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CITYWIDE CELEBRATION OF ASIAN CONTEMPORARY ART

MONDAY, MARCH 21 – THURSDAY, MARCH 31



Rashid Rana, Aar Paar. 2000-2004. Collaborative project by Shilpa Gupta and Huma Mulji in Karachi.

Now in its seventh year, Asian Contemporary Art Week celebrates and promotes Asian contemporary art through artist conversations, panels, screenings, book launches, exhibitions, and curator tours at over 35 museums and galleries. This year, ACAW will be held throughout New York City, and opens on the first day of spring: Monday, March 21, also celebrated as the New Year in many countries of Central Asia. Events will be held at various locations around the city for ten days, ending on Thursday, March 31.

“Asian Contemporary Art Week highlights the latest trends in contemporary art while recognizing that contemporary art in Asia doesn’t come out of nowhere,” says Asia Society Museum Director Melissa Chiu. “This year’s program showcases emerging artists and work never seen in the U.S., and also recognizes the enduring importance of influential artists such as M.F. Husain and Monir Shahroudy Farmanfarmaian, both participants in our series of artist discussions.”

As part of its mission to educate the public and to increase the visibility of artists, ACAW 2011 features **Dialogues in Asian Contemporary Art**, a series of talks with more than 25 leading artists and professionals in the field. “Over the course of the week, ACAW Dialogues will strive to disseminate broader, more thorough knowledge of art communities and artists’ activities within and outside of Asia,” notes ACAW director Leeza Ahmady. “Enthusiasm for this project continues to build and expand, with a U.S. West Coast-based consortium now coming together to plan similar initiatives in San Francisco.”

With numerous exhibitions and artist dialogues, this year’s ACAW includes artists from the U.S. and Asia. Among the countries represented are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burma, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan and Pakistan. Selected artists will discuss their work in exclusive interviews available at www.acaw.net just prior to the week.

Highlights of the ACAW **Dialogues** include: a discussion with **Mariam Ghani** at the Museum of Modern Art (March 21); **Rashid Rana** and **Pooja Sood** at Sotheby's (March 22); **M.F. Husain** and **Monir Shahroudy Farmanfarmaian** at Asia Society Museum (March 23); **David Elliott**, **Massimiliano Gioni** and **Suzanne Cotter** at the Guggenheim Museum (March 25); **Ushio Shinohara** and **Tomokazu Matsuyama** at Asia Society Museum (March 28); **Liu Xiaodong** at the Guggenheim Museum (March 29); **Xie Xiaoze** interviewed by **Robert Hobbs** at China Institute (March 29); a discussion with Asian Cultural Council 2011 grantees/contemporary artists **Rahraw and Manizhah Omarzad**, **Firoz Mahmud**, **Chaw Ei Thein**, and **Fong Wah Phoebe Hui** led by **Leeza Ahmady** at Location One (March 29); **Yang Jiechang** and **Zheng Shengtian** in conversation with **Jane DeBevoise** at Museum of Chinese in the Americas (March 31) and **Almagul Menlibayeva** at Priska C. Juschka Fine Art (March 31). Another highlight is a dramatic installation by New York-based Korean artist **Atta Kim**, who will create a 5 and 1/2-ft-tall, 1,300 pound ice sculpture of a seated Buddha that will slowly melt in Rubin Museum of Art's spiral lobby, from March 25 through 27. ACAW Dialogues program is sponsored by Asian Cultural Council, New York.

For a complete schedule of ACAW events, and information about participating artists and organizations, please visit www.acaw.net. Dialogues and artist talks will be recorded and made available on acaw.net in collaboration with artnair.org after ACAW is over.

ACAW 2011 participating venues include: Aperture Gallery; Asia Art Archive; Asian Cultural Council; Asia Society and Museum; Bose Pacia; China Institute Chambers Fine Art; Ethan Cohen Fine Arts; Gallery Korea/Korean Cultural Service; Indo-American Arts Council; Jack Shainman Gallery; Japan Society; Leila Taghinia-Milani Heller Gallery; Location One; Meulenstein; Museum of Chinese in America (MOCA); Museum of Modern Art; Priska C. Juschka Fine Art; Queens Museum of Art; Rubin Museum of Art; sepia EYE; Sotheby's; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum; Sundaram Tagore Gallery; Taipei Cultural Center; Tally Beck Contemporary; Thomas Erben Gallery; Tyler Rollins Fine Art; and Zürcher Studio.

Asian Contemporary Art Week is an initiative of the Asian Contemporary Art Consortium, which includes: Melissa Chiu and Miwako Tezuka, Asia Society Museum; Steve Pacia and Shumita Bose, Bose Pacia; Agnes Hsu, China Institute; Ethan Cohen, Ethan Cohen Fine Arts; Jean Kim, Gana Art Gallery; Jack Shainman, Jack Shainman Gallery; Joe Earle, Japan Society; Leila Heller, Leila Taghinia-Milani Heller Gallery; Esa Epstein, sepia EYE; Alexandra Munroe and Sandhini Poddar, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum; Barbara London, The Museum of Modern Art; Thomas Erben, Thomas Erben Gallery; Tyler Rollins, Tyler Rollins Fine Arts; Jack and Susy Wadsworth, Collectors; Xiaoming Zhang, Private Art Consultant; and Leeza Ahmady, ACAW Director (Independent Curator).



Monir Farmanfarmaian, *Untitled*, 2010. Mirror mosaic, reverse glass painting, 210 x 130 cm. Courtesy of the artist and Haines Gallery/San Francisco