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SHUVO RAFIQUL
POIGNANCY

Opening: November 3, 2026, 7 pm
Duration: November 4 – December 23, 2026

Bangladeshi artist Shuvo Rafiqul lives and works in Vienna. After training as a sculptor, he became known as a video artist and in 2012 for co-curating a now-legendary biennial-style exhibition in Dhaka, Bangladesh, together with artist Rini Mitra.

A few years ago, Rafiqul turned to painting. Partly inspired by his experiences as a young and promising cricket player, he creates his abstract paintings according to a set of premeditated rules and processes. In cricket, every movement, every finger, every fingertip plays a role, as do light, wind, and shadow. If a single element changes, the entire constellation shifts, again and again. It is this dynamic of inescapability proper to any game (and life) that interests Rafiqul. And what it may or may not produce, be it a sense of instability, weakness or beauty. At its core, it is a process of abstraction that unfolds through lines, colours and shapes, creating spaces that continuously collapse and re-emerge. Within these spaces, gestures and structures are just as essential as emotions and their control.

The new paintings on display at Galerie Krinzinger are created through a process that is both deliberate yet evolving, not unlike the editing techniques used in film. There are moments of fast-forward, slow motion, special effects, and even shot-reverse shots. After all, painting, like film, is a time-based medium. Rafiqul's tools are the materiality of the brush, paint and pencil one literally sees how paint drips, spreads, fails, is painted over and how lines are drawn and redrawn, as if they would never stop being interdependent. White stripes appear in some of the paintings, and I think they're there to hold the painting together. How? I don't know, and I don't need to know. Thus, we find ourselves confronted with paintings that address us with both detachment and intensity. It is an emotional journey that ultimately leads to a composition in which time plays a central role, as the artist himself puts it, one that resembles a time zone, whether here in Austria or in Bangladesh.

Daniel Baumann

Shuvo Rafiqul (*1982 in Dhaka, Bangladesh) started his career as a cricket player before turning to sculpture, experimenting with painting, making films, starting to draw and becoming a leading member of the artist group OGCJM, stirring up the young art scene in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Rafiqul thrusts his artistic sensitivity through illustration, video art, collages, photography and installation. His work mainly focuses on the ontological influence of time and the evolution of human behavior, looking with concern at the policies and the politics of arts language. His video works represent unspoken or non-communicative thoughts and theories through sudden cuts, pauses and juxtaposed editing. His drawings and collages have an identical effect on the viewers. He is the founder of the alternative artist initiative OGCJM and curated its 2012 show in the Tejgaeon Industrial area of Dhaka.

Shuvo Rafiqul studied at the Beaconhouse National University in Lahore, Pakistan, the Faculty of Fine Arts at University of Dhaka, Bangladesh and at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, Austria. In 2020, he received the STRABAG Art Award International in Vienna. Lately he created a work for the exhibition *Lebt und arbeitet in Wien (lives and works in Vienna)* at the Kunsthalle, Wien.