

**ADEELA SULEMAN**

Born 1970 in Karachi, Pakistan

The mainstay of Suleman’s artistry explores a series of dichotomies that point to the fragile and fleeting ephemerality of life. By juxtaposing her intricate – initially pastoralized scenes as rendered in the filigree tradition of Islamic art – against the hard, formidable qualities of the stainless-steel medium, Suleman’s sculpture is reminiscent of the precarious nature of the human condition inherent in the flux of societies.

The recurring motifs in Suleman’s work—organic subjects such as birds and flowers—form detailed, repetitive patterns, which are replete with symbolic meaning. Abstracted notions of loss and disappearance quietly resonate through her sculptures. In lieu of tombs, memorials and funerals, the works confront our earthly fears, but remain suggestive of transcendental relief. They may be seen simultaneously as symbolic representations of the coexistence between love of nature and the chaos of man, in addition to the fragmented documentaries referencing recent violent and catastrophic occurrences within the artist’s sociopolitical landscape.

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 is currently the Coordinator of Vasl Artists’ Collective in Karachi, in addition to being Associate Professor and Head of the Fine Art Department at Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture. Suleman has participated extensively with group and solo exhibitions worldwide, including *Phantoms of Asia* at the Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, the 2013 *Asian Art Biennial* at the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Art, *Hanging Fire – Contemporary Art from Pakistan* at The Asia Society, New York; Gallery Rohtas 2, Lahore; Canvas Gallery, Karachi; Aicon Gallery, New York; and, the International Exhibition of Contemporary Art, Bologna, Italy (2008). Reviews and features of work appear in *Artforum* and the *New York Times*, among other publications. The artist lives and works in Karachi, Pakistan.

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**Education**

- 1999 MA in International Relations, University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan
- 1995 BFA in Sculpture with Distinction, Indus Valley School of Art & Architecture, Karachi, Pakistan

**Select Solo Exhibitions**

- 2015 *Black and Silver*, Alberto Peola Arte Contemporanea, Torino, Italy
- 2014 *Towards the End*, Aicon Gallery, New York, U.S.
- 2013 *Impulse*, Aicon Gallery Booth I-5 at Pulse Art Fair, New York, U.S.
- 2012 *I had no choice but to hear you*, Alberto Peola Arte Contemporanea, Torino, Italy
- 2012 *I had no choice but to hear you*, Canvas Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
- 2011 *Recent Works*, Aicon Gallery, London, in conjunction with site-specific sculpture *Drained* (2011), for the Manchester Cathedral as part of Asia Triennial Manchester, U.K.
- 2010 *After All It’s Always Somebody Else...*, Aicon Gallery, New York, U.S.
- 2009 Canvas Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
- 2008 *Uncertainty*, Rohtas 2, Lahore, Pakistan
- 2008 Preview at Canvas Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
- 2007 *Confinement*, Commune Artist Colony, Karachi, Pakistan

**Select Group Exhibitions**

- 2016 *Sown Together*, Aicon Gallery, New York

- 2015 *Eat Pray Thug*, Aicon Gallery, New York
- 2014 *Mapmakers III*, Aicon Gallery, New York
- 2013 *Asian Art Biennial*, National Taiwan Museum of Fine Art, Taiwan  
 Art Dubai, Aicon Gallery Booth A-46, Dubai, UAE  
 India Art Fair, Aicon Gallery Booth B-3, New Delhi, India
- 2012 *Phantom of Asia*, Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, U.S.  
*Band Baaja Baarat*, IVS Gallery, Dubai Art Fair, Dubai, UAE  
*Indian Art Summit*, New Delhi, India  
*Mein – the Artist and the Self*, Koel Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
- 2011 *Reprise*, Aicon Gallery, New York, U.S.  
*Asia Triennial Manchester 11*, Manchester Cathedral, U.K.  
*Home Spun*, Devi Art Foundation, New Delhi, India  
*Group Show*, Drawing Room Art Gallery, Lahore, Pakistan  
*Mad in Karachi 3D*, Art Chowk Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
- 2010 *Rising Tide*, Mohatta Palace Museum, Karachi, Pakistan  
*In Defisa*, Fondazione 107, Torino, Italy  
*Svelando l'Utopia*, Alberto Peola Arte Contemporanea, Torino, Italy  
*Resemble Reassemble*, Devi Art Foundation, New Delhi, India
- 2009 *Failing States: Recent works by Tazeen Qayyum*, Aicon Gallery, London, U.K.  
*Steel Life*, La Triennale di Milano, Milan, Italy  
*Hanging Fire: Contemporary Art from Pakistan*, Asia Society, New York, U.S.  
*The Emperor's New Clothes: Dress, Politics and Identity in Contemporary Pakistani Art*, Talwar Gallery, New York, U.S.  
*Signs taken for Wonders: Recent Art from India and Pakistan*, Aicon, London, U.K.
- 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, Palo Alto, U.S.  
*Video Loop 08'*, Barcelona, Spain  
 Fiera Internazionale d'Arte Contemporanea International Exhibition of Contemporary Art-Bologna, Italy  
*Women of Light*, Galerie Davide Gallo, Berlin, Germany
- 2007 Preview Berlin, The emerging art fair, Berlin, Germany  
*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  
 43<sup>rd</sup> Premio Suzzara, Associazione Galleria Del Premio Suzzara, Italy  
*Playing with the loaded Gun*, Apex Art, New York  
 Canvas Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
- 2002 *Imagined Workshop*, Second Fukuoka Asian Art Triennial, Fukuoka, Japan
- 2001 *The Thakhti Show*, Freer Hall, Karachi, Pakistan
- 2000 Art Festival: Urban Voices, Karachi, Pakistan