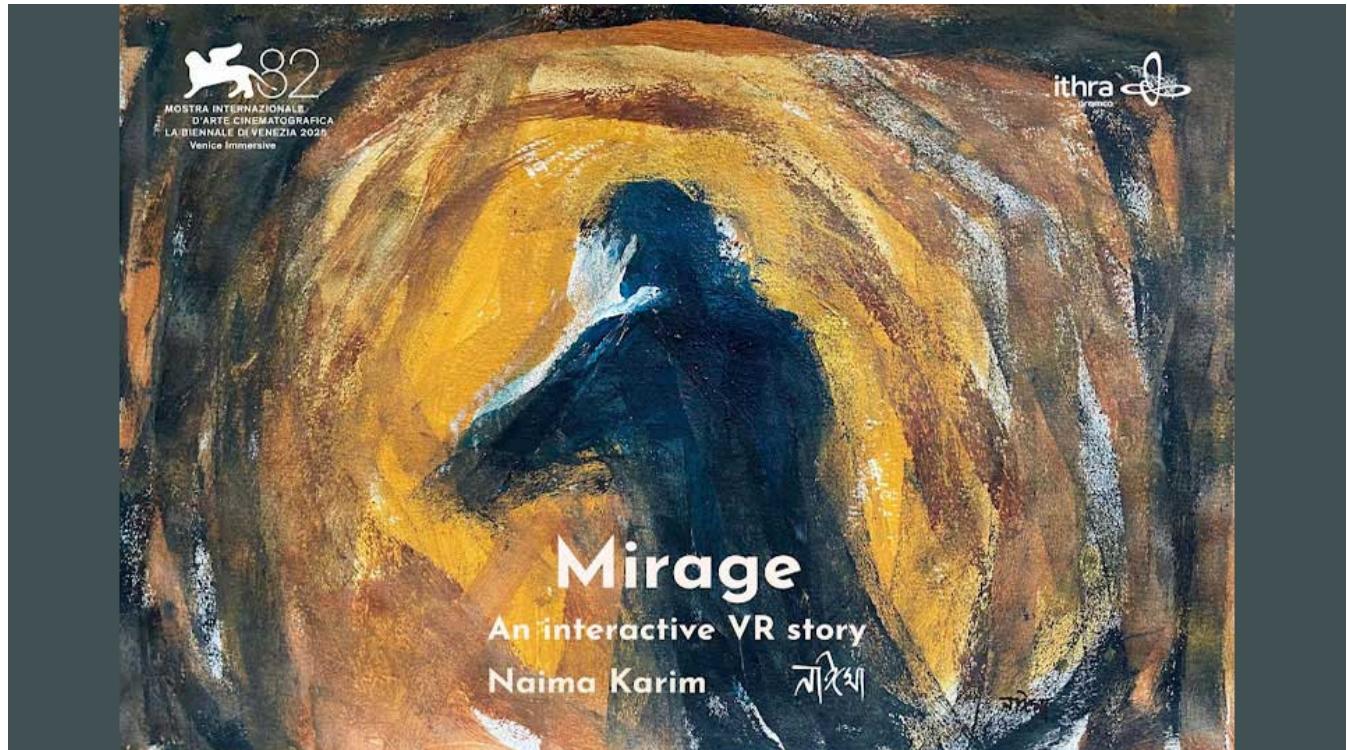


## Interactive VR film directed by Bangladeshi artist makes way to Venice Biennale

- A Monitor Desk Report

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Dhaka: An interactive Virtual Reality film named **Mirage**, directed by Bangladeshi origin Naima Karim, will be screened at the **82<sup>nd</sup> Venice International Film Festival in the Lido di Venezia from August 27 to September 6, 2025**.

Mirage is an interactive Virtual Reality experience of a young girl who is battling depression and anxiety.

Set in a desert landscape, it is a metaphorical and stylized adaptation with visuals created by the artist Naima Karim and her lived experience with her daughter's depression and anxiety. Both will be attending the film festival in Venice.

The audience embarks on an immersive journey through the young girl's mind, using hand-tracking interactivity, spatial sound design, original

music, and a haptic vest. With hand-tracking interaction, they will be encouraged to support her through her challenges.

However, accepting struggles and accepting help from others is not easy for a person suffering from depression and anxiety. *Mirage* sheds light on the often-misunderstood realities of depression and anxiety, inspiring empathy and understanding.

With this interactive virtual reality experience, Naima wants to spark a conversation, helping parents and others recognize the signs, and encourage people to offer help and support to those struggling with depression and anxiety.

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