Blueprint12 in association with The Manor presents

FREEING THE BOOK

A GROUP SHOW OF ALTERED BOOK ART

Arpita Akhanda | Arshi Irshad Ahmadzai | Kingsley Gunatillake | Mansha Chhatwal

PREVIEW: MONDAY, 27TH JAN, 3-7PM
ON VIEW UNTIL 29TH FEB 2020, 11 AM-7 PM
@THE MANOR, 77 MATHURA ROAD,
FRIENDS COLONY WEST, NEW DELHI

THE MANOR
NEW DELHI
A BOUTIQUE HOTEL by ASAYA HOUSE

blueprint12

blueprint2012@gmail.com
www.blueprint12.com

ARPITA AKHANDA
ARSHI IRSHAD AHMADZAI
KINGSLEY GUNATILAKE
MANSHA CHHATWAL

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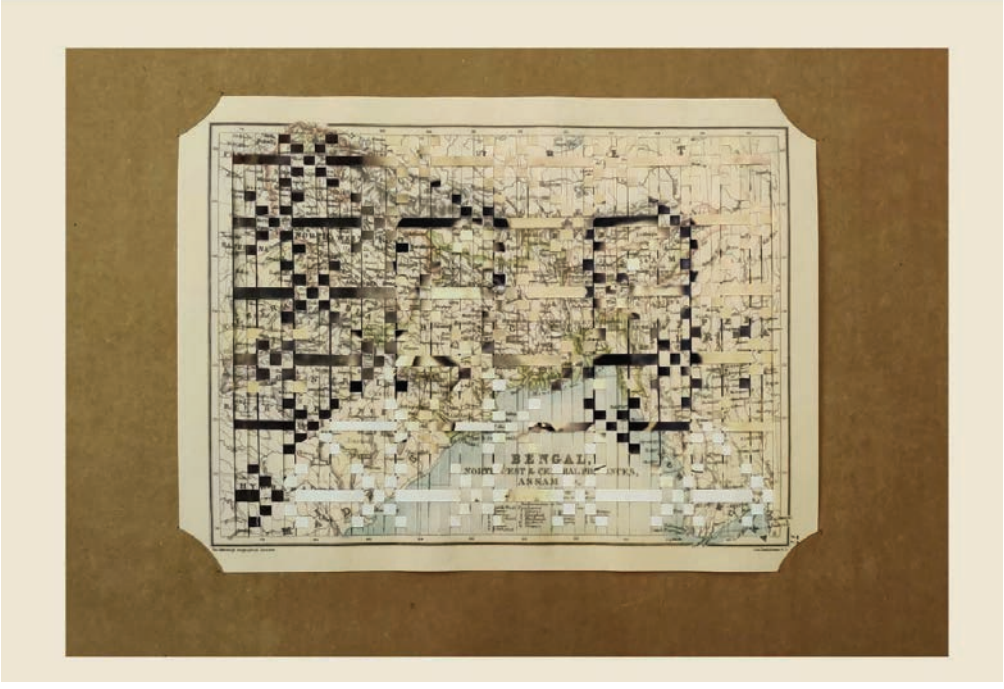
ARPITA AKHANDA

Her works are series of paper weave in which she uses her own body as a site for exploring the fragility and strength of the human condition under duress of conflict within contemporary society. Arpita explores paper weaving as a process to weave the warp of memories with the weft of politically charged statements to create a fabric which questions identity and existence.
Her works are mostly inspired by her grandfather's (who migrated from Srikail, Bangladesh to Odisha, India) stories and poems of partition and experiences of visiting their then home after 72 years. She is simultaneously looking at text from a very personal archive as well as from digital archive sources like newspapers, internet, books, articles and government provided information's on migration.

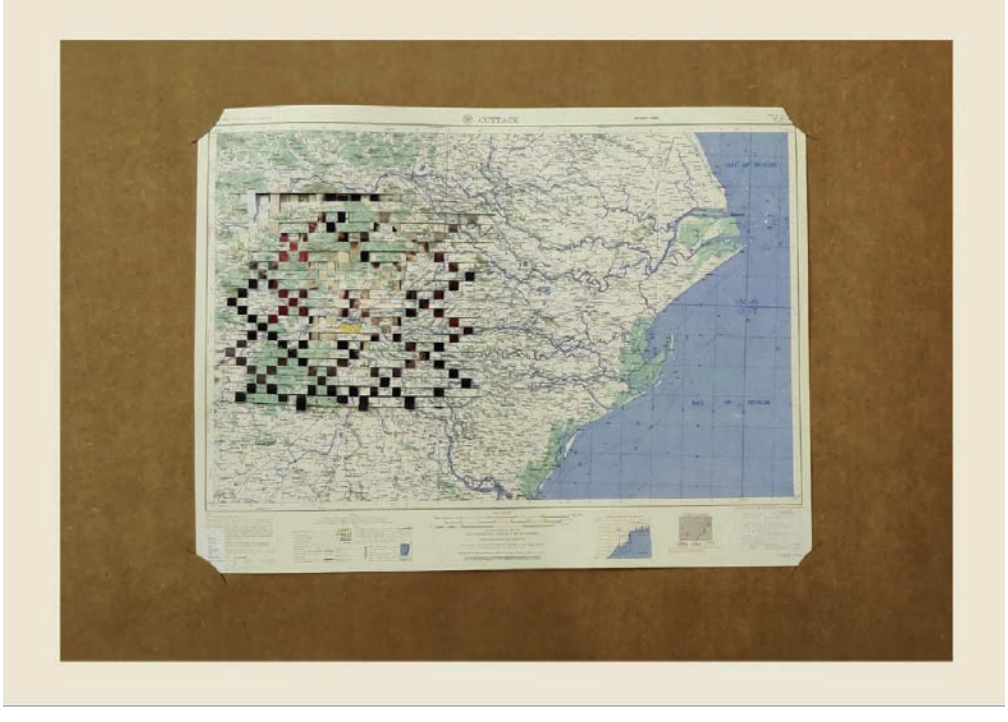
She believes personal is political and cannot see her family album isolating it from the then socio-political situation they had to face. Hence she began creating a parallel family album weaved with the lost narratives. For her weaving is not just a medium, it is a process which involves dissection of an image and weaving of texts through the dissected body which forms a surface where words and images play hide and seekboth physically and conceptually. She sees this language of weaving as a metaphor to speak for the forgotten and lost narratives.

The Dissected Souvenir
paper weave
14.5" X 14"
2020

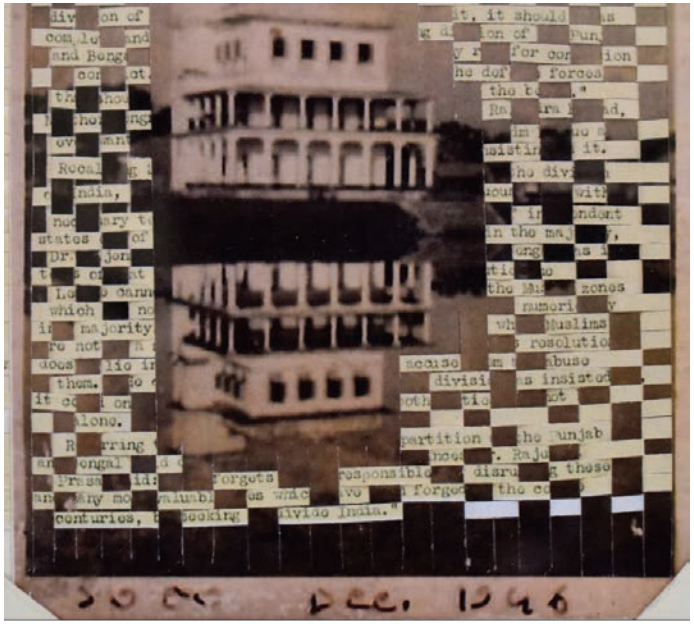
The Dissected Souvenir
paper weave
14.5" X 14"
2020

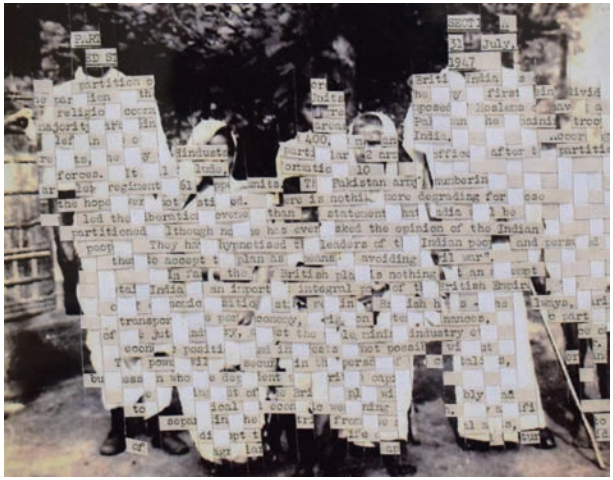


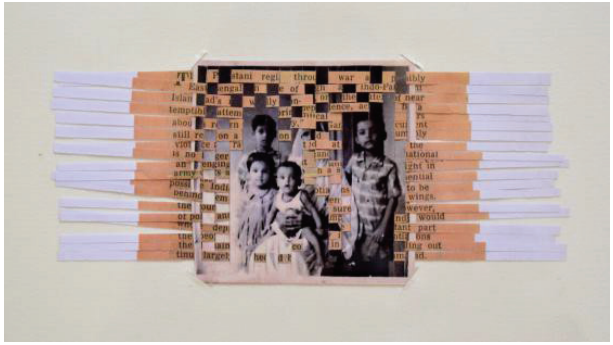
The Dissected Souvenir
paper weave
11.5” X 16”
2020



The Dissected Souvenir
paper weave
11.5” X 16”
2020



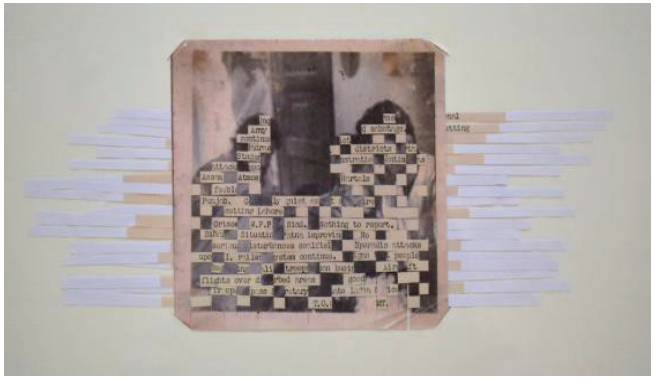




The Dissected Souvenir
paper weave
7.5” x 11”
2020

The Dissected Souvenir
paper weave
8” x 9.5”
2020

The Dissected Souvenir
paper weave
5.5” x 9”
2020



The Dissected Souvenir
paper weave
8” x 11”
2020

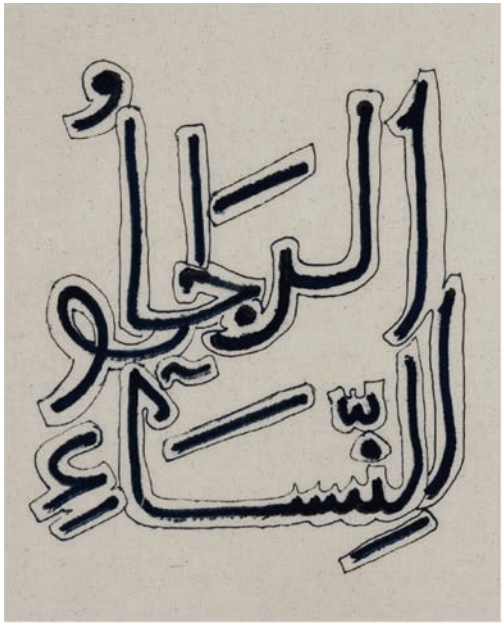
The Dissected Souvenir
paper weave
7” x 12”
2020

The Dissected Souvenir
paper weave
7” x 12.5”
2020

ARSHI IRSHAD AHMADZAI

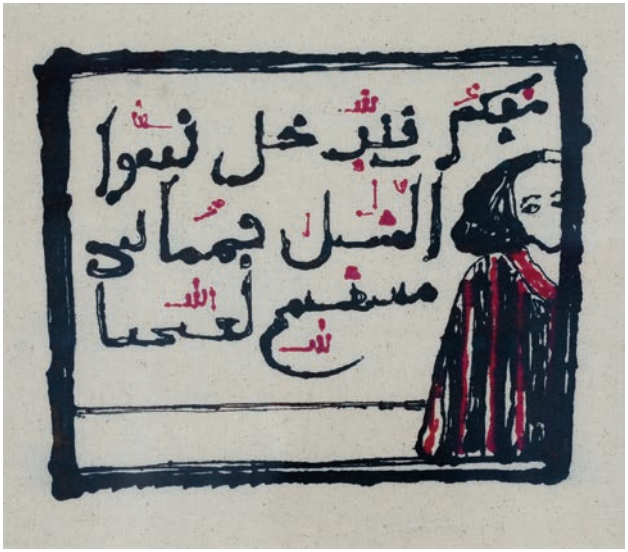
Arshi Irshad Ahmadzai has graduated with a Bachelors of Fine Arts (2011) from Aligarh Muslim University and later pursued a Masters in Fine Arts from Jamia Millia Islamia (2013). Working with a range of mediums including painting, printmaking and embroidery on textiles, Ahmadzai's artistic practice is centered around women and issues concerning them, be it their sexuality or their space in both their domestic and their community. Her knowledge of Urdu, Persian and Arabic allows her to understand the nuances of language, which find their way into her work.

Her works are mostly autobiographical and stem from her personal experiences of looking at marginalized communities around her. She is the recipient of the INLAKS Fine Art Award in 2019, which culminated with a two-month residency and a solo presentation at 1ShanthiRoad, Bangalore (2019). She has participated in 'Out of your shadow', a group show of six women artists from the Indian sub-continent at Gallery Espace, New Delhi (2019-20) as well exhibited at The India Art Fair (2019 & 2020) and the Delhi Contemporary Art Week (2019). Much more recently, she has just concluded a residency at The Piramal Arts Foundation, Mumbai and working on 5 million Incidents project offered by Goethe Institute, Max Muller Bhavan, Delhi.



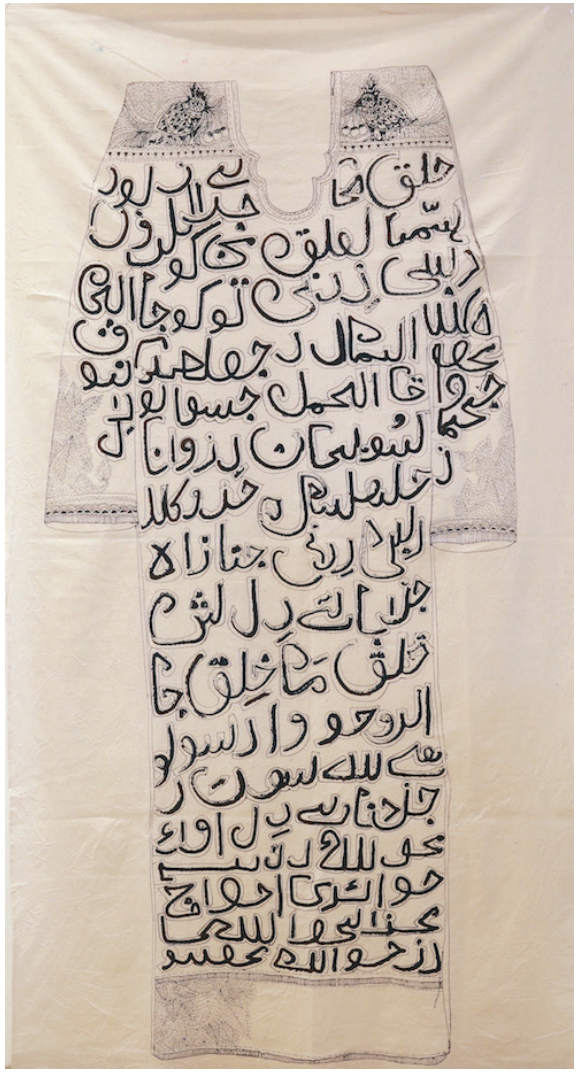
An-Nisa
Ink on Kora cloth
14" x 11"
2019

An-Nisa
Ink on Kora cloth
14" x 11"
2019



An-Nisa
Ink on Kora cloth
11” x 12.5”
2019

An-Nisa
Ink on Kora cloth
11” x 12.5”
2019



An-Nisa
InK on Kora cloth
72” x 36”
2019

KINGSLEY GUNATILAKE

Kingsley Gunatillake is an award-winning senior Sri Lankan visual artist holding two NOMA Awards from Japan and the award for illustration from the Biennale Bratislava, Slovakia. Received BFA from Fine art University, Colombo and diploma in Environmental Education from the University of Strathclide Glasgow in 1994.
Currently a visiting Lecturer in visual art at the faculty of visual arts of the University of Visual and Performing arts in Colombo. In 2001 he received the Bunka Award for visual arts for his exceptional work at the Temple of the Tooth world heritage site in Sri Lanka.
The artist has had several solo exhibitions both locally and internationally, participating in numerous group shows to-date, most recent of which were in France, London, Lincoln UK, Asia House, London, Soho Galley Japan, Pakistan and India. Participated in the Seongnam International art fair, Korea.

As a versatile artist his practice includes painting, installation, illustration, mixed media, sculpture and video art. He founded the Child Art Studio in 2000 and has conducted various art activities especially for children. Through the organization, funded mostly from Japan, he has organized several local and international workshops, international exhibitions, and local exhibitions. These activities have also included education programs for undergraduates, graduates and art teachers on child art education.

Living in a country battered by a war for 30 years, Kingsley has addressed his social, political and cultural issues in his works.
In this series, the artist expression is to visualize the moment prior to the confrontation of dual images of uncertainty and contradiction. His exercise is to use these images and structures, which take different modifications at times from hard and rough to soft and delicate. His joy is to let this process take place either by effort or effortlessly; creating or controlling a situation rather than just responding to it after it has happened. With different textures that emerged from this process, paintings are conceived, projecting sexuality both due to fervent effort and by letting nature take its course.

Election
Used Book
15” X 21”
2019

Wounded Book
Used Book, Charcoal
22.5” X 14”
2013

Book of Violence
Used Book, Charcoal
20.5" X 14"
2016

History and Culture of Sri Lanks
Used Book, Plaster of Paris
23” X 19”
2016

Face
Used Book
7” X 10”
2019

MANSHA CHHATWAL

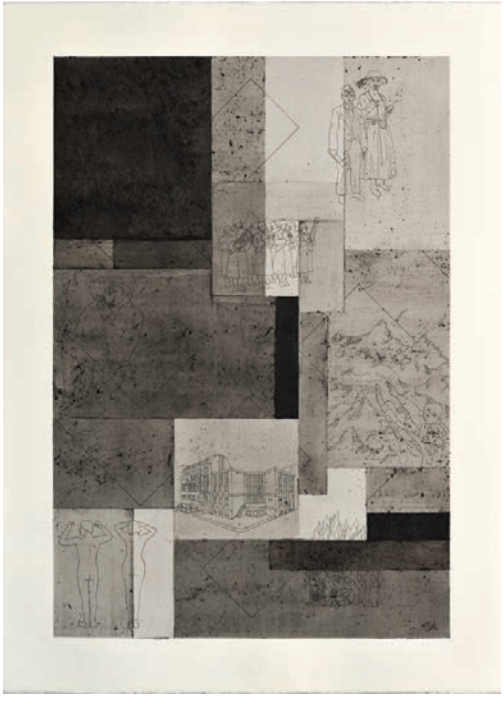
A Visual artist and graphic designer from Mumbai, Mansha has worked on several experimental projects. Songs of a Coward - What do writers do? They place just twenty six alphabets A-Z in gazillion ways to tell innumerable stories or impart to us the knowledge of this world. Once you burn those letters the writer must find his/her way back to the alphabet. To use them without fear and with a playful spirit.

Drawing the line of intolerance - When a book burns darkly, the light of flames allow us to see the ones in power staking their claim to it. Ashes rise in the air, stinging the eyes, hurting our throats, punctuating the threat being made openly to the freedom of thought & expression.
In memory of such incidents the artist burns the books ceremoniously once more and uses the ashes to paint on paper. These panels invite you to meditate upon the tragic incidents for a few moments.

Brick or a Book - Since ancient times book burners have reduced to ashes the magical, fearful words written on pages. Even in the age of Kindle and ebooks the act of book burning is a powerful one and considered sacrilegious. A book is still considered to be an object of respect and great value. Books and libraries are undoubtedly the soul of our modern human civilization.
This work is inspired by candle marches that take place after a tragedy occurs. Its an act of healing, solidarity and also of taking action. Pages of books (burnt in the past) are made into candles.

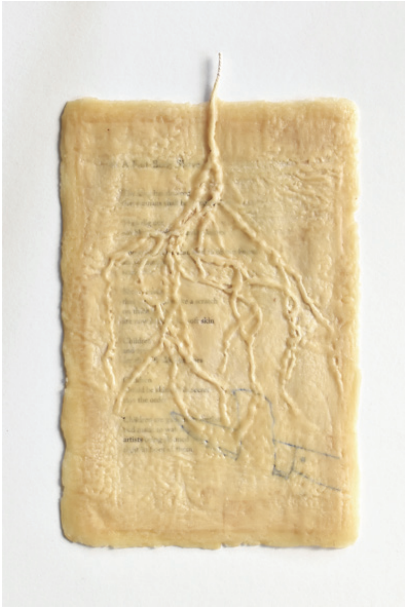
Library – The artist delves into the stories of libraries that have been attacked. In sharing the stories as she learns them, she is inspired by the storytelling of Ramayana using Kalamkari drawings. Her research translates into drawings of stories patched together from different sources, while leaving space for new ones to come in.

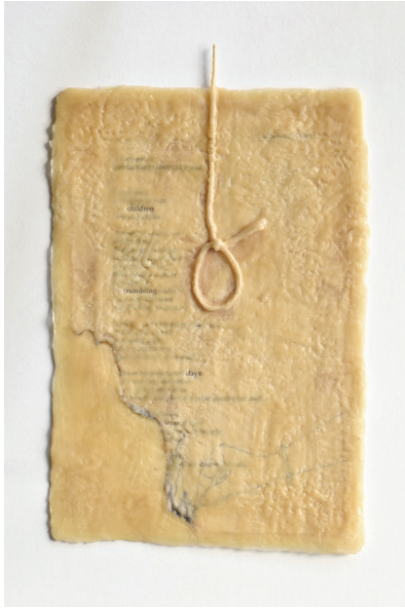
Drawing the Line of Intolerance
Book ash, acrylic medium, archival paper
22” x 15” each
2019



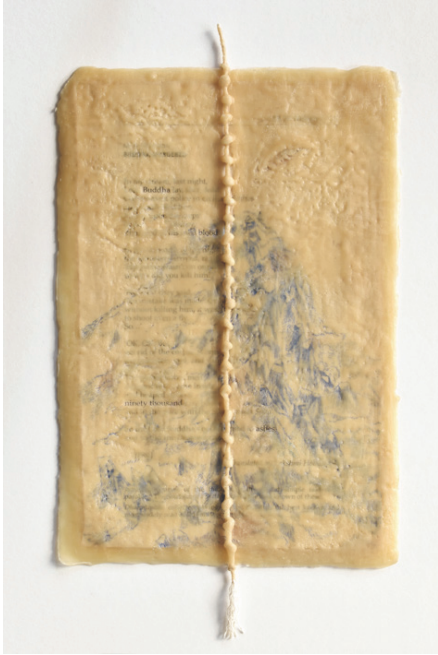
Library - Institute for Sexual Science (Berlin, 1933)
Book ash, acrylic medium, ink, archival paper
30" x 22"
2019

Library - Jaffna Public Library (Jaffna, Sri Lanka, 1981 & 1985)
Book ash, acrylic medium, ink, archival paper
30" x 22"
2019





Brick or a Book
Book page, Fibre, Beeswax, Blue Ink
9.5” x 6” each
2019



Brick or a Book
Book page, Fibre, Beeswax, Blue Ink
9.5” x 6” each
2019

Songs of a Coward
Book pages, Glue, Archival paper
22” x 30”
2019