

paradigm
shifts

walter and mcbean galleries
exhibitions and public programs
san francisco art institute

2006-2011

sfai

san francisco art institute.
since 1871.

hou hanru
with mary ellyn johnson

San Francisco Art Institute
Exhibitions and Public Programs Department
Hou Hanru, Director
Mary Ellyn Johnson, Assistant Curator
Glen Helfand, Public Lectures Coordinator

All exhibitions curated by Hou Hanru with the exception of *We Remember the Sun*, curated by Mary Ellyn Johnson. *Disponibile: A Kind of Mexican Show* was co-curated with Guillermo Santamarina, *Wherever We Go: Art, Identity, Cultures in Transit* with Gabi Scardi, and *Everyday Miracles (Extended)* in collaboration with Clara Kim.

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timeline

exhibitions, events, workshops, and lectures

Sarkis: Alive and After
9/22/2006–12/9/2006

Allora & Calzadilla: Sediments,
Sentiments (Figures of Speech)
10/19/2007–12/15/2007

Conflict Resolution:
Teddy Cruz and Pedro R
10/17/2008–12/13/2008

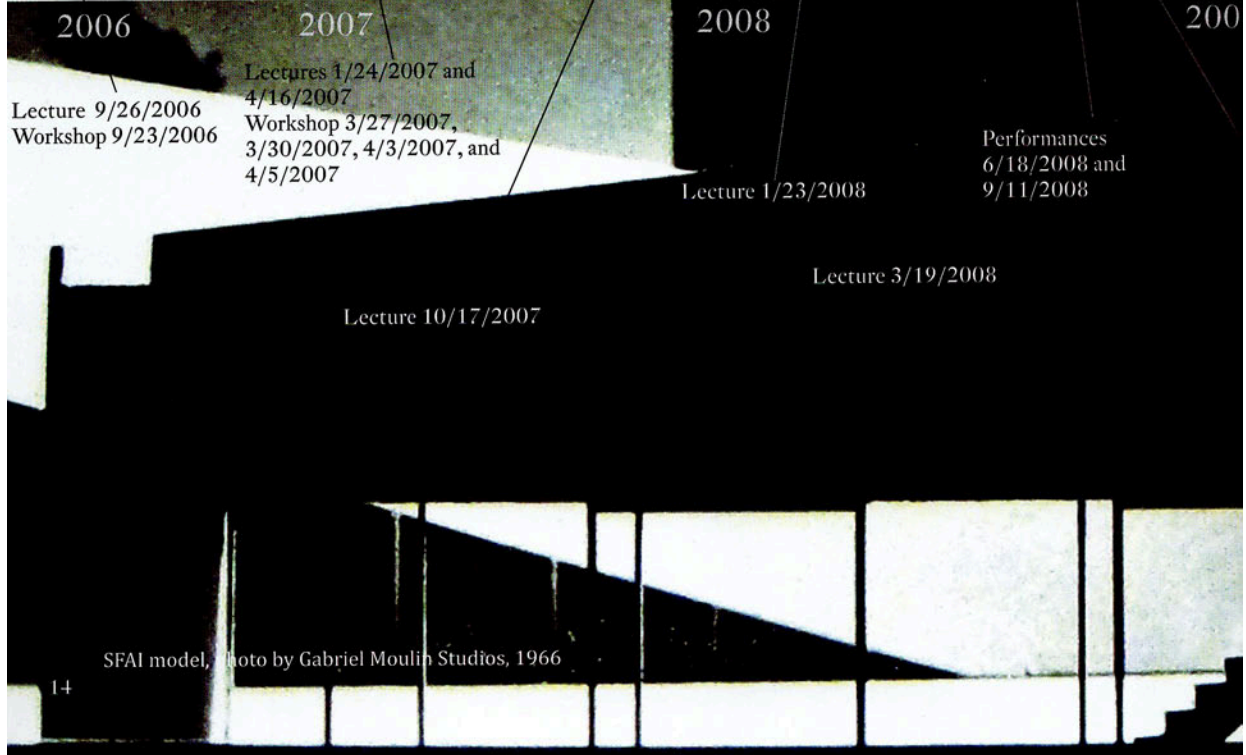
Adel Abdessemed:
Don't Trust Me
3/20/2008–5/31/2008

Wherever We Go: Art, Identity,
Cultures in Transit
5/11/2007–9/15/2007

We Remember the Sun
6/19/2008–9/13/2008

World Factory
1/25/2007–4/21/2007

Jens Haaning: United States of
America and Other Works
1/23/2008–3/8/2008



an Pei-Ming: Yes!
20/2009–5/23/2009

Dan Perjovschi: The Institute Drawing
On Kawara: Pure Consciousness at 19 Kindergartens
6/17/2010–10/30/2010

Summertime; or, Close-Ups on
Places We've (Never) Been
6/27/2009–9/12/2009

Shahzia Sikander: The
exploding company man
and other abstractions
4/23/2011–6/25/2011

Geography of Transterritories
2/25/2010–5/22/2010

Disponible: A Kind of
Mexican Show
11/19/2010–1/22/2011

Everyday Miracles (Extended)
10/1/2009–1/30/2010

2010

2011

Lecture 2/19/2009
Workshop 2/17/2009 and
2/18/2009
Walkthrough with the artist,
2/19/2009

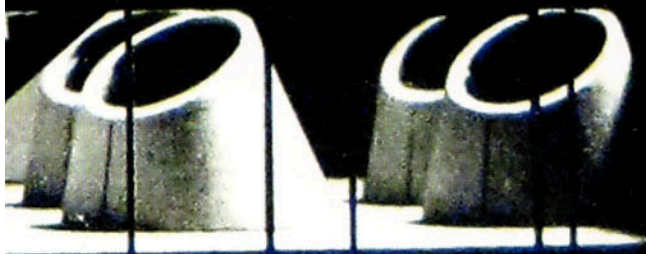
Lectures 11/18/2010
and 2/9/2011

Lecture at Kadist SF 4/20/2011
Lecture 4/21/2011
Musical performance
4/22/2011

Lectures 9/30/2009
and 11/11/2009

Panel discussion 2/24/2010

as for Iraq 10/17/2008
ee Planting : Palas por pistolas
/13/2008



***global
figures***

sarkis

alive and after

allora & calzadilla

**sediments, sentiments
(figures of speech)**

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dan perjovschi

the institute drawing

on kawara

**pure consciousness at
19 kindergartens**

shahzia sikander

**the exploding company man
and other abstractions**

shahzia sikander: the exploding company man and other abstractions

curated by hou hanru

Exhibition Dates

April 23–June 25, 2011

*Opening reception with a musical performance
by Du Yun and Wally Scharold*

April 22, 5:30–7:30 pm

Walter and McBean Galleries

San Francisco Art Institute

800 Chestnut Street

San Francisco, CA 94133

Tuesdays–Saturdays: 11 am–6 pm

www.waltermcbean.com

April 20, 7–9 pm: *Shahzia Sikander in conversation
with Hou Hanru at Kadist San Francisco, 2401 Folsom Street*

April 21, 7:30 pm: *Visiting Artists and Scholars Lecture,
SFAI's Lecture Hall*

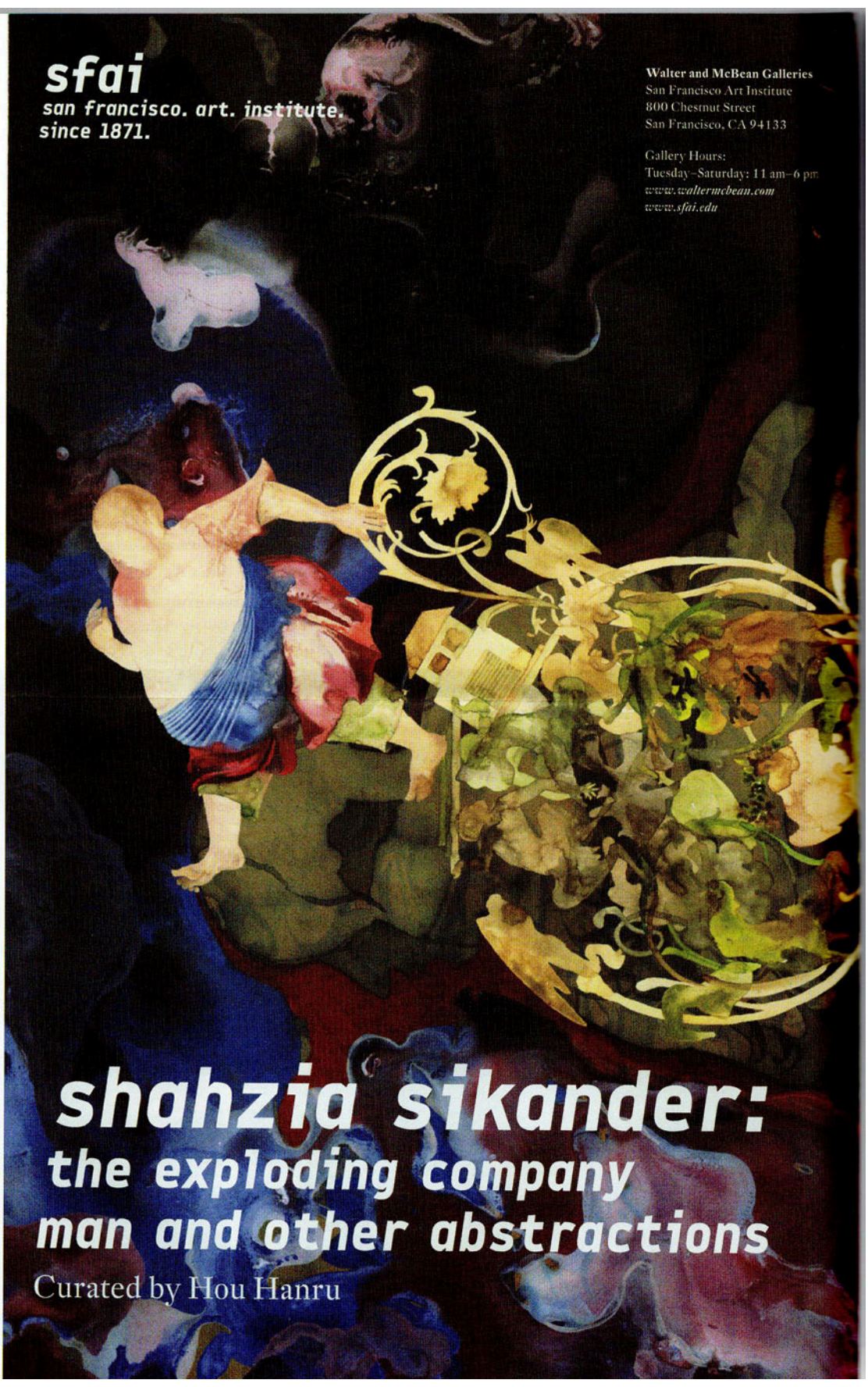
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Image Credit: *The Last Post*, 2010, Animation Still, Courtesy of the artist and Sikkema Jenkins & Co., New York



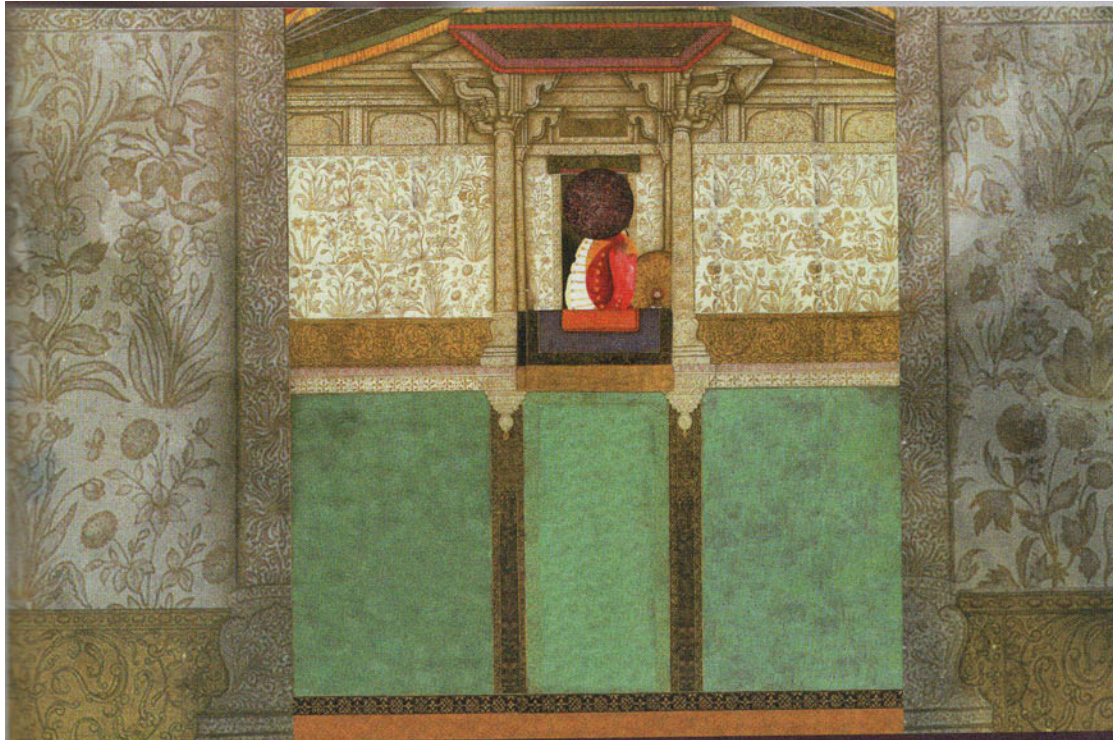
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Gallery Hours:
Tuesday–Saturday: 11 am–6 pm
www.waltermcbean.com
www.sfai.edu

shahzia sikander:
the exploding company
man and other abstractions

Curated by Hou Hanru



The Last Post / 2010
HD video animation, 10 minutes
Courtesy of the artist and Sikkema
Jenkins & Co., New York

The Last Post is inspired by Sikander's ongoing interest in the colonial history of the sub-continent and the British opium trade with China. The protagonist is an East India Company man—the 'exploding' man of the show's title—who appears in various guises throughout the work. In one instance, he is a metaphor for the collapse of the Anglo-Saxon hegemony over China. In another, he appears as a lurking threat in the imperial rooms of the Mughal Empire, which once ruled much of South Asia. In the animation, Sikander also uses subtle references to the Company School, a style of painting whose visual language developed in eighteenth-century India as Europeans sought documentation of the country's exotic plants, animals, and architecture.



Gossamer / 2010
HD video, 11 minutes 21 seconds
Courtesy of the artist and Sikkema
Jenkins & Co., New York

The Last Post premiered in 2010 at the Rockbund Art Museum in Shanghai¹. For that exhibition, Sikander collaborated with musician and composer Du Yun on a performance featuring Du Yun's composition *Gossamer*, conceived as a dramatic soundscape for the animation.

The video *Gossamer*, installed in the mezzanine gallery, stars Du Yun, a New York-based musician of Shanghai origin. Created as a collaboration with Sikander, *Gossamer* presents a dialogue between the two artists. In the video, Du Yun represents dual roles, the contemporary and historical, traveling between cities (New York and Shanghai) and continents (the US and China).

Shahzia Sikander

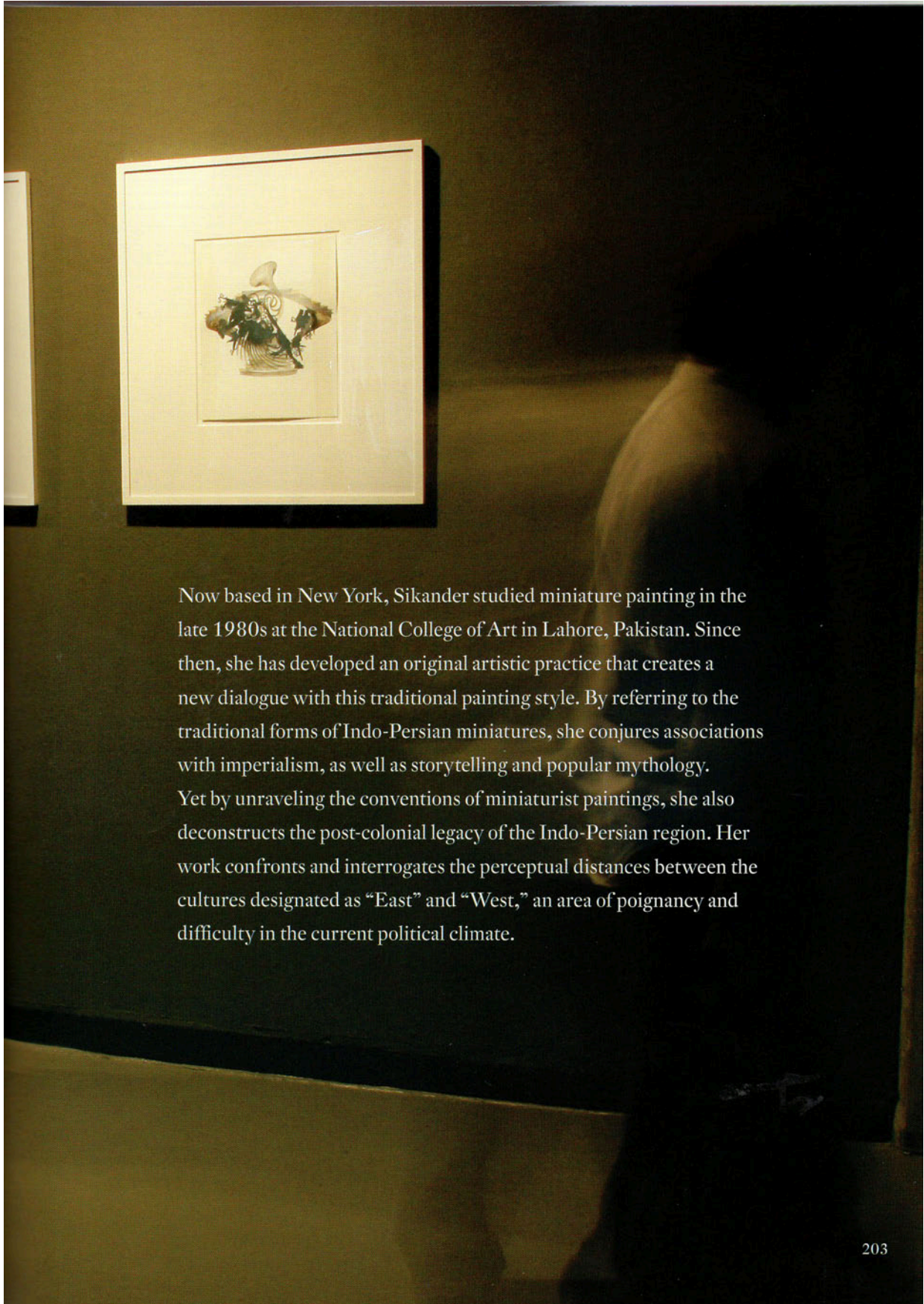
Born in 1969 in Lahore, Pakistan, Sikander received her BFA from the National College of Arts, Lahore, Pakistan in 1992 and her MFA from the Rhode Island School of Design in 1995. Selected solo exhibitions include *Authority as Approximation*, Para/Site (2009), Hong Kong; *Shahzia Sikander Selects*, Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum (2009), New York; *Intimate Ambivalence*, IKON Gallery (2008), Birmingham; *Interstitial: 24 Faces and the 25th Frame*, Daadgalerie (2008), Berlin; *Shahzia Sikander*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney (2007); and *Shahzia Sikander*, Irish Museum of Modern Art (2007), Dublin.

Du Yun

Born and raised in Shanghai, China, and currently based in NYC, Du Yun is an internationally known composer and musician. Her music exists at an artistic crossroads of chamber music, theater, pop music, opera, orchestral, cabaret, storytelling, visual arts, and noise. An alumna of Shanghai Conservatory of Music, Du Yun received a Bachelor of Music degree from Oberlin College and her MA and PhD from Harvard University, and has served on the faculty of SUNY-Purchase since 2006. She is a founding member of the critically acclaimed International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE).

Wally Scharold

Wally Scharold is a composer, guitarist, audio engineer, and sound designer residing in Oakland, CA. Scharold received his Bachelor of Music in composition at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and did graduate studies at Mills College. Scharold has led simultaneous professional and creative careers in the vibrant tech/new media and creative music communities in the Bay Area. In 2005, he founded miRthkon, an avant-garde progressive 'chamber-core' ensemble.
www.miRthkon.com



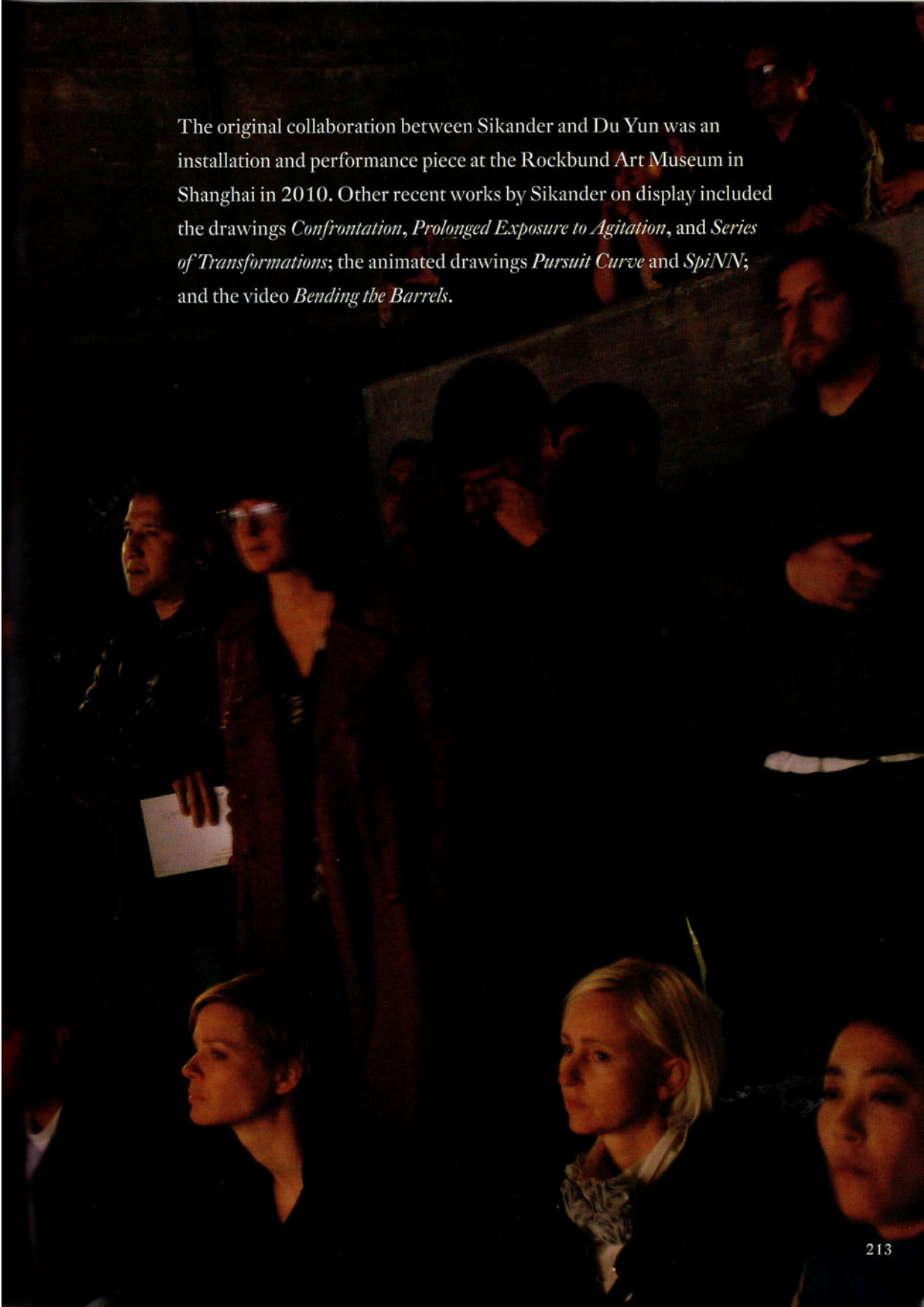
Now based in New York, Sikander studied miniature painting in the late 1980s at the National College of Art in Lahore, Pakistan. Since then, she has developed an original artistic practice that creates a new dialogue with this traditional painting style. By referring to the traditional forms of Indo-Persian miniatures, she conjures associations with imperialism, as well as storytelling and popular mythology. Yet by unraveling the conventions of miniaturist paintings, she also deconstructs the post-colonial legacy of the Indo-Persian region. Her work confronts and interrogates the perceptual distances between the cultures designated as “East” and “West,” an area of poignancy and difficulty in the current political climate.



Her primary materials include graphite, ink, and gouache on paper, and in 2001 she began working in digital animation, setting her miniatures into motion. This use of animation, as well as her layered images and the play between representational and abstract forms, visually embodies Sikander's central concerns of transformation and societies in flux.



Shabzia Sikander: The exploding company man and other abstractions featured work created during the last five years, along with the US premiere of an animated video and live performance. This animation, *The Last Post*, is inspired by Sikander's ongoing interest in the colonial history of the sub-continent and the British opium trade with China. The protagonist is an East India Company man—the “exploding” man of the show's title—who appears in various guises throughout the work. At the opening reception, Du Yun, a New York-based musician originally from Shanghai, and Wally Scharold, a composer and guitarist from Oakland, performed *Gossamer*, a piece conceived as a dramatic soundscape to accompany *The Last Post*.



The original collaboration between Sikander and Du Yun was an installation and performance piece at the Rockbund Art Museum in Shanghai in 2010. Other recent works by Sikander on display included the drawings *Confrontation*, *Prolonged Exposure to Agitation*, and *Series of Transformations*; the animated drawings *Pursuit Curve* and *SpiNN*; and the video *Bending the Barrels*.