

Lahore Biennale 02  
26 JAN - 29 FEB, 2020

شارحہ

۲۶ جنوری  
تا  
۲۹ فروری  
۲۰۲۰ء

سہ ماہی  
حور القاسمی

درمیانِ شمس و قمر

between the sun and the moon

## between the sun and the moon

Lahore Biennale (LB02), *Between the Sun and the Moon*, took place between January 26 and February 29, 2020. Curated by Hoor Al Qasimi, the director of the Sharjah Art Foundation, the exhibition focused on the Global South—“where ongoing social disaffection is being aggravated by climate change”

Al Qasimi said: “For centuries, inhabitants of these regions oriented themselves with reference to the sun, the moon, and the constellations. How might we reflect on our place within the cosmos today, at this juncture of planetary climate crisis and polarities between societies?... LB02 looks upwards with a view to forging new resonances and new imaginings of the future that encompass the full breadth of its material and virtual possibilities, growing from a tradition of intra-regional mobility of ideas, people, flora, and fauna.”

# BAHAR BEHBAHANI I Can Drink Stars



## About The Project

*I Can Drink Stars* is a sculptural intervention located on the ruined miniature model of water management of the Ravi River, which is itself situated on the grounds of Punjab Government's Water Irrigation Department in Lahore. The installation examines the shared history of contested rivers and the entanglement of coloniality with cartography, extractive economies, and geological surveys.



*I Can Drink Stars*, 2020  
Wood, mosaic, tile, plastic barrel, sandstone  
On the grounds of the Irrigation Department of Punjab,  
49 x 60 feet



Map of the Sites, Lahore Biennale 02

The focal point of the installation is an octagonal pool. The octagon as a stable geometric form, one that the ancient Persians believed kept water pure, and project symmetry and balance in the spiritual habitat of Persian gardens. Behbahani chose to split the pool in half, which evokes uncertainty and division, and examines the possibility of undoing. Mounted on plastic barrels, the pool suggests a floating vessel to be used in the event of an emergency due to flooding. Reimagining the fragments of cultural heritage and contemporary everyday life, the pool's interior is surfaced with patching variety of tiles sourced from local construction projects

*I Can Drink Stars* encompasses the philosophical, the geopolitical, social and the ecological. It weaves these associations together and raises questions for the future of creative resistance and environmental justice.

*I Can Drink Stars* joined local artisans and the Punjab irrigation department in discussing water issues and in the building of my largest collaborative installation. The work is an octagonal pool referencing Persia's ancient water management is split in two, evoking uncertainty, division and ecological crisis. Bahar Behbahani's sculptural intervention on a ruined model of the Ravi River transforms the grounds of the Punjab Government's Water Irrigation Department into a core of critical questioning. Heritage, local knowlegde and climate justice are core concerns of this collabortion with artisan Jameel Ahmad and his team, which sources local materials to convey the ambivalent legacies of technocratic hydrology.

*I Can Drink Stars* is a permanent installation in the City of Lahore, Pakistan



*I Can Drink Stars*, 2020, detail  
Wood, mosaic, tile, plastic barrel, sandstone  
On the grounds of the Irrigation Department of Punjab,  
49 x 60 feet



From Left: Mehreen Asif, Jameel Ahmad, Bahar Behbahani and team

*I Can Drink Stars* had been made possible with the guidance of Qudsia Rahim and the LBF research team, Zarmina Rafi, Fatima Imran, and under the advisory of Iftikhar Dadi, PhD and the curator Hoor Al Qasimi.

With the assistance of the Production Team, Murtaza Ali, Idrees Hanif, Mehreen Asif and photographer, Muhammad Asad Mir.



# Ravi River – model study

Grounds of Water Irrigation Department  
Lahore, Pakistan



**Bahar Behbahani**

*I Can Drink Stars*

**Curated by Hoor Al Qasimi**

**Commissioned by Lahore Biennale Foundation**

**2020 • Lahore • Pakistan**

[baharbehbahani.com](http://baharbehbahani.com)