



BAGRI FOUNDATION

2023 IN REVIEW



PROJECTS SUPPORTED

Prizes



[Artes Mundi, Wales](#)

20 October 2023 - 25 February 2024

In October, our partner, Artes Mundi 10 opened its doors with five venues across Wales, presenting the work of seven shortlisted international artists: Rushdi Anwar, Carolina Caycedo, Alia Farid, Naomi Rincón Gallardo, Taloi Havini, Nguyễn Trinh Thi and Mounira Al Solh. The award winner will be announced in early 2024.

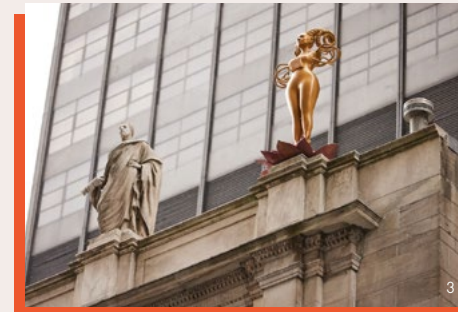


[Asim Waqif at Hayward Gallery, London](#)

20 July – 22 October 2023

Commissions

For our third Commission with Hayward Gallery we celebrated वेणु [Venu], a new, immersive and striking bamboo structure by Indian artist Asim Waqif. The work explored themes of urban space, ecology and community.



[Shahzia Sikander at Madison Square Park, New York](#)

17 January – 4 June 2023

This Spring Madison Square Park Conservancy presented Shahzia Sikander's *Havah... to breathe, air, life*. The project marked the culmination of Sikander's exploration of female representation in monuments and her first major, site-specific outdoor exhibition in sculptural form.

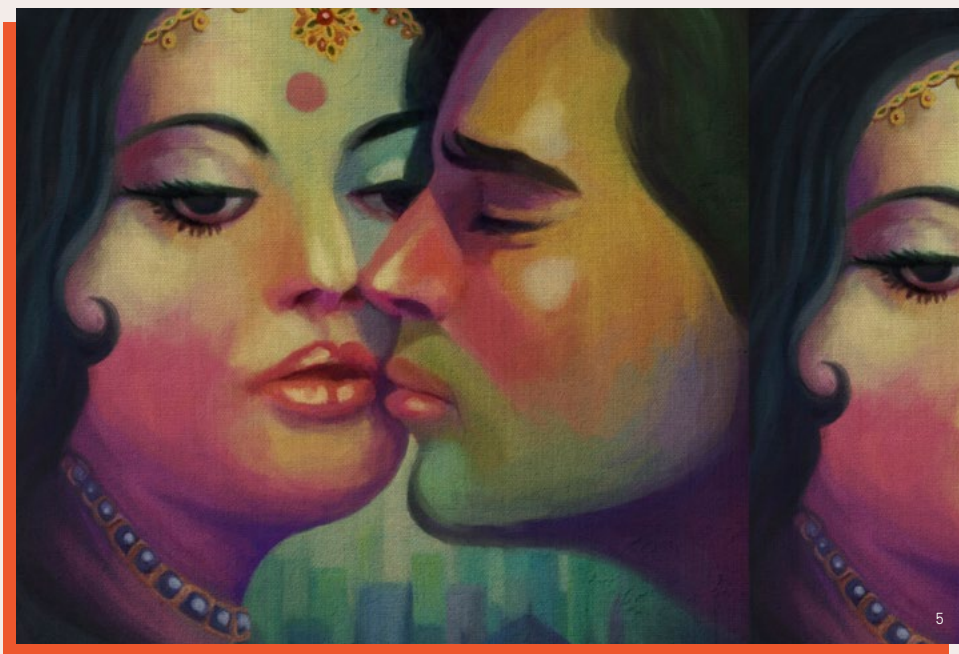


[Yasmin Jahan Nupur at Dhaka Art Summit](#)

3 – 11 February 2023

With our support, artist Yasmin Jahan Nupur presented a new commissioned participatory performance work, *HOME*, at the Dhaka Art Summit 2023. *HOME* was focused on storytelling, inviting the audience to engage in conversations about memory.

Exhibitions



[Bollywood Superstars at Quai Branly Museum, Paris](#)

26 September 2023 – 14 January 2024

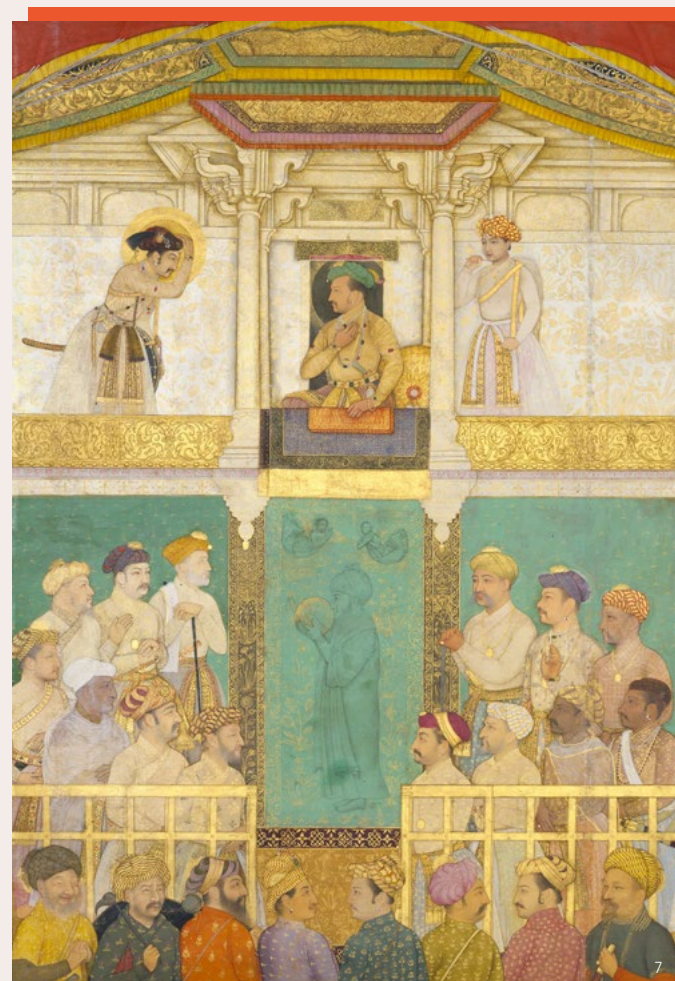
This Autumn Quai Branly Museum presented *Bollywood Superstars: A History of Indian Cinema*, a project exploring more than a century of Indian cinema. The exhibition brought together works of art, historical objects and projections on a large screen through immersive scenography.



[Melati Suryodarmo at Ikon Gallery, Birmingham](#)

17 May – 3 September 2023

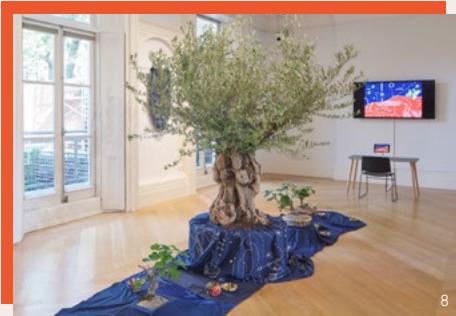
This Summer Ikon Gallery hosted the first UK solo exhibition by Indonesian artist Melati Suryodarmo; comprising visual art pieces, live performances by Suryodarmo, alongside 'delegated works' by artists and communities in Birmingham.



[Beyond the Page: South Asian Miniature Painting and Britain, 1600 to Now at MK Gallery, Milton Keynes](#)

7 October 2023 – 28 January 2024

Marking our first collaboration, MK Gallery presented a groundbreaking exhibition blending traditional form with contemporary narratives. Featuring exquisite historic paintings from major collections, the show explored how the traditions of South Asian miniature paintings have been reclaimed and reinvented by modern and contemporary artists.



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[In the shade of the sun at The Mosaic Rooms, London](#)

6 September 2023 – 4 January 2024

In the shade of the sun was a group exhibition contemplating the relationship between politics and aesthetics by an exciting new generation of Palestinian artists. The show comprised new multimedia installations by artists Mona Benyamin, Xaytun Ennasr and Dina Mimi, as well as a new sonic performance commission by Makimakkuk.

[Daido Moriyama at The Photographers' Gallery, London](#)

6 October 2023 – 11 February 2024

We proudly supported a groundbreaking exhibition at The Photographers' Gallery marking the first UK retrospective of Daido Moriyama, one of Japan's most influential photographers. Spanning six decades, Moriyama's practice has challenged the essence of photography as a medium. This exhibition showcases his iconic 'are, bure, boke' aesthetic, alongside rare photobooks, magazines, and over 200 artworks.



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Festivals and Biennials

[Kakilang Festival, London](#)

21 February – 23 April 2023

Kakilang Festival celebrates artists from East and Southeast Asian heritages. Its 2023 edition featured eight extraordinary events, showcasing theatre, dance, visual arts, live music, cabaret, and puppetry at leading London venues such as the Barbican Centre, Omnibus Theatre, Rich Mix, and The Yard.



[London Indian Film Festival](#)

Summer: 22 – 29 June and 23 June – 2 July
Autumn: 24 October – 4 November

London Indian Film Festival (LIFF) is the largest South Asian film festival in the UK and Europe. Its 2023 edition included a diverse showcase of Indian and South Asian premieres, classic movies, a first web series preview, and a selection of shorts. This year, the festival unfolded across two seasons, Summer and Autumn.



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[From the Lips to the Moon, London](#)

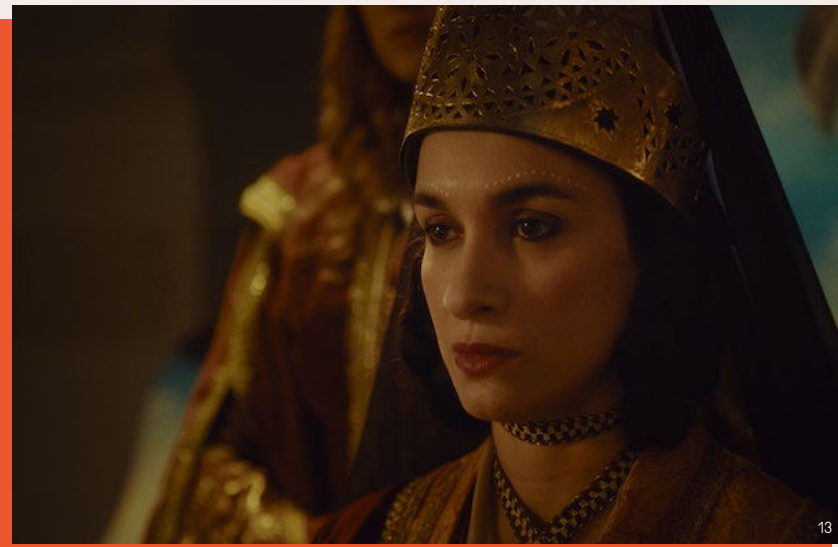
23 March, 18 May and 15 June 2023

From the Lips to the Moon, is an ongoing project devised by live-electronic music wizard Pouya Ehsaei in collaboration voice-shifting writer Tara Fatehi. This curated programme took place at Reference Point, London, where poets, musicians and visual artists join them on stage in creating one-off live performances.

[SAFAR, London](#)

29 June – 9 July 2023

This year marked our first collaboration with the UK's largest festival of Arab cinema. SAFAR's 2023 programme, themed *A Journey Through Space and Time*, invited audiences to explore Arab cinema, through a mapping of the region across a new axis and showcased films spanning territories and historical periods.



[Sharjah Biennial 15](#)

7 February – 11 June 2023

We were honoured to be a Cultural Partner of the 30th-anniversary celebration of the Sharjah Biennial. Entitled *Thinking Historically in the Present*, Sharjah Biennial 15 (SB15) paid homage to the late Okwui Enwezor, conceived by him and curated by Hoor Al Qasimi, Director of Sharjah Art Foundation. The 2023 edition reflected on Enwezor's transformative impact on contemporary art, establishing an intellectual legacy that influenced institutions and biennials worldwide. With over 150 artists from 70 countries, SB15 unfolded across 16 venues in Sharjah, accompanied by a dynamic programme of film, music, and performance.



[Shubbak Festival, London](#)

23 June – 9 July 2023

Shubbak Festival is the UK's largest biennial festival of contemporary Arab cultures, bringing new and unexpected voices alongside established artists to London every two years. This year's edition showcased a series of special events including a take over at the National Theatre, an immersive performance at the Southbank Centre, and an electro-pop DJ night at Rich Mix.

Dance and theatre



[Lunar Halo at Sadler's Wells, London](#)

30 November – 2 December 2023

Lunar Halo, presented by Taiwan's Cloud Gate Dance Theatre, marked our first major partnership with Sadler's Wells. Inspired by Artistic Director Cheng Tsung-lung's observation of a lunar halo in Iceland, the performance, in collaboration with Icelandic band Sigur Rós, explores the profound changes shaping our world, notably our increasing reliance on new technology for communication.



[Mahabharata at the Barbican, London](#)

1 – 7 October 2023

We continued our collaboration with the Barbican with an acclaimed retelling of the Sanskrit epic tale, the Mahabharata. The contemporary interpretation of the over four-thousand-year-old story delved into a family feud, exploring profound philosophical and spiritual ideas. Presented in two parts, the performance was accompanied by an optional traditional Indian meal and storytelling session (*Khana & Kahani*) to enhance the narrative experience.



Music

[The Orchestral Qawwali Project](#)

26 November 2023

The Bagri Foundation is thrilled to have supported the Orchestral Qawwali Project concert staged in November 2023. Presented in collaboration with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, the concert featured orchestral interpretations of ancient Sufi poetry and Indian Classical dance. Its audio documentation will be released on vinyl in Spring 2024.



[Mone Rekho by Soumik Datta Arts](#)

11 November 2023 – 8 March 2024

Mone Rekho is a new concert by Aga Khan Music Award-winning composer and sarod player Soumik Datta. The performance explores the transformation of Indian music through memory, using spatial audio technology. Following its premiere in London this November the work will embark on a tour across the UK in early 2024.

We proudly partner with leading cultural organisations to showcase Asian culture. Through collaborations and ambitious projects, we highlight the extraordinary creative talent of Asia on the local, national, and international stage.

- Alka Bagri, Trustee

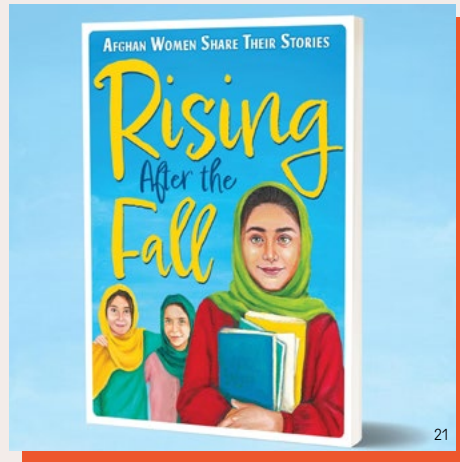
Publishing



[World Art Now](#)

July 2023

A highlight of our collaboration with World Art Now was the publication *Unseen Burma: Early Photographs 1862-1962*, by Thai author Thweep Rittinaphakorn, published by River Books. The publication revealed rare photographic records capturing Burma's essence across a century.



[Untold Narratives](#)

2020-2024

The Bagri Foundation is honoured to support Untold Narratives, a development programme for marginalized writers. In 2023, Untold Narratives released *Rising After the Fall* a children's book capturing the experiences of Afghan women during the fall of Kabul, published by Scholastic and illustrated by Sara Rahmani.

The Bagri Foundation champions projects deeply rooted in Asian culture. This year we are thrilled to have contributed to the realisation of numerous extraordinary projects across mediums and geographical locations.

- Ioanna Nitsou, Head of Grants & Partnerships

Education and Creative development



[Asia Forum](#)

ongoing

Asia Forum's ongoing research continues, led by Annie Jael Kwan in collaboration with Hammad Nasar, John Tain, and Ming Tiampo, exploring key themes in contemporary artistic practices of Global Asias. The collective will host a one-day symposium during Venice Biennale 2024 as part of the official Collateral Events program.



[Commun People](#)

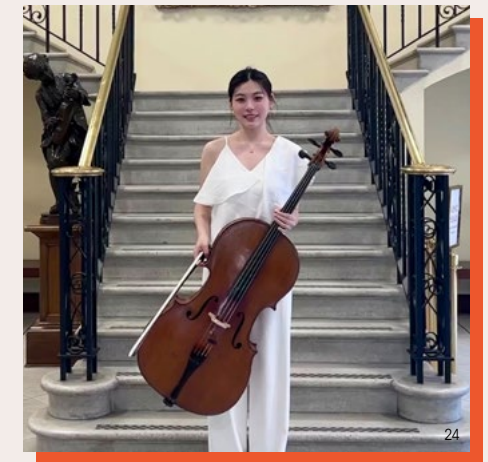
2022 - 2024

Commun People is an ongoing programme advocating for emerging BIPOC voices in the arts through critical discourse, peer mentoring, and practical and creative development. The programme supports BIPOC voices in developing their practice and launching or sustaining a career in the arts.

[Gandhāra Connections at the University of Oxford](#)

2022 -2023

Our six-year-long project, *Gandhāra Connections*, a collaboration between the Classical Art Research Centre at Oxford University and the Bagri Foundation, concluded with a hybrid workshop *Classical Art and Ancient India* which united international experts with a worldwide audience. The event was accompanied by the publication *Gandhāran Art in Its Buddhist Context*, edited by Wannaporn Rienjang and Peter Stewart. The publication is freely available online.



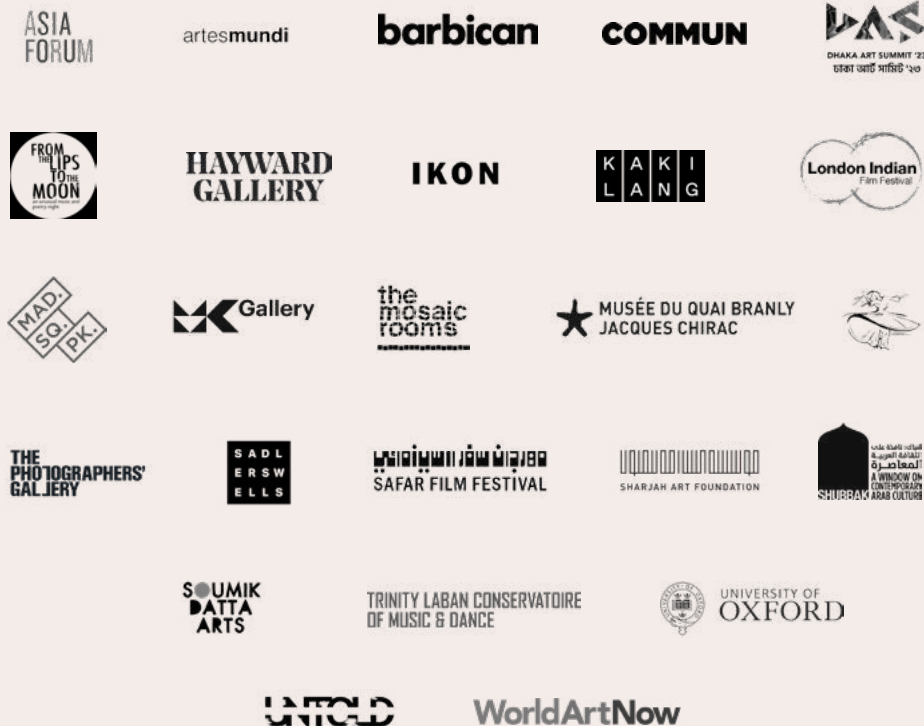
[Trinity Laban Scholarship](#)

ongoing

Education is part of our ethos, leading us to establish a long term partnership with Trinity Laban for international scholarships. Currently, cellist Xiaodi Zhao has embarked on her one-year Artist Diploma Programme with the conservatoire.

In 2023 the Bagri Foundation supported 504 creatives and shared projects with over 7,300,000 members of the public.

Thank you to all our 2023 collaborators



TEAM

Alka Bagri, Trustee
 Apurv Bagri, Trustee
 Aditi Bagri, Trustee
 Amisha Bagri, Trustee
 Ioanna Nitsou, Head of Grants & Partnerships
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IMAGE CREDITS

- Cover: *Lunar Halo* © LEE Chia-yeh.
- Artes Mundi 10, Installation View (2023). Courtesy Artes Mundi. Photo by Polly Thomas
 - चेणू[Venu] by Asim Waqif, the Bagri Foundation Commission, Hayward Gallery Terrace, London (2023). Courtesy of the artist. Photo by Jo Underhill.
 - Shahzia Sikander *Havah...to breathe, air, life*. Installation view at The Courthouse of the Appellate Division, First Department of the Supreme Court of the State of New York (2023). Courtesy Madison Square Park. Photo by Lynda Churilla.
 - Yasmin Jahan Nur, *HOME* at Dhaka Art Summit (2023). Courtesy the Artist. Photo by Manir Mrittik.
 - Poster for *Bollywood Superstars – History of Indian Cinema* exhibition. Illustration and graphic design: Gitanjali Rao / j6, DA G6 design.
 - Melati Suryodarmo *Sweet Dreams Sweet* performance (2023). Courtesy Ikon Gallery. Photo by Tod Jones.
 - Attributed to Abid, Prince Khurram departs from Ajmer for his first Deccan campaign, c.1635-40. Royal Collection Trust. Courtesy MK Gallery.
 - Xaytun Ennasr *Revolution is a forest...* (2023). Installation view. Courtesy of The Mosaic Rooms. Photo by Andy Stagg.
 - For* magazine *Provoke* 3, Tokyo, 1969 © Daido Moriyama/Daido Moriyama Photo Foundation.
 - Kakilang Festival 2023. HomeX. Photo by Lidia Crisafulli.
 - Photo courtesy London Indian Film Festival.
 - From the Lips to the Moon* (2023). Photo by Jemima Yong.
 - The Last Queen* (2022) Film Still. Courtesy Safar Film Festival.
 - Sharjah Biennial 15: *Thinking Historically in the Present*. Photo courtesy Sharjah Biennial.
 - Shubbak 2023 Festival Poster, courtesy Shubbak Festival.
 - Lunar Halo* © LIU Chen-hsiang.
 - Why Not theatre, *Mahabharata*, Dharma. Photo by David Cooper.
 - CBSO & Orchestral Qawwali Project Birmingham concert (2023). Courtesy Orchestral Qawwali Project. Photo by William Pavli.
 - Mone Rekho* in development. Photo by Poshali Goel.
 - Photo from *Unseen Burma: Early Photography 1862-1962* by Thweep Rittinaphakorn. Photo courtesy World Art Now.
 - Rising After the Fall: Afghan Women Share Their Stories* (2023). Photo courtesy Untold.
 - Panel discussion at Delfina Foundation (2023). Photo courtesy Art Asia Forum.
 - Photo courtesy COMMUN.
 - Bagri Scholar Xiaodi Zhao. Photo courtesy Trinity Laban.