi artists. Among the 266 foreign artists, 223 are under competition and 29 are under special invitation, along with 14 performance artists. Among the 199 Bangladeshi artists, works by 107 artists are under competition while works by 63 artists got special invitation. In addition, 16 local performance artists will display their work at the biennale along with the work of 13 master painters.

Artists across Asia, confronted with emerging realities, are increasingly adjusting their personal strategies to the global preference for new media while working within traditional boundaries where artistic expressions are seen to reflect the interconnectedness of art, society and environment. The works by these artists are not only socially engaging but they are also embedded in the diction of the current digital age. Bangladesh has always encouraged artists to explore their contemporary society, its cultural and aesthetic values, its history, economy and everyday life, while not bounding themselves within their cultural boundaries. These artists dwell in a transcultural domain, but their works are conversant with their own artistic traditions, their styles of expression, radical innovations and the diversity of their aesthetic formulations. Bangladesh has always been a hub of artistic talents, and the new generation artists are in the quest for expanding their artistic horizon by employing new styles and techniques to shape contemporary aesthetic aspirations.

The platform has attempted to display the various artistic endeavours of our time in which continuity and change come together. The geographical parameter is important only in a generic sense and for identification of sponsorship in this pioneering venture. It was inevitable that with time, other regions that share similar artistic impulses and face similar challenges of identity would be included in the exhibition the way it has happened in the recent years. In 2016, the organizing committee of the exhibition decided to expand its glory throughout the world. As a result, artists from 55 countries from around the world had participated in the 17th edition. This year the number of participating countries rose to 68 including Bangladesh breaking the previous record.

The exhibition will showcase the artistic heritage and contemporary aesthetic trends in Asia. The organisers believe that with each Biennale, a milestone will have been crossed showing progress achieved by established and young artists in dealing with both continuity and changes in their works. Two and three-dimensional artworks like painting, prints, photography, sculpture, installation, performance art and new media art are being displayed at the exhibition.

In addition to the display of artworks and performances, seminars, covering varied topics encompassing different styles and forms of art, its connection with the society and more. There is also a two-day seminar to be held on September 2 and 3 on the topics of (i) Art and contemporary narrative; (ii) Art pedagogy and promotion. The topics of other seminars are as follow:



A five-member jury panel, comprising of Bangladeshi artists Shahbuddin Ahmed and Abul Monsur, and Prof. Françoise Monnin from France, Chi. Su. Krishna Setty from India, and Blanca De La Torre from Spain will judge the displayed artworks and select the best artworks for three grand prizes and six honourable mentions. In addition, four observers- Artist Jogen Chowdhury from India, Prof. Tetsuya Noda from Japan, Dr. Marek Bartelik from Poland, and Deborah Dyer Frizzell from the USA are attending the Biennale.

Recipients of grand prizes and honourable mentions were awarded during the inauguration ceremony of the 18th Asian Art Biennale. Each of grand prize winners received a medal and cash of 500,000 Bangladeshi Taka, while honourable mentions were awarded with 300,000 Bangladesh Taka and a medal each.

As part of the Biennale, Shilpakala Academy will also arrange cultural programs, special dinners, river cruise, workshops, and visits of historical places from **1-5 September 2018**.

The list of Participating Countries:

Sl.	Country	Sl.	Country
1	Argentina	35	Mexico
2	Armenia	36	Mongolia
3	Australia	37	Nepal
4	Austria	38	Netherland
5	Bangladesh	39	Norway
6	Bhutan	40	Oman
7	Brunei	41	Pakistan
8	Cambodia	42	Palestine
9	Canada	43	Peru
10	China	44	Philippines
11	Cuba	45	Poland
12	Cyprus	46	Qatar
13	Denmark	47	Republic of Korea
14	Egypt	48	Reunion Island
15	Ethiopia	49	Romania
16	Finland	50	Russia
17	France	51	Senegal
18	Georgia	52	Serbia
19	Germany	53	Sweden
20	India	54	Singapore
21	Indonesia	55	Slovakia
22	Iran	56	Spain
23	Ireland	57	Sri Lanka
24	Italy	58	Taiwan
25	Japan	59	Tajikistan
26	Kenya	60	Tanzania
27	Kuwait	61	Thailand
28	Kyrgyzstan	62	Togo
29	Lebanon	63	Turkey
30	Lithuania	64	UK
31	Luxemburg	65	Ukraine
32	Malaysia	66	USA
33	Maldives	67	Uzbekistan
34	Mauritius	68	Vietnam

সৃজনশীল বাংলাদেশ



বাংলাদেশ শিল্পকলা একাডেমি

18th ASIAN
ART BIENNALE
BANGLADESH
2018



১৮তম দ্বিবার্ষিক
এশীয় চারুকলা প্রদর্শনী
বাংলাদেশ
২০১৮

Bangladeshi Artist and Artwork

Types of Artwork	No. of Artist	Artwork
Under competition	107	114
Special Invited	63	60
Old Master	13	13
Performance art	16	16
Total	199	203

Foreign Artist and Artwork

Types of Artwork	No. of Artist	Artwork
Under competition	223	300
Special Invited	29	49
Performance art	14	14
Total	266	380



Event Schedule

<u>DATE OF EVENT</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>ACTIVITIES</u>
31 AUGUST, 2018		Arrival of guests.
01 SEPTEMBER 2018 “Opening Ceremony of the Exhibition”	2.30 pm	Guests take seat at the National Theatre Auditorium, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka.
	3.00 – 4.30 pm	Inaugural Session and Cultural Program.
	04.35 pm	Opening of the exhibition at the National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka.
	7.30 pm	Dinner hosted by the Honorable Cultural Minister at Dhaka Club.
02 SEPTEMBER, 2018 “Seminar Day 1”	10.00 am - 1.30 pm	1 st session of the seminar at the auditorium (3 rd floor) of National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka.
	1.30 – 3.00 pm	Lunch
	3.00 – 5.00 pm	2 nd session of the seminar at the auditorium (3 rd floor) of National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka.
	7.30 pm	Dinner hosted by the Director General, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy at Dhaka Club
03 SEPTEMBER, 2018 “Seminar Day 2”	10.00 am – 1.30 pm	3 rd session of the seminar at the seminar room (7 th floor) of National Theater Building, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka
	1.30 – 3.00 pm	Lunch
	3.00 – 5.00 pm	4 th session of the seminar at the auditorium (3 rd floor) of National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka.
	7.30 pm	Dinner hosted by Bengal Foundation, Bishaler Bari, H-6, R- 69, Gulshan 2, Dhaka
04 SEPTEMBER, 2018 “River Cruise”	8.00 am	Journey by ship starting from Sadarghat to Munshigonj
	1.00 – 2.00 pm	Lunch on board of the ship
	7.30 pm	Dinner hosted by Gallery Cosmos, Cosmos Centre, 69/1 New Circular Road, Malibag, Dhaka
05 SEPTEMBER, 2018 “Visits of Historical Places”	10.00 – 12.30 am	Sight Seeing
	1.00 – 2.00 pm	Lunch
	2.00 – 4.00 pm	Sight Seeing
	4.00 – 7.00 pm	Free Time
	7.30 pm	Dinner hosted by Delvista Foundation at International Club, H-G8, R-83, Gulshan-2, Dhaka
06 September, 2018		Departure
06 - 07 SEPTEMBER, 2018		International Art Camp
01 – 07 September, 2018 “Performance Art Show”		Every day during the exhibition time at the performance art pavilion at plaza of the National Art Gallery.