

# Shumon Ahmed

## Artist Statement and Biography

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### Artist Statement

The installation is based on a concept that seeks to depict core emotions of a mother and her son through the merging of participatory arts and technology.

To successfully bring out the emotional perspective for the audience I have made a unique App. The technology is a reflection of modern age communication systems such as mobile phones as an art space. If a person downloads the app, they will be listening to a 14:45 minute long recording of original Sarod music composed for this particular installation, a poem written by me as homage to my mother and a recording of my mother's emotional telephone conversation where she talks about her life blighted by suffering and misunderstanding. The installation is in turn a metaphor of the relationship between the two people having the universal relation of a mother and son and the longing to connect.

The whole installation is colored black so as to give a sense of a remorseful memorial look to commemorate my mother's suffering through her life, to keep in memory of how having a mild intellectual disability due to iodine deficiency as a child she was subject to misunderstanding, hatred, discrimination, mockery by everyone around her, even how I too misunderstood her while I was growing up.

In this installation itself there are two polaroids hanging on two sides of the wall, one of my mother and the other one of me, they are both mirroring each other to reflect a sense of distance and a longing to connect, and an old telephone sits in the middle of the installation space on top of a black plinth to give a sculptural look and to convey a deeper longing to understand a mother's sentiments and solitude which everyone ignored.

## **Artist Biography**

### **Shumon Ahmed Bangladesh**

b. 1977, Dhaka, Based in Dhaka, Bangladesh

Visual artist (working with Video, Photography, Text, Sound, Installation, Performance, Alternative Printing)

Represented by Project 88, A contemporary gallery based in Mumbai.

## **Education**

- Graduation in photography from South Asian Media academy (Pathshala), 2006 - 2009, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- International Photo Semester, spring 2008, Danish school of Media and Journalism, Aarhus, Denmark.

## **Solo Exhibition**

- 2014 Sound art on FM Radio, Duration 5:00 minutes, Program: Dhaka Calling, Radio Foorti, 4Pm, 22nd of February 2014.
- 2013 Bangladesh -A country of unknown faces, Esscnz-Fabrik, Zerbst, Germany.  
13<sup>th</sup> September - 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2013
- 2011 (Self) portrait, 1st solo exhibition, at Parampara gallery, Bisahud Bangla, Chittagong.  
7<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> Of January 2011
- 2009 Disaster & persons with Disabilities, an installation based show, at 12<sup>th</sup> floor of LGED Auditorium, Dhaka.
- 2007 Ability & Inclusion of Disabled people in Bangladesh, at Shilpangan Gallery, Dhaka.

## **Group Exhibition**

- 2014 Upcoming, Eyes on Bangladesh, New York, 26th - 30th of March, 2014.  
Upcoming, Readymade, Contemporary art from Bangladesh, Aicon Gallery, New York, June 2014.  
Upcoming, Metal Graves. Curated by Jitish Kallat, Kochi-Muziris Biennale, India, December 2014.  
Samdani art award exhibition, group show at 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of Dhaka art summit. 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> of February, 2014.

B/Desh, contemporary art from Bangladesh, curated by Deepak Ananth, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of Dhaka art summit, 7<sup>th</sup> of Feb - 9<sup>th</sup> of Feb, 2014.

Listen -up! A public sound art exhibition in New Delhi during the Indian art fair, co-curated by Diana Campbell Betancourt and Tim Goossens, launched, 30<sup>th</sup> of Jan 2014.

- 2013 Limbo, a group photography exhibition at Bengal art lounge, Dhaka. June 14 - June 31, 2013.  
Video art, an open showing of new experimental video, film and digital media and works at Vamamo and Jonkoping, Sweden, in Spring 2013. Theme: *Self Portrait*  
Longitude Latitude 5, a group an event, Dhaka. Theme: *Identity and belongings*. Project: put myself back together again (Installation includes two video, found object, photography, Rubik cube, seal)  
Chobi Mela VII, International Festival of Photography, Dhaka, 2013. Solo exhibition, what I have forgotten could fill an ocean, what is not real never lived.
- 2012 Young artist from Bangladesh, At Community Space Litmus gallery Ansan, South Korea.  
Group art Exhibition at City Bank, Gulshan, Dhaka, curated by Mustafa Zaman. 11<sup>th</sup> April 2012.  
Land of the free, Inaugural Dhaka Art Summit, National art gallery, 12<sup>th</sup> till 15<sup>th</sup> of April 2012.  
Destinations, video and photography based installation. Only god can judge me, a group art event curated by Shuvo Rafique, at Circo soap and chemical industries, Tejgoan I/A. 12<sup>th</sup> till 15<sup>th</sup> April 2012.
- 2011 Film Exhibit (Land of the Free) at Photo Circle, Kathmandu, Nepal, 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2011.  
Chobi Meia VI, 'Land of the Free' film screening, Goethe institute January 7 2011, Dhaka.  
The Affordable Art Fair, London, UK.  
Russian Art Fair, London UK.  
FINDING CHERI SAMBA, Curated by: Sven Vanderstichelen. Brussels. Belgium.
- 2010 Where Three Dreams Cross: 150 Years of Photography from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. Whitechapel Gallery. London. UK and Fotomuseum, Wintherthur, Switzerland. Curated by Sunil Gupta, Hamad Nasser, Kirsty Ogg, Shahidul Alam.
- 2009 Perspectives, graduation show, at Drik gallery. Dhaka. Bangladesh.  
Chobi Mela V, an international photography festival, at National Art Gallery. Dhaka.
- 2007 Group Exhibition on the Occasion of Pathshala's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Drik gallery.
- 2006 Morten Krogvold workshop, a Group Exhibition on the occasion of Chobi mela IV, an international photography festival, at national art Gallery.  
Group Exhibition on the Occasion of Pathshala's 9th Anniversary, at Drik Gallery.  
Group Exhibition on the occasion of Drik's 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary, at Drik Gallery.
- 2005 Group Exhibition on Portrait photography, curated by Nasir Ali Mamun, at Russian cultural center.

