

SHRINE EMPIRE

Kushala Vora, Sangita Maity and Shruti Mahajan

Venue: Shrine Empire, D395, Defence Colony, New Delhi

Vernissage: 6 pm, 5th December 2019

Exhibition continues till 8th January 2020

At Shrine Empire, we are delighted to present the works of *Shruti Mahajan, Kushala Vora and Sangita Maity* whose practices are interesting for divergent reasons. On view will be a significant body of work from their ongoing series of works that throw light on their research, formal explorations and material preoccupations.

Kushala Vora's experiments with ceramic through textured and durational processes are mimetic of the forest's rhythms, its cumulative relationship with time; a sensibility that has been eroded in the developmental, civilizational logic. Her works on view here reveals her process, which explores alternative possibilities away from empirical, standardized approaches.

Sangita Maity's work with soil and iron sheets reflect her ongoing, extensive research-based practice in the district of Keonjar, Orissa where lies one of the largest deposits of iron ore in the country. The materials function as found objects in Maity's work as she inscribes telling tales of the conditions of labour and erosion of identities in the region while evoking its landscape.

Shruti Mahajan has been interested in precarious structures and through them lived lives that navigate liminal and transient spaces, including but not limited to the border regions. Through material and media that suggest the fragility of these archives that emerge and dissipate — envelopes, inland letters, cardboard structures — she enters the fraught domain of identity and memory.

Artist's Bio:

Kushala Vora

Kushala Vora (b. Panchgani, India) is an interdisciplinary artist based out of Chicago and Panchgani. Kushala received a MFA from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She holds a post-graduate diploma in Modern and Contemporary Indian Art History and

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Curatorial Studies from Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum in Mumbai and a BFA from Tufts University/ The School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Her work has been exhibited at Museum of Fine Art, Nagoya, Japan; Museum of Contemporary Art, Detroit; Mana Contemporary, Chicago; Harvard University, Cambridge among other places. She has been an artist-in-residence at Vermont Studio Center, ACRE Residency, and Søndre Green Farm.

Sangita Maity

Sangita Maity, born in Kanthi, West Bengal, lives and works in Kolkata. Sangita did her BFA and MFA in Print Making from Faculty of Visual Arts, Rabindra Bharati University in 2012 and 2014 respectively.

Maity has received Junior Fellowship from Ministry of Culture, 2018 -2019 & CIMA Jury Award, 2015. She has participated in Khoj Peers Residency 2014 at Khoj Artists Association in New Delhi. She received the Society of Oriental Art Award in 2010 and Certificate of Merit in Students' Annual Exhibition in 2012 & 2013.

Selected Exhibitions: 2018 – solo show at Clark House Initiative, Mumbai in collaboration with Shrine Empire; 2018- 1st Print Biennale India, New Delhi; 2016- 'Experiments' Dr Bhau Daji Lad Mumbai City Museum. 'Experiments', CIMA Art Gallery Kolkata. 2015- CIMA Award show; 2014- 'Art for Young Collectors Show' at Galerie Mirchandani+ Steinruecke, Mumbai; 2014- Annual Exhibition of Emami Chisel Art; Birla Academy of Art & Culture; and State Academy, Kolkata; 2013- Industrial Portraits at Clark House Initiative, Mumbai; Annual Exhibition of State Academy, Kolkata; 2012- Annual Exhibition of Academy of Fine Arts, Kolkata; 2010- Annual Show of Society of Oriental Art, Kolkata; Group show at Gorky Sadan, Russian Cultural Center, Kolkata.

Shruti Mahajan

Shruti Mahajan is a visual artist currently living in Hyderabad. She has studied painting from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Maharaja Saiyaji Rao University, Baroda and Textile Design from the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad. Shruti was a recipient of Nasreen Mohammadi scholarship in the year 2000. She was invited for an artist in residency program by an art foundation, Kunststiftung NRW in Cologne in 2010 and Studio Hoeheweg 271 in Düsseldorf in 2012 respectively. Shruti has shown her works in both India and Germany.

Shruti has presented her works at British Council Delhi, Gallery Chemould Prescott Road, Mumbai, Open Eyed Dreams, Kochi, Gallery White Square, Berlin, Open Studios at Koelnischer Kunstverein, Open studios at Hoeheweg 271, and has collaborated with Alke Reeh (Sculptor from Düsseldorf) for shows in Field Institut Hombroich, Kunstverein Xanten, Museum Siegburg, Gallery Alte post, Neuss, Max Mueller Bhavan, Mumbai, Kunst Museum Bochum, Galerie Maurer Frankfurt and Westwerk in Hamburg and Shrine Empire, New Delhi.

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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 | Ph: +91-11-41327630
www.shrineempiregallery.com