

ART

# Memories at needlepoint

COURTESY GALLERY SPACE

Artist Paula Sengupta's beautifully embroidered art objects tell stories of blood and war

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In her book, *Aml Brangona Bolchi (This is the War Heroine Speaking)*, social worker and feminist author Nilima Ibrahim recalls memoirs of Bangladeshi women who were raped and tortured during the 1971 Bangladesh liberation war. In her accounts, an estimated 400,000 women were raped, while many were held captive in (West) Pakistan's military camps. Ibrahim borrows the word *brangona* (brave woman) from Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Bangladesh's first president, who sought to exalt the violated women as war heroes and erase their shame with this title. The effort met with little

