CONTENTS

1 LBF

2 LB01

6 Sites
Lahore Fort
Mubarak Haveli & Tehsil Park
Shahi Hammam
Lahore Museum
Alhamra Art Centre
Bagh-e-Jinnah
Canal

134 Academic Forum
Academic Forum
artSpeak
Youth Forum

158 Acknowledgments
Disruption as Rapture
2016
HD video animation with 7.1 surround sound
Music by Du Yun featuring Ali Sethi
Animation by Patrick O’Rourke
10 minutes 7 seconds
Philadelphia Museum of Art
Commissioned by the Philadelphia Museum of Art, 2016
Disruption as Rapture (2016)

Shahzia Sikander’s 10-minute film, Disruption as Rapture is inspired by the Philadelphia Museum of Art’s 18th century manuscript Gulshan-i-Isbq (Garden of Love), written in 1657–58 by Nusrati, court poet to Sultan Ali Adil Shah II of Bijapur. The poem is written in Deccani Urdu and Persian naskh script, the language of the Muslim elite in South-Central India, and is a North Indian Hindu love story recast as a Sufi tale for an Islamic court.

Taking the allegorical tale of connection, separation, longing and the final union of lovers through iconography of lush gardens and magical beings, Sikander uses movement and lyrics to play with the love story’s metaphor for a soul’s search for the divine. The plurality that exists in the manuscript — Hindu and Sufi, metaphor and message — is explored through a collaboration with Pulitzer-Prize winning composer Du Yun and vocalist Ali Sethi. Much like the metaphor is used to convey the manuscript’s core message, Ali Sethi explores elements from Hindu and Muslim lyrical poetry to create an improvised passage into a devotional process. The collaborative spirit of the work is reflected in the multiplicity of aural and visual languages.