

Shahidul Alam

Bangladeshi contemporary photojournalist, academician and activist writer.

Born in 1955 in Dhanmondi, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The artist lives and works in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Education

1983 PhD in Organic Chemistry: Free Radical Reactions of Heteraromatic Compounds. London University.

1976 BSc in Biochemistry and Genetics. Liverpool University.

Photojournalist Shahidul Alam debunks his multiple other designations and prefers being called a storyteller, a socially conscious activist who earnestly feels the need for his country's stories be told from a newer perspective. Being perturbed by the portraiture of his native Bangladesh as a poor country annually ravaged by the vagaries of nature by the western intellectuals, Alam takes it on himself to narrate the many untold stories of Bangladesh to the rest of the world.

Selected Exhibitions

Solo

2013

"A Struggle for Democracy", Turner Hall TAFE NSW – Sydney Institute.

2012

"Bangladesh 1971", Powerhouse Museum Brisbane, Australia.

"Naxal Women", Lodi- The Garden Restaurant, New Delhi, India.

2011

"My Journey as a Witness", Tristan Hoare, Wilemotte Gallery, UK.

2010

"Crossfire" , Drik Gallery, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

2007

"Portraits of Commitment", Barefoot Gallery, Colombo.

2006

"Nature's Fury", The Drum, Birmingham, UK.

2002

"Migrant Labour", Shilpokola Academy, Dhaka.

Group

2006

“Positive Lives”, University of Ulster, Jordanstown Campus (Curator and Photographer)

2003

“A Brahmaputra Diary”, Sutra Gallery in Kuala Lumpur.

“Migrant Labour”, Singapore History Museum, Singapore.

Curated Works

2013

“Many Faces of War 1971”, Suhrawardi Uddan, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

2010

“Where Three Dreams Cross”, Fotomuseum, Switzerland.

2008

“Bangladesh 1971”, Rivington Place, London.

2003

“Water the First Element”, National Art Gallery, Malaysia.

2000

“The War We Forgot”, Bangladesh National Museum, Dhaka

Still Photography

2013

When the Waters Came; Cyclone 1991, Maheshkhali, Bangladesh, 1991.

Tsunami;

“Kashmir Earthquake”, Kashmir, Pakistan, 2005.

“Climate Refugees”

“Hemayetpur Mental Hospital”, Pabna, Bangladesh, 1994.

“Out of Focus”,

A Two Day Visa;

Everyday Life in Bangladesh;

Senior Citizens;

“IbnBatuta”

“Travel Snapshots”

“Dancing Amidst the Baobabs”, 2008

Videos

“Chhobimela VII: A Preview”, 2013.

“Oitijjo”: Preview , 2013.

“Interview of Rafiur Rabbi, father of the murdered teenager Tanvir Mohammad Tokir of Narayanganj”, 2013.

“1001 Inventions”: The Enduring Legacy of Muslim Civilisation, 2013.

“A Freedom Fighter Sings of 1971”, 2013.

“Interview of Rescue Volunteer Mohammad ferdouz at Rana Plaza”, 2013.

“Birth Pangs of a Nation”, 2012.

“Farewell to Tarique and Mishuk”, 2012.

“Police attack on photojournalists”, 2012.

“Interview of Passersby as well as the police who shut down Crossfire exhibition”, 2012.

“Many Faces of War 1971”, 2012.

“NID Bird Show”, Ahmedahad, India, 2012.

“Walking down the Red Clay Mountain”, Quetta Chaman Highway, Pakistan, 2012.

“Dhanmondi Brickbreakers”, 2012.

“Hana Jheel”, Quetta, Pakistan, 2012.

“In Search of the Shade of the Banyan Tree”, 2011.

“My Journey as a Witness”, Skira Editore, 2011.

Books

Author : “*My Journey as a Witness*” (Author) Skira and Bengal Foundation, 2011. ”

Joint Curator : “*Blink: 100 contemporary photographs*. Phaidon, New York, 2002.

Picture Editor: State of Democracy in South Asia (Lokniti), OUP, New Delhi, 2008.

Contributing editor: Chapter on “Families of Man” page 94-103 in *This Critical Mirror: 40 Years of World Press Photo*. Thames and Hudson, 1995.

Editor: *Chobi Alor Bhasha* (Photography the Language of Light) by Azizur Rahim Peu, Drik, 2006.

Guest Editor: New Internationalist NI 403, August 2007.

Monograph: Nature’s Fury, Concern Worldwide UK, 2007. Portraits of Commitment, UNAIDS, 2009.

Books with significant contributions:

Chapter 1 “The Majority World Looks Back” page 51-66 in *The Weight of Photography*, Academic and Scientific Publications, 2010.

“Emerging from the Shadows” Curator’s introductory text page 18-22 in *Where Three Dreams Cross: 150 Years of Photography from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh*. Fotomuseum Winterthur, Steidel, 2010.

Contributor: “*What matters: The World’s Preeminent Photojournalists and Thinkers Depict Essential Issues of Our Time*”, Sterling, 2008.

Photographic documentation for Bangladesh Splendours of the Past: Pictorial account of Bangladesh heritage. Cosmos Printing and Publications, 2001.

Photographic documentation for “Shanghai in the eyes of the World’s Top Photographers”, Shanghai Publishing, 1999.

Disrupted Borders: Book and exhibition Rivers Oram Press, 1993.

Photographic documentation for Chapter on Bangladesh in *A Cause for Our Times: Oxfam the First 50 Year*, Oxfam UK and Ireland. 1992.

Photographic documentation for Children at Crisis Point :stories from projects in Asia. Save the Children Fund, Andre Deutsch, 1992.

A Dry Roof and a Cow, A book of portraits published by Friesens and Sons. Was one of the seven international photographers featured in this work.

Photographic documentation on Sher-e-Bangla Nagar (National Parliament Bangladesh) in “*Louis L. Kahn: In the Realm of Architecture*,” [Book on the works of architect Louis Kahn]. Museum of Contemporary Arts, LA, 1992.

Selection of Journal Articles:

“Majority World: Challenging the West’s rhetoric of Democracy,” *Amerasia Journal* Volume 34 Number 1 2008; Asian American Studies Center Press, UCLA, pages 89-98;

“The Photography of ‘Resistance’,” *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies* 1469-8447, Volume 9, Issue 1, 2008. Pages 106-115

“Dayanita Singh: Through the Cracks of a Mirror,” *Culture and the Human Body: Prince Claus Awards 2008*; Prince Claus Fund, Amsterdam 2008), pages 80-85

“A Caged Peace,” *Culture and Conflict: Prince Claus Awards 2007*; Prince Claus Fund, The Hague 2008, pages 14-20.

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Text

Blog James Estrin, *New York Times Post*, “Wresting the Narrative from the West”, 2013.

Blog James Estrin, “From Bangladesh, A Photo Festival Builds Bridges”, 2013.

Interview Manik Katyal, “Establishment Earthquaker: Shahidul Alam”, 2013.

Blog James Estrin, “Images of Independence, Finally Free”, 2012.

Blog James Estrin, “Fighting Hopelessness Among Ashes”, 2012.

Article Beena Sarwar, “Bengali “*Crossfire*” Reaches US”, 2012.

Interview Pop Tech 2011 Interview: Shahidul Alam on photography for change, 2011.

Interview : Five Books Interview: Shahidul Alam on World Photography, 2011.

Interview 612 ABC Brisbane , Australia. With Kelly Higgins-Devine, 2011.

Interview With Shehabuddin, *New Age*, 2011.

Review *Crossfire*: Shahidul Alam’s new exhibition on extra judicial executions in Bangladesh, 2010.

Blog Dvid W. Dunlop, “Court Upholds Provocative Bangladesh Show”, 2010.

Blog David Gonzalez, “Police in Bangladesh Close Photo Exhibit”, 2010.

Interview Shahidul Alam on BBC Bangla, 2010.

Review Nice Medema, “Using the Power of Art”, 2010.

Blog David Gonzalez, “Where Death Squads Struck in Bangladesh”, 2010.

Interview By Fariha Karim, 2009.

Article Maria Lundberg, 2008.

Article Stathis Tuomaala, “Who is the one Looking at the Pictures?”, 2008.

Article Ajay Singh, “Majority World Finds Voice in Photos”, 2007.

Article Vincent Lim, “Photos from the Majority World”, 2005.

Interview “An Interview with Shahidul Alam”, Debalie Dossier, 2001.

Interview “Images Realities: An Interview with Shahidul Alam”, Alochona, 2001.

Videos

Talk “Shahidul Alam: Photography’s Power”, Pop Tech 2011.

Talk “re-publica 2012 – Shahidul Alam- The Borders of the Global Village”, 2012.

Interview “Shahidul Alam on the Revolutionary Power of Photography”, Asia Society, 2012.

Interview “I Want to Live”, Conscious Action Network, 2012.

Interview “Shahidul Alam on India”, 2011.

Interview “Shahidul Alam”, Unnayan News Project, 2006.

Interview “Shahidul Alam talks during his Storytelling Masterclass: 3”, Kolkata, 2012.

Images

Shahidul Alam *University Campus, FM Hall, “Crossfire”*, 2010.

Shahidul Alam *Clouds, “Crossfire”*, 2010.

Shahidul Alam *Clouds, “Crossfire”*, 2010.

Shahidul Alam *Gamcha, “Crossfire”*, 2010.

Shahidul Alam *Grave, “Crossfire”*, 2010.

Shahidul Alam *Hospital Corridor, “Crossfire”*, 2010.

Shahidul Alam *Looking for Second Floor, “Crossfire”*, 2010.

Shahidul Alam *Lychee Trees “Crossfire”*, 2010.

Shahidul Alam *Morgue, “Crossfire”*, 2010.

Shahidul Alam *Paddy Field, “Crossfire”*, 2010.

Shahidul Alam *Motorbikes, “Crossfire”*, 2010.

Shahidul Alam *Shadows, “Crossfire”*, 2010.

Shahidul Alam *Steel Almirah, “Crossfire”*, 2010.

Shahidul Alam *Taka, “Crossfire”*, 2010.

Shahidul Alam *Wall, “Crossfire”*, 2010.

Shahidul Alam *Waterboarding, "Crossfire"*, 2010.

Shahidul Alam *Wicker Basket in Tree*, 1988, Dhaka, "When the Waters Came".

Shahidul Alam *Woman Cooking on Rooftop*, 1988, Dhaka, "When the Waters Came".

Shahidul Alam *Woman Wading in Water*, 1988, Dhaka, "When the Waters Came".

Shahidul Alam *Tanvir*, 2007, Khulna "When the Waters Came".

Shahidul Alam *Woman fishing in flood waters*, 2007, "When the Waters Came".

Shahidul Alam *Exodus*, Gaibandha, 2007, "When the Waters Came".

Shahidul Alam *Mother and Children*, Sirajgonj, 2007, "When the Waters Came".

Shahidul Alam *Villagers Rescuing Mother and Child*, Sirajgonj, 2007, "When the Waters Came".

Shahidul Alam *Woman feeding goats in a makeshift tent*, Sirajgonj, 2007, "When the Waters Came".

Shahidul Alam *Diarrheal Patients at Hospital*, Dhaka, 2007, "When the Waters Came".

Shahidul Alam *Spontaneous relief operations organized by citizen groups*, Sirajgonj, 2007, "When the Waters Came".

Shahidul Alam *Dhaka Aerial*, Dhaka, 2007, "When the Waters Came".

Shahidul Alam *Sirajgong*, Sirajgong, 2007, "When the Waters Came".

Shahidul Alam *Rangpur*, Rangpur, 2007, "When the Waters Came".

Shahidul Alam *Raft in Rain*, Gaibandha, 2007, "When the Waters Came".

Shahidul Alam *"Migrant Labour"*, Zia International Airport, Bangladesh, 1995.

Shahidul Alam *"Migrant Labour"*, Zia International Airport, Bangladesh, 1995.

Shahidul Alam *"Migrant Labour"*, Zia International Airport, Bangladesh, 1995.

Shahidul Alam *"Migrant Labour"*, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Shahidul Alam *"Migrant Labour"*, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Shahidul Alam *Girl at Fireplace, "Struggle for Democracy"*, 1988.

Shahidul Alam *Woman in Ballot Booth*, "Struggle for Democracy", 1991.

Shahidul Alam *Woman Wading in Flood*, "Struggle for Democracy", 1988.

Shahidul Alam *Balakot City, "Kashmir Earthquake"*, 2005.

Shahidul Alam *A Barber Shop*, Kashmir, Pakistan, 2005, "*Kashmir Earthquake*".

Shahidul Alam *Long Queques of People at a relief centre in Maheshkhali near Cox's Bazaar*, "*Cyclone, 1991*", 1991, Bangladesh.

Shahidul Alam *Padma's Ilish*, "*Brahmaputra Diary*",

Shahidul Alam "*Hemayatpur Mental Hospital*", 1994.

Shahidul Alam *Hemayatpur Peep Hole*, "*Hemayatpur Mental Hospital*", 1994.

Shahidul Alam *Champa*, "*Naxalite Women Series*", 1994, Jessore, Bangladesh, Portrait.

'Nurjahan's father' (portrait), Chatokchora, Sylhet, Bangladesh, 1994. © Shahidul Alam.

'Ali Zaman' (portrait), Chakkar Bazaar, Kashmir, Pakistan, 2005. © Shahidul Alam.

'Girl in wheat field' (portrait), Bangladesh, 1997. © Shahidul Alam.

'Blind boy' (portrait), Gaforgaon, Mymensingh, Bangladesh, 1988. © Shahidul Alam

Woman with broken house

Walking to work

No title

Cows in nijhum dweep

River crossing in nijhum dweep

Bicycle Crossing.