

Media Release: Thursday 26 July 2018
PRESS PREVIEW Thursday 19 October 2018
EXHIBITION 19 October 2018 – 27 January 2019

BALTIC

Rasheed Araeen: *A Retrospective*



Rasheed Araeen, *Paki Bastard (Portrait of an Artist as a Black Person)*, 1977.
Courtesy the artist, documentation from performance

BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art presents the first comprehensive survey of Rasheed Araeen's (b. 1935, Karachi) wide-ranging artistic and academic practice, in collaboration with Van Abbemuseum. Spanning 60 years, the retrospective encompasses Araeen's art, writing, editing and curating, displaying a body of work that has had profound influence on generations of artists, writers and thinkers. Having premiered at Van Abbemuseum in December 2017, BALTIC will host the only UK iteration of *Rasheed Araeen: A Retrospective*, from 19 October 2018 to 27 January 2019.

Araeen is a leading voice on the subject of Eurocentrism within the British art establishment. In 1972, Araeen joined the Black Panther Movement and was subsequently the founding editor of the journal *Black Phoenix* which, in 1987, was transformed into *Third Text* – often acknowledged as the most important journal for Postcolonial art and theory. In 1989, he curated the seminal exhibition, *The Other Story: Afro-Asian Artists in Post-War Britain*, at the Hayward Gallery, London. Both the journal and the show marked significant turning points for art in Britain, spearheading the recognition of artists of Asian and African origins within the mainstream discourse of modernism.

Rasheed Araeen: A Retrospective is structured across five chapters: his early experiments in painting in Karachi in the 1950s and early 60s; his pioneering minimalist sculptures carried out after his arrival in London in 1964; key pieces from the 70s and 80s following Araeen's political awakening; panel cruciform works from the 80s and 90s; and a selection of his new geometric paintings and wall structures.

Situated at the centre of the exhibition, Araeen's *Reading Room* (2017) presents the issues of *Third Text* produced under his founding directorship and editorship (1987–2011) alongside conceptual diagrams key to the ground-breaking proposals put forward in his 2010 publication *Art Beyond Art. Ecoaesthetics. A Manifesto for Art in the 21st Century*. Together the objects, images and ideas Araeen offers constitute an expanded artistic practice that in its scope, approach and ambition continues to challenge the formal, ideological and political assumptions of Eurocentric modernism.

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Artist, Rasheed Araeed

About Rasheed Araeen

Born and educated in Pakistan, Rasheed Araeen (b. 1935) trained as an engineer before moving to Europe in the 1960s to become one of the pioneers of minimalist sculpture in Britain. Araeen accepted an honorary doctorate from the Courtauld Institute of Art, London, on the 2nd of July 2018, and has three additional honorary doctorates from the universities of Southampton, East London and Wolverhampton. Selected Solo Exhibitions include: *Rasheed Araeen, a Retrospective*, Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven (2017-2018); *Rasheed Araeen, Going*

East, Rossi and Rossi, Hong Kong (2015-2016); *Rasheed Araeen*, Grosvenor Gallery, London/Dubai (2014); *Zero to Infinity*, Tate Britain, London (2013); *To Whom it May Concern*, Serpentine Gallery, London (1996).

About *Rasheed Araeen: A Retrospective*

The exhibition first opened at the Van Abbemuseum and has travelled to MAMCO, Geneva before coming to BALTIC. Following the run at BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, it will tour to Garage Museum of Contemporary Art, Moscow.

A monograph, edited by Nick Aikens and published by JRP Ringier in collaboration with Van Abbemuseum, MAMCO, BALTIC and Garage includes new essays by Aikens, Kate Fowle, Courtney Martin, Michael Newman, Gene Ray, Dominic Rhatz, John Roberts, Marcus du Sautoy, Zoe Sutherland and Kaelen Wilson-Goldie and an extensive conversation between Aikens and Araeen.

BALTIC is a major international centre for contemporary art situated on the south bank of the River Tyne in Gateshead, England and has welcomed over seven million visitors since opening to the public in July 2002. BALTIC presents a distinctive and ambitious programme of exhibitions and events, and is a world leader in the presentation and commissioning of contemporary visual art.

Housed in a landmark ex-industrial building, BALTIC consists of 2,600 square metres of art space, making it the UK's largest dedicated contemporary art institution. BALTIC has gained an international reputation for its commissioning of cutting-edge temporary exhibitions. It has presented the work of over 396 artists from 54 countries in 197 exhibitions to date.