

For Immediate Release  
15 January 2024

**Lahore Biennale 03**  
**Opening October 5, 2024**

Following the announcement of Pakistan's National Parliamentary Polls for February 8, 2024, and in light of potential post-election government transition and extreme summer conditions, the Lahore Biennale (LB03) will now open on the 5th of October 2024. LB03, curated by John Tain around the theme of "Ecology and Sustainable Futures", will be accompanied by a multi-day Climate Congress. Further details, including an initial list of artists, will be announced in the coming weeks.

The Lahore Biennale Foundation remains committed to the core values of inclusivity and art in public spaces. LBF aims to address the pressing environmental issues facing Pakistan and the world at large while also promoting creative solutions that challenge and innovate on traditional conceptions of sustainability by gathering new and old knowledge-based systems from industrial and natural worlds, economic and political systems, natural and social ecosystems, and imaginative and aesthetic explorations.

Framing ecologies and sustainable futures as integral themes, LB03 and its initiatives bring together a diverse community of artists, researchers, and thinkers. The goal is to actively implement forms of solidarity, emphasising collaborative efforts to address challenges shared across multiple locations. The 2024 Biennale strives to foster such potential solidarities, facilitate the exchange of knowledge concerning historical connections, and propose collective pathways for navigating the future together.

We wish to acknowledge the unwavering support of the Government of Punjab, the Chief Minister Punjab, Minister of Information and Culture, Secretary of Information and Culture, and the Punjab Walled Cities & Heritage Areas Authority—and for the LB03 Climate Congress, the Getty Foundation and Cornell University.

## لاہور بینا لے ۰۳ کا افتتاح ۵ اکتوبر ۲۰۲۴

فروری ۲۰۲۴ کے اوائل میں عام ملکی انتخابات کے انعقاد کے اعلان، اور انتخابات کے بعد حکومت سازی کے عمل کو مد نظر رکھتے ہوئے، لاہور بینا لے فاؤنڈیشن نے لاہور بینا لے ۰۳ (ایل بی ۰۳) کا انعقاد خزاں ۲۰۲۴ تک مؤخر کر دیا ہے۔ اب ایل بی ایف ۰۳ کا افتتاح ۵ اکتوبر ۲۰۲۴ کو ہوگا۔ ایک موسمیاتی کانگریس بھی اس بینا لے کا حصہ ہے۔ فنکاروں کی ابتدائی فہرست سمیت مزید تفصیلات کا اعلان آنے والے ہفتوں میں کیا جائے گا۔

لاہور بینا لے فاؤنڈیشن سب کو ساتھ لے کر چلنے اور عوامی مقامات پر فن کی نمائش جیسی بنیادی اقدار کے فروغ کے لیے پُر عزم ہے۔ ایل بی ایف کا مقصد پاکستان اور مجموعی طور پر پوری دنیا کو درپیش ماحولیاتی مسائل سے نمٹنا اور اس کے ساتھ ساتھ ایسے تخلیقی حل کی حوصلہ افزائی کرنا ہے جو کہ استحکام کے روایتی تصورات کو چیلنج بھی کرتے اور یک وقت اُن سے مستفید بھی ہوتے ہیں۔ اس مقصد کے لیے صنعتی و قدرتی دنیاؤں، معاشی و سیاسی نظاموں، قدرتی و سماجی ماحول، اور تخیلاتی و حسیاتی کھوج سے مدد لے کر علم کے جدید و قدیم نظام اکٹھے کیے جاتے ہیں۔

ماحولیاتی انصاف اور پائیدار مستقبل کو اپنے اساسی موضوعات بناتے ہوئے ایل بی ۰۳ اور اس کی تقریبات مختلف نقطہ نظر کے فنکاروں، محققین، اور مفکرین کو ایک ساتھ اکٹھا کریں گی۔ اصل مقصد دنیا کے مختلف خطوں کو درپیش مشترکہ مشکلات کے حل کے لیے مشترکہ کوششوں پر زور دیتے ہوئے یک جہتی کا بھرپور اظہار کرنا ہے۔ بینا لے ۲۰۲۴ ایک جہتی کی مثالوں کو تقویت دینے، تاریخی تعلقات سے جڑے علم کے تبادلوں کو آسان بنانے، اور ایک ساتھ مستقبل کی تلاش کے لیے مشترکہ راہیں اپنانے کا خواہاں ہے۔

ہم حکومت پنجاب، وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب، وزیر اطلاعات و ثقافت، سیکرٹری اطلاعات و ثقافت اور پنجاب والڈسٹیز اینڈ ہیئرٹیج ایریاز اتھارٹی، اور ایل بی ایف کلائم ایٹ کانگریس کے لیے کیٹی فاؤنڈیشن اور کارنیل یونیورسٹی کی حمایت کا اعتراف کرنا چاہتے ہیں۔

## **BIOGRAPHY OF THE CURATOR**

As Head of Research at Asia Art Archive (AAA, 2017-2023), John Tain's projects included AAA's co-curated contribution to documenta fifteen (2022), the Art Schools of Asia seminar and symposium (2021-22); and MAHASSA (Modern Art Histories in and across Africa, and South and Southeast Asia), co-organized with the Dhaka Art Summit and Cornell University's Institute for Comparative Modernities (Hong Kong and Dhaka, 2019-20). He previously served as a curator for modern and contemporary collections at the Getty Research Institute (Los Angeles). Since 2021, he has been an advisor to Asia Forum, a collateral event of the Venice Biennale.

## **ABOUT THE LAHORE BIENNALE FOUNDATION**

The Lahore Biennale Foundation (LBF) is a Lahore-based non-profit organisation committed to advancing cultural exchange by showcasing local and international artists and researchers and fostering social transformation through art. Through its flagship project, the Lahore Biennale, LBF provides a platform for art that encourages methodologically informed discourse and collective action in response to global and local issues. LBF is working to transform physical spaces in Lahore into discursive public spaces by elevating the relevance of contemporary art in Lahore's vernacular, bringing together different communities and stakeholders to explore new ways of experiencing and interacting with their environment.

In addition to its primary event, LBF organises workshops, talks, and other events that engage audiences of all ages and backgrounds. Furthermore, LBF has initiated a Green School Certification Program in collaboration with the Government of Pakistan as a key stakeholder, WWF-Pakistan, and the Lahore University of Management Sciences. This program recognizes environmentally sustainable schools that promote awareness among students and environmental consciousness among young people in Lahore. The aim is to create a generation of environmentally responsible citizens who can contribute to the sustainable development of their communities and the world at large.

At its core, the foundation seeks to democratise access to the arts and to emphasise engagement and capacity building for local cultural actors. LBF engages with underrepresented groups, and attempts to overcome socio-economic and geographical barriers while ensuring that its programs are accessible within the cultural ecosystem. By promoting inclusivity, accessibility, and sustainability, LBF hopes to strengthen the relationship between the arts and the community, creating a cultural space that is vibrant, engaging, and reflective of the diverse social and cultural realities of Lahore and the wider region.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is a Biennale?

*Biennale* is Italian for 'biennial' or 'every other year.' It denotes an event that happens every two years and is commonly used in the art world to describe large-scale international contemporary art exhibitions. Biennales date back to 1895, when the famous Venice Biennale was first held, popularising a term adopted by cities around the world to hold similar events. The 2024 Lahore Biennale, held in the historic cultural capital of Punjab, will be the third edition.

### 2. When does it take place?

The third edition of the Lahore Biennale (LB03) is scheduled to open on October 5th, 2024, and will be on view until early November.

### 3. Who organises the Lahore Biennale, and what other activities are they involved in?

The Lahore Biennale is organised by the Lahore Biennale Foundation (LBF). Qudsia Rahim is the Executive Director of LBF and one of the driving forces behind this pioneering initiative. An artist, curator, and former academic, Rahim is supported by a network of advisors, including art historian and artist Prof. Iftikhar Dadi, artist and academic Prof. Naazish Ata Ullah, architect Raza Ali Dada, and environmentalist & lawyer Rafay Alam.

For more info about the LBF and its team, visit: <https://www.lahorebiennale.org/>  
LBF's other activities include Afforestation Lahore: <https://afforestationlahore.com/>

### 4. What are the objectives of the Lahore Biennale?

The Lahore Biennale seeks to develop greater awareness of art among the people of our country and the region. All our programs are free and open to the public, which is a core value that informs all our projects.

Biennales have an important role in connecting the local with the international in places like Lahore. They enable the international art world to become more engaged with developments in Pakistan, fostering dialogue between local artists' communities and others from around the world. In this exchange, the local scene receives exposure to global developments and vice versa.

Biennales are still new to Pakistan, and the aim is to also create a nurturing environment and infrastructure that will contribute to the flourishing of the arts overall in Pakistan.

## **5. How will LB03 be different from its predecessors, LB01 and LB02?**

The first Lahore Biennale in 2018 focused predominantly on the South Asian context. LB02 in 2020 engaged with West and Central Asia, the Middle East, and Africa, and fostered a wider dialogue with artists from the Global South. The third edition of the Lahore Biennale, LB03, will continue to focus on artists from the Global South, and in particular from East and Southeast Asia, with an equal participation of both international and local artists. The artwork and programs in LB03 will address the theme of ecology and sustainable futures.

## **6. Who are the Lahore Biennale Foundation's main partners and sponsors for LB03?**

Lahore Biennale LB03 has the strong support of the Government of Punjab and its various departments, including the Department of Information and Culture Punjab, the Ministry of Information and Culture Punjab, and the Commissioner's Office Lahore; the Walled Cities & Heritage Areas Authority, formally known as Walled City Lahore Authority; and the Foreign Ministry, and the Ministry of Climate Change. The Climate Congress is supported by a generous grant from the Getty Foundation.

Lahore Biennale Foundation's Founding Patrons include Syed Babar Ali Foundation, Nayyar Ali Dada and Associates, Ferozsons Laboratories Ltd, and Nighat Ali.

## **7. Who is the curator of LB03?**

John Tain will curate the third edition of the Lahore Biennale. As Head of Research at Asia Art Archive (AAA) from 2017 to 2023, he led a number of projects. Exhibitions he curated and co-curated include "Translations, Expansions", AAA's contribution to Documenta Fifteen (2022); "Crafting Communities", AAA, Hong Kong (2020), about the Thailand-based Womanifesto collective project; "Out of Turn", Serendipity Arts Festival (2018); and Women Make Art History (2018), a commission with the Guerrilla Girls during Art Basel Hong Kong 2018. Research projects include Independent Art Spaces of Taiwan; the Art Schools of Asia seminar and accompanying symposium; and MAHASSA (Modern Art Histories in and across Africa, and South and Southeast Asia), co-organized with the Dhaka Art Summit and Cornell University's Institute for Comparative Modernities (Hong Kong and Dhaka, 2019-20). He has lectured and published widely, and served as a series editor for Exhibition Histories, published by Afterall. He has also been an advisor to Asia Forum, a collateral event at the Venice Biennale.

## **8. Where in Lahore will works be exhibited?**

The upcoming LB03, like previous editions, will be located at venues across the city, including heritage sites and lesser-known but historical locales. The Foundation has worked with various locations in the Walled City in its previous projects, and these will continue to be of interest for LB03, but it will also debut some venues as well. In particular, the Foundation plans to showcase art's involvement in place-making by devoting a number of projects on the Mall Road, a historical site for public expression and cultural activity.

## **9. Who can attend the Lahore Biennale?**

The Biennale is free and open to the public and welcomes everyone. In addition to the diverse local public, international attendees include participating artists, art world professionals, museum directors, curators, and the press.

## **10. What sorts of activities will be organised as part of the Biennale?**

Programs and activities will include curated art exhibitions, academic talks, public lectures, symposia, screenings, performances, and panel discussions. A program dedicated to youth is also planned.

## **11. Where do I go for further information?**

International and local press inquiries can be addressed to:  
[communications.lbf@gmail.com](mailto:communications.lbf@gmail.com) or +92 (042) 3596 9214