

alisha dutt islam

selected works

2021-2023

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soil hill

soil, stones, seeds

Offspace Flüelastrasse, Zürich, 2023

To highlight concretization in Zürich, the Soil Hill was made from soil dug up from construction sites in the city.

The hill was part of the last exhibition at the Offspace Flüelastrasse, soon after the building housing the off-space was to be demolished.

Seeds are sown in the soil to remind us of the cycle of life, highlighting growth, change and decay.

This work is part of Terravibe: Flüstern aus der Erde, consisting of Terrabiom, co-co-co and Alisha Dutt Islam.



herbst

found natural materials, ZhdK,

Zürich, 2021-2023

Herbst is an outcome of walks taken in green spaces around Zürich in 2021 during my first few mounts in Zürich. These found natural materials were first exhibited in the autumn of 2021 at the ZHdk at the beginning of the study program. After carefully treasuring the leaves in my studio, they were present in the Spring of 2023 at the ZhdK at the end of my studies again, bringing my journey here to a full circle.

A carving on a tree bark: es zählt nicht, wo du herkommst es zählt nur, wo du hinwillst

(it doesn't matter where you come from, it only matters where you want to go), created a link to my current work about plant migration and diversity that I will exhibit during the degree show.



A piece of torn, brown, textured paper is pinned to a white wall. The paper has irregular, jagged edges and is held in place by two small, round, gold-colored fasteners. The text is printed in a bold, black, sans-serif font across the center of the paper.

es zählt nicht, wo du herkommst es zählt nur, wo du hinwillst

invasive neozoen

inkjet print with hand-painted details on archival paper

Offspace Flüelastrasse, Zürich, 2023

My physical movement to a new environment had me explore other new beings that cohabitate with us. A year-long research into Invasive Neozoen and Neophyten im der Schweiz led me to the Asian Bush Mosquito (*Hulecoeteomyia japonica*). In this work I mapped the journey and spread of this living organism.

Installation view with Monstera plant installation by Denise Maud.



himalayan plants

inkjet print on paper

Kochi Biennale, India, 2022

Diary illustrations of nine Himalayan plants for Uriel Orlow's project Up, Up, Up.



t. fortunei and pollinators

heat print on thermal paper

Sonnenstrube, Lugano, 2022

A site-specific work created for a group exhibition at the Sonnenstrube Offspace in Lugano, T. Fortinui and pollinators explores the origins of the *Trachycarpus fortunei* (Hooker) or Chinese Windmill Palm or the iconic Palms of Ticino.

According to The National Data and Information Center on the Swiss Flora these Palms are not only non-native but they are also characterized as invasive alien species on a black-list.

The audience took away receipts about medicinal uses, history and pollination (reasons for widespread growth) of the Palms.



fruit



abha mahal bagh

various formats

Abha Mahal, Rajasthan, Mumbai and Zürich, 2019-2023

This is an archive of 42 desert plant species of India, which was commissioned by environmentalist Pradip Krishen. Amidst the arid desert terrain of Rajasthan (India), a garden has been set up by the Meherangarh Fort Trust to raise awareness about the indigenous plants of the Thar Desert. I spent two years observing the garden and collecting plant samples to draw from. The project consisted of signage posts that were placed in the garden and a book with detailed descriptions of the plants by Pradip Krishen.

Furthermore, the drawings from this project have been part of exhibitions at the ZHdK Winter Auction (Zürich) and 47, A (Mumbai) over the last two years as single-edition prints.

sua phog







adusa

adusa

MALABAR NUT
Justicia adhatoda

—
Adusa is a tall, evergreen shrub with large acanthus-like flowers that survives even in much-browsed habitats because its leaves are not palatable to goats, cattle or deer. The broad lower lip of the flower is streaked with purple veins and ultraviolet markings intended to guide its pollinators, that are mostly invisible to us.

USES

Adusa is highly regarded in traditional systems of medicine. Its leaves, in particular, are useful in treating colds and respiratory ailments and the plant is used to make poultices and to remove intestinal parasites.



FLOWERING SEASON
Late September
to February in the
Aravallis

Acanthus Family

alisha dutt islam

My practice is rooted in ecology, migration, and post-colonialism and explores the notion of the common ground. It is a representation of the connection I share with our natural surroundings. I currently live and work between Zürich and Kolkata.

education

2021- 2023

Master of Fine Art

Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK)

2012-2016

Bachelor of Design

Information Arts and Information Design Practices Srishti College of Art, Design and Technology, University of Mysore.

work experience

2022-Present

Artistic Researcher at Verein Experi Theater, Zürich

2020

Visiting Faculty at École Intuit Lab, Kolkata

2017- 2020

Head of Communication at BARO Folk Art Curation and Furniture

2017-2018

Middle School Art Teacher at Shri Shikshayatan School, Kolkata

2016

Former Graphic Designer at East India Design Company, Kolkata

2015

Graphic Intern at Amar Chitra Katha, Mumbai

exhibitions

2023

Best of Flüelastrasse, (group show) at Offspace Flüelastrasse, Zürich

Shifting Coordinates (group show) at Offspace Flüelastrasse, Zürich

2022

Winter Auction (group show) at ZHdK, Zürich

Florina (group show) at 47A, Mumbai, India

In The Other Room (group show) at Sonnenstube, Lugano

botanical illustrator, information designer, and artistic researcher

2020

Five Million Incidents at Goethe-Institut Kolkata

2019

Flowers of Bengal at Motherland Studios, Kolkata

talks

2022

How can the sciences and arts touch people? at Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT), Bern

2021

Lal Dighi Trails, exploring colonial ecology at Ghare Baire Exhibition, Delhi Art Gallery, Kolkata

Power of Sketchbook at École Intuit Lab, Kolkata

selected publications

2023

Illustrator for The Gold Collection: Ruskin Bond, Aleph Book Company, India

2020

Illustrator for Everyday Super Foods, Bloomsbury Publishing, India

Illustrator for Cities and Canopies, Penguin Random House, India

2019

Illustrator for Abha Mahal Bagh, published by Mehrangarh Museum Trust, India

grants

2022

Support program for projects in the field of sustainability, Dossier Nachhaltigkeit, ZHdK

Zangger Weber Scholarship of the Fondation ZHdK

2021

Hirschmann Stipendium

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