

OPEN CALL

7th Episode of

“URONTO”

**Residential Art Exchange Program
in Shukhair, Sunamganj, Sylhet.**

URONTO is an artist community who are in a new way working toward documenting a sector of memories of old architectural existences through any discipline of Art. Basically “URONTO” Residential Art Exchange Program is a meeting place for creative individuals to work with a common theme and space, but in different languages. Visual Art, Photography, Activism, Literature and fiction writing, Animation, Architecture, film Making, Land Art, Art Education, Crafts , Music, performing art, Poetry, Printmaking, Research, Sound Art etc are only few disciplines who will be participating at these gatherings, which will often take place in rustic landscapes, whether it be old, abandoned houses or camp out in rural communities and mostly to any soon-to-be dumped or finished place or natural atmosphere.

The aim of the program is to accommodate and sustain an organic environment for the artists to fall in rhythm with the natural sphere and project their insights amongst fellow artists, **ultimately creating a tribute** for the structure and a reverberating atmosphere to inspire further projects.

Participants of each project are invited to reveal and praise the history, stories, myth, values or anything about the architectural structure or house or building chosen for every episode.

We do believe that every form of art is inter-related and also it has its own prosper strength individually indeed. Therefore we invite artist of any creative discipline to participate, so that we can have a unique documentation of the chosen structure in enormous variation of artistic media. Where a writer might produce literary pieces or an article; an artist might prepare a painting or an installation piece while a musician may create a tune/number based on mood, history and atmosphere of the place. **We encourage experimental works and new challenges in every episode.**

Intentions & Functions:

1. Cultivate the creative genre among all
2. Providing a wider field to creative intentions
3. Encourage collective work and snub struggle
4. Documenting the Undocumented histories
5. Sharing the histories in the international field
6. Creating responsible aesthetical practice and growing awareness
7. Putting any and all discipline under one roof
8. Developing local art concepts in the rural
9. Inspiring work with founding natural materials
10. Developing the connection between human and nature

The exchange program is truly a refreshing time for the participants where we do provide them a very natural atmosphere to live in with nature where they can make themselves free from regular hectic life and dive into the beauty of nature. **But we must include that nature is beautiful and refreshing but not luxurious** so all participants should have a clear understanding of that. Expectations of luxurious living will end up with disappointment and **people habituated with luxury are barely encouraged in this program.**

Guideline of the project:

Venue:	Shukhair Palaces, Sunamganj, Sylhet Division, Bangladesh.
Date:	09-15 Oct 2017
Reporting Date:	09 Oct 2017 at Shukhair, Sunamganj
Working dates:	10-14 Oct 2017
Open studio day:	15, 16 Oct 2017

Theme and mark of this project:

This venue has more than one palace at the same area, so the participants are invited to portray the history, relations between the palaces, and glory of the family too. Even if any myth can be found that can also be a part of art works. The palace is standing in the middle of a beautiful area full of Hoar, Beel ponds, trees and what not. So participants should explore the available materials as much as possible to bring out a creative expression. Also the area is full of fishing cages and many more local craft type materials which can also explain a lot of the place through artistic effort. We mostly prefer environment artist for this site to bring out the best out of everything around. Participants should interconnect the entire place by connecting their creativity with each other. The expression of the participants must express anything about the palace or anything related to that and its history. Any discipline of artist or creative individual is invited as long as they can connect to the site with their artistic practice. Participants are highly encouraged to bring out the best, working with natural founding material or available materials around.

Who can participate:

- Any art loving, creative individual who wants to work along with the theme.
- Adventurous persons who can accept esthetical challenges within rural living.
- Participants of any discipline (Visual Art, Photography, Activism , Literature and fiction writing, Animation, Architecture, film Making, Land Art, Art Education, Crafts , Music, performing art, Poetry, Printmaking, Research, Sound Art etc and any.)
Mostly we look forward for young (from mind) & energetic participants and want to have them from multidiscipline.
- 10-12 Artists out of all application will be selected by the Committee.

How to apply:

Papers to submit

-CV (with portrait)

-Images of artworks or practice works

-Artist statement about his/her work

-Proposal for the project

(Brief of why he/she wants to be a part of it and what kind of work he/she might be doing)

-A copy of passport (international participants only)

Paid by URONTO:

Accommodation
Food
Site visits

Artist Responsibility:

Transportation Cost (to the venue and back to their home)
Art material cost

* We expect all selected artists will share a small presentation on their artworks or multidisciplinary practices of their own while the exchange program with all other participants.

Application deadline:

- Interested Artist must submit/email their papers by 20 April 2017.
- Send to : urontoinfo@gmail.com

Use bellow title as the subject of the email:

APPLICATION FOR 7TH EPISODE OF URONTO RESIDENTIAL ART EXCHANGE PROGRAM.

- Selected applicants will receive a confirmation letter through e-mail by 26 April 2017

Details about the Venue:

Sylhet Division:

Also known as Greater Sylhet or Sylhet region is the northeastern division of Bangladesh, named after its main city, Sylhet. It is bordered by the Meghalaya, Assam and Tripura states of India to the north, east and south, respectively; and by the Bangladesh divisions of Chittagong to the southwest and Dhaka to the west. In 1995, Sylhet was declared the 6th division of Bangladesh. Prior to that, it was part of the Chittagong Division. The Sylhet Division is subdivided into four Districts: Habiganj, Moulavibazar, Sunamganj and Sylhet. Further, the Sylhet Division contains 35 sub-districts (upazila/thana), 323 union parishad, 10,185 villages and 14 municipalities. Population: approximately 10 million, which is less than 7% of the total population of Bangladesh.

Sylhet is considered one of the most picturesque and archaeologically rich regions in South Asia, and has major Islamic Sufi shrines and Hindu holy sites. Its burgeoning economy has contributed to the regional attractions of landscapes filled with fragrant orange and pineapple gardens and tea plantations. Many Sylheti community members are working and residing abroad, particularly in the United Kingdom. They send remittances to fund projects and industries within the Sylhet Division, which have led to the expansion of the export industry and foreign investment sectors.

Sunamganj District:

The name Sunamganj is derived from its founder, Sipahi Sunamuddin, who established a bazaar on the bank of the river Surma. Sunamganj is renowned for bards and folk music.

Sunamganj is located in north-eastern Bangladesh in the Sylhet Division with the Sylhet District to its east, Habiganj District to its south and Netrokona District to its west. The Surma River and Kushiara River run through the district whilst Ratna River crisscrosses the district and beyond. The River Da'uka or Danuka also run through district Sunamganj.

The annual average temperature of Sunamganj has a maximum of 33.2 °C and a minimum 13.6 °C, with annual rainfall of 3334 mm. There are many haors and beels (wetlands ecosystems) in Sunamganj. Sunamganj District was underwater in ancient time; it was part of a vast sea by the name of Ratnag, which was an abbreviation of Ratnakar (common noun for sea in Bengali: রত্নাকর). Ratnakar expanded from cliffs of Meghalaya on the west to the coast of Tripura in the east, both Meghalaya and Tripura were inhabited by Kirata people of Mongoloid race. People from Meghalaya travelled to Tripura and vice versa by seagoing vessels. Seabed began to rise by the end of twelfth century due to alluvial silting over the centuries. It was northeast of the district that first began to elevate in form of atolls and then most parts of the district arose from underneath the sea.

Sunamganj has a total population of 1,968,669; males constitute 50.89% and females 49.11%. People of Sunamganj are racially and ethnically diverse. Since 1960 sunamganj has been known for the stone and sand business. Sunamganj has more haors than any other district in Bangladesh and this makes it famous for fishery business. Information and Communications Technology (ICT) industry is relatively a new sector in the country's economy. Though, it is yet to make tangible contributions in the national economy.

Sunamganj District comprises 11 sub-districts or Upazilas: Bishwamvarpur, Chhatak, Derai, Dharamapasha, Dowarabazar, Jagannathpur, Jamalganj, Sullah, Sunamganj Sadar, Dokkin Sunamganj, and Tahirpur.

Shukhair Palace:

Shukhair Jaminder family history started 500 years ago with a person named Mahamanikya Datta. The third generation of his was Joy Dhar, who brought fame and glory to the family. Joy Dhar was a very popular person for the family. In his period of ruling two kind of stories were established about the naming of Shukhair, one of the story says that a boy named Shukhair found a Kali Statue in the river and submitted that to Joy Dhar, after placing the statue in front of the house Joy Dhar observed more and more growth of family prestige and he believed that it was for the Kali Statue. After this observation he was very delighted and named the area after Shukhair. Another story says that before Mohamanikya came there was a famous hoodlum named Shukhair in that area, Mahamanikya Expelled him from that place and started living there, since then the place was famous as Shukhair. Both the stories are folk tale though the first one seems more practical. Anyhow, after Joy Dhar while his third generation families extended three Zaminder House/ Palace were built in Shukhair which were named the Boro Bari (Large palace), Moddhom Bari (Middle palace), Chhoto Bari (Small palace) and was distributed in the three brothers from Joy Dhars third generation's sons. Years later when Rajeshshori the girl child from the sixth Generation of the family got married, another palace in Shukhair was built and was named Noya Bari(New House) where she and her house husband lived for the rest of her life. Now in present the previous three houses are still standing in a very poor condition, and the Noya Bari is no more existing only few bricks ruins can be seen in the ground. In spite of all these the Shukhair Area is a very beautiful place with ponds, haors(wet land/water basin), trees and amazing people around it. Shukhair family has established a hospital and a school in that area which is helping and supporting a lot of people living there. Shukhair Zaminder Family has a lot of glorious family history which is getting blur day by day. One the family member still lives beside Shukhair Zaminder house and another member Mohon Chowdhury lives in Sylhet who mostly takes care of the lands and houses now.

Site Pics:



Pic: Shukhair Large Palace, (Front)



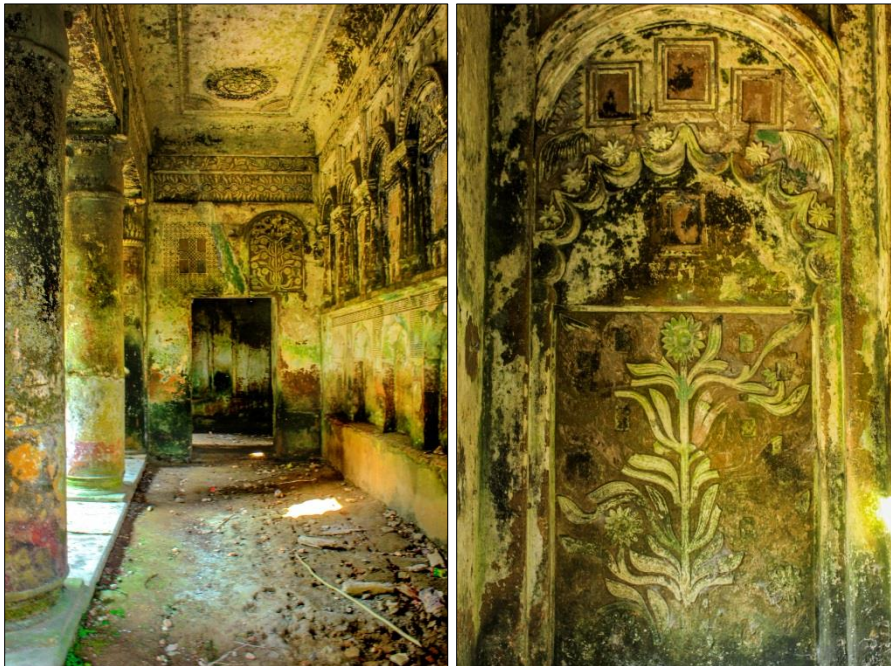
Pic: Shukhair Large Palace front rooms



Pic: Shukhiar Large Palace



Pic: Shukhair Palace Inside



Pic: Decorations inside the Palace



Pic: Ruined Wall Designs



Pic: Ruined roof Designs



Pic: Roof Area



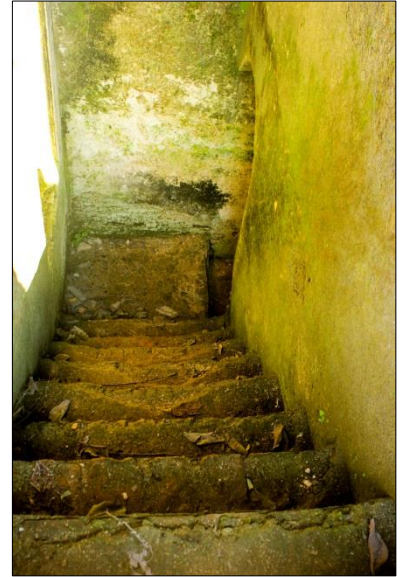
Pic: Corridors from top



Pic: Arches



Pic: Decorative motifs on outer walls



Pic: Secret Chambers



Pic: Walls



Pic: Rooms



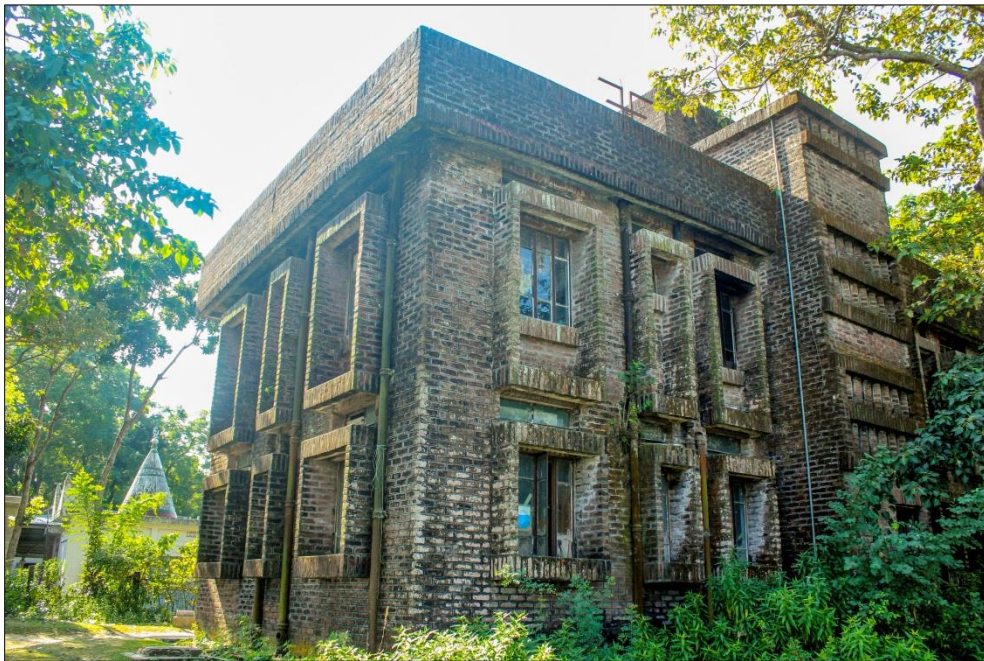
Pic: Shukhair Middle Palace



Pic: Shukhair Small Palace



Pic: Shukhair Palaces (All)



Pic: The Hospital at Shukhair (made by the Family members)

Transportation Direction:

1. Dhaka (Fakirapool bus stand) to Sunamganj Bus Stand by Bus > Sunamganj bus stand to Sachna Bazar(local market) by local Autos/CNG motors > Sachna Bazar to Shukhair by Boat(engine boat)
2. Dhaka (AIR PORT) to Fakirapool Bus Stop by Cab > Dhaka (Fakirapool bus stand) to Sunamganj Bus Stand by Bus > Sunamganj bus stand to Sachna Bazar(local market) by local Autos/CNG motors > Sachna Bazar to Shukhair by Boat(engine boat)

Useful location link on Google Map:

(Put this address in Google map and check direction from your location)

- Dhaka (Fakirapool bus stand) to Sunamganj Bus Stand
<https://www.google.com.bd/maps/dir/Fakirapool+Bus+Stop,+Toyenbee+Circular+Road,+Dhaka/25%C2%B0+4'4.29%22N,+91%C2%B023'41.50%22E/@24.3894457,90.4611211,9z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m1!4m1!1!m5!1m1!1s0x3755b85c2756953d:0xb992402a17060127!2m2!1d90.4172444!2d23.7348605!1m3!2m2!1d91.3948611!2d25.0678583!3e0?hl=en>
- Dhaka (AIR PORT) to Fakirapool Bus Stop
<https://www.google.com.bd/maps/dir/Dacca+International+Airport,+Dhaka,+Dhaka+Division/Fakirapool+Bus+Stop,+Toyenbee+Circular+Road,+Dhaka/@23.7916867,90.3378422,12z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m1!4m1!1!m5!1m1!1s0x3755c691ba478fbd:0xd1b3f71371eb15ec!2m2!1d90.4026234!2d23.846615!1m5!1m1!1s0x3755b85c2756953d:0xb992402a17060127!2m2!1d90.4172444!2d23.7348605!3e0?hl=en>

More location map will be provided of the working venues to only the selected participants.

For any more information or questions about the project please contact through email or call. **All participants are highly recommended to go through the entire document and understand it properly before applying.** Multiple queries are invited from all, before final participations.

No submission after the deadline will be taken, but late submissions with remarkable qualities might get short listed for next episodes. In such cases the participants will be informed in advance.

As a final note, it must be said that “URONTO” is an open collective composed of individuals who wish to freely express their ideas via any medium. However, freedom of expression must always be accompanied by a respectful attitude towards the work space and other members of the collective. Aside from these particularities, the members are welcome to draw ideas and inspiration from their surroundings, since it is only natural for a creation of Nature to find inspiration within it.

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