

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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PRESS RELEASE

U.S. EMBASSY LAUNCHES ARTS INITIATIVE: NIJEKE PROKASH KORO/EXPRESS YOURSELF

DHAKA, NOVEMBER 21 -- The American Center of the U.S. Embassy today launched an exciting new arts initiative titled Nijeke Prokash Koro/Express Yourself that brings together American and Bangladeshi artists of all ages to celebrate independent thinking and freedom of expression. For two and a half weeks, from November 21 through December 8, American artists Mira Friedlander and Ted Riederer will collaborate with prominent Bangladeshi artists, promising art students and schoolchildren through a series of workshops and outreach activities in Dhaka and Chittagong.

Today's launch took place at the Galleri Kaya in Dhanmondi, where the two artists inaugurated a three-day silk screening workshop with local artists, joined by noted Bangladeshi artists Rafiqun Nabi and Monirul Islam. Friedlander and Riederer will travel to Chittagong for a three-day workshop at the Institute of Fine Arts, Chittagong University. Upon their return to Dhaka, they will conduct another three-day workshop with students at Dhaka University, then pay a visit to the Jaago School in Dhanmondi on for a day of fun and creativity with the children there.

Nijeke Prokash Koro/Express Yourself will culminate with a public exhibition at the Dhaka Art Center in Dhanmondi on December 8, with the show running until December 17.

Mira Friedlander is an American artist, educator, and arts manager. She holds a BFA in printmaking and photography from The School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and a MFA in Visual Art from New York University. Her work focuses on individual creativity and emotional conflict and has been exhibited nationally and internationally. Mira works across media with an emphasis on works on paper, and specializes in bringing art to the public at the street level. Mira lives and works in New York City.

Ted Riederer's work has been featured in various solo and group exhibitions internationally, including exhibitions at David Zwirner Gallery, New York; Nicole Klagsbrun Gallery, New York; Jack Hanley Gallery, San Francisco; and at P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, New York. Born in 1970, Ted received his MFA from the School of Visual Arts in New York City, where he currently lives and works.

The American Center is located in new facilities on Notun Bazar in Baridhara, across from the U.S.

Embassy. The public is invited to follow the artists and their adventures on the U.S. Embassy's Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/bangladesh.usembassy>. All press inquiries regarding the initiative should be directed to Patricia Hill, Information Officer, U.S. Embassy Dhaka, at HillPA2@state.gov.

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Caption: American artists Ted Riederer and Mira Friedlander (center) seen with Bangladeshi artists Rafiqun Nabi and Munirul Islam and American Center staff at Galleri Kaya at the workshop titled “Nijeke Prokash Koro/Express Yourself.” Launched by the American Center of the U.S. Embassy, the arts initiative brings together American and Bangladeshi artists of all ages to celebrate independent thinking and freedom of expression. The workshop will be held for two and a half weeks, from November 21 through December 8 in Dhaka and Chittagong.

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Note: A Bangla translation of this press release is also available at the American Center. If you are interested in the translation, please call the American Center Press Section, Tel: 8837150-4, Fax: 9885688; e-mail: DhakaPA@state.gov; Website: [http:// dhaka.usembassy.gov](http://dhaka.usembassy.gov)