



VIII

## Chobi Mela International Festival Of Photography

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Jan 23rd - Feb 5th, 2015

Dhaka, Bangladesh



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## THE MOST CELEBRATED PHOTO EVENT IN ASIA GEARS UP FOR ANOTHER EXTRAVAGANZA

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It is always tough living up to the Chobi Mela hype, but CMVIII promises to be our finest yet. Starting on the 23rd January 2015, this action packed fortnight long festival has again some of the finest work from every continent. 32 print shows and a video projection spread across the six galleries in Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (The Academy of Fine and Performing Arts), the two galleries each at Drik, the Alliance Française and the newly built Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct, the National Museum, the leafy outdoor location of Bokultola at the Faculty of Fine Arts, the happening Britto Arts Trust and the exciting locations by the riverside in Old Dhaka -the quaint Beauty Boarding, the colonial architecture of Northbrook Hall and the charming Bulbul Lalitakala Academy make up the gallery exhibits. Yet again, a smaller version of the entire festival prepares to tour the city in ricksha vans, taking the galleries to the public.

The range is staggering. Big names like Shirin Neshat, Larry Towell and Simon Norfolk will rub shoulders with previously unseen student work, which have pushed their way into the mix through sheer quality. There is always a demographic shift, and the large number of interesting shows from countries in the former Soviet block are one of the surprises in this edition. As always, artists have taken liberty in interpreting the theme "Intimacy" and the resulting collection is a kaleidoscope that ranges from the hilarious, to the quirky, to the profound, the provocative and the reflective.

Lectures, panel discussions, artist talks, gallery walks, workshops and portfolio reviews make up some of the activities, most of which will be streamed live to a global audience. There will also be educational programmes.

For those of you who can't make it, make sure you watch it live at [www.drik.tv](http://www.drik.tv) and follow us online at:

Website: [www.chobimela.org](http://www.chobimela.org)

Blog: [blog.chobimela.org/](http://blog.chobimela.org/)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/chobimelaFestival](http://www.facebook.com/chobimelaFestival)

Twitter: [twitter.com/chobimela](http://twitter.com/chobimela)

Instagram: [instagram.com/chobimela](http://instagram.com/chobimela)

And the lucky ones who'll be here, book your flights early, the seats are filling up!



**Shahidul Alam**  
Festival Director  
Chobi Mela VIII



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## FACT SHEET

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Festival duration: Two weeks, 23 January to 5 February, 2015

Festival opening:

4pm, 23 January, 2015 at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Opening ceremony will be broadcast live through Internet\* at: [www.drik.tv](http://www.drik.tv)

Participating countries: 22

Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Egypt, Estonia, France, Germany, Guatemala, India, Iran, Italy, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Russia, Singapore, Spain, Turkey, USA, UK, Ukraine.

Artists:

Abdollah Heidari, Alexandra Serrano, Andrea Diefenbach, Antoine Bruy, Anwar Hossain, Arthur Bondar, Cristina Nunez, Denis Dailleux, Dinesh Abiram, Hadi Uddin, Jana Romanova, Jannatul Mawa, Kevin Bubriski, Larry Towell, Laura El-Tantawy, Luis Gonjalez Palma, Mahes Shantaram, Malcolm Hutcheson, Maria Kapajeva, Max Pinckers, Michel Le Belhomme, Nepal Picture Library, Paolo Patrizi, Philip Blenkinsop, Rotimi Fani-Kayode, Sean Lee, Shirin Neshat, Simon Norfolk, Tapash Paul, Tushikur Rahman, Yusuf Sevincli

Venues:

Alliance Française de Dhaka  
Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
Beauty Boarding  
Bokultola, Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University  
Bulbul Lalitakala Academy  
Britto Arts Trust  
Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct  
Drik Gallery  
Bangladesh National Museum  
Northbrook Hall  
Pathshala South Asian Media Academy

Exhibition:

Print Exhibitions: 32  
Mobile exhibitions: 10 ricksha vans

Events:

Panel Discussions  
Workshops  
Portfolio Reviews  
Artist's Talks  
Slideshows  
Gallery Walks  
Seminars

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## EXHIBITIONS

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ABDOLLAH HEIDARI Iran	-	-	-	Lost Intimacy
ALEXANDRA SERRANO France	-	-	-	Between Finger and Thumb
ANDREA DIEFENBACH Germany	-	-	-	HIV/AIDS in Odessa
ANTOINE BRUY France	-	-	-	Scrublands
ANWAR HOSSAIN Bangladesh	-	-	-	Retrospective
ARTHUR BONDAR Ukraine	-	-	-	Where My Childhood Died
CRISTINA NUNEZ Spain	-	-	-	But Beautiful
DENIS DAILLEUX France/Egypt	-	-	-	Egypt, my love
DINESH ABIRAM India	-	-	-	Querencias
HADI UDDIN Bangladesh	-	-	-	Here, For Now
JANA ROMANOVA Russia	-	-	-	Waiting
JANNATUL MAWA Bangladesh	-	-	-	Close Distance
KEVIN BUBRISKI USA	-	-	-	Portrait of Nepal
LARRY TOWELL Canada	-	-	-	The Mennonites
LAURA EL-TANTAWY Egypt	-	-	-	I'LL DIE FOR YOU: Exploring the Intimate Bond Between Man & Land
LUIS GONJALEZ PALMA Guatemala	-	-	-	The Annunciation
MAHES SHANTARAM India	-	-	-	Matrimania
MALCOLM HUTCHESON UK/Pakistan	-	-	-	ANGELCOPIERS. Portraits of the- Transexual Community of Lahore Interiors
MARIA KAPAJEVA Russia	-	-	-	Interiors
MAX PINCKERS Belgium	-	-	-	Will They Sing Like Raindrops or Leave Me Thirsty
MICHEL LE BELHOMME France	-	-	-	The Blind Beast
NEPAL PICTURE LIBRARY Nepal	-	-	-	Retelling Histories
PAOLO PATRIZI Italy	-	-	-	Migrant Sex Workers
PHILIP BLENKINSOP UK	-	-	-	Of Mortals and Remembrance
ROTIMI FANI-KAYODE Nigeria	-	-	-	Rotimi Fani-Kayode & Alex Hirst Photographs
SEAN LEE Singapore	-	-	-	Two People
SHIRIN NESHAT Iran	-	-	-	Turbulent
Simon Norfolk & John Burke Nigeria	-	-	-	Photographs From the War in Afghanistan
TAPASH PAUL Bangladesh	-	-	-	A Pause to Breathe...
TUSHIKUR RAHMAN Bangladesh	-	-	-	Fatalistic Tendency
YUSUF SEVINCLI Turkey	-	-	-	Clairvoyance

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## SPECIAL EVENTS

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LARRY TOWELL

Larry Towell is a Canadian photographer, poet, and oral historian. Towell grew up in a large family in rural Ontario and studied visual arts at York University in Toronto where his interest in photography first began. He is a Magnum photographer. His work "Mennonites" will be exhibited at Chobi Mela this year.



Lifetime Achievement Award

ANWAR HOSSAIN

A Cinematographer and Architect, Anwar Hossain has been in photography since 1967 and his works delve deep into urban, suburban and folk cultures. His work has had a significant impact on contemporary photographic practice in Bangladesh.

Anwar Hossain will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from the eighth edition of Chobi Mela.



JAMES ESTRIN

James Estrin is the coeditor of the New York Times' Lens blog. He will attend the opening ceremony of Chobi Mela VIII. He will also conduct a portfolio review.



## NEPAL PICTURE LIBRARY

The Nepali historical narrative suffers from an acute lack of representation of a majority of its people. Slowly, Nepal attempts to move towards plurality in governance and other social systems. These collections are part of Nepal Picture Library, a digital photo archive run by photo.circle that strives to document an inclusive history of Nepal.



## CRISTINA NUNEZ

Born in 1962 in Figueras, Spain, Cristina Nuñez is a self-taught artist, who works on photography, video and performance.

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## NEPAL IN CM VIII

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Photo: Kevin Bubriski/ Portrait of Nepal

Pathshala South Asian Media Institute, Bangladesh and photo.circle, Nepal have worked very closely over the past few years to create an exchange of information, knowledge and work between the two countries and photography has acted as the bridge for it. The result shows greatly in Chobi Mela VIII, as Nepal's participation is bigger than ever in 2015. Nepal will be represented in the festival with a contingency of more than 10 photographers. And they have every reason to celebrate.

**Nepal Picture Library**, a photo.circle initiative formed in 2010 as a digital archive to build a collective body of Nepal's photographic history, has its own place in Chobi Mela VIII. Nepal Picture Library is the only exhibition among all the 33 shows that doesn't just represent an artist and his/her reflections on a particular concept; it aims to represent a whole nation's journey and experience with photography, across a wide range of demographics. More interestingly, the work will be paired with Bangladesh's history and placed fittingly in the library of the Northbrooke Hall, Old Dhaka.

And if a whole spot rightfully dedicated to Nepal wasn't enough, we also booked a spot for Kevin Bubriski's **Portrait of Nepal**. Bubriski's documentation of Nepal's regions and people has won its place in various permanent museum collections, and the next stop for the work is Bangladesh's national cultural centre, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy via Chobi Mela VIII.

Nepal's participation goes beyond installed shows as the practitioners of the art talk about Nepal's art themselves. NayanTara Gurung Kakshapati, a founder of photo.circle and Nepal Picture Library, will put together a slideshow as a part of the festivities of Chobi Mela. Her slideshow, **Representations of Nepal**, is scheduled to be displayed in Goethe Institut, on Jan 27, 2015. Later on the same day, Nepalese photographer Kishor K Sharma will be featured in **Confluence- Curated Slideshow by Sohrab Hura & Francoise Cailler**, again in Goethe Institut.

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## WORKSHOPS

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### SWAPAN PAREKH

#### Shaping a Vision

Jan 25 - 27, 2015

Workshop participants will spend three days with Swapan where he will see individual bodies of work of participating photographers. The workshop will emphasize on slowing down and 'looking' at the work more meaningfully to think beyond 'predetermined' projects. There will be a flexible format of the workshop to take it as it goes. For the participants, it would be important to confront the parameter of any school of thought, where everything should be about a 'body of work'. As the workshop goes along, Swapan will also share his own journey as a photographer to discuss how an individual vision needs to shape up. And in addition, how to print one's work respectfully and what a good print should look like in parameters of both Colour and Black & White.



### Teun van der Heijden

#### The Photobook: Going Beyond The Form

Jan 24 - 28, 2015

In the five day book workshop at Chobi Mela Teun van der Heijden will teach about all the aspects of how to turn a body of work into a book. Many of the books that Heijdens Karwei designed will be used as an example on the editing and compiling process, concept development, design issues like choice of size, paper, grid and typography, and the guidance of the printing process. The workshop is designed for photographers who are interested in working on a concept, edit and sequence for a book. Part of the workshop is to analyse each students body of work, to make an edit for the book and come up with a book concept. The idea is that all the photographers will participate in this process and push each other creatively and conceptually. In the second part of the workshop all students are expected to create their own physical dummy under guidance of Teun.



### Cristina Nuñez

#### The Self-Portrait Experience

Jan 28 - 30, 2015

This three day long workshop comes from Nunez's personal experience, using the self-portrait as self-therapy since 1988, after her troubled adolescence. The method's goal is the exploration of one's own identity and the stimulation of the creative process through a series of exercises and the use of specific artistic criteria for the intuitive perception and choice of the works. During this workshop, there will be individual self-portrait sessions, group work on the assignments and the final work for a projection. Participants are also recommended to watch Nuñez's videos, SOMEONE TO LOVE and HIGHER SELF to better understand THE SELF-PORTRAIT EXPERIENCE.

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## CURATORS

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### Munem Wasif

Munem Wasif is a documentary photographer based in Dhaka. He has been represented by Agence Vu in Paris since 2008. Wasif was a participant in the 2007 Joop Swart Masterclass and has won several awards, including the City of Perpignan Young Reporter's Award at Visa pour l'image and the F25 Award for Concerned Photography from Fabrica. He was one of the curators of Chobimela VII International Festival of Photography and currently teaches documentary photography at South Asian Media Institute, Pathshala.



### Tanzim Wahab

A photographer and lecturer, Tanzim Wahab is currently the Vice Principal of Pathshala South Asian Media Institute. Jointly with his co-editor Munem Wasif, he published two editions of Kamra- A comprehensive bangla book of photography on setting ideas and debates in photographic history & theories. He has taught in several national and international workshops, including Oslo University & Pathshala Collaborative International Reportage Workshop, Kathmandu, Chobimela International Photo Festival Workshops IV & V, Dhaka, Telling the Stories, Chittagong, Sylhet and Kathmandu.



### A S M Rezaur Rahman

ASM Rezaur Rahman has designed and curated many national and international projects such as 'Tales from a Globalising World' - the mobile exhibition for Swiss Development Cooperation, 'Jobra to Oslo' a permanent exhibition for Grameen Bank. His unique concept of creating mobile exhibitions using local vehicles has become a trademark in Bangladesh and is now being replicated internationally too. An ATSA Fellow Reza is currently the General Manager of Drik and a Lecturer on Curatorial Practice at Pathshala South Asian Media Academy.

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## GUEST CURATORS

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### Salauddin Ahmed

Born in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Salauddin Ahmed lived in the city until the age of 18, when he moved to the United States for higher education. He has worked in the office of Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown, as well as the Urban Planning Department of the City of Portland, Oregon. Ahmed is currently in architectural practice in Dhaka, and involve in the local academia.



### Mahbubur Rahman

Mahbubur Rahman completed his M.F.A in Drawing & Painting at the Institute of Fine Art, University of Dhaka in 1993. In his career, spanning more than two decades, he handles various mediums and introduced several art forms in the art scene of Bangladesh. Mahbub has held a number of solos and group shows at home and abroad. He is a founder-trustee of Britto Arts Trust, the first ever non-profit artists' run platform.

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## CONTACT

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[chobimela.org](http://chobimela.org)



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