

# Given Time

## The Gift and Its Offerings

On View July 15 - August 14, 2021

Curated by Dr. Arshiya Lokhandwala

PRESS KIT





## **Given Time: The Gift and Its Offerings**

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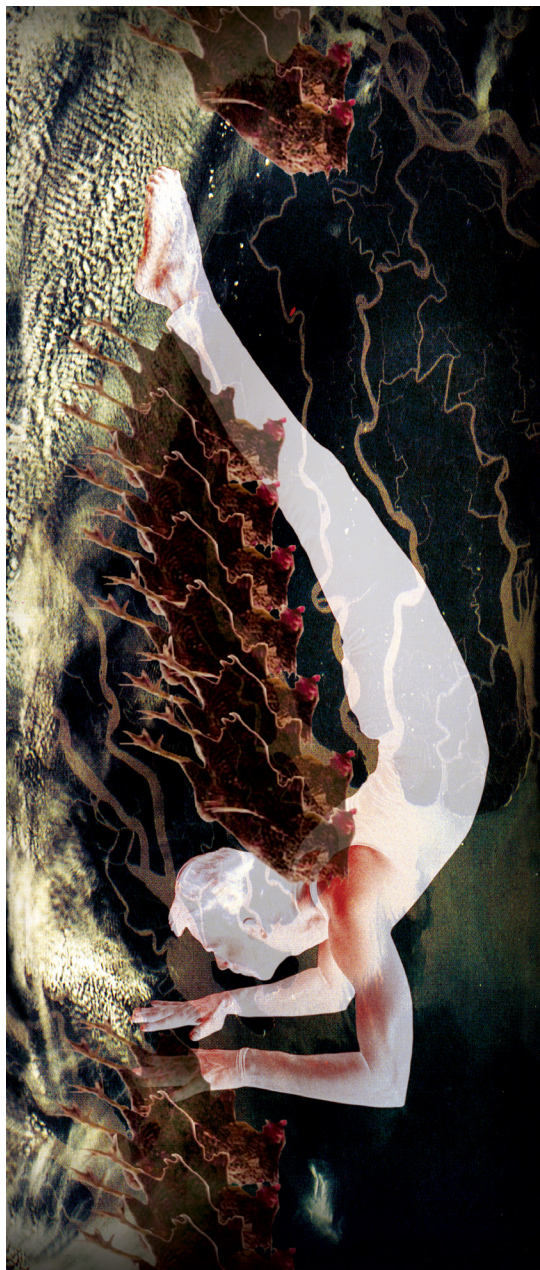
July 15th - August 14th, 2021

Given Time: The Gift and its Offerings is an invitation proposed to ten Indian artists to unpack the concepts behind the gift. Oblivious to the greater contractual obligations, we receive with a premature understanding of the significant and inconspicuous exchange between individuals. Every society has different practices relating to the exchanges of goods and wealth, real and personal property, and subsuming categories of economic value, though also of military favors, rituals, and hospitality.

It is an area of scholarship by many historians, including anthropologist Marcel Mauss, who suggests that giving is not a voluntary action between people but that the person receiving a gift is obligated - therefore emphasizing the importance of contractual act in returning a gift. The exhibition title pays homage to philosopher Jacques Derrida's book, *Given Time 1: Counterfeit Money*. It highlights the critical "interval" between the exchange of a gift and counter-gift, suggesting that the gift not only gives time but implies the moment within which it must be returned, making the gift, according to him, impossible. The reciprocity of the gift - its return or exchange, is annulling. This exhibition considers the impossibility of a gift devoid of reciprocity, return, or debt.

**The exhibition presents works across media by artists including Sheba Chhachhi, Nikhil Chopra, Raqs Media Collective, Anita Dube, Shaurya Kumar, Justin Ponmany, N. Pushpamala, Prajakta Potnis, Mithu Sen, and Sumakshi Singh.**

Given Time: The Gift and Its Offerings is on view in the gallery and online at [AiconContemporary.com](http://AiconContemporary.com).



Sheba Chhachhi

Edible Birds III (Pinchamayur Gangtic Delta), 2007

Moving image lightbox (digital print on dura trans, wooden box, glass, lights, and motor)

26 x 51 x 5 in

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Nikhil Chopra  
Untitled, 2021  
Mixed media on paper  
14 x 39 1/2 in

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Prajakta Potnis

Capsule 504, 2015

Digital print on archival photo rag paper

42 x 62.5 in



Shaurya Kumar  
The Case of Broken Hands, 2021  
ABS (acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene), 40 pieces  
dimensions varied



**Dr. Arshiya Lokhandwala** is an art historian and curator [Ph.D. Cornell University]. She received her MA in Curating from Goldsmith College, London, and was the founding Director of Lakeeren Gallery, Mumbai, India. Her recent museum curatorial projects include: The Future is Here: Art and Technology in Millennial Age [2019]; Beyond Transnationalism: The Legacy of Post –Independent from India at Dr. BhauDaji Lad Museum, Mumbai [April 2017] and Raza Foundation, Delhi [January 2017]; India Re- Worlded: Seventy Years of Investigating a Nation [2017] -for which she was awarded the curator of the year award by India Today; Given Time and The Gift and Its Offerings [2016] both at Gallery Odyssey, Mumbai; After Midnight: Indian Modernism to Contemporary India 1947/1997 [2015] at the Queens Museum; and Of Gods and Goddesses, Cinema Cricket: The New Cultural Icons of India for the RPG Foundation in Mumbai; and Against All Odds: A Contemporary Response to the Historiography of Archiving Collecting and Museums in India at the Lalit Kala Academy, Delhi [2011].

She has been teaching South Asian Feminism in the Art Institute of Chicago, the USA in the Art History department since 2019. She has curated over 200 shows at Lakeeren Gallery, which included an international program of artists from India, Pakistan, Iran, Germany, and Mexico City. Dr. Lokhandwala writes on globalization, feminism, performance, and new media with a specialization in biennale and large-scale exhibitions.