

SILENTLY...

a proposed plan for rethinking the urban fabric

by

Pooja Iranna

Curatorial Advisor

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Press Preview & V.I.P Reception: Friday, March 13, 2020, 6 – 9pm

Centre for Contemporary Art, Bikaner House, India Gate, New Delhi



Pooja Iranna, *Pervasive Mushrooming 6*, 2019
Cement, color, staple pins, 15 x 10.5 x 2 in.

We are delighted to present *Silently...*, Aicon Art's debut solo exhibition of New Delhi-based artist **Pooja Iranna**. The exhibition will also mark the gallery's debut presentation at **Bikaner House** in New Delhi.

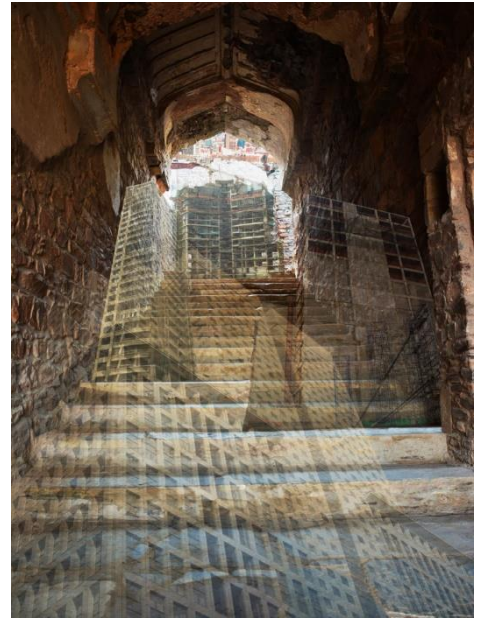
Spanning the breath of her practice, *Silently...a proposed plan for rethinking the urban fabric* is an endeavor by Iranna to capture the sensations of a city as experienced by individuals and not as designed by architects and planners. The artist's new body of work is extremely sensitive, as it attempts to bring forth what this explosion of urbanization, and its standardization that we see today in the name of modernization and development, would mean for an individual in real terms. Through drawings on acrylic sheets; lens-based works including video and photography and sculptural works using glass, concrete and staple pins, the work in this exhibition attempts to trace the effects of architecture on the emotions and the psyche and attempts to find traces of our emotional and psychological lives in the structures and patternings of architecture. She asks an unignorable question – is the ever-growing colloidal form of the city bringing us closer to the utopian vision it is rooted in?

The staple is a material crucial to the artist's practice and harks back to early experimentations in three-dimensional form. Resembling building models, they

cleverly replicate many of the ideas in the lens-based works and paintings but also the formal aspects of composition, color and form. As architect and writer Gautam Bhatia observes,

“For her, the staple is a useful construction element, because it is featureless and repetitive – both ideas that reflect the anonymous character of the city. A cluster of staples representing a digital high-rise captures the scale of relentless accretion – the theme of overbuilding, indeed the unstoppable occupation of space in the city, in which nothing is eventually left but a bit of sky.”

Augmenting the sculptural works in the exhibition is Iranna’s engagement with the digital manipulation of images stemming from classical and contemporary architecture. The artist takes pleasure in allowing this evidence of distortion by technology to remain visible in her work, to both refine and adapt the original details and to comment on man’s increasing dependence on technology for his own self-image. Bhatia summarizes, *‘By extracting a minor frame from the larger built landscape, the painted vision disturbs by deliberate fragmentation. How big is the real building from which this miniscule frame was withdrawn? Is the steel structure part of a bridge or skyscraper? The answer is never clear.’*



Pooja Iranna, *Intruder 2*, 2019
Photographical work on Hahnemuhle
museum etching paper, 36 x 48 in.

Born in 1969 in New Delhi, Pooja Iranna received her BFA and MFA in Painting from the College of Art in New Delhi. Some of her prominent shows include Karachi Biennale 2019, ‘Of Human Endeavour’, at the Guild, Mumbai; ‘Invisible Cities’, at Aicon Gallery, New York; ‘Does size matter’, Latitude 28, New Delhi; ‘Lost in Urban Maze’, Palette Gallery, New Delhi; ‘The landscapes of where’ curated by Nancy Adajania for Galerie Mirchandani + Steinruecke; ‘Trends & Trivia’ at The Visual Arts Centre, Hong Kong; ‘Walk the Line’ at Avanthay Contemporary, Zurich; ‘India Revealed’, curated by Antonio Manfred at Cam Casoria Contemporary Art Museum, Naples, Italy; Korea-India Contemporary Art Exchange Exhibition, Seoul, Korea and Emerging India’, by art Alive at the Henry Moore Gallery, London. Her work is reflected in institutional collection in India, Europe and the US.

About Aicon Art

At Aicon Art we specialize in modern and contemporary non-Western art with a special focus on South Asia, Africa, the Middle East and their diasporas. Alongside in-depth, focused solo shows, the gallery presents a program of curated group exhibitions that are international in their scope and ambition. Through this, the gallery hopes to produce unexpected congruencies, shed light on multiple modernisms, make complex the designation “contemporary” and signal a shift away from simple survey exhibitions. Aicon has shown the work of established artists such as M. F. Husain, F. N. Souza, Rasheed Araeen, Rachid Koraichi, Rekha Rodwittiya and S. H. Raza; alongside ambitious solo shows of younger artists, such as Salman Toor, Mequitta Ahuja, and G. R. Iranna. The gallery has collaborated with museums such as the Art Institute, Chicago; Guggenheim Museum, New York; Kiran Nadar Museum, New Delhi; Asian Art Museum, San Francisco; Jewish Museum, New York and the Louvre, Abu Dhabi.

Please contact Aicon Art (dheeya@aicongallery.com) for more information.