

75 years of art, architecture and ecology

PRESS RELEASE

5 February 2023

Launch of “In between: the Existence of Firdaus” at Lunuganga

Lunuganga has always been a place of artist intervention and response, from Saskia Pintelon’s paintings she produced while in residence at Cinnamon Hill to Laki Senanayake’s mural in the loggia. More recently, five artists—Chandragupta Thenuwara, Dayanita Singh, Dominic Sansoni, Kengo Kuma, and Lee Mingwei—made site-specific responses towards *The Gift*, a series of installations as part of the *Bawa 100* centenary celebration programme in 2019–2020. In 2023, contemporary artists including Reena Saini Kallat have been contributing new works within the *To Lunuganga* programme in honor of the garden’s seventy-fifth anniversary—most recently among them, Colombo-based artist Firi Rahman.

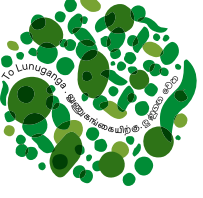
In his first site-specific, outdoor installation, Rahman drew from the juxtaposition between an urban upbringing and intimate relationship with nature. The resulting work is one that investigates humanity’s relationship to and coexistence with the natural world.

Titled *In between: the Existence of Firdaus*, this work is now on view at Lunuganga. The two-part piece—featuring both indoor and outdoor elements—engages with the garden and Geoffrey Bawa’s closely-held philosophies around bridging interior and exterior while keeping the relationship between art and ecology at the foreground of his work. Working in tandem with the themes brought forth by the Geoffrey Bawa Trust’s year-long *To Lunuganga* programme, Rahman’s installation is evocative of the artist’s core memories and understanding of the natural world as it adapts to today’s ever-changing landscapes.

On Saturday, 10th February, Rahman will officially launch his installation through a guided afternoon in the garden. In keeping with the personal and reflective conditions which informed the project, the event will allow visitors to glean insight into Rahman’s artistic process through interactive activities and participatory discussion.

The afternoon will begin at 2:00 p.m. with an artist-led sketch walk through the garden. Following the walk, Geoffrey Bawa Trust Assistant Curator Aneesha Mustachi will moderate a conversation with the artist before a brief tour of his two-part installation: *In between: the Existence of Firdaus* and *Perch*. Refreshments will be served at sunset on the North Terrace. Transportation to and from Lunuganga is available. *In between: the Existence of Firdaus* is open to the public as part of the *To Lunuganga* programme celebrating 75 years of art, architecture, and ecology at Lunuganga.

To Lunuganga
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75 years of art, architecture and ecology

Admission is free and transport options are available. Prior registration is required.
Please visit geoffreybawa.com/events for more information and registration.

More information about Rahman's installation may be found at:
lunuganga.garden/In-between-the-Existence-of-Firdaus

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