

Fazleen Karlan

#sgbyecentennial, 2019

Fazleen Karlan's practice lies in the interaction of art-making and archaeological methods. She constructs personal and cultural realities by bringing historical fragments to the present through reassembling materials from various periods.

Displayed on these three tables are objects, laden with soil. You may recognise some of them. A mobile device charging cable. A compact disc. This installation looks at the micro histories and things found in our everyday lives by envisioning an archaeological excavation of the present from the future.

These objects are not just covered with soil but also layered with time. Fazleen wants us to view the future through the lens of the present. This artwork unravels the archaeological process to explore the indeterminate passage of time, where our present slowly recedes into the past as we return to dwell on it.

#sgbyecentennial was conceived as a response to Singapore's Bicentennial celebrations in 2019. It seeks to move away from the prominence of Singapore's colonial legacies in our histories and beyond the Bicentennial celebration of 200 years.