

# vasl **وقتها** Newsletter Online

Issue No. 18, February - May '10

## Greetings from Vasl!

Welcome to this 18th edition of the Vasl Newsletter! We are always trying to bring something innovative, improved and invigorating to you and this quarterly issue is no different. Many of us were affected by the Iceland Volcano Eruption, with artists traveling around Europe having to keep a very close eye on their flight statuses, and having to be very patient when air space closure occurred. Many shows in the art world were also postponed. In addition to this there was a disconnect with friends because of the closure of Facebook in Pakistan.

However, despite all that we at Vasl office have worked with great fervor to bring forward to you all that happened in the art world in the past couple of months. It has been a very interesting quarter, with many art galleries holding some interesting events ranging from exciting art exhibitions to Imran Qureshi and Aisha Khalid's book launch at the Koel gallery to 'Loha Toar Loha Khoar' at VM art gallery.

Vasl was also part of some stimulating events such as working in collaboration with CAP to build projects like the migration train and

refugee camp for the interactive children's exhibition at the Mohatta Palace Museum.

The sound piece that was written and directed by Shahid Shafat for the migration train was also aired on London radio. Besides this, the 6th International Residency happened with artists coming from Lebanon, Egypt, UK and Pakistan. Not only this but many other events kept Vasl busy through out these months as you will find out once you read the current issue of Vasl Newsletter.

Such has been the ride for us over here at Vasl office and all this was made possible with the continuous and vigorous efforts of Adeela Suleman, Ahmed Ansari, Haider Ali Jan, Samar Faisal Zia, Nadia Niazi, Ammad Tahir, Saman Ali, Hassan Mustafa and Owais A. Khan. We hope you will find this splendid issue of Vasl Newsletter refreshing and informative.

Happy Vacations!

Send your news and feedback at [vaslnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:vaslnewsletter@gmail.com)

## Opportunities

**Call for Submission: 4th Cairo Video Festival**  
Deadline: 15th June, 2010

Medrar for Contemporary Art is sending out an Open Call for Submission to the Forth Video Festival hosted in Goethe institute Cairo-Downtown.

Initiated by the Cairo-based artist initiative Medrar for Contemporary Art in 2005, this festival continues its focus on providing a platform for sharing and discussing newly produced high concept / low budget experimental videos.

For more information and application form please visit <http://medrar.org/4thvf.html>

**Call for applications: HISK Open Studios**  
Deadline: 15th June, 2010

The Higher Institute for Fine Arts (HISK) organizes postgraduate education in Flanders in the field of the audiovisual and visual arts. It provides approximately twenty-five young artists from Belgium and abroad with a studio of their own for the duration of two years along with specific, tailor-made guidance. The Open Studios give the candidate-laureates the opportunity to undergo a confrontation with the public and to generate a great deal of feedback from visual arts professionals. It also offers the audience access to and an insight into the artistic development of a young generation of artists who will play a part in shaping the future of the arts landscape.

For further details please visit: [www.hisk.edu](http://www.hisk.edu)

**Call for applications: 3 month Charles Wallace Pakistan fellowship\***  
Deadline: Two annual deadlines are mid-May and mid-November

The four Charles Wallace trusts support a number of other fellowship schemes and aid for postgraduate students. One fellowship is awarded annually by the Centre of South Asian Studies, SOAS and the Charles Wallace Pakistan Trust for students who have completed a PhD.

For further information please visit: <http://www.wallace-trusts.org.uk/>  
<http://www.soas.ac.uk/southasianstudies/fellowship/>

**Call for applications: De Ateliers' grant/ residency for one to two years**

De Ateliers is an independent artists' institute which is run by visual artists. It focuses on the artistic development of young, talented artists from within the Netherlands and abroad. De Ateliers is open to young artists who are at the beginning of their professional artistic development. Every working year begins with a study tour for all participants and tutors. Part of the travel program concentrates on lesser-known sites which are special from an artistic point of view.

For further details please visit: [http://www.de-ateliers.nl/index.cfm?chapter\\_id=24](http://www.de-ateliers.nl/index.cfm?chapter_id=24)

**Call for applications: Theertha International Residency, 2010**

Theertha is an autonomous, artist-led non-profit initiative based in Colombo. It was established in 2000 to facilitate the local community of artists in innovation, and experimentation. At present, it has undertaken number of projects that include publication, teacher training, international workshops / residencies, exhibitions, computer training, developing local art networks and sustaining regional and international connections.

For further information please see: <http://www.theertha.org/>  
Or mail to: [theerthaac@yahoo.com](mailto:theerthaac@yahoo.com)

## VASL News

**'Birth of Pakistan', an interactive exhibition for children at Mohatta Palace museum**  
23 March- on going for 3 months, 2010

Khayal Khana, a public art project of Vasl Artists' Collective, in collaboration with Citizens Archive of Pakistan created an interactive museum space for children at the Mohatta Palace Museum. This exhibition opened on the 23rd of March 2010 and will remain open for 3 months. Khayal Khana was responsible for reconstructing the sentiments and expressions of migrants coming to Pakistan. It was executed in the form of a train journey and refugee camp. The intention was to relay the feelings of people leaving their homes in India to come live in the newly formed Pakistan. People stepping in the installations experienced what the migrants of those times had experienced during their journey and arrival in their new home land. The living conditions, hardships and valor of the citizens of the new country were epitomized in this life size installation.

For more information please visit: <http://www.vaslart.org/khayaalkhana/folder.2010-03-24.0000500285/document.2010-03-24.1880360836>

**Vasl in collaboration with Faisal Anwar hosts the project, 'ODD SPACES' & 360 ExtEndEd**  
5-9 February, 2010

Vasl hosted the first of its kind global, virtual meet-up between Pakistan, Canada and Bangladesh, a project by Faisal Anwar which took place in the premises of Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture. The opening of the event was on the 5th of February, 2010 and continued till the 9th of February, 2010. There were live video streams which made it possible for the people present at the venue to interact with all 3 locations for 4 nights.

It was the unique timings of the event for Pakistani people which particularly made the project very interesting. The participants were part of the event from 6am to 9am (early morning) and then at 12am to 7am (midnight to early morning). The idea of the project was to find ways to make connections with 'someone' remotely by writing a note, using a placard.

360ExtEndEd is a multi-platform project by Faisal Anwar which explores a city's evolution. The project is in collaboration with Vasl. They uploaded the project on their website last year and the project continues for an indefinite period of time.

The idea behind this project is that, we live in a city where there are infinite stories at every corner, in every neighborhood, in every house. '360 ExtEndEd' questions how, in this hybrid age of globalization, we perceive our relationship with the city we call 'home'. How does a city's life, architecture and history have an impact on us, its inhabitants?

For more information please visit: <http://www.vaslart.org/events/folder.2010-02-05.1058983736/odd-spaces.jpg>

For further information please visit: <http://www.360extended.com/index.php?view=about>  
<http://www.vaslart.org/events/folder.2010-01-26.9753138935/360-extended.jp>

## Artists in the Network & Beyond \ In Diaspora

**Raania Azam Khan Durrani at the 'Mungyeong traditional tea bowl festival' in South Korea**  
May 2010

Raania was invited to attend the 'Mungyeong traditional tea bowl festival' in South Korea, in May 2010. The two week long festival is an annual event held in South Korea celebrating the ancient history of ceramic ware and tea. Besides several events showing traditional Korean master potters, the festival committee had invited 30 artists from 28 countries to exhibit works, conduct workshops and exchange knowledge and craft. The event was sponsored by the Asian Ceramic Network and the Government of Korea.

For further details please see: <http://sabal21.com/english/main.asp>  
<http://raania.wordpress.com/>

**Hamma Abbas holds artist talk at Contemporary Arts Museum Houston**  
June 29, 2010

The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston exemplifies the dynamic relationship between contemporary art and contemporary society through its exhibitions, public and educational programs, and publications. The CAMH provides the physical and intellectual framework essential to the presentation, interpretation, and advancement of contemporary art; it is a vibrant forum for artists and all audiences, and for critical, scholarly, and public discourse. Hamra Abbas shall be holding her talk at the museum on the 29th of June, 2010

Besides that she also has a solo exhibition called: 'Outlet/Independent Art Space', Istanbul, Turkey on June 23, 2010.

And a group exhibition, 'Unerwartet / Unexpected', Art Museum Bochum on 19 June - 10 October, 2010.

For further details please see: <http://www.camh.org/>

**Irfan Hasan selected for OMI International Residency, 2010, New York.**

Omi International Arts Center is a not-for-profit residency program for international visual artists, writers, musicians and dancers as well as the site for The Fields Sculpture Park, a year round public exhibition space for contemporary sculpture. Since its beginning, Omi has been guided by the vision that creative work is a vehicle for knowledge and understanding that transcends political and cultural boundaries. To this end, Omi has hosted over hundreds of residents from 80 different countries to date. The International Artists Residency is a three week residency program for visual artists in upstate New York. Irfan Hasan will be part of the OMI International Residency 2010.

**Call for applications: Art and Ceramics Workshop in France**

La Perdrix, formerly a 13th century monastery and more recently a painting school is now a ceramic art centre, housing activity holidays, residencies and ceramic/ art workshops. They are inviting enthusiastic potters/ artists or those wanting to learn to join us for a week's raku workshop run by Mick Morgan. The program includes learning how to make and fire a gas fiber kiln, discover application of oxides along with many masking techniques. It is a wonderful experience to produce work in a beautiful environment.

To apply please see website for details: [www.laperdrix.co.uk](http://www.laperdrix.co.uk)

**Call for applications: Open Call for proposals 2011 at HMK**

Deadline: 1st June, 2010

Hotel MariaKapel is an artist-run residency and project space in Hoom, a 16th century town by the IJsselmeer, just 40 km north of Amsterdam. MariaKapel invites artists, curators and researchers to submit proposals for our 2011 programme. The programme involves artists and curators working in a wide range of media, focusing on installation and context based work, video/film and performance art. Projects are developed both in public space and in the chapels. The work would be exhibited in Hotel MariaKapel supported by Hoom City Council and the Mondrian Foundation.

To apply please see website for details: [http://www.resartis.org/index.php?id=42&tx\\_ttnews\[tt\\_news\]=535&Hash=d03977e303](http://www.resartis.org/index.php?id=42&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=535&Hash=d03977e303)

**Call for applications: Dalí's Boat: Paint Will Take Us Anywhere**  
Deadline: 1st June, 2010

The gallery is dedicated to the presentation of contemporary visual art in thematic monthly group shows providing opportunities for artists to exhibit their work within a context of current international practice from varied ethnic and cultural contexts. All viewpoints and mediums are welcome. The gallery's mission is to provide an opportunity for artists to become exhibiting members in the arts community of New York City, whether they are showing for the first time or have years of exhibition experience

For further information please see: <http://www.climategallery.com/>

**Request for nominations: Citizens Archive of Pakistan, Oral history project**

The Oral History Project of the Citizens Archive of Pakistan was officially launched on June 16th, 2008. They have collected at least 300 oral histories to date, covering 1940-1960. In addition to first-person testimonial and eyewitness accounts of various moments in Pakistan's history, CAP also collects old maps, videos, and photographs that are scanned to create the nation's first centralized historical database. They are currently seeking nominations for interviews for the 1970s, with a particular focus on the conflict of 1971.

For further information please see: <http://www.citizensarchive.org/>  
Or mail to: [citizensarchive@gmail.com](mailto:citizensarchive@gmail.com)

**Khayal Khana- a project of Vasl Artists' Collective broadcasts in London**  
17th May, 2010

Khayal Khana - a public art project of Vasl Artist's Collective in collaboration with Citizens Archive of Pakistan and Radio FM91 made a sound piece for a children's interactive museum, 'Birth of Pakistan', at Mohatta Palace. The exhibition is about the journey from the Lahore Resolution of 1940, following the sacrifices made to achieve a Muslim homeland in 1947, to the early days of the new born country, Pakistan. The sound piece was directed by Shahid Shafat and the following actors performed in the piece: Yasir, Imran, Mehdi, Munazza, Adeela Suleman and Asma Mundrawala.

The sound piece was broadcasted by, 'Resonance104.4fm', in London, and was aired on the 17th of May, 2010 at 16:30. This venture was possible with the efforts of Gemma Sharpe.

For further information please visit: <http://resonancefm.com/>  
[http://ia360707.us.archive.org/15/items/KhayalKhana\\_resonance/KahyaalkhannaTrainProjectIntroducedByGemmaSharpe\\_digestives.anteprss\\_17.05.10.m4a](http://ia360707.us.archive.org/15/items/KhayalKhana_resonance/KahyaalkhannaTrainProjectIntroducedByGemmaSharpe_digestives.anteprss_17.05.10.m4a)

**Vasl in collaboration with Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture hosts, International Artists Residency**  
25 February - 4 April, 2010

Vasl hosted its 6th International Residency for 3 artists +1 writer in during the month of February and April in 2010. The participants in the residency included, Gemma Sharpe from UK, Ehsan-ul-Haq from Lahore, Lara Baladi from Lebanon/Egypt and Mohamed Abdelkarim from Egypt. The presentations of their previous work along with any work that they produced during the residency were showcased on 30th of March, 2010 IVS Gallery.

The idea of the residency was to bring together artists of various backgrounds along with a writer to introduce the diversity of interpretation of art. The residency was possible with the cordial participation of Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture which provided studio spaces for the artists to work in and also provided the space for the opening of the 5 weeks long residency.

For further information please visit: <http://www.vaslart.org/residencies/folder.2010-02-25.2866612586/on-off.jpg>  
<http://vaslart.org/residencies/folder.2010-02-25.2866612586/>

For more information please visit: <http://www.vaslart.org/residencies/folder.2010-02-25.2866612586/on-off.jpg>  
<http://vaslart.org/residencies/folder.2010-02-25.2866612586/>

**Book Launch: Imran Qureshi and Aisha Khalid**

The books 'Name Class Subject' by Aisha Khalid and 'Side by Side' by Imran Qureshi were commissioned and published by 'Raking Leaves', a London-based organization were launched on 12th May, 2010 at Rohtas 2 and on the 20th of May, 2010 at the Koel Gallery.

Both artists had been commissioned by Raking Leaves, an organization which publishes artists' book projects and special editions. The organization aims to provide an international platform for such painting collections and distribute art projects that use publishing strategies to explore different ways in which art can be created, viewed and owned. In 2008, Raking Leaves invited Aisha Khalid and Imran Qureshi to make an artist book and an accompanying special edition both of which were published this year. Two books: 'Side by Side' brings together two books, 'The True Path' and 'Moderate Enlightenment', both rendered in the traditional Mughal style of miniature painting.

For your copy please contact The Koel Gallery, Karachi or Rohtas II, Lahore.

**Rashid Rana exhibiting in, 'Beyond the Page'-The Miniature as Attitude in Contemporary Art from Pakistan Pacific Asia Museum**  
18th February- 27th June, 2010

For Rashid Rana 2010 started with a very hectic schedule ranging from group shows and a solo show to a curatorial project all the way up to early 2011: January, 2010: 'Where dreams Cross', 150 years of photography from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, White chapel Gallery, London.

'Contemporary Art from Pakistan', Curated by Rashid Rana, Devi Foundation, New Delhi, India.

March, 2010: 'Armory Show', Jack Shainam Gallery, New York, USA.

May, 2010: 'The Empire Strikes Back: India Art Today', Saatchi Gallery, London, UK.

One of the highlights of the year is the show, 'Beyond the Page'; at the Pakistan Pacific Asia Museum. Established in 1971, the museum is one of only four U.S. institutions dedicated to the arts and culture of Asia and the Pacific Islands. The museum's mission is to bring art and people together for self-discovery, learning, and enjoyment and to promote cross-cultural understanding. Illustrating points of connection in an increasingly global community while encouraging inclusiveness and curiosity, Beyond the Page exhibits the work of thirteen contemporary artists who engage the miniature as practice and concept. As these artists emigrate, travel and exhibit internationally, the "new miniature" movement has become a global phenomenon that demonstrates the vitality of "tradition" are Pakistani art and, more specifically, how aspects of "tradition" are essential parts of contemporary culture. Rashid Rana will also be exhibiting his work in this particular Show along with a few other who are also representing Pakistan.

Rashid Rana is also currently working on a show titled 'Perpetual Paradoxes' of selected works from 1992 till 2009 which opens this July-October 2010 in Musee, Guimet, Paris, France.

To further read up on any of the mentioned news about Rashid Rana please visit the following pages: <http://www.whitechapelgallery.org/exhibitions/where-three-dreams-cross-150-years-of-photography-from-india-pakistan-and-bangladesh>  
<http://www.deviartfoundation.com/>  
<http://www.saatchi-gallery.co.uk/artists/the-new-india.htm>  
[http://www.pacificasiamuseum.org/on\\_view/](http://www.pacificasiamuseum.org/on_view/)

## The Old Man & The Sea

(With Mohammed Abdelkarim, Lara Baladi, Ehsan ul Haq and Gemma Sharpe)



In anticipation of new writing I often stand in front of my bookshelves looking for guidance. Usually the first book that draws my eye becomes a coincidental assistant - it is a kind of book-collector's 'bibliomancy' and it usually works. An aged edition of Ernest Hemmingway's 1952 *The Old Man and the Sea* was the battered spine that announced itself to me this time. A gift that I was never able to give, I bought this little novella for 9 Rand (about 100R) at a naval-themed antique shop in South Africa. The story follows Santiago, an elderly fisherman who has not caught a fish for 84 days. Deciding to sail far out into the Gulf of Mexico to reverse his unlucky streak, he does manage to hook an almighty fish. It is a fish so huge that the old man cannot pull it towards his little boat. The stubborn fish and the stubborn man enter a tryst of wills and for days this huge creature pulls Santiago's little boat further and further into the sea. Eventually it tires and Santiago is able to drag his catch to the side of his boat. He kills it, thus winning in their battle. Strapping the great fish to the side of his boat he begins a long sail home, dreaming of the accolades he will there obtain for this beautiful specimen from the sea. Sharks however, become attracted to the boat and though Santiago is able to kill and drive away a few of these creatures, more and more return. In the end, all he can bring to shore is the skeleton of his catch: the head, backbone and tail of this once great fish. Exhausted, Santiago sleeps in his shack, dreaming of lions in a half-remembered foreign landscape.

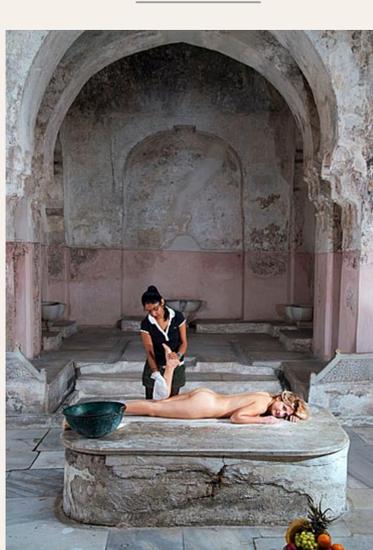
The experience of a residency is much like Santiago's journey. Heading further out into the sea than is comfortable, a search is underway. But returning home, tired and maybe even slightly injured, you find yourself left with little more than the bones of your catch. You become an unreliable witness to the journey that has ensued. And who would know from the skeleton of your production that the beast you hooked when you were out in the sea was once fleshy, beautiful and vigorous? And at the end of it all, who really knows about the remaining pieces of flesh that hide in your camera, your notebooks or your MP3player? And how do you describe all that you needed to leave behind? The work you could not carry home; the voices; the 4am laughs; the whispers of trouble; the traffic noise; the scene that you didn't manage to freeze into a photograph?

Abdelkarim, Ehsan, Lara and myself - the writer among us, I fear speaking on behalf of a group, but adopting role I shall attempt to describe something that we shared nevertheless. All of us were fishing somehow: fishing for sounds, images, sentences and objects. Within all of us there was an impulse to gather, record, collect and amass.

Lara used the metaphor of a puzzle one morning. She is gathering pieces of a puzzle that has an absent destiny. Eventually the puzzle will find its image, though it is not yet existent - the associations are still growing. The pieces are amazing: photographs, films, notes, words and correspondences. The active and the accidental play out in this search for the pieces of Lara's instinctual puzzle - pieces might fall into place over breakfast, or on the way to buy milk. She will be back for more, (on a motorbike deeper into the country and its complexity), so she tells me.

I look through my photographs from Lahore and my photographs from Karachi. I notice that the light changes. In Karachi the light is dusty, sand-toned and full of sun. In Lahore the palate alters: green, burnt pink and slightly muted, as if it has just rained. From city to city, basic objects and materials appear to us differently. They diverge in character...

For the complete article, please visit: <http://vaslart.org/residencies/folder.2010-02-25.2866612586/folder.2010-03-31.5947827909/folder.2010-04-01.497743202/document.2010-04-01.5891511807>



Paradise Bath, Hamra Abbas, Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston



His Highness, Irfan Hassan, the Drawing Room Gallery



Book Launch: 'Name Class Subject' & 'Side by Side', Imran Qureshi and Ayesha Khaled at the Koel Gallery

## Resources & Links

**NuktaArt celebrates its 5th year**

Launched on May 2005, NuktaArt is now celebrating its fifth year of publication. For details visit the NuktaArt website:

[www.nuktaartmag.com](http://www.nuktaartmag.com)

**Free Art Documentaries Online Library**

<http://www.docuwat.ch/free-documentaries/>

## Other News

The vasl website might have some connection problems or other technical difficulties. This is because a new website is currently under construction and therefore we apologize before hand for any problems that the users might face.

We would appreciate your cooperation and patience. Thank you.

Khoj, an autonomous, artist-led, registered society, based in New Delhi, just celebrated their ten years of being in existence by launching a book called, 'The Khoj Book'. This book features the work of the artists who have been part of Khoj in these past ten years.

To order your own book please contact the publisher, Harper Collins:

<http://www.harpercollins.com/index.aspx>

## Galleries & Exhibitions

### Timeline

#### Canvas Gallery

2 Person Show  
11th- 20th May, 2010  
*Afshar Malik and Shakeel Saigol*

Solo Show  
25th May- 3rd June, 2010  
*Usman Saeed*

Solo Show  
8th- 12th June, 2010  
*Sayeda Habib*

#### Green Cardamom

'This dark ceiling without a star'  
23rd April- 11th June 2010  
*Green Cardamom, London*  
*Noa Lidor*

'Beyond the Page - The Miniature as Attitude in Contemporary Art from Pakistan'  
18th February - 27th June 2010  
*Pacific Asia Museum, Akhlaq, Faizma Hamra Abbas, Zahoor ul Akhlaq, Faiza Butt, Noor Ali Chagani, Ali Kazim, Alisha*

Group Show  
22nd September- 16th October, 2010  
*Students- 1st batch of Fine Art Department, Centre of Excellence in Art and*

#### Koel Gallery

16th September, 2010  
*In collaboration with Greynoise, Lalarkh will be displaying her work*

October, 2010  
*Naajeb Omar*

December, 2010  
*Retrospective of Musarrat Mirza*

#### IVS Gallery

'International Exhibition of Press Photographs'  
15th-20th May, 2010  
*All Pakistan Press Photographers*

'Good Things Come in Small Packages'  
4th- 28th August, 2010  
*Group show of 18 artists*

Group Show  
22nd September- 16th October, 2010  
*Students- 1st batch of Fine Art Department, Centre of Excellence in Art and*

#### VM Art Gallery

Vitalized Verses  
21st May- 12th June, 2010  
*Fateh Jo Aasey Pasey 26th June- 15th July, 2010*  
*Various Sindhi Artists Green Cardamom*

Rohtas II  
June, 2010  
*Asim Akhtar*

September, 2010  
*Risham Syed*

October, 2010  
*Anif Mehmood Ayesha Jatoi*

Grey Noise  
'Who are you, Defenders of the Universe?'  
24th April- 4th June, 2010 at Experimenter Contemporary Art, Kolkata, India