

MOT Plus

Collaboration with Han Nefkens Foundation: Shahana Rajani

April 29 – June 29, 2025



1. *Four Acts of Recovery* by Shahana Rajani. Produced by the Han Nefkens

The Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo (MOT) is pleased to announce the launch of "MOT Plus" this year, a new initiative that expands beyond the traditional exhibition format to explore experimental projects and collaborations with other organizations. As part of this initiative, the museum will present "MOT Plus Collaboration with Han Nefkens Foundation: Shahana Rajani," opening on Tuesday, April 29. Since its establishment in 2009, the Han Nefkens Foundation has been dedicated to supporting artists working with video as a medium, operating from its base in Barcelona while collaborating with art institutions worldwide. In 2023, the foundation partnered with the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Prameya Art Foundation (India), Nottingham Contemporary (UK), Ishara Art Foundation (UAE), the Museum of Contemporary Art Antwerp (Belgium), and Para Site (Hong Kong) to establish the "South Asia Video Art Production Award." This award aims to support emerging artists by providing funding for new works and exhibition opportunities, and fostering artistic development in the region.

From a pool of nominees across South Asia—including Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Afghanistan—Pakistani artist Shahana Rajani has been selected as the recipient of the award. Rajani's practice investigates landscapes and communities affected by environmental destruction, particularly in relation to infrastructure projects and military developments in her home country. Working across multiple media, with a focus on video, she documents and archives these spaces, developing a collaborative artistic practice that resists the erasure and violence of occupation and displacement.

This exhibition will showcase Rajani's new video installation, *Four Acts of Recovery*. The work follows a family of fishermen who, due to environmental devastation caused by infrastructure projects in the Indus Delta, were forced to relocate to Karachi. The video centers on their act of painting murals depicting the landscapes of their lost homeland, such as sacred shrines and inlets that have disappeared. Rajani links this act to the Islamic tradition of talismans (protective objects inscribed with prayers), reinterpreting it as

a ritual of resistance and belonging that calls forth a lost world. Presented as a three-screen installation, the work immerses the viewer in the layered relationship between the present state of the Indus Delta and the landscapes its displaced inhabitants seek to preserve.

Artist Profiles

Shahana Rajani

Shahana Rajani is a multi-disciplinary artist exploring the visualities, landscapes and infrastructures of development, militarization and ecological disturbance in Pakistan. Community-based and collaborative approaches to research are central to her practice. Working across multiple media, she engages with dissident histories and lineages of representation and relation that sustain practices of ecological resistance in Pakistan. She is a co-founder of Karachi LaJamia (with Zahra Malkani) which is an experimental project exploring radical pedagogies emerging from struggles around land and water in the city.



2. Portrait of Shahana Rajani

Han Nefkens Foundation

Founded in 2009 in Barcelona by writer and collector Han Nefkens, the Han Nefkens Foundation is a non-profit organization that supports emerging and mid-career artists working with video. Through awards and collaborative commissions with international art institutions, the foundation provides support for the production of new work and opportunities to exhibit internationally.

www.hnfoundation.com

Information

Exhibition Title	MOT Plus Collaboration with Han Nefkens Foundation: Shahana Rajani
Exhibition Period	Tuesday, April 29 – Sunday, June 29, 2025
Closed	Mondays (except May 5 and Jul 21), May 7
Opening Hours	10:00 – 18:00
Admission	Free
Venue	Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo Exhibition Gallery B2F
Organized by	Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo operated by Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture
Inquiries	03-5245-4111 (General Information)
Curated by	Mio Harada (Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo)

[Event] An artist talk is planned to take place during the exhibition period. Further details will be announced on our website.

Also on view

“Soundwalk Collective & Patti Smith: *CORRESPONDENCES*” Exhibition Gallery B2F

“Kenjiro Okazaki” Exhibition Gallery 1F/3F

“MOT Collection” Collection Gallery

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List of Artwork Image Credits

1. *Four Acts of Recovery* by Shahana Rajani. Produced by the Han Nefkens Foundation

2. Portrait of Shahana Rajani

3 - 8. *Four Acts of Recovery* by Shahana Rajani. Produced by the Han Nefkens Foundation



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