

## Reflections + Transformations

Recent Works by Sharmistha Ray

October 24<sup>th</sup> – November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Press Preview & Opening Reception: Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm – 8:00pm

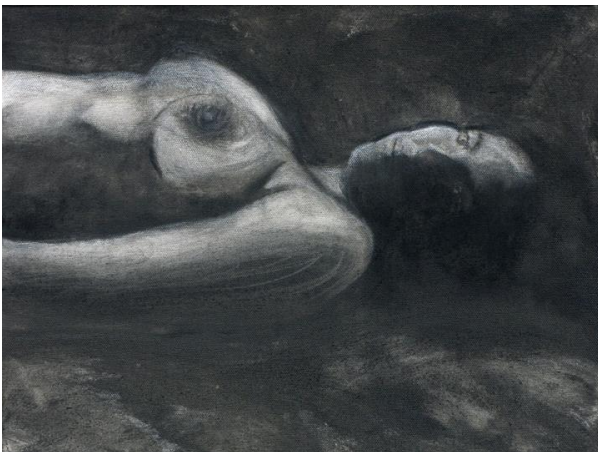
35 Great Jones St., New York NY 10012

**Aicon Gallery** is proud to present *Reflections + Transformations*, an exhibition of recent paintings and drawings by **Sharmistha Ray**. The exhibition – Ray's first solo in New York - explores the metaphysical emergence of the autonomous self in transitioning states between abstraction and the figure. For her last solo exhibition, *Hidden Geographies*, Ray alluded to intimate tonalities as a collection of subtle whispers tucked away under the thick skins of paint-laden landscapes. In *Reflections + Transformations*, those tonalities start to emerge more persistently, pushing their way through waves of abstraction. Alternating between layers of ambiguity and suggestion, the reflexive voice emerges at times in the form of naked flesh, while at other times remains figuratively buried under paint.

Ray's paintings are sites for multiple negotiations to probe the poetics of identity politics in continually shifting social and cultural parameters. Nomadically living between Mumbai and New York for close to a decade, the artist embeds a haptic sense of movement in her paintings that mirrors her physical journeys in real time and space. Grid-like structures that held paint in place here give way to more organic forms that morph into golden arcadias, beds of roses and a garden of crushed flowers. The self-reflexive voice vibrates within impasto layers of paint in *City of Eros* (2013), takes its form as abstracted female forms in the *Fields of Gold* paintings, wrestles with paint material in the *Bed of Roses* works and finds a tenuous resolve in *A Place of Her Own* (2013).



Sharmistha Ray, *Fields of Gold #2*, 2013, Oil on linen, 60 x 60 in.



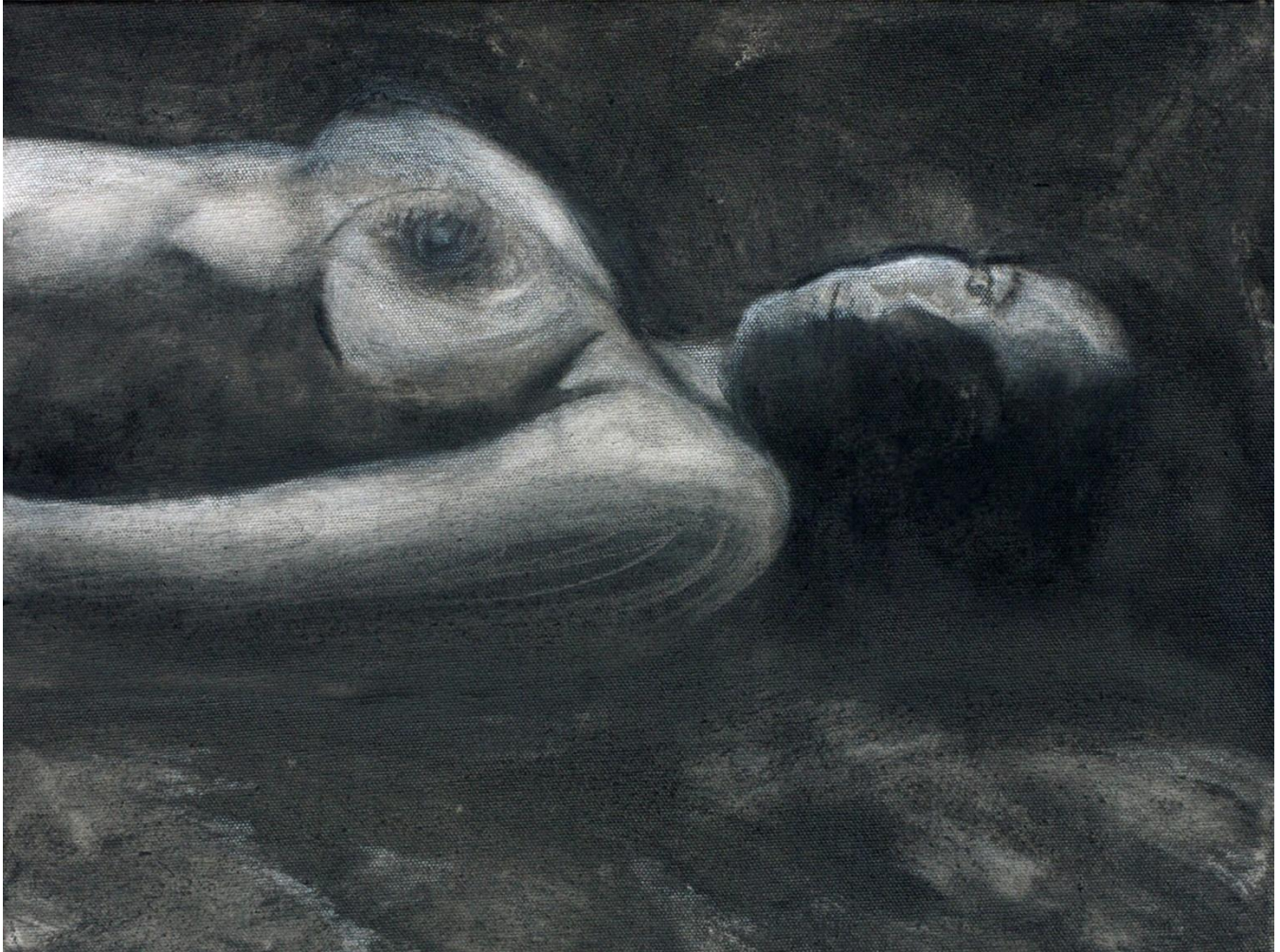
Sharmistha Ray, *Nude #1*, 2013, Charcoal and ink on canvas, 12 x 16 in.

The lyrical undertones of eroticism pervading the painterly realms of Ray's abstractions find their self-conscious charge in the *States of Arousal* drawings. The ubiquitous and solitary female nude depicted in graphic tones departs from the overt sensuality of the paintings, laterally entering into zones of realism to flesh out a narrative of carnal pleasure. The monumentalizing of personal intimacies, whilst finding their formal tendencies within western art history, have their rhetorical outflows from the more patriarchal and hetero-normative strictures of an eastern society where Ray spends most of her time.

**Sharmistha Ray** was born in Kolkata, and lived in the Middle East before moving to the United States with her family in 1997. She studied fine art and art history at Williams College and Pratt Institute and has been the recipient of notable awards and accolades including a Mont Blanc Young Artist Worldwide Patronage Commission (2012), a TED Fellowship (2009) and Joan Mitchell M.F.A. Grant (2004). Her works are in private collections in India, America, Italy, Singapore and Australia.

Please contact Aicon Gallery ([Andrew@Aicongallery.com](mailto:Andrew@Aicongallery.com)) for more information.





Sharmistha Ray  
*Nude #1*  
2013  
Charcoal and ink on canvas  
12 x 16 in.





Sharmistha Ray  
*Nude #2*  
2013  
Charcoal and ink on canvas  
12 x 16 in.



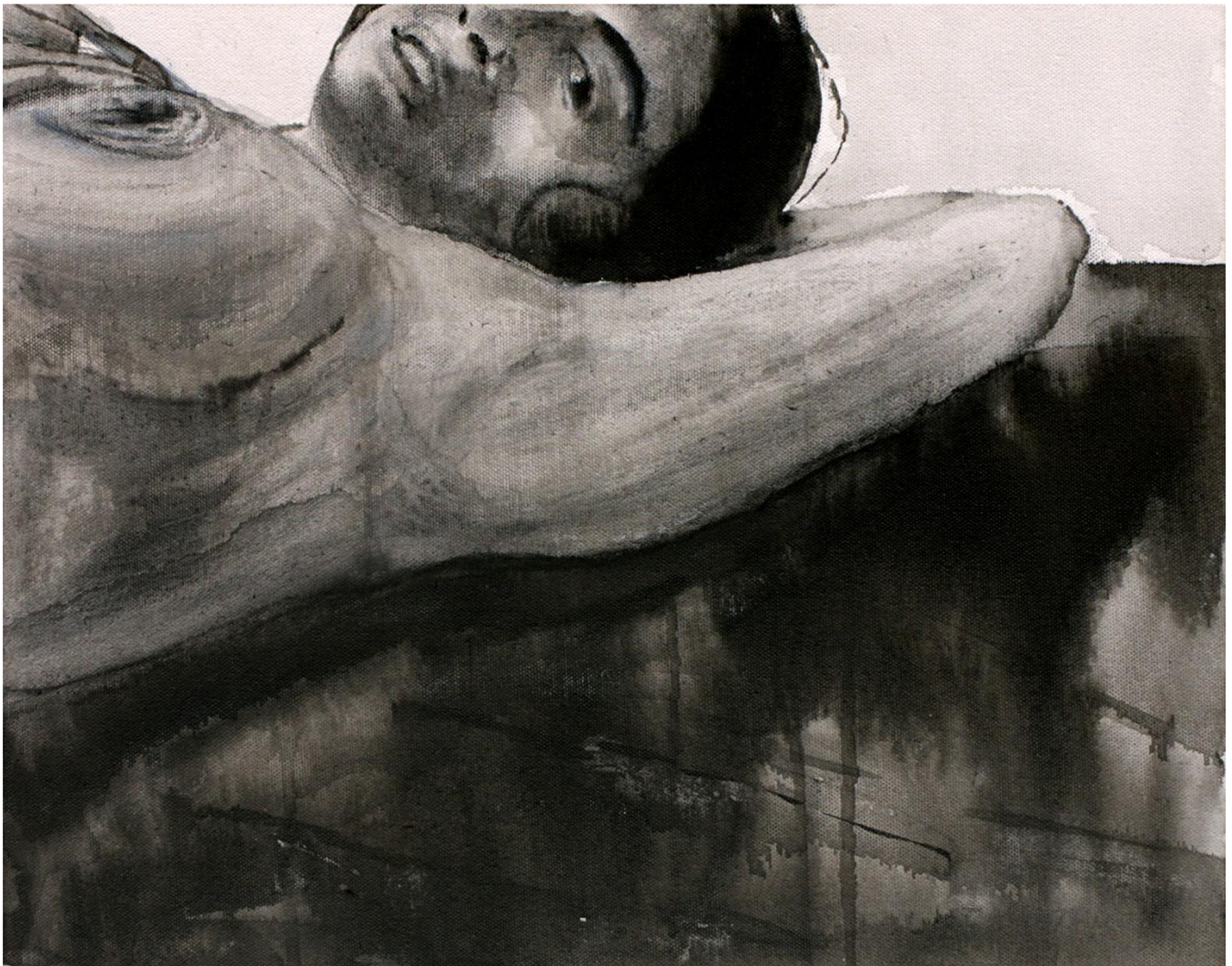


Sharmistha Ray  
*Nude #3*  
2013  
Charcoal and ink on canvas  
12 x 16 in.



Sharmistha Ray  
*Nude #4*  
2013  
Charcoal and ink on canvas  
12 x 16 in.





Sharmistha Ray  
*Nude #5*  
2013  
Charcoal and ink on canvas  
12 x 16 in.





Sharmistha Ray  
*Nude #6*  
2013  
Charcoal and ink on canvas  
12 x 16 in.





Sharmistha Ray  
*Nude #7*  
2013  
Charcoal and ink on canvas  
12 x 16 in.





Sharmistha Ray  
*Nude #8*  
2013  
Charcoal and ink on canvas  
12 x 16 in.





Sharmistha Ray  
*Nude #9*  
2013  
Charcoal and ink on canvas  
12 x 16 in.





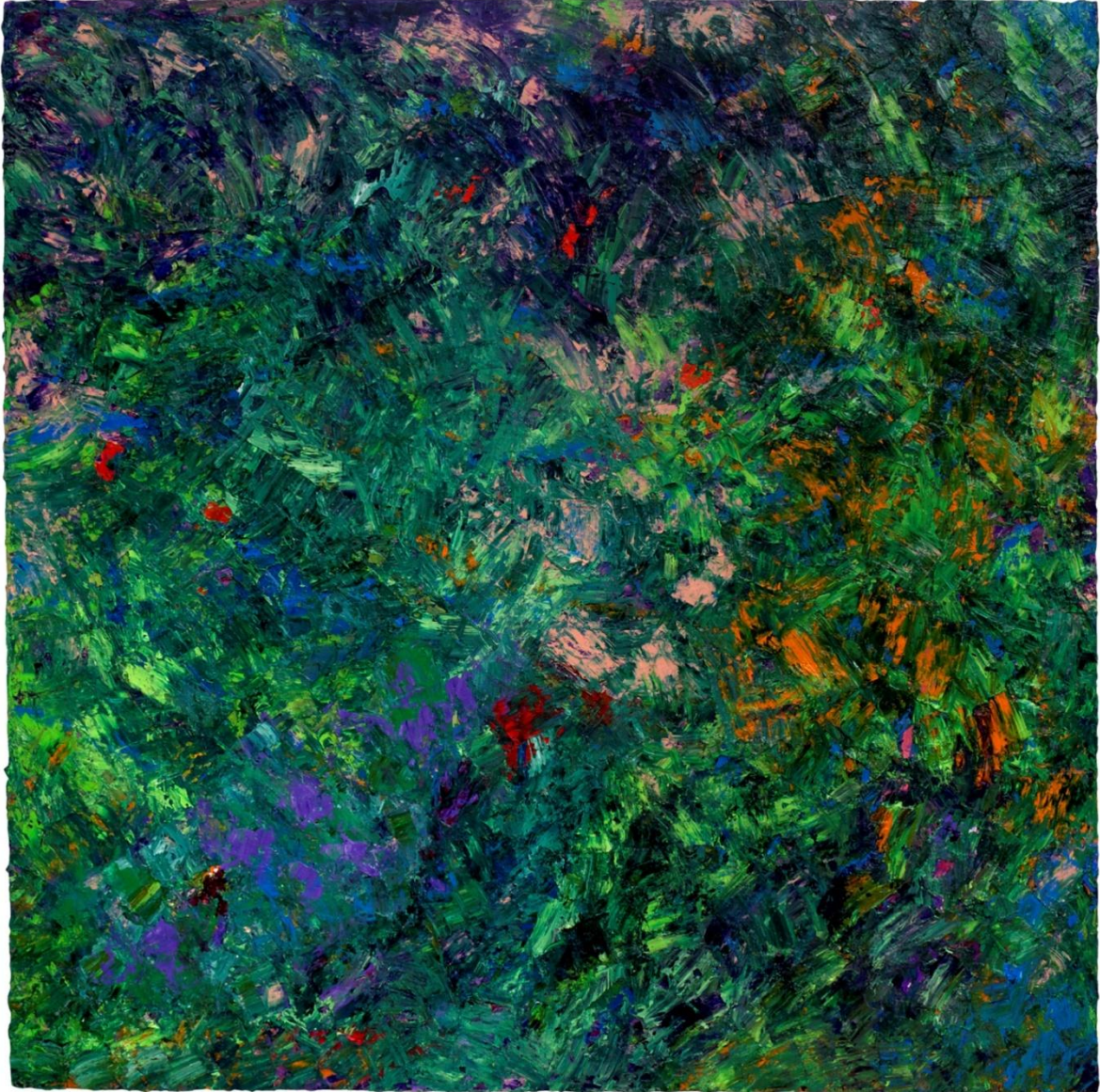
Sharmistha Ray  
*Nude #10*  
2013  
Charcoal and ink on canvas  
12 x 16 in.





Sharmistha Ray  
*City of Eros*  
2012  
Oil on canvas  
96 x 72 in.





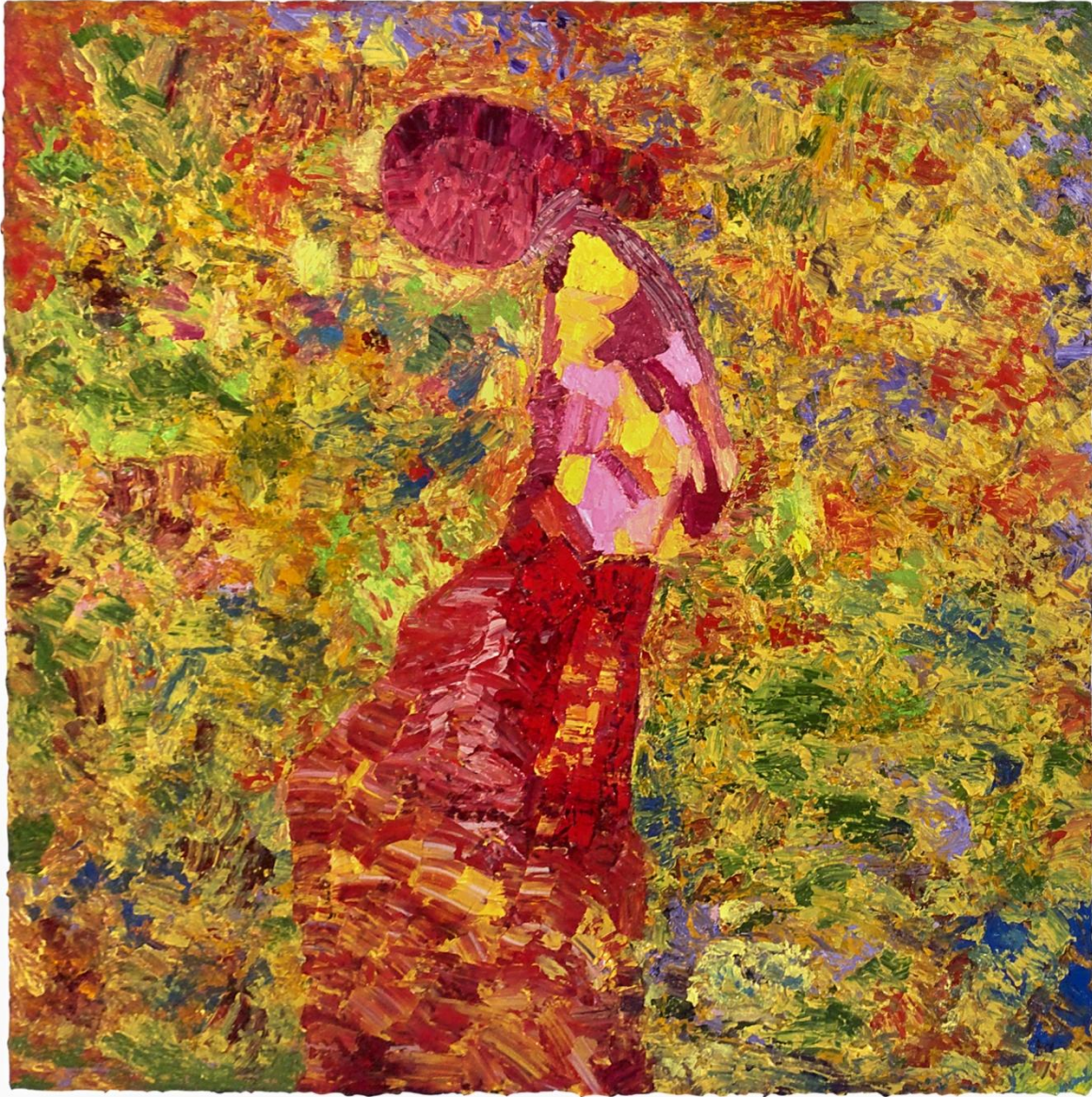
Sharmistha Ray  
*Through the Palm Fronds*  
2013  
Oil on linen  
60 x 60 in.





Sharmistha Ray  
*Fields of Gold #2*  
2013  
Oil on linen  
60 x 60 in.





Sharmistha Ray  
*Fields of Gold #3*  
2013  
Oil on linen  
60 x 60 in.





Sharmistha Ray  
*Bed of Roses #2*  
2013  
Oil on canvas  
60 x 72 in.





Sharmistha Ray  
*Bed of Roses #3*  
2013  
Oil on canvas  
60 x 72 in.





Sharmistha Ray  
*The Violet Sea*  
2013  
Oil on canvas  
60 x 60 in.





Sharmistha Ray  
*Masquerade of Feathers*  
2012  
Oil on canvas  
48 x 48 in.



## SHARMISTHA RAY

Born 1978, Kolkata, India

Lives and works in Mumbai, India

Website: [www.sharmistharay.net](http://www.sharmistharay.net)

Sharmistha Ray is an artist, curator, writer, speaker and TED Fellow with roots in Mumbai and New York. Ray's debut solo exhibition of abstract paintings, *hidden geographies* (2012), at Galerie Mirchandani + Steinruecke in Mumbai, comprised of large, densely painted oils on canvas. Her work postulates canonical ideals of beauty and the sublime by distilling her memories, photographs, observations and experiences of landscapes, both urban and natural. Ray's paintings are sites for multiple negotiations to probe the poetics of identity politics in continually shifting social and cultural parameters. Nomadically living between Mumbai and New York for close to a decade, the artist embeds a haptic sense of movement in her paintings that mirrors her physical journeys in real time and space.

### Education

2001-2005 Master of Sciences in Art History/Master of Fine Arts in Painting, Pratt Institute, New York  
1997-2001 Bachelor of Arts, Williams College, Massachusetts

### Solo Exhibitions

2014 *Sweet Surrender*, Galerie Steph, Singapore  
2013 *Reflections & Transformations*, Aicon Gallery, New York, USA  
2012 *Hidden Geographies*, Galerie Mirchandani + Steinruecke, Mumbai, India  
2004 *Crossroads*, Steuben East Gallery, New York, USA  
1998 *Queer Series*, Williams College, Williamstown, USA

### Group Exhibitions

2013 *Vikhroli Skins*, an initiative by Godrej India Culture Lab, Mumbai, India  
*Touched by Bhupen*, Galerie Mirchandani + Steinruecke, Mumbai, India  
*OUT/OFF: Out of the gallery and off the walls*, curated by Chameleon Art Projects, Mumbai  
*Resist*, Gallery Beyond, Mumbai, India  
India Art Fair, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, New Delhi, India  
2012 *Museum of Memories*, site-specific installation, Godrej India Culture Lab, Mumbai, India  
*Mumbai Galleries Weekend*, sponsored by Citibank, Taj Land's End, Mumbai, India  
*Can You See Me?*, Space Engendered, New Delhi, India  
2010 *Hope for Haiti-India Cares*, Grand Hyatt, Mumbai, India  
2007 *In-si-der*, Bodhi Art, Mumbai, India  
2006 *Joan Mitchell M.F.A. Grant Recipients*, CUE Art Foundation, New York, USA  
2004 *Territories*, Juried Exhibition, Gallery Artsindia, New York, USA  
2004 *2004 CAC Juried Exhibition*, Contemporary Artists Center, North Adams, USA  
2004 Williamsburg Art and Historical Center, New York, USA  
2004 *Explorations/Innovations*, Kingsborough Community College, New York, USA  
2004 *2004 Annual Pratt MFA Exhibition*, Pratt Manhattan Gallery, New York, USA  
2004 *Grand Group Show*, Danny Simmons Corridor Gallery, New York, USA  
2004 *Drawing Show*, Parsons Institute, New York, USA  
2004 *MFAs Colliding*, New York University, New York, USA  
2003 *Graduate Students: Recent Works*, Steuben Gallery, New York, USA  
2002 *Extreme Existence*, Schafler Gallery, New York, USA  
2002 *9/11: Artists Respond*, Schafler Gallery, New York, USA

2002 *Mind the Gap: Art from Both Sides of the Atlantic*, Steuben Gallery, NY, USA  
 2000 *B.A. Thesis Exhibition*, Williams College Museum of Art, Williamstown, MA  
 2000 *Berkshire Artisans Association Juried Show*, Lichtenstein Art Center, Pittsfield, MA

### **Awards, Distinctions, and Memberships**

2013 L’Oreal Paris Femina Women Awards, Nominee, Artist of the Year  
 2012 Montblanc Young Artist World Patronage Project  
 2010 Critics’ Choice, TimeOut Mumbai, for curated exhib. “A Place of Their Own,”  
 2009 TED Fellowship, TEDIndia, Mysore, India  
 Delegate, Leaders in Business Conference, Mumbai, India  
 India Art Summit, Selection Committee Member, Trade Fair (New Delhi)  
 HK09, Selection Committee Member, Trade Fair (Hong Kong)  
 2005 Pratt Circle Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement, Pratt Institute, USA  
 Certificate of Excellence Award for Outstanding Merit in Graduate Fine Arts, Pratt Institute, USA  
 Certificate of Excellence Award for Outstanding Merit in Graduate Art History, Pratt Institute, USA  
 2004 Joan Mitchell M.F.A. Grant. \$10,000 awarded to ten artists in the United States in a rigorous selection process  
 2000 Selected as one of five Class 1960 Scholars in Art for outstanding potential in the arts, Williams College, USA  
 Faculty Search Committee to hire new faculty member for tenure-track position, Williams College, USA  
 Granted Berkshire Artisans Association Fellowship awarded to outstanding artists living in the Berkshire region, Pitt.  
 1999-2000 Museum Associate, Williams College Museum of Art, Williamstown, MA  
 1997-2000 Dean’s List Academic Award, four-time recipient, Williams College, USA

### **PROJECTS**

2013 TED Fellows Retreat, Whistler, Canada  
 2012 Spoken-word performance, *Dirty Talk Encore*, supported by Random House, Mumbai  
 Engendered Artist Residency, New Delhi, India  
 2010 Curatorial project, *The Art of Travel*, Conde Nast Traveler India, Oberoi Hotel, Mumbai  
 Curatorial project, *A Place of Their Own*, Group Exhibition of South Asian-American Diaspora Artists, Gallery BMB, Mumbai, India  
 Curator’s residency, Art Basel and ProHelvetica’s Curator’s Tour to Switzerland during ArtBasel41  
 Curatorial project, *Hope for Haiti*, Benefit Auction, Grand Hyatt, Mumbai

### **LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS**

2013 Visiting Artist, Williams College, Williamstown, MA  
 2013 TED Talk, TED Fellows Retreat, Whistler, Canada  
 2012 Moderator, “Leaps of Faith: Collector’s Narratives,” as part of Art Chennai *To Let the World In: Narrative and Beyond in Contemporary Indian Art* curated by Chaitanya Sambrani,  
 Artist Walkthrough, in conversation with Birgid Uccia (art historian), sponsored by Avid & partnered with Kalaghoda Festival and TimeOut Mumbai, Galerie Mirchandani + Steinruecke, Mumbai  
 2011 Panelist, “The Persistent Question of Indianness in Shifting Global Scenarios,” India Art Festival, Mumbai  
 Panelist, “The Art Critic,” *Art Conversations*, Art Chennai, Chennai India, March  
 2010 Speaker, Young President’s Organization, Mumbai, India, 14 May 2010  
 Moderator, “Towards a New World Seminar”, organized by The Fuschia Tree, Trident Hotel,



- Mumbai, India, March 2010
- 2009 Moderator, "Sources of Departure, Sites of No-Return," Emami Chisel, Kolkata, India, Feb. 2010  
 Chairperson, Symposium, "Global and Romani," Kolkata, India, Oct. 2009 Discussant  
 Conversation with artist Maryam Jafri, Mohile Parikh Center, Mumbai, India, Sept. 2009  
 Panelist, "Creating Value – Asian Art on Western Circuits of Exchange," International Speakers' Forum, India Art Summit, New Delhi, August 2009 (with Hans Ulrich-Obrist, Yuko Hasegawa and Ranjit Hoskote)  
 Panelist, "India – Personal and Political," with Ranjit Hoskote & Bina Sarkar Ellias, Crossword Bookstore, Mumbai, India, Aug 2009  
 Public lecture, "From Post-colonialism to Globalization: Mapping South Asian Diaspora Art over the past decade," Cymroza Gallery, Mumbai, India, June 2009 (in conversation with Ranjit Hoskote)
- 2006-2008 *Tuesdays@Bodhi*, organized popular art lectures series at Bodhi Art with national and internationally recognized art professionals, curators and artists.
- 2006 Public lecture, "Indian Artists and the Flat World," Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (formerly Prince of Wales Museum), Mumbai, India, September 2006

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- "Alpha Female," *Elle India Magazine*, October 2013  
 "Delhi Spread," *Art + Auction Magazine*, Jan. 2013  
 Cover Focus, *Femina*, India, May 2012  
 Pal, Deepanjana, "The Act of Seeing," e-catalogue essay for *Can You See Me?*, 2012  
 Adajania, Nancy, "How the Nomad Holds, Grasps and Moulds the Shape of her Location," e-catalogue essay for *Hidden Geographies*, 2012  
 Banerjee, Olina, "Global Art Comes Home," *India Today*, 13 Feb 2012  
 Bhalla, Simran, "Spaced, out," *Time Out Delhi*, Feb 2012  
 Shahani, Parmesh, "Geographies of Being," *Verve (Vol. 20 Issue 2)*, Feb 2012  
 Dixit-Hathi, Nirali, "Look hues here," *Bombay Times*, Feb 9, 2012.  
 Sahani, Alaka, "Bold and Colourful," *The Indian Express*, Feb 5, 2012  
 Kulkarni, Reshma, "Showcase: Canons of beauty," *The Hindu*, Feb 4, 2012  
 Mazumder, Jayeeta, "Beauty always resides in the mundane: Sharmistha Ray," *DNA*, Jan 17, 2012  
 Campbell, Diana, "Show and Tell," *Vogue India (Vol. 5 Issue 4)*, Jan 2012, pp. 93-94  
 Ratnam, Dhamini, "The Art of Peeling Pink," *Sunday Middy*, Dec 25, 2011  
 Interview with Sharmistha Ray, *Revolve Magazine*, Summer 2011  
 Thani Daswani, Divia (editor), *Conde Nast Traveller (Indian Ed.)*, Dec 2010  
 Dixit-Hathi, Nirali, "Beyond borders," *Bombay Times*, November 20, 2010, pp. 16  
 Nagree, Zeenat, "Homeward Bound," *TimeOut Mumbai (Vol. 7, Issue 4)*, Oct 15, 2010, pp. 67  
 Mazumder, Jayeeta, "Travel magazine starts art series," *HT Café*, Sept 30, 2010, (Mumbai ed.)  
 Pant, Mini Zachariah, "Different Strokes," *Hindustan Times*, May 2, 2010 (Sunday ed.)  
 Maddox, Georgina, "Diaspora and the Arts," *Indian Express*, 18 Jun 2009  
 Pal, Deepanjana, "Graphic Detail," Interview in *TimeOut Mumbai*, Jun 2009  
 "Brush with Success: Experts from around the world choose their favourite up-and-coming Indian women artists," *Vogue India*, Dec 2008, p. 239  
 Bahadur, Sona, "Life in the Art Lane," *Verve Magazine (Vol. 16, Issue 9)*, Sept 2008, pp50-63  
 Beech, Hannah. "Asian Artists Paint the Color of Money," with reporting by Maithili Chakravarthy, *TIME Magazine (India ed.)*, 01 Nov 2007

## AUTHORED ARTICLES AND ESSAYS

- Interview with art collector Sandeep Reddy, *TAKE on Art Magazine*, 2012
- "The man who painted India: What Husain was all about," *First Post*, 9 Jun 2011
- "Visualising Poems", *International Gallerie (Vol 11 No 2)*, 2010, pp. 4-7
- "Walking the Razor's Edge," *Art India Magazine (Volume 15, Issue 4)*, Dec 2010, pp. 60
- "Curating in the Ghetto," *Indian Contemporary Art Journal (Vol. 2, Issue 4)*, 2010, pp. 50-51
- "Artistic License," Interview with artist Jitish Kallat, *TAKE on Art Magazine*, Jul 2010
- "Artistic Trail," *Vogue India (Vol. 3, Issue 12)*, Sept 2010, pp. 105-108
- "We just made art everyday," Interview with artist Bharti Kher, *The Economic Times*, Apr 11, 2010
- "Indian art auctions signal recovery," *The Economic Times*, 6 Apr 2010
- "Young artists lay new foundations," *The Economic Times*, 10 Mar 2010
- "Mumbai is arty!" (Expat Opinion) *HT Café, Hindustan Times*, 30 Mar 2010
- "Anupam Poddar," *MW Magazine*, Mar 2010
- "Get back to the Drawing Board," *The Economic Times*, 24 Jan 2010
- "When Indian art went global: The artists, curators and patrons who made an impact," *MW Magazine*, Jan 2010
- "A Short Note on Preconditioning in Art," *Religare Arts Initiative*, Dec 2009
- "Launch pad," *Vogue India*, Dec 2009
- "The Business of Art," *Verve*, Dec 2009
- "Lead Profile: Kavas Bharucha," *Art India Magazine*, Sept 2009
- "Review: L.N. Tallur," *Art Asia Pacific Magazine*, Sept 2009
- "A Place of Their Own," *Art Pulse Magazine*, Oct-Nov '09, Vol.1, No.1
- "Talk-Everyone's Invited," *MW Magazine*, Aug 2009
- "A World of One's Own," *MW Magazine*, Aug 2009
- "The Story of Black and White," *Verve*, Jul 2009
- "A Way in the World," *Art India Magazine*, Jun 2009
- "Intimate Theater: A Soliloquy of Dislocations," *Wynwood Art Magazine*, 2009
- "Raqib Shaw," *MW Magazine*, Jul 2009
- "Get ready for the New Invasion," *MW Magazine*, pp 104-107, Oct 2008
- "Art in Paris" *MW Magazine*, 2008
- "Subodh Gupta: Locating Culture," *International Gallerie Magazine*, vol. 10, 2007
- Start.Stop*, intro. exhib. catalogue (Bodhi Art), Subodh Gupta, 2007
- Weaving Memory*, intro. exhib. catalogue (Bodhi Art), Zarina Hashmi, 2007
- "In touch with the Indian inside," *The Telegraph*, Nov. 9, 2006