

## ADEELA SULEMAN

Born 1970, 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.

### Education

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

### Selected Solo Exhibitions

2017	<i>Adeela Suleman: Not Everyone's Heaven</i> , Aicon Gallery, New York
2015	<i>Black and Silver</i> , Alberto Peola Arte Contemporanea, Torino, Italy
2014	<i>Towards the End</i> , Aicon Gallery, New York
2013	<i>Impulse</i> , Aicon Gallery Booth I-5 at Pulse Art Fair, New York
2012	<i>I had no choice but to hear you</i> , Alberto Peola Arte Contemporanea, Torino, Italy
2012	<i>I had no choice but to hear you</i> , Canvas Gallery, Karachi
2011	<i>Recent Works</i> , Aicon Gallery, London, in conjunction with site-specific sculpture
2011	<i>Drained</i> (2011), for the Manchester Cathedral as part of Asia Triennial Manchester
2010	<i>After All It's Always Somebody Else...</i> , Aicon Gallery, New York
2009	Canvas Gallery, Karachi
2008	<i>Uncertainty</i> , Rohtas 2, Lahore
2008	Preview at Canvas Gallery, Karachi

2007                      *Confinement*, Commune Artist Colony, Karachi

### **Selected Group Exhibitions**

2016                      *Sown Together*, Aicon Gallery, New York  
2016                      Singapore Biennale 2016: An Atlas of Mirrors, Singapore Art Museum (SAM), Singapore  
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  
2013                      Art Dubai, Aicon Gallery Booth A-46, Dubai  
2013                      India Art Fair, Aicon Gallery Booth B-3, New Delhi  
2012                      *Phantom of Asia*, Asian Art Museum, San Francisco  
2012                      *Band Baaja Baarat*, IVS Gallery, Dubai Art Fair, Dubai  
2012                      *Indian Art Summit*, New Delhi  
2012                      *Mein – the Artist and the Self*, Koel Gallery, Karachi  
2011                      *Reprise*, Aicon Gallery, New York  
2011                      *Asia Triennial Manchester 11*, Manchester Cathedral, U.K.  
2011                      *Home Spun*, Devi Art Foundation, New Delhi  
2011                      *Group Show*, Drawing Room Art Gallery, Lahore  
2011                      *Mad in Karachi 3D*, Art Chowk Gallery, Karachi  
2010                      *Rising Tide*, Mohatta Palace Museum, Karachi  
2010                      *In Defisa*, Fondazione 107, Torino, Italy  
2010                      *Svelando l'Utopia*, Alberto Peola Arte Contemporanea, Torino, Italy  
2010                      *Resemble Reassemble*, Devi Art Foundation, New Delhi  
2009                      *Failing States: Recent works by Tazeen Qayyum*, Aicon Gallery, London  
2009                      *Steel Life*, La Triennale di Milano, Milan, Italy  
2009                      *Hanging Fire: Contemporary Art from Pakistan*, Asia Society, New York  
2009                      *The Emperor's New Clothes: Dress, Politics and Identity in Contemporary Pakistani Art*, Talwar Gallery, New York  
2009                      *Signs taken for Wonders: Recent Art from India and Pakistan*, Aicon, London  
2008                      *Farida Batool, Adeela Suleman and Tazeen Qayyum*, Aicon Gallery, New York  
2008                      *Tradition, Technique, Technology – II; Contemporary artists from Pakistan*  
2008                      *Featuring Farida Batool, Ayaz Johkio and Adeela Suleman*, Aicon, Palo Alto  
2008                      *Video Loop 08'*, Barcelona  
2008                      Fiera Internazionale d'Arte Contemporanea International Exhibition of Contemporary Art-Bologna, Italy  
2008                      *Women of Light*, Galerie Davide Gallo, Berlin  
2007                      Preview Berlin, The emerging art fair, Berlin  
2007                      *An Intensity of Space & Substance*, National Art Gallery, Islamabad  
2007                      *Love*, National Art Gallery, Islamabad  
2007                      *Articulating the Subtext*, Alliance Francaise, Karachi  
2006                      *Flights of Fancy*, Royaat Gallery, Lahore  
2006                      *Body*, Amin Gulgee Gallery, Karachi  
2006                      *Calligraphy*, Amin Gulgee Gallery, Karachi  
2005                      *Urban/Culture*, CP Open Biennale, Jakarta  
2005                      *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  
2003                      43rd Premio Suzzara, Associazione Galleria Del Premio Suzzara, Italy  
2003                      *Playing with the loaded Gun*, Apex Art, New York Canvas Gallery, Karachi  
2002                      *Imagined Workshop*, Second Fukuoka Asian Art Triennial, Fukuoka, Japan  
2001                      *The Thakhti Show*, Freer Hall, Karachi  
2000                      Art Festival: Urban Voices, Karachi