

Office

45 Bath House, Dunbridge Street
London E2 6JD

SANCHITA ISLAM

Mobile. 00 44 7966 283 241

Studio

7-15 Greatorex St
London E1 5NF

E-mail: sanchita@pigmentexplosion.com
Website: www.pigmentexplosion.com

EDUCATION

Jan 1999

Chelsea School of Art and Design, The London Institute

BA. Fine Art Practice and Theory of Visual Art (dropped out during second year because my tutor Edwina kept on putting me down and it was making me depressed)

Feb 1997–Feb 1998

Northern Media School, Sheffield Hallam University

MA. Screenwriting/ Directing. Awarded Channel 4 bursary £7,000. Directed/wrote *Weak Bladder*, screened at Bite the Mango festival, Brief Encounters, Cobden Club, Electric Stew, Whitechapel Art Gallery, Hub, Akaash, China White, Avivson Gallery, Paris and 000 Film Festival, Frankfurt

Sep 1992–Sep 1996

London School of Economics, University of London

MSc. Comparative Politics: Awarded scholarship to complete studies
BSc. International History: Degree Class Upper Second

Sep 1991–Jun 1992

Manchester Metropolitan University

Art foundation diploma with Commendation

Sep 1989–Jun 1991

Loreto College, Moss Side, Manchester

A Levels: Art: A, English Literature: A, History: B

EXHIBITIONS & SCREENINGS

April 2011

VIOLENCE ON TRIAL, Resistance Gallery, London

The Mutiny: open discussions and incisive analysis from activists, artists, academics and trouble-makers. Including Peter Kennard

March 2011

ESTACA ZERO TEATRO, Portugal

Performance of play 'The Suitcase' written by Sanchita Islam as part of 10x10 programme in Porto Portugal

October 2010

UK Film Council, London

Completion of 10 minute animation film in collaboration with Touchwood Animation, London and Didar Films, Tehran, London

January 2010

ESTACA ZERO TEATRO, Portugal

Performance of play 'Hello' written by Sanchita Islam as part of 10x10 programme in Porto Portugal

November 2009

Spin, New York

PEP1 combined performance, poetry, film and art and is the first of a series of 'art in a shoebox' events planned in London, New York and Malawi. PEP stands for pigmentexplosion parties and is designed to bring art to new and diverse audiences.

October 2009

'While Rome Burns,' London

The Queen's Elm Gallery, Chelsea, a group show featuring music, performance, sculpture. Showed thirty foot long scroll and performed White Wall from 'Eternal Pollution of a Dented Mind.'

- May 2009 **On the Cusp, Globe, Hay**
A new exhibition exploring the Artscape Project with a collection of video paintings exploring the boundary of the human and the natural, narrative closure and openness
- May 2009 **LSO, London**
Exhibition, reading, screening of films as part of a wider event on gender equality funded by The Arts Council
- Apr 2009 **Rich Mix, London**
Screening of 'On the moon' part of 60x60 commissioned by motiroti
- Oct 2008 **Alhamra Cultural Complex, Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore, Pakistan**
Screening of 'On the moon' part of 60x60 commissioned by motiroti
- Oct 2008 **National Arts Gallery, Islamabad, Pakistan,**
Screening of 'On the moon' part of 60x60 commissioned by motiroti
- Sep 2008 **Kamal Nehru College, University of Delhi, India**
Screening of 'On the moon' part of 60x60 commissioned by motiroti
- Sep 2008 **Royal Geographical Society's *The Punjab: Moving Journey's exhibition***
Screening of 'On the moon' part of 60x60 commissioned by motiroti
- Sep 2008 **Oh Baby, London**
Exhibition and launch of new baby range featuring Sophie Cloud, drawings
- July 2008 **60x60, Vibe Gallery, London**
Screening of 'On the moon' part of 60x60 commissioned by motiroti
- June 2008 **60x60, Shunt, London**
Screening of 'On the moon' part of 60x60 commissioned by motiroti
- April 2008 **Artscape video installation**
University College Hospital, an installation of video paintings
- April 2008 **Vibe Gallery, Truman Brewery, London**
Schizophrenia part 1: Sanchita, Sophie, Mia and Fred funded by the Arts Council
- March 2008 **MUJU Upstarts Festival, London**
Screening of Connecting Faith at Muslim and Jewish arts festival
- March 2008 **Gallery Planet, France**
Group show of 'brain' drawings and three sculptures with artist Laurent Kollier
- December 2007 **Rome University (Rome Tor Vergata), Rome, Italy**
Presentation of films, art work and a lecture about my work to an audience of academics and students
- November 2007 **Eastbound: Hidden Histories, South East Essex College**
Group show in conjunction with Rachel Lichtenstein's new book 'On Brick Lane', which features Sanchita Islam's photos and writing
- October 2007 **Sketch, Conduit Street, London**
'Openness' video art installation as part of Artscape. Screening of international video paintings
- September 2007 **London College of Fashion, London**
Presented paintings and films to an audience of LCF students
- September 2007 **Spitalfields Gallery, Greatorex Street, London**
Open Studios show
- September 2007 **arTalk, Tribeca, New York**
Screening, recital and exhibition of new paintings executed in New York

- August 2007 **The Crypt, Spitalfields Church**
Group show at the Crypt in conjunction with Rachel Lichtenstein's new book 'On Brick Lane,' which features Sanchita Islam's photos and writing
- March 2007 **Hayward Gallery, London**
'Art and Architecture: Cities of the future' showed my video artscapes. Currently artist in residence at Artscape
- November 2006 **Tea, Shoreditch, London**
Artscape installation at Tea consisting of urbanscapes shot in London
- October 2006 **Arts Pavillion, Millenium Park, London**
Group show organised by arTalk
- September 2006 **Whitechapel Art Gallery, London**
Screening of Artscape installation of video paintings shot in Malaysia and Indonesia
- September 2006 **Spitalfields Gallery, Greatorex Street, London**
Open Studios group show
- August 2006 **Sunday Soup, London**
Screening 'From Briarwood to Barisal to Brick Lane and Rural Life'
- August 2006 **Art Chow, London**
Group show of acrylic ink fantasy landscape paintings
- August 2006 **Asia House, London**
Screening of 'Rural Life' as part of group show
- Nov 2005 **Institute of Contemporary Art, London**
Future Cities: Nature vs Technology. Projection of video art at the ICA, while a debate took place between Sir Terry Ferrel, Julia Barfield and Hilary Lawson
- Nov 2005 **Asia House, London**
Exhibition of drawings and photos from the project 'Hidden'
- Nov 2005 **Oh! Art, London**
Screening of 'Skin,' a film exploring the views of Somali and Bengali kids about skin bleaching
- Oct 2005 **Asia House, London**
Screening of 'Mustard and 'From Briarwood to Barishal to Brick Lane'
- Oct 2005 **L'Espace Des Blancs Manteaux, Paris**
Screening of 'From Briarwood to Barishal to Brick Lane'
- Sep 2005 **Oh! Art, London**
Screening of three films, 'Connecting Kids,' 'Old Meets Young' and 'Connecting Faith'
- July 2005 **The Women's Library, London**
Solo show of drawings, photos and screening of film 'Hidden'
- July 2005 **Spitalfields Gallery, Greatorex Street, London**
Open Studios group show
- Sep 2004 **Matthew Williamson, New York**
Blown up photograph of New York city scape used as back drop as part of Matthew Williamson fashion show

- Sep 2004 **National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**
Screening of 'Connecting Faith', a film funded by the British Council
- July 2004 **Spitalfields Gallery, Greatorex Street, London**
Open Studios group show
- April 2004 **Whitechapel Art Gallery, London**
Photography exhibition of work created with Somali and Bangladeshi youth at New Avenues inspired by Gerhard Richter show 'Atlas'
- April 2004 **British Council, Dhaka, Bangladesh**
Screening of 'Connecting Faith', one hour film shot in Malaysia, Bangladesh and London
- July 2003 **Whitechapel Art Gallery, London**
Creative Connections exhibition included photography commission as part of year long artist residency at the Whitechapel Art Gallery
- March 2003 **Whitechapel Art Gallery, London**
Screening of 'Rural Life', shot in Bangladesh
- March 2003 **British Council, Dhaka, Bangladesh**
Screening of 'From Briarwood to Barishal to Brick Lane'
- Dec 2002 **Alliance Francaise de Dacca, Bangladesh**
Screening of 'Old Meets Young', film commissioned by London Arts
- Nov 2002 **SAFE Studios, 12-14 Greatorex Street, London**
Open studios exhibition
- Sep 2002 **93 Feet East, 150 Brick Lane, London**
Exhibition of new photo realist paintings entitled MIA part 1
- April 2002 **Richmix Centre, Bethnal Green Road, London**
Screening of film 'From Briarwood to Barishal to Brick Lane'
- March 2002 **Commonwealth Institute, London**
Screening of 'What does the Commonwealth Mean to you?' shot in London and Bangladesh and 12 digital prints on canvas
- March 2002 **Hardcore Poor Show, Commonwealth Institute, London**
Screening of 'Five Women' and 'Rural Life' both shot in Bangladesh and 25 photographic prints
- Jan 2002 **9th International Film Festival, Dhaka, Bangladesh**
Screening of 'From Briarwood to Barishal to Brick Lane'
- Dec 2001 **Alliance Francaise De Dacca, Dhaka, Bangladesh**
Solo show of film, prints, paintings and photography
- Dec 2001 **The Tower Hamlets Film Fund Film Festival. London**
'From Briarwood to Barishal to Brick Lane' screened at the Rhythm Factory
- Oct 2001 **Pigment Explosion 4, The Brickhouse, London**
Pigment Explosion 4, a live painting installation with music and visuals sponsored by Alternative Arts and Red Bull
- June 2001 **Egizio's Project, 596 Broadway, New York**
Group show 'Children' included digital montage iris print of my little sister's body, shot in Barcelona
- June 2001 **Whitechapel Art Gallery, London**
Foyer exhibition of Bangladesh paintings and photos accompanied

- with artwork completed by the children of Thomas Buxton School
- May 2001 **London Print Studio, London**
Group show of prints
- April 2001 **Shabdaguchha Festival, Astoria, Queens, New York**
Exhibition of Bangladesh and Calcutta paintings and photographs
- March 2001 **International Women's Day, Bishopsgate Goodsyrd,**
Invited to exhibit, perform a reading and do a live painting demonstration on International Women's Day
- March 2001 **Pump House Gallery, Battersea Park, London**
Figure of 8, participated in group show of eight artists
- Feb 2001 **Kobi Nazrul Centre, Hanbury St, London**
A permanent exhibition of 8 storm pieces commissioned by KNC, inspired by the poetry of Kobi Nazrul Islam
- Jan 2001 **Brady Centre, Hanbury St. London**
An exhibition of work by the children of Thomas Buxton School inspired by my Bangladesh/Calcutta paintings and photos
- Sep 2000 **Neoimages, New York**
Drawings and paintings featured on an interactive virtual gallery at www.neoimages.com
- Sep 2000 **Spitalfields Gallery, Greatorex St, London**
Abstract Fen Emergence, group show including pigment paintings
- Aug 2000 **The Brickhouse, Brick Lane, London**
Pigment Explosion 3, live painting event with live music and visuals sponsored by the National Lottery and Coca Cola
- Aug 2000 **The London Print Studio, London**
International show 'Our Word Today' where drawings of my mother and self portraits were blown up and placed in 14 different locations around London
- July 2000 **Akaash, Rhythm Factory, London**
Invited to perform live painting at a live music, film event
- July 2000 **Loading Bay Gallery, Brick Lane, London**
Showing of three 30 foot panoramic drawings of Brick Lane, sponsored by Peabody Trust, The Truman Brewery and Red Bull
- June 2000 **Avivson Gallery, Paris**
Group show including pigment paintings
- June 2000 **Metro, Rupert Street, SOHO, London**
Showing of six pigment wax paintings as part of a group show
- June 2000 **Rhythm Factory, Whitechapel Road, London**
Pigment Explosion 2, a live painting installation with music and visuals sponsored by the National Lottery and Coca Cola
- May 2000 **TS2K, Shadwell, London**
Solo show Blue Spacey Paintings
- April 2000 **Teatro, Shaftsbury Avenue, SOHO, London**
Exhibition of pigment wax red and blue paintings
- Nov 1999 **Hub, Bishopsgate Goodsyrd, London**
Profile of work: text, audio, paintings, drawings, film, sculptures

- Aug 1999 **The Brickhouse, Brick Lane, London**
Pigment Explosion 1, an installation of live painting with DJ set/visuals
- Jul 1999 **The Brickhouse, Brick Lane, London**
Solo show including dildo drawings & pigment paintings
- Jul 1999 **Whitechapel Art Gallery 000, London**
Screening of Weak Bladder, reading from Gungi Blues with other writers including Hari Kunzro, and exhibition of text work as part of a group show of young Asian artists
- Jul 1999 **The Square, Bristol**
Solo show of pigment and wax paintings
- Apr 1999 **One Gallery, Dray Walk, London**
Solo show comprising text, paintings and film with live DJ set performed by Talvin Singh

**COMMISSIONS,
PRESENTATIONS
& GRANTS**

- Awarded development Arts Council grant 2010 to create new work for a forthcoming solo show in London
- Awarded UK film council grant to make animation film 'The White Wall' 2010
- Completed graffiti art for Mark Hix's new restaurant in Brewer Street in 2009
- Artist in resident at Shoreditch House from 2007-2008 completing graffiti art in the toilets
- Completed graffiti art for Mark Hix's new restaurant in Farringdon, Hix Oyster and Chops June 2008
- Directed a ten minute film for BBC Inside Out, screened 24th March 2008, BBC1
- Presented and screened films at mental health group Beside March 2008
- Commissioned by Moti Roti to produce the film 'on the moon' January 2008
- Awarded Arts Council Grant to fund and complete 'Schizophrenia Part one: Sophie, Mia, Fred and Sanchita'
- Sold six drawings to Guido Orsi, a private Italian collector whose collection includes Hirst, Picasso, Richter, Warhol, Viola & more January 2007
- Commissioned by Clifton Hotel Group to complete 31 paintings for newly refurbished hotels April 2007
- Completed a Sense of Place, commissioned by Naseem Kahn, January 2007. The project involved a series of workshops at Virginia Primary School and the main focus was architectural/fantasy landscape drawing and photography. The work was then reproduced in a brochure about the project
- Commissioned by Gun Powder Park to make a film about Clarence Park in St Albans August 2006
- Featured on BBC2 Desi DNA March 2006
- A short film about my work featured on BBC2 March 2006
- Employed to run a series of poetry workshops in Southall for Desi Radio, funded by the Arts Council, 2006
- Employed as artist in residence at Artscape to film and create video installations, June 2005

- Commissioned by Southall Black Sisters to complete a series of photographs for their annual report brochure, July 2005
- Awarded BBC arts grant to complete film, book and exhibition working with Somali and Bangladeshi kids at New Avenues Youth Centre, June 2005
- Awarded Arts Council grant to complete film, book and exhibition working with Somali and Bangladeshi kids at New Avenues Youth Centre, May 2005
- Awarded Arts Council grant to fund the English language publication of 'Connecting Kids' April 2005
- Commissioned to do 22 paintings for the Clifton in Bristol April 2005
- Awarded British Council Commission in March 2005 to complete 'Connecting Kids' a book about poor/street kids in Bangladesh, Malaysia, Indonesia and the UK illustrated with photos and drawings
- Commissioned to do six paintings for Hilary Lawson, TVF London, 2005
- Awarded 'Awards For All' National Lottery grant in 2004 to complete a film and photography project working with young Asians with self image problems related to their skin shade and body image
- Commissioned to complete 20 paintings for the Clifton in Bristol, 2004
- Commissioned to complete painting for Warner Bros, Holborn, to add to current collection of seven paintings, 2004
- Awarded Arts Council and Tower Hamlets grant to complete 'Hidden' a book that depicted the stories of battered Asian Women, 2004
- Employed by Whitechapel Art Gallery to run a series of workshops in February in relation to the Gerhard Richter exhibition. The objective was to create a mini archive that was principally photography based, 2004
- Awarded Arts Council Grant to complete book publication 'Old Meets Young' April 2004
- Employed by the Hayward Gallery to conduct a series of workshops between November and December 2003
- Awarded British Council Film commission to make a film about three Muslims living in Kuala Lumpur, London and Dhaka 2003
- Awarded grant from National Lottery to make a film about Asian women who are victims of domestic violence 2003
- Was artist in residence at the Whitechapel Art Gallery, 2003 also completed a commission for the Whitechapel Art Gallery that was exhibited at the end of the residency
- Awarded London Arts grant to create Hedge galleries and design the Pigment Explosion website, a multimedia project designed to consolidate links between Bangladeshi diasporic artists and writers in London, Bangladesh and New York, 2002 and show case the work of Pigment Explosion
- Awarded grant from Barings Foundation 2002 to complete 'Old meets Young'
- Awarded grant from Peabody Trust 2002 to complete 'Old meets Young'

- Awarded grant from London Arts to complete 'Old meets Young' a project that involved the elderly in Bangladesh and London. The project entailed portraiture, digital photography, film, exhibition and a workshop component 2002
- Awarded Alternative Arts Grant to complete Pigment Explosion 4 A live painting event that took place at the Rhythm Factory in 2002
- Awarded triple Commonwealth Institute and British Council Commission – included 3 films shot in Bangladesh and London and 25 photographic prints 2002
- Awarded London Arts grant to complete Uncovered: The Bangladesh Diaspora, consisting of an exploration through a book publication, an education project focused in the East End and a film of the cross cultural references between Bangladesh and the diasporic Bangladeshi communities in London and New York, 2001
- Awarded Millennium Award from Peabody trust and charity bls453 to complete 'A Piece of Bangladesh brought home'. A painting/photography project based in Calcutta/ Bangladesh 2001
- Awarded grant from CIDA to buy G4, printer and scanner for the development of Pigment Explosion
- Commissioned to do 16 paintings for The Square in Bristol 2001
- Awarded Kobi Nazrul Islam Centre painting commission 2001
- Awarded Millennium Award from Peabody Trust to complete a thirty-foot long Brick Lane/landscape drawing and complete an outreach project with local school kids 2000
- Commissioned by Red Bull to create 5 giant graffiti art panels 2001
- Awarded National Lottery 'Awards For All' grant to fund 3 Pigment Explosion events 2000

WRITING

- Participated in the Defining a Nation Tour, 1999, organised by Arthrob and sponsored by the Arts Council. Writers included Irvine Welsh, Ben Richards, Courttia Newland and Mirander Sawyer
- Read at Electric Stew (Chinawhite), Cultural Virus (Vibe Bar), International Women's day (Ts2k) Spitz Litz Festival (Spitz and Spitalfields market)
- Articles published on Limesoda.com, Mumbai and Ziptang.com London, 1999
- Artwork &Text published in ParisAtlantic, Winter 1999
- Artwork published in ParisAtlantic Spring 2000, Winter 2000
- Showing and reading of work at Cambridge University, May 2000
- Participated in the Word Festival at the Globe Theatre, Sep 2000
- Artwork published on front cover of Shabduguccha, journal of Bengali poetry, New York, Oct-Dec 2000, Jan-March 2001
- Invited to read and show artwork at American University of Paris Oct 2000
- Publication of 'From Briarwood to Barishal to Brick Lane' January 2002, a 100 page book of art work, writing and the selected work of writers residing in Bangladesh, London and New York available

- at Eastside book shop
- Art work and text published in INDEX on censorship July 2002
 - Book launch of 'From Briarwood to Barishal to Brick Lane at House of Lords July 2002, sponsored by CIDA
 - Publication of article 'The Third Dimension' in the Daily Star, Dhaka Bangladesh, March 2003
 - Publication of article 'The Jam' in the Daily Star, Dhaka, Bangladesh, April 2004
 - 'Old Meets Young' funded by the Arts Council published April 2004 available at Eastside book shop and Etcetera in Dhaka
 - Book launch hosted by the late Tony Banks MP at the House of Commons July 2005
 - 'Hidden' funded by the Arts Council and Tower Hamlets Council published January 2005 available at Eastside bookshop and Photographer's Gallery bookshop
 - Book launch of 'Hidden' hosted at Eastside bookshop February 2005
 - Reading at Jewish Cultural Centre, February 2006, readers featured Steven Berkoff and Bernard Kopps
 - Performed reading for Brit Bangla in Covent Garden April 2006
 - Reading performed at October Gallery June 2006
 - Publications 2007, 'Avenues,' 'Connecting Kids' and the 'Cloud Catcher' funded by Arts Council, BBC and Pigment Explosion
 - Writing critiqued and published in journals by Elisabetta Marino, Lecturer in English Literature at Rome University
 - Reading performed at Cultural Virus November 2006
 - New publication of poems 'Eternal Pollution of a Dented Mind' published by Chipmunka Press 2008
 - Publication of novel 'Gungi Blues' Chipmunka Press January 2008
 - Performance at Vibe Lounge, reading from Eternal Pollution of a Dented Mind, performed as Fred and Jim, two glamorous devils
 - Completion of new novel 'Portrait of Madness' and 'Dented Volume II' to be published 2010 by Chipmunka Press