

SHRINE EMPIRE

Bhurukuwa/Dawn
By Shambhavi

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

Vernissage: 6 pm, 28th January 2020

Exhibition continues till 28th February 2020

'Bhurukuwa/Dawn,' a project by Shambhavi is one of a two-part presentation of her works in Delhi. The other chapter in this project, 'Bhoomi/Earth' will be on view at Gallery Espace, New Friends Colony at the same time.

Having worked on paper, canvas, sculpture, print, Shambhavi Singh engages in orchestrating an aesthetic experience at the intersection of art and nature. Establishing a strategy in conflating the rituals of life and art from her earlier work to this current body of work in both exhibitions 'Bhoomi' and 'Bhurukuwa', the artist appropriates, distorts and symbolically creates form and pristine pictorial elements uniting both additive and subtractive formal processes to create harmonious – organic forms. Forms that document the intertwined relationship between humans and nature in evolution from the microscopic to the macroscopic.

The works on view reveal Singh's ongoing dialogue with surfaces and patterns within nature, its implements – addressing concepts of gravity, weight and scale. Each in itself becoming metaphors for memory and identity. Brought up within a principally agricultural family - the rural landscape, the farmer, the earth, is addressed in her evolved distinctive oeuvre through a deeply poetic, active engagement with nature, as well as belief in the revelatory, transformative powers of art...

The exhibitions at Gallery Espace and Shrine Empire respectively will feature a selection of works in iron, brass, paper pulp, clay and drawings illustrating Singh's ability to seamlessly transpose man made and naturally occurring patterns; patterns that connect the personal narrative and memory with the unavoidable connection with sociopolitical realities and ecological problems. These patterns are those of relating and demonstrating the elaborate interconnectedness of the world in which we live: in one breath Singh talks about the farmer, 'her' resilience, sustenance and the next various global issues within a geological timeline where politics has invaded the landscape. These landscapes have more to do with process than with place, as they pictorialize the drama of creation, destruction and regeneration. 'Burnt Roof', 'Fields', 'Fire Garland' in Bhurukuwa explore the subtle levels of interplay between man, nature and art and a duality where everything is earth and connected yet nothing remains complete in its original form.

Artist Bio:

Shambhavi (born 1966) is a painter, printmaker, and installation artist currently based in New Delhi, India. Her artistic practice includes a wide range of processes and media, but her work is largely non-figurative and focuses on the relationship between man and nature, as well as the social and metaphysical condition of the agricultural worker. Born in Patna, she grew up spending a lot of time with her grandparents in the countryside – visits that she cites as the origin of her fascination

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with nature and the inspiration for much of her work. She attended the College of Fine Arts and Crafts, Patna in the 1980s. She moved to New Delhi in 1990, earning a Master's degree in Fine Arts from Delhi College of Art and has been based in the city for the majority of her three-decade-long career, despite frequent travel. In the 1997, Shambhavi travelled to the Netherlands as the youngest artist of the foundation for Indian Artists, Amsterdam to participate in a project at the Tropen museum in Amsterdam. It was here that she began to take interest in issues of migration and migrant labor. In 2000-2001, she was an artist-in-residence at Greatmore Studios, in Cape Town, South Africa, which led not only to a deepened engagement with the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi, but also to an invitation to participate in Holland South Africa Line (HSAL), an international exchange project with Dutch artists held in the William Fehr Collection, in the Castle of Good Hope. In 2010, she was invited to be an artist-in-residence at STPI - Creative Workshop & Gallery, in Singapore. Her work has been exhibited as part of solo shows as well as selected group shows in India, Singapore, Austria (Vienna & Salzburg), South Africa (Durban & Cape town), Australia (Melbourne & Brisbane), New York, and The Netherlands, where she was associated with the Foundation of Indian Artists, Amsterdam from 1991-2000. Her work was recently added to the collection of The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), in New York. The most recent showcase of her work was at the Kochi Muziris Biennale 2018.

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.

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