

# SHRINE EMPIRE

## “Shadow Lines”: Experiments with Light, Line and Liminality

Group Show

Curated By Meera Menezes

**Artist:** Adip Dutta | Ayesha Sultana | Hemali Bhuta | Manisha Parekh | Nasreen Mohamedi | Parul Gupta  
| Prashant Pandey | Shambhavi | Shobha Broota | Tanya Goel | Zarina

ON VIEW: 6th April – 18th May, 2019

### **About the exhibition:**

In 1919 the renowned artist Vasily Kandinsky in his essay *On Line* wrote “Line experiences many fates. Each creates a particular, specific world, from schematic limitation to unlimited expressivity. These worlds liberate line more and more from the instrument, leading to complete freedom of expression.”

Even a century after Kandinsky penned these thoughts, artists continue to be fascinated by the possibilities of line and the worlds they conjure up. What are these many fates that a line can experience, what worlds can it create? More pertinently, why do artists continue to be in its thrall?

In the first few decades post independence, it was easy to see why a non-representational mode of art making held such a draw for Indian artists. It offered them a chance to forge an exciting new visual vocabulary in keeping with the vision of a newly independent nation. Several strains of abstraction emerged employing the subtraction or sublimation of representational elements and notable proponents included V.S. Gaitonde, Ram Kumar and Syed Haidar Raza.

“Shadow Lines” brings together a group of artists, spanning several generations, who view the world through the prism of light, line and liminality. Their reasons for a turn to abstraction may be different, but what unites them is an emphasis on tactility and texture, line and light, opacity and translucence, and the evocative possibilities of colour. Eschewing a mimetic representation of an outer reality they strive instead to pare it down to its essential elements or revel in the poetics of space. In doing so, they open up new vistas to experience and interrogate the world.

- Meera Menezes

### **Quote by Shobha Broota:**

*My Journey as an artist has been a progression from realism to "essentialism".  
For me creativity is an exploration within my inner being where intuition and spontaneity takes me beyond "unlimited mind to no-mind."*

*The works displayed here as "Shadow Lines" has been created using variety of colored threads placed in repetition and order thus creating rhythm and resonance.*

*This series is just a small part of the multiple canvases created in the same medium.*

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## **About Shrine Empire:**

Shrine Empire was created in December 2008 from a merger of two existing entities. Prior to this, both had worked together on exhibitions in India and Singapore separately, known then as The Shrine Gallery and Empire Art. Shrine Empire is based in New Delhi and its directors, Anahita Taneja and Shefali Somani have envisioned the gallery as a platform for presenting and promoting contemporary visual art practices. Since its inception, Shrine Empire has consistently focused on encouraging a dialogic approach with a range of emerging and eminent artists with sustained, innovative and engaging practices, and curators in order to produce exhibitions and special commissioned projects. The mission of Shrine Empire is to promote artists, curators and art-writers who are invested in redefining the boundaries of contemporary art practice. The various curatorial narratives that have emerged from the space over the years have made Shrine Empire known for its critical engagement with political and social concerns of the contemporary.

Enquiries: [shrineempire@gmail.com](mailto:shrineempire@gmail.com); Ph: +91-11-41327630  
[www.shrineempiregallery.com](http://www.shrineempiregallery.com)