



RECONSIDER REFORMULATE REINVENT

পুনর্বিবেচনা. পুনর্বিন্যাস. পুনরুন্ভাবন.

Climate change challenges us to rethink
the relationships between humans,
the environment and nature

A
GROUP

Md. Aminul Islam
Hiran Roy
Anika Tabassum Nuzhat

B
GROUP

Bilas Mandal
Joyanta Bhowmik
Usha Binta Hasan

C
GROUP

Tahmina Hafiz Lisa
Rohit Rudra Biswas
Md. Omar Ali

D
GROUP

Imtiaz Rasel
Mst. Tahmina Sunjida Tisha
Md. Faizur Rahman Firoz

E
GROUP

Fareha Zeba
Ananya Biswas Proma
Rahat Bhuya

F
GROUP

Promotesh Das Pulak
Rakin Nowar
Arpa Das Piu

G
GROUP

Najmun Nahar Keya
Ajmery Sultana
Sayada Akter Naznin

H
GROUP

Bishwajit Roy
Naba Chowdhury
Suprio Kumar Ghosh



Kingdom of the Netherlands



Faculty of Fine Art
University of Dhaka



Department of Fine Art
Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy



RECONSIDER. REFORMULATE. REINVENT.
Facilitator: Rini Hurkmans, Curator: Marja Bloem

Topics of the artworks

- A** Food/Agriculture
- B** River crisis
- C** Urbanisation
- D** Textile Industrial Pollution
- E** Biodiversity
- F** Renewable Energy, Wind, Sun
- G** Breathing problem/Biodiversity
- H** River crisis/Pollutions

Workshop	January 5–20, 2025 Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka
Exhibition	January 21–23, 2025 Open spaces Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka



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Collaboratively organised by



Kingdom of the Netherlands



Faculty of Fine Art
University of Dhaka



Department of Fine Art
Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy



► RECONSIDER ► REFORMULATE ► REINVENT

পুনর্বিবেচনা পুনর্বিন্যাস পুনর্গঠাবন

Art has always been a powerful medium to confront complex issues, and climate change is no exception. This workshop has been a journey of exploration—where young artists have merged global perspectives with local traditions to address the urgent need for environmental awareness. The works presented here are not just visual expressions; they are conversations, challenges, and reflections on our shared responsibility. I hope this exhibition inspires viewers to see art as a catalyst for change, encouraging new ways of thinking about our relationship with the environment and each other.

Marja Bloem
Curator



As artists, we hold the power to reflect, question, and inspire action. Climate change challenges us to reconsider our connection with nature and reimagine our role in shaping the future. Through this workshop, we've seen incredible creativity, collaboration, and courage as participants explored the complexities of environmental disruption. This exhibition is more than art—it is a call to action, a space for dialogue, and a bridge between imagination and responsibility. Let these artworks spark questions, evoke emotions, and push boundaries, reminding us all that art can be a transformative force in addressing global challenges.

Rini Hurkmans
Facilitator



The Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka, is honored to host Reconsider, Reformulate, Reinvent, a workshop and exhibition addressing climate change through art. This initiative brought together emerging Bangladeshi artists and students from our eight departments for creative collaboration, blending diverse perspectives. Facilitators Rini Hurkmans and Marja Bloem enriched the experience, inspiring innovative approaches and connecting participants to global practices.

I extend heartfelt gratitude to the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy, the Art Bangla Foundation, and all collaborators for their unwavering support. Special thanks to our faculty members and co-curators for their dedication.

This event has transformed our faculty into a vibrant hub of creativity and global dialogue, reaffirming our commitment to fostering innovation and addressing urgent global challenges.

Professor Dr. Azharul Islam Sheikh
Dean, Faculty of Fine Art
University of Dhaka



This project, Reconsider, Reformulate, Reinvent, is a collaborative initiative addressing the need to rethink humanity's relationship with nature and the environment in the face of climate change. Designed to engage young artists from diverse backgrounds, the workshop encourages creative exploration and reflection on critical environmental issues through artistic research and creation.

Guided by renowned facilitators Rini Hurkmans and Marja Bloem, participants are encouraged to challenge conventional approaches and develop thought-provoking artworks that inspire dialogue. The project bridges global artistic practices with local traditions, empowering emerging talents and building connections across cultural and environmental boundaries.

This initiative highlights the power of art to spark conversations, evoke emotions, and inspire action. Its public exhibition celebrates creativity while offering a platform for critical engagement with global challenges, emphasizing art's vital role in shaping a sustainable future.

Mostafa Zaman
Director,
Department of Fine Arts
Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy



This contemporary art workshop provides an inspiring and transformative platform for artistic collaboration, addressing the urgent challenges posed by climate change. By encouraging meaningful dialogue around humanity's relationship with nature and the environment, the project empowers participants to rethink conventional creative practices and explore innovative approaches to some of the most pressing global issues of our time.

The workshop unites eight emerging Bangladeshi artists with sixteen talented students from the eight departments of the Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka. Forming eight interdisciplinary groups, these participants engage in a dynamic and collaborative experience, blending diverse perspectives, skills, and artistic disciplines. This inclusive framework promotes mutual learning and exchange, creating a rich environment for participants to challenge their creative boundaries and push their artistic potential.

Under the guidance of renowned facilitators Rini Hurkmans and Marja Bloem, the groups delve into deep reflection and creative experimentation. They explore critical questions surrounding ecological harmony, cultural sustainability, and human responsibility while developing thought-provoking artworks that spark dialogue and inspire action. The process encourages participants to integrate local artistic traditions with contemporary global practices, broadening their horizons and strengthening the connection between art and environmental advocacy.

The initiative culminates in a public exhibition, showcasing the collaborative artworks and underscoring the power of art to engage with critical societal concerns. By inspiring reflection, innovation, and action, this workshop highlights the transformative potential of art in shaping a more harmonious, sustainable, and inclusive future.

The Art Bangla Foundation extends its heartfelt gratitude to all collaborators, participants, and colleagues for their spontaneous and invaluable support. Their contributions have been instrumental in making this initiative a meaningful and impactful journey.

Md. Harun ar Rashid
Co-curator



Climate change is a complex global challenge with far-reaching impacts on agriculture, biodiversity, ecosystems, and cultural heritage. In response to this pressing issue, the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands is proud to present this art exhibition to raise awareness and inspire collective action.

This initiative has been made possible through a valuable partnership with the Art Bangla Foundation and Dhaka University. We are grateful to the participating faculty and students for their creativity and dedication. Special thanks go to Harun-ur-Rashid Tutul for his coordination, leadership, and perseverance in overcoming initial challenges.

We also extend our sincere appreciation to lead facilitator Rini Hurkmans and curator Marja Bloem for their vision and expertise, which have been instrumental in the success of this event.

I invite you to immerse yourself in this open-space art installation and reflect on the shared responsibility to protect our planet.

Namia Akhtar
Senior Policy Advisor - Political Affairs and Public Diplomacy
The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands



A Poetic Meal



Bamboo, Jute net, Clay, paddy and wood

Nature is omnipotent. Nature is the main source of all energy in the world. Man is one of the parts of nature. In order to sustain the people of the world, nature must be kept alive. It is humans who become a threat to nature and influence it. Climate change is continually affecting both human and animal life. Its influence may be seen everywhere, from agricultural production to the creation of art. Floods and droughts occur every year in Bangladesh. Therefore, these natural calamities disrupt our food production. In recent years, Bangladesh imports food and agricultural products worth about 80 thousand crore taka. In the hope of higher yield and profit, we have imported seeds and destroyed the seeds of indigenous varieties. In terms of taste or nutrition, we feel the lack of indigenous varieties of vegetables or rice.

A seed is very important. The importance of seeds in sustaining the earth is immense. Generally, rice is the staple food of Bengalis. We tried to show the effort to protect this food crop in a metaphoric way through our artwork.



Aminul Islam Ashik
ashik.sculptor@gmail.com

Hiran Roy
hiran-2019219277@cer.du.ac.bd

Anika Tabassum Nuzhat
nuzhatsculpture@gmail.com

Life to Death



Media : Bamboo, jute rope, Colour

The connection between nature and rivers awakens a self-realization of the natural rhythm of life and the continuous flow of the life cycle. The river's journey from vibrancy to its death symbolizes the flow of human life. In a riverine country like Bangladesh, cities, villages, and settlements have developed around rivers. These rivers serve as the source of their sustenance.

However, our rivers are being damaged due to human activities. River encroachment is one of the significant causes that disrupts the natural course of rivers. This leads to natural disasters like floods and river erosion, wiping out nearby river-dependent settlements. Through our art, we have attempted to depict the loss of navigability in nearly extinct rivers and the illegal encroachments they face.

Our main goal is to help the audience realize the journey from within to beyond, symbolizing the transition from death to rebirth, and to emphasize its relevance in today's world.



B
GROUP

Bilas Mandal

bilasmandal.sculptor@gmail.com

Joyanta Bhowmik

joyantabhowmik121@gmail.com

Usha Binta Hasan

ushabintahasan6180@gmail.com

Per Square Feet



In the context of Bangladesh, people are now extremely urbanized. In this materialistic society, a square foot of concrete roof becomes more valuable than its value. This roof ensures me natural disasters, biological safety, social status, economic status. Since a square foot is very valuable, we are divided. Our close-knit families are broken into small pieces. Crop fields are fragmented, and a square foot of roof becomes more important. This square foot roof is more valuable to us than relationships, emotions, values. The demand for a square foot of roof is so high that thousands of people leave their rural lives and flock to the city to build a roof on the roof. They are building their own and others' settlements. In that settlement, nature, culture, faith naturally lose importance. We build ourselves in a new mold. But, even amid this, even if subconsciously, the pull of our roots remains somewhere.

Media : Performance art.



Tahmina Hafiz Lisa
thlisa.bd1@gmail.com

Rohit Rudra Biswas
rohitrudra96@gmail.com

Md. Omar Ali
omarpolash85@gmail.com

From Wonder to Waste



Media : Jute, Recycled fabric, Wool, Cotton Rope, Wood.

The garments industry in Bangladesh, a cornerstone of the national economy, contributes significantly to global fashion production and exports. However, this rapid growth has come at an alarming environmental cost. The unchecked expansion of textile and garment factories has led to severe pollution, threatening ecosystems, public health, and the sustainability of the sector itself. The concept integrates visual storytelling, installations and community engagement to inspire collective action. River waves tell how Mother Nature absorbs all industrial chemicals in its womb. Discarded textiles and dyed fabrics illustrate the stark contrast between the beauty of garments and their environmental cost. These processes release toxic chemicals, heavy metals, and dyes into nearby rivers and water bodies, often untreated. The Buriganga River is one stark example of this devastation. Non-biodegradable materials and synthetic fibers accumulate in landfills and waterways. This project aims to explore the environmental consequences of garment industrial pollution and envision creative, sustainable interventions through the lens of artists.



Imtiaj Rasel

imtiajrasel71@gmail.com

Mst. Tahmina Sunjida Tisha

tahminasunjida-28-2019112031@craft.du.ac.bd

Md. Faizur Rahman Firoz

faizurfiroz@gmail.com

The pursuit of life



Nature is the ultimate source of our survival, as humans, animals, and plants all depend on it. The beauty and power of nature inspire my artwork. The Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University, holds a special place in my heart, particularly the once lush courtyard, full of greenery and uncommon plants, where animals, insects, and reptiles thrived. Sadly, much of this has been lost due to urbanization. Our goal is to present these lost elements to the current generation through installation art.

In our busy lives, we've forgotten the sounds of birds chirping and bees collecting honey. We rarely see butterflies, dragonflies, or reptiles anymore. Our dominance over nature has led to environmental destruction. Artists can raise awareness about what we are losing and how to protect the natural beauty that remains. Our effort aims to creatively express the need for biodiversity protection and inspire action to preserve the earth and all its creatures.

Media : Jute fabric, Ribbon, bamboo, Clay, and plants.



Fareha Zeba

zeba_dhaka@hotmail.com

Ananya Biswas Proma

ananyabproma@gmail.com

Rahat Bhuya

rahatbhuiyan014@gmail.com



Whispers of the Solar Winds



Media : Wood, Steel and mirror paper

Renewable energy sources like wind and solar power are reshaping energy production, offering sustainable alternatives to fossil fuels. These eco-friendly solutions play a vital role in combating climate change, reducing carbon emissions, and securing a cleaner future. By harnessing wind and sunlight, society can minimize reliance on finite resources, enhance energy security, and stimulate economic growth through green job creation. Investing in renewables protects the planet for future generations.

The art project Whispers of the SolarWinds highlights wind energy by blending technology with nature. Kinetic sculptures powered by wind create dynamic visuals that mimic air currents, produce vibrant interactive displays. Installed in a outdoor space at the Faculty of Fine Arts, the project emphasizes sustainability, sparking conversations about renewable energy's role in addressing climate change. It inspires engagement, showcasing how art can advocate for a greener, more responsible future.



Promotesh Das Pulak
Pulak04bd@gmail.com

Rakin Nowar
rakinnowar6@gmail.com

Arpa Das Piu
arpadaspiu@gmail.com

Breathing Roots



The project Breathing Roots focuses on the environmental history and significance of the Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka, serving as both the research site and venue. The campus, rich with a variety of trees, carries historical, cultural, and ecological importance. These trees and site standing through decades of urban transformation, have formed a deep bond with students, faculty, and the city's identity.

"Breathing Roots" aspires to unite history, art, and environmental advocacy, fostering a renewed appreciation for trees as vital to life and a sustainable future for Dhaka. By reflecting on the history and significance of trees within a beloved space, the project seeks to inspire meaningful action and awareness for a sustainable urban future.

Media : Mirror , Sound



Najmun Nahar Keya
keya13bd@gmail.com

Ajmery Sultana
ajmerim18@gmail.com

Sayada Akter Naznin
sayadaakter-2018320004@ddp.du.ac.bd

Preternatural



Media : Paper and bamboo sticks

Bangladesh, a land shaped by its rivers, shares a profound bond with these waterways that nourish its culture, economy, and traditions. However, rapid urbanization, industrial pollution, encroachment, and climate change now threaten these vital lifelines. Major rivers like the Padma, Meghna, and Jamuna, along with smaller tributaries, face drying, pollution, and biodiversity loss, endangering ecosystems and cultural practices such as boat races and fishing festivals. Human interventions, including dams and sand mining, further disrupt natural flows, jeopardizing livelihoods.

In response, it is crucial to protect the ecological and cultural significance of Bangladesh's rivers. Through art, we aim to inspire action, raise awareness, and advocate for the restoration of these waterways, ensuring they continue to sustain both nature and communities for generations to come.



Bishwajit Roy
bishworoy11@gmail.com

Naba Chowdhury
nabachowdhurytripty@gmail.com

Supriyo Kumar Ghosh
Supriokurmer19@gmail.com





Workshop	January 5–20, 2025, Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka
Exhibition	January 21–23, 2025 Open spaces, Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka
Exhibition	03:00 PM, Tuesday, January 21, 2025
Inauguration	Osman Jamal Auditorium, Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka
Facilitator	Rini Hurkmans, Netherlands
Curator	Marja Bloem, Netherlands
Co-facilitators	Professor A. A. A. Kaoser Hassan, Department of Sculpture, University of Dhaka Dr. Vadreshu Rita, Chairman and Associate Professor, Department of Graphic Design, University of Dhaka Abdus Sattar, Associate Professor, Department of Drawing and Painting, University of Dhaka Asmita Alam Shammy, Chairman and Associate Professor, Department of Printmaking, University of Dhaka Dr. Farjana Ahmed, Associate Professor, Department of Graphic Design, University of Dhaka
Co-curator	Harun ar Rashid Tutul, Associate Professor, Department of Graphic Design, University of Dhaka
Associate co-curator	Ishrat Binte Rouf
Participants	This contemporary art workshop unites 8 emerging Bangladeshi artists and 16 students from the 8 departments of the Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka—forming 8 interdisciplinary groups for a dynamic, collaborative experience