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PRESS RELEASE

JALOBAYU জনবায়ু
Climate . Water . Wind.
a performance/installation by Monica Jahan Bose
@ SELECT, December 5, 2014, 4 pm

GALLERY COSMOS of Bangladesh and SELECT Art Fair are pleased to present the performance/installation JALOBAYU by Monica Jahan Bose as a 2014 Special Project of SELECT on Friday, December 5, 2014 at 4 pm, **SELECT Pavilion, 73rd & Collins Ave, Miami Beach, Florida.**

The body, wrapped in a 216-foot sari written on and worn by 12 coastal women in Bangladesh, collaborates with wind, sand, and water to speak to increasing cyclones, sea level rise, and loss of food and heritage caused by climate change. “Jalobayu” means climate in Bengali and is a combination of the words for water and wind. The performance alludes to rituals in Islam, Hinduism, and Christianity.

JALOBAYU references narratives, both real and mythological, including the Indian myth of Draupadi, the eternal virgin who was married to five brothers, as well as the true story of the artist’s grandmother, Johora, who was married at age seven and years later swept away by a cyclone. In South Asian and other cultures, water symbolizes death, destruction, purification, and renewal. Draupadi bathes and become a virgin daily.

The endless sari is part of STORYTELLING WITH SARIS, a collaborative art and advocacy project highlighting gender and climate change. JALOBAYU juxtaposes women’s words and their worn saris against the backdrop of the rising ocean in Miami Beach.

Viewers will join the sari procession and share photos and comments by tweeting @SariStory or emailing/texting the artist. The performance starts in the SELECT pavilion and moves out to the beach and then the water.

About JALOBAYU, Bose states, “I would like the viewers and participants in Miami to feel a common humanity with coastal women in Bangladesh and consider taking steps in their own lives to reduce carbon emissions. Miami and coastal Bangladesh are both threatened by climate change. I am thrilled that One Billion Rising Miami is co-sponsoring JALOBAYU, and that its members will join the performance.”

Monica Jahan Bose is a Bangladeshi-American artist, lawyer, and activist. Her work includes painting, printmaking, video, installation, and performance, as well as advocacy on women’s issues and the environment. She studied art at Wesleyan University and Santiniketan, India, and has a law degree from Columbia University. In addition to more than 20 years working as a visual artist, Bose has founded and run several non-profits and has practiced and taught environmental and human rights law. She has exhibited her artwork extensively in the US, Bangladesh, France, Japan, and India. In 2014, her paintings were selected to represent the US in 1 in 3, the World Bank’s global exhibition on gender-based violence, which featured 30 international artists. She lives and works in Washington DC, spending part of the year in Bangladesh.

Details at select-fair.com storytellingwithsaris.com

For inquiries, contact Monica Jahan Bose at monicajahanbose@gmail.com or 202-509-6282.



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