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# Sikandar comes home after conquering world

By Moneeza Burney

AMONG the various sessions held at the Lahore Literary Festival 2014 on Day 1, 'The World in Miniature' conducted by the celebrated Pakistani-American miniaturist, Shazia Sikandar, was a packed one.

An overcrowded hall brimming with excitement, welcomed Shazia on stage after a short introduction by John Zarobell. He introduced her as a global artist who was back in her hometown.

He praised Shazia's exceptional work which was far from the traditional miniature art and which has managed to inspire generations of miniature artists to experiment in multiple directions around the world.

Shazia Sikandar began by hailing the LLF which as a 'doubly precious platform', she being a proud Lahori and a graduate of the National College of Arts, Lahore.

She showed visuals of her

outstanding work that had been exhibited in different countries and museums around the world including the US, Turkey and the Middle East, while narrating the story behind the making of each piece which received a loud applause by the audience from time to time. The work included installations, paintings, video and animation that had been presented in the most astonishing manner.

Shazia Sikandar started work as a miniaturist in the 1990s when the future of miniature paintings had not been defined as yet and when not many Pakistani artists were internationally recognised.

Concluding the session, she talked about her next project with Sāmdani Art Foundation and invited students, academics and artists to collaborate with her.

The talk was followed by the screening one of her short animations that received a standing ovation.