

لکیروں سے دریا تھامنا *Lines That World a River*

Shahana Rajani

with Ustad Abdul Aziz, Abdul Sattar and Aziza Ahmad

*Lines That World a River* is artist Shahana Rajani's (b. 1987, Karachi, Pakistan) first solo exhibition in Europe, with contributions from Ustad Abdul Aziz, Abdul Sattar and Aziza Ahmad. The exhibition has developed from Rajani's research into the Indus River delta and the practices of the people who consider the delta their home. As the world continues to be changed through human intervention and the resultant effects on the global ecology and climate, there is an impact on the communities and wetlands that depend upon the life-nourishing outflow of the river into the sea.

Since the 19th century, colonial attempts to fix and control the river have resulted in the construction of endless dams, barrages and canals. As the river is channelled and redistributed upcountry for agriculture, it no longer reaches the delta. Without the

river, the coastal wetlands are left vulnerable to rising sea levels and catastrophic erosion. As the land is submerged and eaten away, many people are forced to move to cities like Karachi. So far, over 1.2 million people have been displaced and 4.2 million acres of land lost to the sea. While state officials view the outflow of river into sea as wasted water, fisher communities of the delta understand the meeting of the river and the sea as a sacred union that gives birth to all life and land. As rivers are disrupted, elders explain that the sea is coming forward in search of its beloved, the river.

The body of work in this exhibition centres practices and lineages of drawing and painting through which coastal communities in Pakistan remain connected to sacred ecologies of rivers and sea amidst the violence and erasure of infrastructure and the climate emergency. In Arabic the word for universe, *alam*, and the word for knowledge, *ilm*, share their origin in the

**word, alamah, a mark. To make a mark, to draw a line, is a way of knowing the world.**

## RELATED EVENTS

### ARTIST TALK

**Sat 7 Feb, 2pm**

**Shahana Rajani in conversation with Curator Niall Ó Faircheallaigh.**

### WALKTHROUGHS

**Tue 17 Feb, 12pm**

**Welcome Walkthrough**

**Explore the exhibition with our team, followed by a creative workshop with Associate Artist Amelia Daiz.**

**Wed 25 Feb, 1pm**

**Curators' Walkthrough**

**Join Nottingham Contemporary's curators, Katie Simpson and Niall Ó Faircheallaigh for a tour of our spring exhibitions.**

**Wed 4 Mar, 1pm**

**With Syma Tariq, researcher, writer and sound practitioner.**

**12.30 Talks**

**12.30pm every Tue, Thu, Sat, and Sun, starting Tue 17 Feb**

**Join one of our friendly Gallery Assistants for a short exploration of one of our current exhibitions.**

**For more information about the exhibition, related events and learning programmes, visit [nottinghamcontemporary.org](http://nottinghamcontemporary.org) or scan here:**



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**The Nottingham Contemporary Commissioning Circle:**

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**Japan; and Museum of Contemporary Art Antwerp,**

**Belgium.**

***Lines That World a River* is made with the support of the Canada Council for the Arts.**

**The exhibition is curated by Niall Ó Faircheallaigh.**

**Exhibition design by David Thomas.**

**Exhibition build and installation by Helen Bartholomew, Jon Chambers, Billy Hughes, Craig Humpston, Jack Narewski, Craig David Parr, Emily Stollery, Hannah Templeman and David Thomas.**

**Exhibition AV by Lindley Productions.**

**Exhibition sound design by Mudassir Sheikh.**

**Exhibition Urdu title design by Aziza Ahmad.**

**Exhibition graphics by Waste Studio.**

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**Ghulam Mohammad Jat, Naseer Jat, Shehzadi Qadir  
Baksh Jat, Maira Dablo, Mehboob Azeem Jat, Najma  
Dablo, Naseema Dablo, Rashid Dablo, Yasmin Dablo,  
Zubair Azeem Jat, students and staff at Westbury  
Academy and Huntingdon Academy, Sandra  
Austerfield, Amelia Daiz, Amanda Spruyt, Klara  
Szafranka, Catherine Masters, Jordan Sterry, and a  
very special thanks to the entire team at Nottingham  
Contemporary.**

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dependent on the generosity of our visitors, partners  
and supporters.**

**If you would like to use any alternative forms of  
interpretation, we have a range of accessible versions  
on our Access Wall beside Reception or alongside the  
wall text in the exhibition.**

**Environmental: Nottingham Contemporary is  
committed to advancing sustainability within the**

organisation and aims to explore and embed sustainable working practices and habits within our workplace and across the sector. This includes standardising environmental considerations at all stages of decision making.

In *Lines That World a River* we have reused some existing soft furnishings for the exhibition design. Where possible other materials have been borrowed, re-used or re-purposed. The exhibition graphics have been produced by local suppliers Hayman Creative. Our exhibitions are always built and installed by local fine art technicians. The exhibition AV equipment has been loaned and installed by local company Lindley Productions. Our exhibition notes are printed on FSC Mix paper (Forest Stewardship Council ® certified products manufactured with a variety of sources including FSC-certified virgin fibre, controlled wood and/or recycled materials).