

Homelands: Art from Bangladesh, India and Pakistan

12 November 2019 – 2 February 2020

Press View:

8 November, 10.45am – 1pm

Kettle's Yard is pleased to announce 'Homelands: Art from Bangladesh, India and Pakistan.' Including works by 11 contemporary artists, the exhibition will engage with displacement and the transitory notion of home, both of which have been pivotal for the modern construction of Bangladesh, India and Pakistan.

The exhibition will address the continuing resonances and contested histories of Partition in 1947 and the independence of Bangladesh in 1971, which both resulted in mass violence and dislocation, as well as the contemporary instability of home and nationality in South Asia and beyond. Responding to the present climate of intense nationalism, exhibiting artists will deliberately engage with both intimate and political histories, to contest borders and explore the common histories in their works.

Curated by Dr Devika Singh, Curator, International Art at Tate Modern, 'Homelands' will encompass paintings, drawing, video, photography and installation, including a number of new works by Desmond Lazaro (b.1968), Seher Shah (b.1975), Sohrab Hura (b. 1981), Yasmin Jahan Nupur (b. 1979), Iftikhar Dadi & Elizabeth Dadi (b. 1961 and 1957) and Munem Wasif (b.1983), as well as a newly conceived performance by Nikhil Chopra (b.1974). The exhibition will also show works by Bani Abidi (b.1971), Shilpa Gupta (b.1976), and Zarina (b.1937).

Highlight works from the exhibition will include a new photographic project by Munem Wasif, entitled *Spring Song* (2019). The works record objects Rohingya people brought with them to Bangladesh when forced into exile by Myanmar's military dictatorship. Collected from Cox's Bazar refugee camps, the objects range from roughly assembled toys, to precious family documents and photographs.



Sohrab Hura, *Snow*
Exhibition suite of 27 photographs, 2014-ongoing
24 x 24 in
Courtesy of Sohrab Hura / Experimentier

Seher Shah's *Argument from Silence* (2019) reworks a series of photographs of ancient Gandhara sculptures housed in the Le Corbusier designed Government Museum and Art Gallery in Chandigarh, India. Ownership of these sculptures originating from the modern-day border between Afghanistan, Pakistan and India was disputed between India and Pakistan at the time of Partition. Shah's series questions the physical place of the sculptures in this museum context and their meaning for contemporary audiences.

A new series of paintings by Desmond Lazaro, conceived during a residency at Kettle's Yard and King's College and created in partnership with individuals who have resettled in Cambridge will also be displayed. These hand painted works will represent Cambridge families' experiences of migration and displacement. It is the first time Lazaro has worked with family archives other than his own. Lazaro's biographical *Cini Films* series (2015–2016) documenting his Indian-origin family's life after they relocated from Yangon, Myanmar, to Leeds will also be displayed alongside these new works.

Nikhil Chopra will make a new drawing during his performance *Rouge* at Kettle's Yard on 3 December. In addition, the exhibition will include the shelter Chopra occupied for his durational performance at Havana Biennial in 2015 as well as drawings he made on this occasion.

Shilpa Gupta will present *Untitled* (2008–9), a signage board reminiscent of those found in train stations and airports. The board marks not only arrivals and departures, but also figures of migration and loss, referencing the mass killings of train passengers as they attempted to resettle at the time of Partition.

Sohrab Hura will display 27 photographs taken from the series *Snow* (2014–ongoing), created over the course of several prolonged trips to the contested region of Kashmir. Loosely arranged into spring, summer, autumn and winter, the series focuses on the people of Kashmir through Hura's own subjective view as an outsider. He captures moments of humour and wonder in daily life, showing a different side to the region which is currently undergoing major tensions.

Iftikhar Dadi and Elizabeth Dadi's neon sculptures of national flowers from their *Efflorescence* series (2013–) will also be displayed in 'Homelands', including two new works. Inspired by popular commercial signage, the works play with the language of advertising and commerce to explore national identity. The work juxtaposes the industrial and the natural, and points to the artificiality of national emblems that can easily grow across borders.

A new publication with contributions by Nancy Adajania, Homi K. Bhabha and each of the artists accompanies the exhibition.

Notes to Editors

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About Kettle's Yard

Kettle's Yard is one of Britain's best galleries – a beautiful and unique house with a distinctive modern art collection, and a gallery exhibiting modern and contemporary art. Supporting this is an established learning and community engagement programme, archive, and programme of chamber concerts. In February 2018, Kettle's Yard reopened after a two-year development by architect Jamie Fobert. The new Kettle's Yard includes major new exhibition galleries, generous education spaces, a café and new welcome areas. Kettle's Yard's mission is to contribute to society by inspiring and engaging audiences through art, learning and research of the highest quality. We believe that great art should not be the privilege of the few, but for everyone. Our values reflect Kettle's Yard's creator Jim Ede's support for artists and belief in art's power to make us look again and change how we act in the world.

www.kettlesyard.co.uk

About Dr Devika Singh

Dr Devika Singh is Curator, International Art at Tate Modern. Her work focuses on modern and contemporary art and architecture in South Asia and the global history of modernism. She is an affiliated scholar at the Centre of South Asian Studies of the University of Cambridge where she was previously Smuts Research Fellow. She holds a PhD from the University of Cambridge and was a fellow at the Centre allemand d'histoire de l'art in Paris. She was a visiting fellow at the French Academy at Rome, the Freie Universität, Berlin, and the Kluge Center of the Library of Congress, Washington D.C. Her writing has appeared in exhibition catalogues, specialised magazines and in the journals *Art History*, *Modern Asian Studies*, *Journal of Art Historiography* and *Third Text*. In 2017 she guest edited an issue of *MARG*. Exhibitions curated by Singh include 'Planetary Planning' at the Dhaka Art Summit (2018); 'Gedney in India' at the CSMVS, Mumbai (2017) and Duke University (2018).

At Kettle's Yard, Dr Devika Singh worked with Dr Amy Tobin, Curator of Research, Exhibitions and Events, and Grace Storey, Assistant Curator, with assistance from Alina Khakoo and Holly Dongqing Yuan.

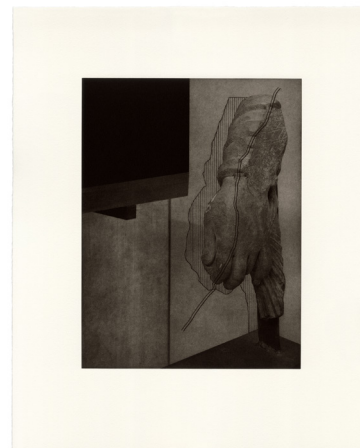
Artist Biographies

Bani Abidi (b. 1971, Karachi) lives and works in Berlin and Karachi. Abidi's solo exhibitions include Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin (2019); the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead (2011) and Experimenter, Kolkata (2012–13; 2016). Group exhibitions include those at Asia Society, New York (2010); Centre for Contemporary Art, Singapore (2013); Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York (2014) and MoMA (2015). She has participated in the Lahore Biennale (2018). Abidi has had residencies at Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Maine (2000), Fukuoka Art Exchange Program, Japan (2005) and DAAD Berliner Künstlerprogramm, Berlin (2011–12).

Nikhil Chopra (b. 1973 in Calcutta) lives and works in Goa. Chopra's solo exhibitions include the New Museum, New York (2009); Chatterjee and Lal, Mumbai and the Bhau Daji Lad Museum, Mumbai (2010), with a group show at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago (2010). The artist has performed at Performa, New York (2008) and the 53rd Venice Biennale (2009). Chopra has also participated in documenta 14, Athens and Kassel (2017) and the 2nd Yinchuan Biennale (2018).

Iftikhar Dadi and Elizabeth Dadi (b. Karachi, 1961, and Seattle, 1957) live and work in Ithaca. Their work has been shown at the 24th Bienal de São Paulo; 3rd Asia-Pacific Triennial, Brisbane; Liverpool Biennial; Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; Moderna Museet, Stockholm; Queens Museum of Art, New York; Whitechapel Gallery, London; Lahore Biennale and Havana Biennale. Iftikhar Dadi and Elizabeth Dadi have collaborated in their art practice for 20 years. Iftikhar Dadi is Associate Professor at Cornell University in the Department of History of Art.

Shilpa Gupta (b. 1976 Mumbai) lives and works in Mumbai. Gupta is participating in the 58th Venice Biennale, as well as in an exhibition at the Ishara Art Foundation, Dubai (2019), alongside Zarina whose work is also featured in 'Homelands'. She presented work at a joint India-Pakistan exhibition by the Gujral Foundation in Venice in 2015. Her work has been shown at Tate Modern and MoMA and is in the collections of the Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Kiran Nadar Museum, Delhi and Devi Art Foundation, Gurugram.



Seher Shah, *Broken Limb*, 2019.
12 x 16.5 in plate size
From *Argument from Silence* series, portfolio of 10 polymer photogravures on Velin Arches paper. Photographs by Randhir Singh. Published by the Glasgow Print Studio and printed by Alistair Gow, Edition of 20



Desmond Lazaro, *Buckingham Palace*
Pigment paint on handmade sanganeer paper, from *Cini Films* series, 2015-16, 36 x 50 cm
Photo Credit: Anil Rane
Courtesy of Desmond Lazaro and Chemould Prescott Road



Munem Wasif, *Spring Song*
Archival Pigment Print, from a series of 16 works, 2019
18 x 26 inch each
Courtesy of the Artist and Project 88

Zarina (b. 1937 Aligarh) has lived and worked in New York City since the 1970s. Zarina's first retrospective toured from the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles to the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York and Art Institute of Chicago (2012-13). She was the 2017-18 Artist in Residence at the Asian/Pacific/American Institute at NYU and is exhibiting at the Ishara Art Foundation, Dubai alongside Shilpa Gupta. Zarina was one of four artists to represent India in its first entry at the Venice Biennale in 2011 and her work is in the collection of MoMA; Whitney Museum; Victoria and Albert Museum and Bibliothèque Nationale de France.

Sohrab Hura (b. 1981 Chinsurah) lives and works in Delhi. Hura's solo exhibitions include The Guardian Gallery, London (2010) and Experimenter, Kolkata (2017). Group shows include Milk Gallery, New York (2016) and Peckham 24, London (2017). He has participated in Format International Photography Festival, Derby (2017) and Fotofest 2018 Biennial, Houston (2018). Hura's trilogy Sweet Life (2005-14) was shortlisted for Photobook of the Year in the Paris Photo–Aperture Foundation PhotoBook Awards. In 2014 he became the second Indian ever to be nominated to join Magnum Photos, becoming a Magnum Associate in 2018.

Desmond Lazaro (b. 1968 Leeds) lives and works in Pondicherry and Australia. Lazaro's solo exhibitions include Gallery Chemould, Mumbai (2016) and Ben Brown Fine Arts, London (2012). He has participated in the Dhaka Art Summit. Lazaro's work can also be seen in the new Mumbai airport. His research project, entitled Methods, Materials and Symbolism in the Pichhvais Painting Tradition of Rajasthan (2005), was published as a book by Mapin India.

Yasmin Jahan Nupur (b. 1979, Chittagong) lives and works in Dhaka. Nupur has participated in the Dhaka Art Summit (2014) and completed a residency at Delfina Foundation in London (2015) with support from Arts Council England. As recognition of her artistic endeavours, Nupur has been awarded the International Arts Residency by the Commonwealth Foundation of United Kingdom.

Seher Shah (b. 1975, Karachi) lives and works in Delhi. Shah's recent exhibitions include the Green Art Gallery, Dubai (2016); Experimenter, Kolkata (2014); and Jhaveri Contemporary, Mumbai (2013). Selected group shows include Dhaka Art Summit (2018); MoMA, New York (2015); The Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, New Delhi (2015) and Glasgow Print Studio, Glasgow (2015). Shah's works are in the collections at MoMA, New York; Brooklyn Museum, New York; Devi Art Foundation, Gurugram; Deutsche Bank Art Contemporary and the Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary Foundation, Wien.

Munem Wasif (b. 1983, Comilla) lives and works in Dhaka. Wasif's solo exhibitions include the Musée d'Élysée and Fotomuseum Winterthur in Switzerland. He has participated in Angkor Photo festival and Photo Phonm Phen; Gwangju Biennale; Singapore Biennale; Dhaka Art Summit and Chobi Mela. Wasif has also exhibited at the Whitechapel Gallery, London; Victoria and Albert Museum, London and Palais de Tokyo, Paris. His photographs have been published in Le Monde, Sunday Times Magazine, The Wall Street Journal and others. Wasif's most recent book on Old Dhaka was published by Clémentine de la Féronnière in 2013.