

SHARMISTHA RAY

Born 1978, Kolkata, India

Lives and works in Mumbai, India

Website: 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, 5th 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
Hope for Haiti-India Cares, Grand Hyatt, Mumbai, India
2010 *In-si-der*, Bodhi Art, Mumbai, India
2007 *Joan Mitchell M.F.A. Grant Recipients*, CUE Art Foundation, New York, USA
2006 *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, Sonal, "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 Chakravathy, *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!” (Expatriate 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