

## *Talk Together*

### Yingmei Duan | Aisha Abid Hussain


**LON  
DON  
ART  
FAIR**
**London Art Fair 2018**
**Art Projects : Dialogues : Image Is Female**
**17 - 21 January**


Fig 1.



Fig 2.

Hanmi Gallery London is pleased to present the duo exhibition ***Talk Together*** at the ***Dialogues*** section of ***Art Projects*** in London Art Fair 2018, featuring two international artists: **Yingmei Duan** and **Aisha Abid Hussain**. The annually curated ***Dialogues*** section introduces a unique display of collaborations between international galleries. This year's ***Dialogues***' main concept is 'Future is Female' in which Hanmi Gallery participates with the theme, '*As an ontological reality: Image is Female*', dedicated to the female psyche and its complex forms of ontologies and perspectives of epistemologies.

Duan's and Hussain's works explore, share and juxtapose concepts and philosophies through photography, drawing and video, having a common ground as well as combining intellectually: Duan, in a poetic and introspected way, and Hussain, as a rebel and critic. Using and emphasising their bodies as one of the privileged medium to express their philosophies, the artists build simple and basic scenarios, rich in symbolism and gender criticism, intertwining aspects of consciousness and unconsciousness. Within this scenic frame, objects and personalities speak to each other as they are released from their habitual context. Through this new layout, viewers can experience the artists' concepts and their unexpected existential reflections. Challenging the boundaries between mediums, both artists investigate and question the social foundations of the self and gender identity.

With a profound sensitivity and an extraordinary expertise in expressing concepts through their bodies, Duan and Hussain share a fertile imagination and introspection. The personal dimension assumes cultural and political connotations, forming an everlasting evolution, development and expanding net. Their scenarios are loaded with symbolic and poetic meanings, oscillating between fiction and reality and fusing the artists' reflections and those of the audience. These themes, such as a familiar loss, the fragility of life, gender preconceptions and individual loneliness give birth to touching dialogues. The voice of these artists invites the audience to immerse in the forest of their dense and complicated thoughts, feelings and concepts.

Narrowing the gap between life and art, Duan's work is subliminal: it encounters inter-human tensions, intangible ramifications and bonding body in time. A somnambulating state is the dream frame within which her performance is enclosed and develops. She underlines the subconscious as an invisible but dominant aspect of the human experience. On the other hand, Hussain's personal beliefs become political. Her central focus is challenging the traditional gender stereotypes through the use of her body as an expressive medium. She subverts the traditional clichés related to body/gender and self/gender dichotomies with a force to explode, a desire to break free from something tightly knotted.

Fig 1. Aisha Abid Hussain, *Two, Not Together Series III*, 2014, Archival Print on Hahnemuhle Photo Rag, 40.64 x 30.48cm

Fig 2. Yingmei Duan with Wang Shihua, Cang Xin, Gao Yang, Zuoxiao Zuzhou, Ma Zongyin, Zhang Huan, Ma Liuming, Zhang Binbin, Zhu Ming, *To Add One Meter to an Anonymous Mountain*, 1995, Pigment ink print on archival paper, 74 x 109 cm

## About the Artists

**Yingmei Duan** (b. 1969, Daqing, China, currently lives and works in Braunschweig, Germany) is a performance artist, who uses her own body as an expressive medium. In her experimental and site-specific works, temporal extension, spontaneity, and the inclusion of the audience are essential elements. Spontaneously developing performances as situational experiments helps draw a connection to the everyday. She is an enthusiastic collaborator which works with people from different cultures and local communities. Duan, a member of the avant-garde art community 'East Village' of the early 1990s, participated at the Live Performance *Nine Holes* and *To Add One Metre to an Anonymous Mountain* in Beijing (1995), in collaboration with Wang Shihua, Cang Xin, Gao Yang, Zuoxiao Zuzhou, Ma Zongyin, Zhang Huan, Ma Liuming, Zhang Binbin and Zhu Ming.

Studying Performance Art with Prof. Marina Abramović at HBK Braunschweig, Germany, Yingmei Duan has been participating in numerous international exhibitions, festivals and workshops since 1993. In 2017, her solo exhibition 'Thingness' was held in Zeller van Almsick, Austria. In 2016, the artist exhibited at 'Beijing Live' in Beijing, 'Shenyang International Performance Art & Music Festival' in Shenyang, 'Fyodor's Performance Carousel in Wiener Festwochen' in Vienna, 'Per Anhalter' in Berlin, 'Breaking & Making Routines' in Rotterdam and 'Beyond Action' in Beijing. Duan's works have also been exhibited in Solyanka State Gallery in Moscow (2015), Foundation Beyeler in Switzerland (2015), at 19th Biennale of Sydney in Australia (2014), He Xiangning Art Museum in China (2014), Glynn Vivian Art Gallery in Wales (2013), Hayward Gallery in London (2012), and 'Body & Eros', the 52nd Venice Biennale (2007). The participation at The Independent Performance Group in Milan (2003), and Amsterdam (2005) – curated by Marina Abramović – represent an essential part of her artistic career.

**Aisha Abid Hussain** (b. 1980, Peshawar, Pakistan, currently lives and works in Lahore, Pakistan) is a multimedia artist, who challenges and initiates a debate against all the contingent norms when it comes to gender, class and status in an effort to subvert the predominant clichés, using her body as a statement. She uses a variety of mediums to explore the self, and the extension of life beyond subjective limits. In a revival of past tradition, alongside the discussion of modern lives, Hussain's work becomes an act of meditation. The underlying factor in her work is the power of politics that operates among distinctive genders, making up the hierarchal settings of cultural panorama of the South Asian societies. In *Two Not Together Series* (2014), Hussain manipulates the concept of patriarchal dichotomy, rejecting the phenomena of 'Him' being the centre of power and supreme command.

Aisha Abid Hussain holds a BFA from the National College of Arts, Pakistan and a MFA from Goldsmiths, London. The artist gained various scholarships and awards, including the Hajji Sharif Award in Miniature Painting from National College of Arts, Lahore and was selected for Bloomberg New Contemporaries 2013, ICA London. She has exhibited widely in solo and group shows in galleries and museums all around the world, including in the United States, England, France, Italy, Austria, India and Pakistan. In 2017 her solo exhibition 'A Fine Balance between Love and Despair' was held in Lahore, Pakistan; in 2016 'Embodiment of the Sublime' was held in Mumbai, India. In 2017 she also participated at Karachi Biennale in Pakistan and at the group show 'Shifting Realities' in Delhi. Hussain's works have also been exhibited at joint exhibitions at Threshold Gallery in Delhi, Hanmi Gallery in Seoul, Hinterland Gallery in Vienna and participated at India Art Fair in Delhi. She has been selected for a number of group exhibitions at Taubman Museum in Virginia (2013), Queens Museum in Brooklyn (2012), Hanmi Gallery in London (2012), HHDM in Vienna (2012) and Anant Art Gallery in New Delhi (2008).

## About Hanmi Gallery London

**Hanmi Gallery** is dedicated to promoting modern and contemporary Korean and East Asian art to an international audience. The gallery provides a unique platform aiming to support the artistic exchange between the East and West, fostering a cross-cultural dialogue within our branches in London and Seoul. Founded in 2011, Hanmi Gallery London focuses on interdisciplinary practices, including video, performance and new media works to represent innovative artists and their commitment to current visual art, enhancing their visibility in present day visual culture. The gallery in Seoul opened its gates in 2014 in the Gangnam district. This site expands on the cultural interchange and aims to present emerging and established British and European artists in the burgeoning Seoul art sphere, which can become a valuable channel to import the current European artistic movements to South Korea. The gallery has successfully run programs of seminars, art talks, workshops and projects engaging with public audience. Moreover, Hanmi Gallery London is currently under refurbishment, and is thrilled to open its newly renovated space with an inaugural exhibition in Spring 2018. The details of its grand opening will be announced soon.

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