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Reimagining the Global Village: New exhibition at MIAD features transnational artist collaborations addressing global issues

MILWAUKEE (September 29, 2021) – The current global pandemic has illuminated the importance of human connection, and a new exhibition at MIAD features the perfect antidote to the isolation many have experienced. **“Reimagining the Global Village,”** an exhibition **curated by MIAD alum Nirmal Raja ‘08 (Painting)** and **generously sponsored by Fiserv**, features transnational art collaborations by nearly 30 artists and collectives in 18 countries that not only celebrate the universal urge to create, but also address major global issues such as refugees at borders, ruptures in cross-cultural communication and climate change. The artists continue to circumvent geographical and pandemic boundaries to make art in new and innovative ways. The exhibition is **on view at the Frederick Layton Gallery at the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design (MIAD) October 11 – December 4, 2021.**

Among the work, artists and collectives featured in the exhibition are:

- Pamela Longobardi’s “Night Flag of Lesvos,” which was made from recovered life vests in Lesvos, Greece, where hundreds of thousands of refugees from Middle Eastern and African countries arrived after traveling across the Aegean Sea. Longobardi is an American artist based in Atlanta.
- *Landays*, a film by Inna Dmitrieva, is both a celebration of the Landay, a traditional couplet form of Afghan poetry, and an exploration of women’s life in contemporary Afghanistan. Centered around an interview with a young woman from Kabul, the piece juxtaposes rephotographed images of Afghan life with performances of several landay couplets.
- The Peace Paper Project showcases work from an international community-arts initiative that uses traditional papermaking as a form of trauma therapy, social engagement and community activism.
- Justseeds Artists’ Cooperative features work on climate change and its effect on their communities from partnerships between artists and frontline environmental justice organizations.
- The Global Art Project's Frag Exchange Project highlights work of 63 artists in 17 countries who have interacted remotely. The fragments of artwork, found objects and debris exchanged by the artists serve as sparks for the imagination.

(continued)

Admission is free to the exhibition and programming events. MIAD's galleries are open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Special exhibition programming includes the following:

IN-PERSON EVENTS

No pre-registration is required for in-person events. Due to the pandemic, MIAD requires all visitors to wear masks, regardless of vaccination status.

- **Opening Reception, Oct. 14, 6 – 8 p.m.**
- **Gallery Night & Day MKE, Oct. 15, 5 – 9 p.m. and Oct. 16, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

VIRTUAL EVENTS

Pre-registration is required for each virtual event. Attendees will receive separate Zoom links for each event. Go to miad.edu/globalvillage to register.

Climate Change & Sustainability: Transnational Perspectives in Art, Oct. 28, 6:30 p.m. CST

A panel of four artists – Monica Jahan Bose, Pamela Longobardi, Jill Sebastian and Liz Bacchuber – discuss their work and innovative strategies and socially engaged projects to address the looming global climate change crisis. Moderated by Leslie Fedorchuk.

Working with Communities Transnationally, Nov. 11, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CST

When artists situate themselves as global citizens and work with communities across countries and cultures, their impact is large in scale – providing people they work with, a sense of purpose, belonging, healing and voice. Artists from the exhibition Drew Matott and Virginia Zanetti and artist/educator Raoul Deal discuss what inspires them to keep working with international communities to make art. Moderated by Nirmal Raja.

Landays: Poetry of Afghan Women, Dec. 2, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CST

This three-part virtual event features a conversation with Inna Dmitrieva and curator Nirmal Raja, as well as a communal reading of *Landays* and a screening of Inna Dmitrieva's film, *Landays*. Students and community members are invited to participate in reading translations of *Landays* in an act of solidarity for women and girls currently in danger in Afghanistan. More information on this will be available prior to the event.

Visit miad.edu/globalvillage to learn more about exhibition programming and events, and to access the exhibition website with artist bios, works and video interviews.

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About MIAD: *As an accredited, nonprofit college, MIAD provides a transformative Bachelor of Fine Arts education that prepares students of diverse backgrounds for fulfilling and financially rewarding careers. MIAD fosters innovative, entrepreneurial and disruptive thinking that benefits our students and our corporate and nonprofit partners. MIAD also brings robust career pathways and college-readiness experiences to high school youth and provides cultural experiences and programming to the Greater Milwaukee community. miad.edu*