

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Footprint - Apotýpoma MONICA JAHAN BOSE

A site-specific exhibition, workshops, and performance



EXHIBITION DATES:

July 5 - July 18, 2018

ADDRESS:

SERAFIO Sports, Culture, & Innovation Center,
Pireos 163, Athens 11854 (metro: Keramikos)

OPENING RECEPTION/WORKSHOP:

Thursday, July 5, 2018, 7-9pm

CLOSING AND PERFORMANCE:

Thursday, July 17, 2018, 7-9pm

CURATOR: Vasia Deliyianni

The City of Athens partners with Monica Jahan Bose and the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities to present **Footprint-Apotýpoma**, a site-specific exhibition that brings together saris, printmaking, writing, video, community workshops, dialogue, and performance by Washington DC-based artist and environmental activist Monica Jahan Bose, as part of her ongoing feminist collaborative project **Storytelling with Saris**. In addition to the exhibition, Bose will organize workshops and performances with

refugee women and the general public. Born in the UK to Bangladeshi parents, Bose is a US immigrant who has lived in seven countries. Her work is informed by displacement. This is her first exhibition in Greece.

Footprint-Apotýpoma speaks to climate change, conflict, migration, and displacement. “Footprint” refers to carbon footprint as well as the miles traveled by migrants and refugees. The Greek word “**apotýpoma**” is also used for printmaking and fingerprinting (e.g., at border controls). Bose utilizes saris from Bangladesh to create an interior space or dwelling within the gallery, alluding to the homes that are being destroyed by extreme climate events and the shelter that will need to be provided for those displaced by climate change and conflict. The saris are covered in woodblock printing from Bangladesh and handwritten promises made by Americans and Europeans to reduce their carbon footprint. Bose’s printmaking on paper uses words and imagery to speak to the disruption of nature caused by climate change. Over several years, she has collaborated with the women of her ancestral village, Katakali Village, Barobaisdia Island, Bangladesh, and well as with women in Washington, Miami, Honolulu, Paris, and now Athens. Bose’s performances, videos, works on paper, and saris explore themes of empowerment, environment, mythology, and community.

She uses text in Bengali and other languages and women’s writing as integral elements in her work, highlighting multilingualism and women’s agency and literacy. She uses the sari — 6 meters of unstitched handwoven fabric — to represent women’s lives and the cycle of life on our planet.

About this exhibition, Bose says: “Since my first visit to Greece as a teenager, I have been drawn to the creative and warm people of Greece and this stunning country on the sea made up of so many islands, similar to the island my mother was born on in the Bay of Bengal. As the seas swell and the world becomes warmer, coastal and island peoples must form links to save our homelands and our heritage. Both Bangladesh and Greece are also working hard to assist the many refugees and migrants seeking shelter. With **Footprint-**

Apotýpoma, I hope to use art to create solidarity across borders and and move toward addressing and understanding climate change and migration.”

The exhibition is accompanied by a book, *Rising Up to Climate Change: Storytelling with Saris*, and is funded in part by a Sister Cities grant from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, which is supported by the US National Endowment for the Arts. **Footprint-Apotýpoma** is part of the celebration of Athens being designated as UNESCO World Book Capital 2018.

About Monica Jahan Bose:

Bose has exhibited her work extensively in the US and internationally (17 solo shows, numerous group exhibitions). Her over 20 performances have engaged thousands of people. Her ongoing collaborative project **Storytelling with Saris** has traveled to nine states and several countries and been featured in numerous publications and TV and radio programs. Her work has appeared in the *Miami Herald*, *the Washington Post*, *Art Asia Pacific*, *the Milwaukee Sentinel*, *the Honolulu Star Advertiser*, *the Japan Times*, and all major newspapers in Bangladesh. In 2017, she had multiple art events in Paris and created a large-scale installation and performance for the Smithsonian in Honolulu. She has a BA in the Practice of Art (Painting) from Wesleyan University, a post-graduate Diploma in Art from Santiniketan, India, and a JD from Columbia Law School.

About Vasia Deliyianni:

The exhibition is curated by **Vasia Deliyianni**, a curator, art professor, and artist based in Washington DC, and working internationally. Deliyianni teaches at The Art Institute of Washington, and at NOVA (Northern Virginia Community College), and lectures in several other art colleges and schools. She has curated dozens of exhibitions in four continents (Europe, USA, Africa, and Latin America), including for the World Bank and numerous embassies and cultural centers. She has double BFAs in Painting and Art History from Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Boston, and an MFA in Museum Studies and Exhibition/Lighting Design from George Washington University. She is committed to using art and design to promote world peace and development.

Image credit: “Floating/Drowning,” performance still, 2016, Miami, Florida, during Art Basel Miami Beach.

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Additional images and information: storytellingwithsaris.com monicajahanbose.com
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