

Lines That World a River لکڑوں سے دریا تھامنا

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 or scan
here:



This exhibition was made possible
thanks to the generous support of:
The Nottingham Contemporary
Commissioning Circle: Nissreen
Darawish, Gabriela Galcerán, Il

Posto, Rafik&Najoua, Hamza Serafi
and Mercedes Vilardell.

Four Acts of Recovery (2025) is
commissioned by the Han Nefkens
Foundation – the South Asian Video
Art Production Grant 2023, in
collaboration with Para Site, Hong
Kong; Prameya Art Foundation, Delhi,
India; Nottingham Contemporary, UK;
Ishara Art Foundation, Dubai, UAE;
Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo,
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.

We would like to extend our
deepest thanks to Ustad Abdul Aziz,
Abdul Sattar, Aziza Ahmad, Abida
Dablo, Gulbano Dablo, Nawaz Dablo,
Abdullah Dablo, Fatima Bibi, Fatima

Majeed, Sharlene Bamboat, Sameer
Farooq, Nirmal Riaz, Asadullah Alvi,
Aisha Aijaz Jat, Ali Akbar Dablo,
Ameerzadi Hasan Jat, Areeba Dablo,
Areesha Dablo, Farzana Azeem Jat,
Hajani Ali Hasan Jat, Halima Wasim
Jat, Khadija Hidayatullah Jat, Nadia
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 Szafrńska,
Catherine Masters, Jordan Sterry,
and a very special thanks to the
entire team at Nottingham
Contemporary.

Nottingham Contemporary is a
registered charity and 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).