

Pressrelease

Pakistan's inaugural Biennale, hosted by the Lahore Biennale Foundation (LBF), is envisioned to take place in November 2017 and will keep the city at its very core. Throughout 2016, the Goethe-Institut Pakistan, LBF and other partners incite discursive and artistic contributions and interventions related to Pakistan's controversial and contested urban space with the conjoint project **“Urbanities – art and public space in Pakistan”**. The project aims to recollect Henri Lefebvre's “right to the city” for critical discussion, and contribute to a trajectory leading to the Lahore Biennale in 2017 in a series of events.

What does the “right to the city” mean in places where laying claim to the space through its inhabitants needs constant renegotiation, where occasional violence draws the borders of accessibility on the urban maps?

The objective of the partner project “Urbanities” is a critical exploration of the urban, its complexities and possibilities under the premise of individual artistic work and research approaches. By way of artistic interventions and critical research possibilities, spheres and impediments of public space and its citizens' engagement with Lahore and Karachi will be explored and negotiated. “Urbanities” aims to enable a broad audience to engage with contemporary art through discursive and artistic events, to link the emerging artist-curator generation in Pakistan with the scenes in Germany, and to stimulate a lively exchange of discourse and practice on the way to the first Biennale in Pakistan.

Several events are planned throughout the year 2016 in Lahore and Karachi:

- An **incentive workshop** on intellectual property in relation to art in public space took place in July in Lahore with the core team of LBF and invited experts.
- Two artists from Germany are invited to engage with Karachi and Lahore, respectively, as a site of urban exploration and artistic research in a two-months living & work space **residency** in fall 2016. Selected by an international jury and hosted by LBF in Lahore and Vasl in Karachi, Honi Ryan from Berlin and Miro Craemer from Munich will develop new approaches and art works in collaboration with local partners and urban experts.
- The outcomes will be presented towards the end of 2016 in a **symposium** of lectures, panel discussions, workshops and exhibitions. Selected works and research will be featured as part of the larger debate around the curatorial premise of the Biennale 2017.

For further information and inquiries please take a look at our website www.goethe.de/Pakistan or get in touch at urbanities@karachi.goethe.org with the project consultant Sara-Duana Meyer.