**ANNEX A**

**EXHIBITION OVERVIEW**

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| **Pulp III: A Short Biography of the Banished Book** |

Taking the form of a book, film and paper maze, this solo presentation marks the midpoint of Shubigi Rao’s 10-year project titled *Pulp,* thatexplores the history of book destruction and its impact on the futures of knowledge.

Designed in collaboration with architect, Laura Miotto, the pavilion takes the format of a paper maze. Making tangible the architecture of a book, the installation’s walls are sheets of paper suspended from ceiling beams that ‘fold’ along the architecture of the space. Cognisant of how books are objects that travel, and of the urgent need for less wasteful exhibitionary practices, the design of the paper maze is made to be mutable, flexible and reusable.

Housed within the paper maze is Shubigi Rao’s book, *Pulp Vol. III: A Short Biography of the Banished Book.* 5000 copies of the book will be carried away by the biennale visitors into the wider world, germinating small libraries, resisting erasure, and circumventing geopolitical and cultural divides.

Written by Rao specifically for the exhibition in the Pavilion, the book is the third in a series of books that have structured Pulp as a long-term project. Developed for the Singapore pavilion, the book is an artwork and chronicles Rao’s artistic research process. The book brings together new research on Singapore and Venice as historic centres of print with stories that Rao has collected over the first 5 years of the Pulp Project.

A companion to the book *Pulp Vol. III*, Rao’s film also presented within the paper maze draws on footage shot in Venice and Singapore, interwoven with prior research. The film weaves together the mytho-poetics of legendary libraries, half-truths, hearsay, and contested narratives, forming a lyrical manuscript that is a lush celebration of the unquenchable human need to tell and share stories, and a haunting elegy to waning communities of print.

While *Pulp III: A Short Biography of the Banished Book* consists of three distinct elements, the entire pavilion is a holistically conceived artwork. This inter-disciplinary work captures the collaborations andinter-connectedness of the many ideas, issues, people, ideologies, and references that make up this project.

**More Information on the 10-year Pulp Project**

Since 2014 Shubigi Rao has been filming public and private collections, libraries and archives globally for 'Pulp: A Short Biography of the Banished Book’. The project spans the creation of books to their destruction, the building of libraries to their burning, and the diverse threats to languages in embattled communities. Rao’s critically insightful, extensive, incisive and poetic work across Pulp explores the dichotomies of human stories and erasure. Her work unpeels the layered perspectives on inclusion and exclusion, the multitudinous philosophical natures of text, story, and archive, while examining the collisions between violent human impulse and survival and resistance.

As an artist in residence at NTU Centre for Contemporary Art Singapore, Gillman Barracks, she released her first book from the project in January 2016. It was shortlisted for the biennial Singapore Literature Prize 2018 (non-fiction). The second book from the series released in 2018 won the Singapore Literature Prize (nonfiction) in 2020. Both books have won numerous awards, including AIGA (New York)’s 50 best books of 2016 and 2018, and D&AD Pencil for design (2016, 2018). The first exhibition of the project, Written in the Margins, won the APB Signature Prize 2018 Juror's Choice Award.