

Press Release

AFTER ALL IT'S ALWAYS SOMEBODY ELSE...

Recent Works

By ADEELA SULEMAN

Aicon Gallery, New York: 15 September – 16 October 2010

Invitation Only VIP Opening Reception: Wednesday 15 September, 6 – 7:30pm

General Reception, 7:30pm onwards

Adeela Suleman's most recent body of work is a sparsely elegant suite of flattened reliefs and tableaux of interrelated elements that suggest a narrative where nature and violence intertwine in a stainless steel medium. At first sight, her visual language speaks of pastoral nature: flowers, birds, trees, leaves. Yet Suleman juxtaposes these motifs with symbols of destruction: missiles and suicide jackets. These disparate elements are placed in intriguing relationships to form oddly surreal scenes, referencing the complex nature of violence in contemporary Pakistani society.

'After All It's Always Somebody Else Who Dies' is a large-scale hanging stainless-steel work, initially resembling an ornate screen composed of patterned motifs strung out in rows that are alternately reversed and flipped over. The work hangs from the ceiling, trailing slightly on the ground as a curtain might. Light streams through the negative space resulting in a display of ornate fragility. Upon closer inspection, the viewer subsequently comes to realize that the patterns are actually composed of birds lined on strings. In fact, Suleman states that the viewer may perceive these motifs as deceased birds in memoriam, perhaps akin to the scenery associated with the fallen victims of the current natural disaster in Pakistan.

Birds re-appear elsewhere in the show, and Suleman often pairs these elements of nature with symbols of destruction. Parrots perch on twigs sprouting from the sides of suicide jackets. Peacocks rest on top of missiles. Her works are full of patterns, repetitions, and symbolisms; elements of a perplexing and heavy narrative. The works can be viewed from both a symbolic vantage point about the coexistence between love of nature and the disasters of man, as well as a suggested fragmented documentary regarding the current prevalent violence within the landscape around the artist.

Born in Karachi in 1970, Adeela Suleman studied Sculpture at the Indus Valley School of Art and completed a Master's degree in International Relations from The University of Karachi. She has participated in group and solo exhibitions worldwide, including Gallery Rohtas 2, Lahore 2008; Canvas Gallery, Karachi 2008; Aicon Gallery, New York 2008 and 2009; and the International Exhibition of Contemporary Art, Bologna, Italy 2008. The artist currently lives and works in Karachi, Pakistan. This will be Adeela Suleman's first solo exhibition in New York.

ADEELA SULEMAN

Born 1970, in Karachi, Pakistan

BFA in Sculpture with Distinction in Sculpture and over all distinction, Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, Karachi, Pakistan (1999)

MA in International Relations, University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan (1999)

The artist lives and works in Karachi, Pakistan.

Select Solo Exhibitions

- 2010 *After All It's Always Somebody Else...*, Aicon Gallery, New York
 2008 *Uncertainty-* Rohtas 2, Lahore, Pakistan
 Preview at Canvas Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
 2007 *Confinement* - Commune Artist Colony, Karachi, Pakistan

Select Group Exhibitions

- 2009 *Failing States: Recent works by Tazeen Qayyum*, Aicon Gallery, London
 2009 *Hanging Fire: Contemporary Art From Pakistan*, Asia Society, New York
 2009 *Signs taken for Wonders: Recent art from India and Pakistan*, Aicon Gallery, London
 Contemporary art exhibit, featuring Pakistani artists Farida Batool, Adeela Suleman and Tazeen Qayyum at Aicon Gallery, New York
 Group show *Steel Life*, La Triennale, Milano
 2008 *Farida Batool, Adeela Suleman and Tazeen Qayyum*, Aicon Gallery, New York
Tradition, Technique, Technology –II; Contemporary artists from Pakistan
Featuring Farida Batool, Ayaz Jokhio and Adeela Suleman, Aicon Gallery, Palo Alto
 Video Loop 08' Barcelona, Spain
 Fiera Internazionale d'Arte contemporanea International Exhibition of Contemporary Art- Bologna, Italy
Women of Light, Galerie Davide Gallo, Berlin
 2007 Preview Berlin, The emerging art fair, Berlin
An intensity of Space & Substance, National Art Gallery, Islamabad, Pakistan
Love, National Art Gallery, Islamabad, Pakistan
Articulating The Subtext, Alliance Francaise, Karachi, Pakistan
 2006 *Flights of Fancy*, Royaat Gallery, Lahore, Pakistan
Body, Amin Gulgee Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
Calligraphy, Amin Gulgee Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
 2005 *Urban/Culture*, CP Open Biennale, Jakarta, Indonesia
Beyond Borders, National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai
 2004 *Spielen mit geladenem Gewehr* (Playing with the loaded gun), Kunsthalle Fridericianum Kassel, Germany
 2003 *Twenty-four Shots per second*, Kara Film Fest, Karachi, Pakistan
 43rd Premio Suzzara, Associazione Galleria Del Premio Suzzara, Italy
Playing with the loaded Gun, Apex Art, New York
 Canvas Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
 2002 Imagined Workshop, 2nd Fukuoka Asian Art Triennial, Fukuoka, Japan

2001
2000

The Thakhti Show, Freer Hall, Karachi, Pakistan
Art Festival: Urban Voices, Karachi, Pakistan



ADEELA SULEMAN

AFTER ALL IT'S ALWAYS SOMEONE ELSE WHO DIES 1, 2 & 3 (ED. OF 2)

2010

HANGING STEEL

DIMENSIONS VARIABLE



ADEELA SULEMAN

UNTITLED 1 (PEACOCKS WITH MISSILES) (ED. OF 3)

2010

STEEL

106 x 45 IN. (PEACOCKS AND MISSILES), 82 x 30 (SUICIDE JACKET &
POT), 35 x 25 (BANANA TREES)



ADEELA SULEMAN

UNTITLED 2 (PEACOCKS WITH DRAPES) (ED. OF 3)

2010

STEEL

55 x 43 IN. (DRAPES), 13.5 x 48 (PEACOCKS)



ADEELA SULEMAN
UNTITLED 3 (SUICIDE JACKET WITH CROWN) (ED. OF 3)
2010
STEEL
75 X 55 IN.



ADEELA SULEMAN

UNTITLED 4 (SUICIDE JACKET AND LEMON TREE) (ED. OF 3)

2010

STEEL

65 X 25 IN.