

THE ARTIST

- Zarina Muhammad (b. 1982, Singapore) is an artist, educator and researcher who explores the histories of Southeast Asia as well as the relationships between culture and ecology, history and myth.
- She works with performance, text, installation, ritual, sound, moving image and participatory formats.



THE ARTWORK



MOVING EARTH, CROSSING WATER, EATING SOIL

2022

Mixed media installation, dimensions variable

- **MEDIUM:** It is a mixed media installation made of animal cut-outs, mirrors and wood, among other materials.
- **TECHNIQUES/PROCESSES:** The artwork references mythical creatures, islands that have lost their names and creation myths, and examines them in relation to the Southern Islands' ever-changing geography, including paths, tracks or imprints, tides, reefs and coastlines.
- **IDEAS/INSPIRATIONS/CONTEXT:** The artwork unfolds over the course of the Biennale, through nine prompts that serve as departure points for considering myths and histories, namely The Fish (The Guide), The Dog (The Witness), The Deer (The Wrathful Deity), The Crocodile (The Pyramidal Cell), The Mouse (The Gate), The Bird (The Peculiar Habitat), The Naga (The Rotating Naga), The Tiger (The Talisman) and The Cat (The Pragmatic Prayer).

DID YOU KNOW?

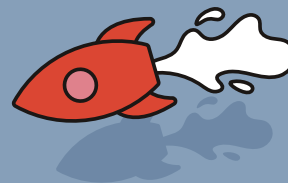
1. The artist used unique names for the animals such as Shadowdancer, Sapphire Flutterer, Red-Tailed Sprite, Marsh Wisp, Clearwing Gem, Green Metalwing, Cryptic Shadesprite, Arror Emperor, Banded Hooktail, Malayan Spinetail, Spoon-tailed Duskhawker, Water Monarch, Whitetipped Demon, Mountain Tigertail, Singapore Shadowdamsel to spark the viewer's imagination. Giving new names to common animals encourages viewers to consider them differently/ creates a different relationship between the viewer and the subject.
2. In mythology, odonates, or dragonflies, are known as messengers between worlds, as well as harbingers of life, rainfall, fortune, mischief and destruction. They have been called the "devil's darning needle" or the "toothed one." When they are at risk of overheating, they turn their tail skywards, as if becoming obelisks. Their embodiment and presence are associated with witchcraft, the spirits of rice plants, ancestors returning home, protective magic and wish fulfilment.

Artist Folio – MEETING NATASHA

SECONDARY:

ENGLISH

SCIENCE



ACTIVITIES AND QUESTIONS

PRE-VISIT

- In her artwork, Zarina Muhammad describes The Fish as The Guide and The Dog as The Witness. What are some characters or roles you would use to describe animals like a fish, dog, deer, crocodile, mouse, bird, naga (a half-human, half-serpent being), tiger and cat?

DURING YOUR VISIT

- What are the objects that you see in the artwork? Why do you think the artist chose to use these objects in her artwork?
- What is your favourite animal and why? How does your favourite animal relate to you or your experiences?
- Observe how the animals are positioned. Why do you think the artist has chosen to position them this way?

POST-VISIT

- What do you think the artist was trying to convey through her artwork?

FIND OUT MORE

- Muhammad, Zarina. "MOVING EARTH, CROSSING WATER, EATING SOIL." Moving Earth, Crossing Water, Eating Soil. <https://movingearth-crossingwater-eatingsoil.com/> (accessed 11 January 2023).