

SOUNDS FROM NOWHERE :
MAHBUBUR RAHMAN

Curated by Amit Kumar Jain



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November 29, 2018
6pm onwards

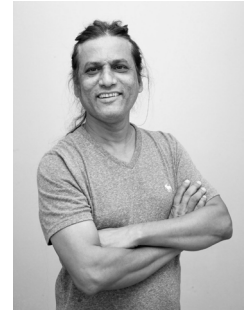
Bikaner House,
Pandara Road, New Delhi-03

Exhibition continues till
December 08, 2018
11am to 7pm

Logistics Partner



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Sounds from Nowhere: Mahbubur Rahman

'Sounds from Nowhere' is Mahbubur Rahman's second major solo presentation in India; focusing on his multidisciplinary practice, which includes painting, photography, sculpture as well as performances. The title of the show derives from one of his works that was inspired by the Rana Plaza building collapse in 2013, where seventy-one Bangladeshi workers who tirelessly worked for an international garment manufacturer remained buried. For those who survived, they had to be cut away using available instruments like a hacksaw. For Rahman, the sound of the hacksaw on human bones is etched into his mind and is trapped in his stainless steel sculptures. Just like nation that is trapped within its own failures, his instruments are screams that no one hears.

Transformation (2018) is the sculptural manifestation of a performance that foregrounds Rahman's sensitivity towards the social structure of Bangladesh and its colonial past. Inspired by the play titled 'Nuruldiner Sarajiban' by Syed Shamsul Haq, Rahman used his body to narrate an episode from colonial Bangladesh, where rebelling indigo farmers, Nuruldin and his father, were stripped off their belongings including the buffaloes that ploughed their fields. Rahman, wearing a mask made of jute relived the anguish of the farmers as he suffocates and struggles with a broken neck, groaning like a buffalo as he fights for his right to survival. Rahman transforms into a half human-half animal creature, which, for him is a represents what the father and son had become as they ploughed their own fields with their body. The stainless steel life-size sculpture is an acknowledgment to the farmers who underwent the same colonial torture, who burdened by the politics of the state were denied the basic right to live. It is also a commentary on contemporary social structure in Bangladesh, which, according to Rahman, has been stagnant in its growth for many years.

Rahman is one of the most important cultural activists of Bangladesh. Since his Masters in Fine Art from the University of Dhaka, he has chosen mediums like performances and installations that have allowed him to respond spontaneously, often commenting upon the issues that have plagued post Independent Bangladesh, such as its colonial past, its post colonial identity, migration, social stigmas and political censorship and control. His works have been exhibited widely and his selected presentations include, 'Faces of Intimate Strangers' at the Shanghai Modern Art Museum, China (2018), 'The City', Katmandu Triennale (2017), 'The Artist as Activist' at The Broad Art Museum, Michigan State University, United States of America (2016), 'Dust to Dust', Bengal Art Foundation, Bangladesh (2015), 'Making History', Colombo Art Biennale, Sri Lanka (2014), 'Parables', The Bangladesh Pavilion at the 54th Venice Biennale, Italy (2011), the 5th to the 14th Asian Art Biennales, Dhaka, Bangladesh (1991-2010), 'Videozoom: Bangladesh', Rome, Italy (2010), Mahbubur Rahman at The Devi Art Foundation, New Delhi, India (2009) and at the Gwangju Biennale, South Korea (2008).

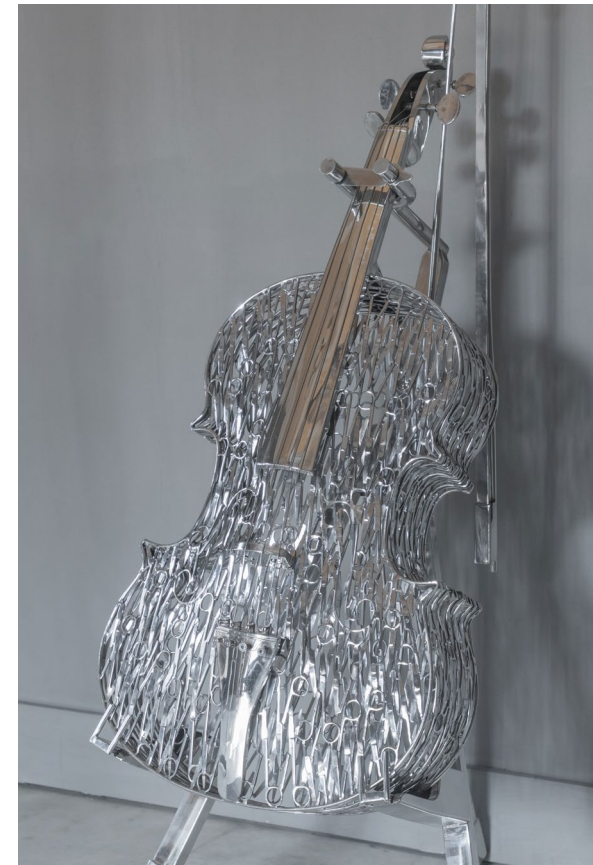
He is also the co-founder of Britto Arts Trust (2002), which is Bangladesh's first artist-run alternative arts platform with an aim to encourage international collaborations and residencies, host exhibitions and lead alternative arts practices in Bangladesh. Much more recently, Britto Arts Trusts has shown at the India Art Fair, with the aim to promote contemporary voices from Bangladesh. He lives and works in Dhaka, Bangladesh.



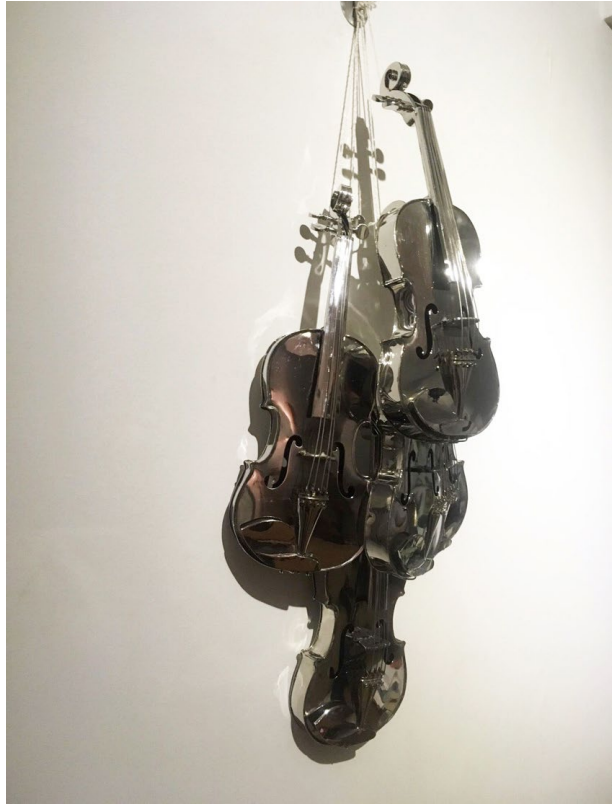
Rest room
Stainless steel
105cm x 28cm x 55cm
2018
AP + 1



Transformation
Stainless steel
240cm x 50cm x 60cm
2018
AP + 1



My Cello
Stainless steel & surgical scissors
175cm x 72cm x 90cm
2018
AP + 1



Burning Violin
Stainless steel
115cm x 72cm x 30cm
2018
AP + 1



India Gate
Stainless steel
30cm x 20cm x 35cm
2018
AP + 5



Gas Mask
Stainless steel
35cm x 30cm x 35cm
2016
AP + 5



Lonely King
Stainless steel, surgical scissors & leather
67.5cm x 60cm x 69cm
2016



Lonely King
Digital print
75cm x 50cm
2018
AP + 5



Lonely King
Digital print
75cm x 50cm
2018
AP + 5



Lonely King
Digital print
75cm x 50cm
2018
AP + 5



Dead Wings
Stainless steel
135cm x 25cm x 77.5cm
2018
AP + 1



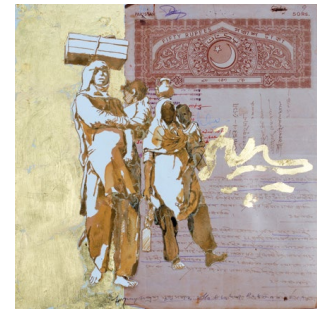
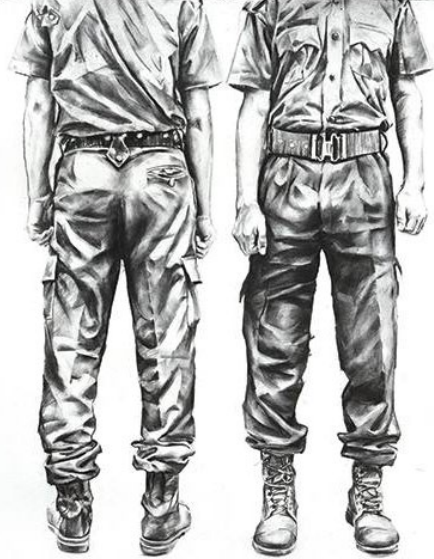
Tower
Stainless steel
15cm x 10cm x 20cm
2017
AP + 5



Self Slaughter
Acrylic on paper & collage
61cm x 50cm
2000



Self Slaughter
Acrylic on paper & collage
61cm x 50cm
2000



What was really happening there?
Charcoal drawing
100cm x 70cm
2015



Dislocation
Iron ink drawing & gold leaf on digital print
34.5cm x 34.5cm
2018



Dislocation
Iron ink drawing & gold leaf on digital print
34.5cm x 34.5cm
2018



Dislocation
Iron ink drawing & gold leaf on digital print
34.5cm x 34.5cm
2018



Dislocation
Iron ink drawing & gold leaf on digital print
34.5cm x 34.5cm
2018



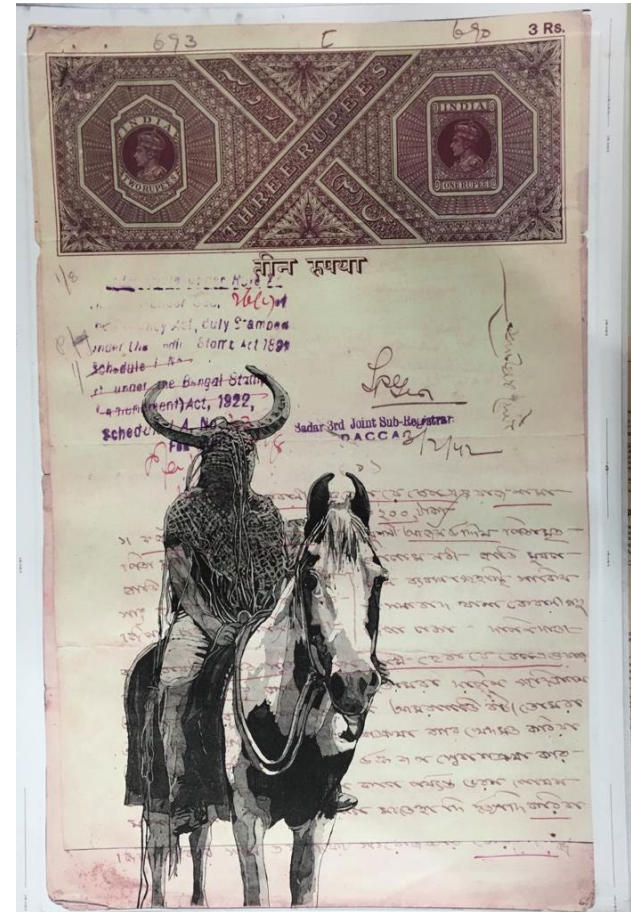
Dislocation
Iron ink drawing & gold leaf on digital print
34.5cm x 34.5cm
2018



Dislocation
Iron ink drawing & gold leaf on digital print
34.5cm x 34.5cm
2018



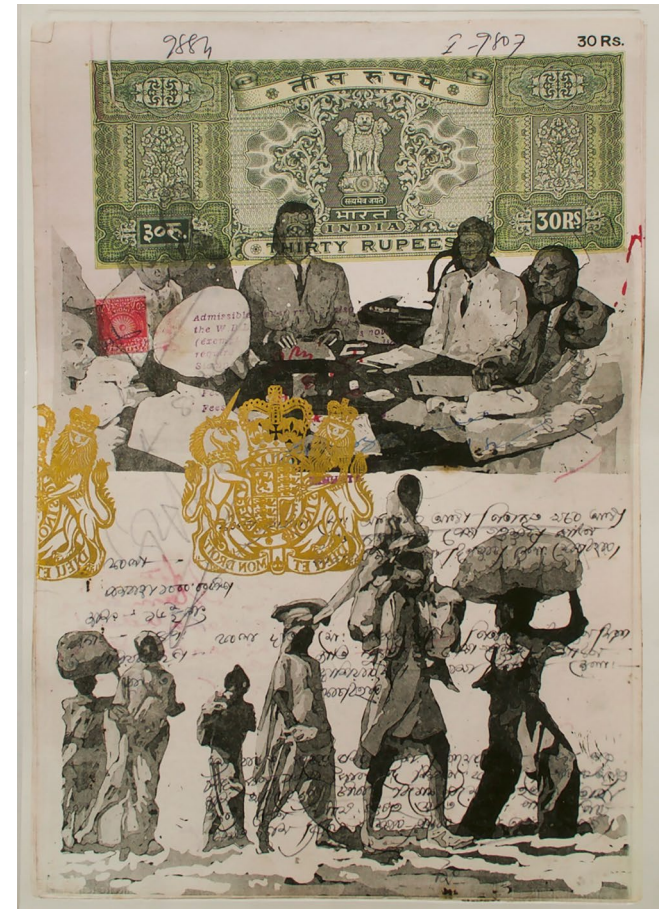
Dislocation
 Iron ink drawing & gold leaf on digital print
 67.5cm x 43cm
 2018



Dislocation
 Iron ink drawing & gold leaf on digital print
 67cm x 44cm
 2018



Dislocation
Iron ink drawing & gold leaf on digital print
67cm x 44cm
2018



Dislocation
Iron ink drawing & gold leaf on digital print
67cm x 44cm
2018



Transformation (on going performance)
Digital print
75cm x 50cm
2004-2014
AP + 5



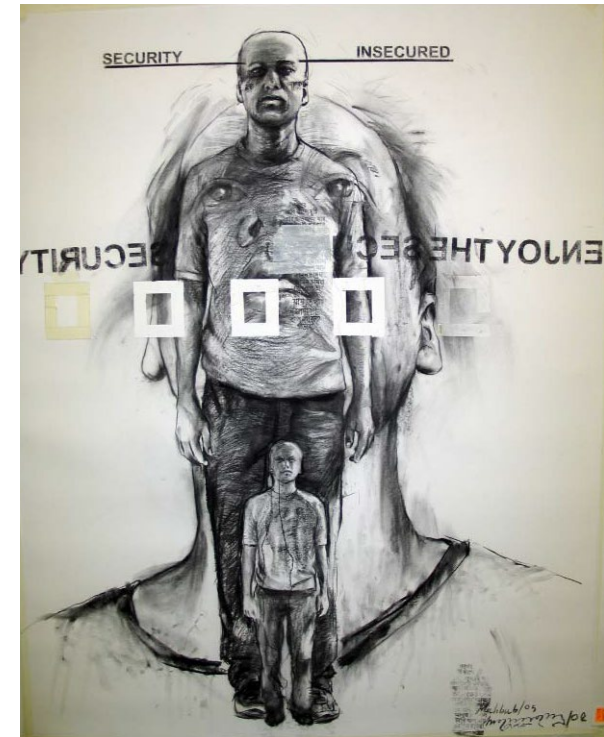
Transformation (on going performance)
Digital print
75cm x 50cm
2004-2014
AP + 5



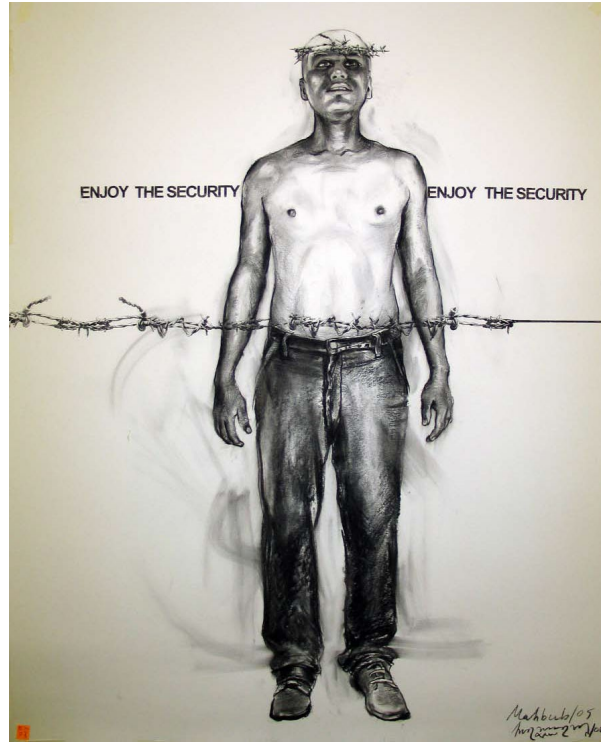
Transformation (on going performance)
Digital print
75cm x 50cm
2004-2014
AP + 5



Scream
Charcoal on paper
44cm x 63cm
2002
Courtesy of Devi Art Foundation
Exhibited at the Devi Art Foundation show (2009)
Not For Sale



Enjoy the Security-2
Charcoal on paper
165cm x 134cm
2005
Courtesy of Devi Art Foundation
Exhibited at "The Artist as Activist", Broad Art Museum, Michigan State University, USA (2016)
Exhibited at the Devi Art Foundation show (2009)
Not For Sale



Enjoy the Security-1

Charcoal on paper

165cm x 134cm

2005

Courtesy of Devi Art Foundation

Exhibited at "The Artist as Activist", Broad Art Museum, Michigan State University, USA (2016)

Exhibited at the Devi Art Foundation show (2009)

Not For Sale



Sounds From Nowhere

Stainless steel, surgical scissors

12.5cm x 79cm x 16.5cm (head) x 25cm (tail)

2015

Private Collection, New Delhi

Exhibited at "The Artist as Activist", Broad Art Museum, Michigan State University, USA (2016)

Published in the catalogue of the above exhibition

Not For Sale



Lonely King
Stainless steel, surgical scissors & leather
67.5cm x 60cm x 69cm
2016
Courtesy of Gujral Foundation
Not For Sale



Transformation
Digital print
91cm x 110cms each
2004
Courtesy of Devi Art Foundation
Exhibited at the Devi Art Foundation show (2009)
Not For Sale



Self Slaughter

Acrylic on paper & collage

61cm x 44cm

2002

Courtesy of Devi Art Foundation

Exhibited at the Devi Art Foundation show (2009)

Not For Sale



Conversation with Myself 1

Charcoal on paper

112cm x 82cm

2001

Courtesy of Devi Art Foundation

Exhibited at the Devi Art Foundation show (2009)

Not For Sale



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