

39⁺ ART SPACE

Sunaina Bhalla (b. 1971)

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Sunaina is a contemporary artist of Indian origin, living in Singapore. Educated in India, she moved to Tokyo in the late 90's and has spent the last two decades in various parts of North and South Asia. Having completed her formal education as a textile designer specializing in print, she chose to pursue an immersive education in the traditional art form of Nihonga in Japan, where she spent 5 years studying under Suiko Ohta-sensei of the Kyoshin-Do school. She completed her Masters of Fine Arts degree from Goldsmiths University, London and Lasalle College of the Arts, where her thesis topic was 'The Gesture and the Ritual of Pain'

Her work revolves around the repetitive and ritualistic nature of gestures and their traces. She explores the transformative effects of the deliberate infliction of pain on the human body during the curative process of alleviating disease and decay. By using industrial materials analogous to the fragile nature of the body, juxtaposed with fabric and embroidery, she examines the passage of time and the mark making that documents this process. Sunaina is currently researching traditional healing practices in Singapore and South East Asia and Traditional Medicine that employ natural remedies like herbs in chronic health conditions like Diabetes and Breast Cancer.

Concurrently, she is also rediscovering her interest in printing processes as a contemporary visual language. She runs wood block printing workshops in Singapore, Myanmar, Indonesia, America and Australia and is working with schools to introduce this process into curriculums in Singapore.

Sunaina has exhibited in Japan, India, Singapore, Europe and the Middle East. Her works are in the permanent collections of the ESSL Museum, Vienna and Mumbai Airports Authority, India, and in various private collections globally. She has also had her works successfully auctioned at the Mainichi Auction in Japan.

EDUCATION

M.A (Fine Arts) Goldsmith's College, University of London, the United Kingdom
MFA La Salle College of the Arts, Singapore
Dip. Textile Design (Printing Major with Distinction), New Delhi Polytechnic for Women, New Delhi, India

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITION

2024 'Incursions, Incisions and Renewal', Exhibit 320 gallery, New Delhi, India. Parallel event during the India Art Fair 2024
2022 'Body Terrains', Nine Fish gallery, Mumbai, India
2020 'Sharps and Such', Art Outreach, Singapore
2017 '16', Art Konsult Gallery, New Delhi, India
2013 United Art Fair, New Delhi, India
2012 Her Continuing Narratives, Gallery Art'n Soul, Mumbai, India
2009 Towards Utopia, Gallerie Alternatives, New Delhi and Gallery Art'n Soul, Mumbai, India
2007 A Silent Comment, Museum Gallery, Mumbai, India
Travelling Light, Taksu Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

GROUP EXHIBITION

2024 I Interpret, Third anniversary show, Nine Fish Gallery, Mumbai
2023 Bodies: Women in Film and Photography, Objectifs, Singapore
Chimera of Proximity, NFT show, The Upside Space
2022 Redaction, By Substation, Visual Arts Centre, Singapore
Voices, Portico Library, Manchester, England
2021 Rehang, group show at Bikaner House, Anant Art gallery, Delhi, India
British textile Biennial, Stitch Your story Project
London Biennale 2021, Selected artist
Time Warp', Gallery Veda, Chennai, India
2020 Pameran Poskad, Ion art Gallery, Singapore
ESSL Museum collection show, Albertina Museum of Modern Art, Austria
Jogja International Creative Arts Festival, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
'Streets of Hope', Street banners, Public art project, Singapore
Print Expo Fair, Austin, Texas, USA
Little India Art Project, Installation Singapore
2019 Group show, Le Dame Art Gallery, London, UK
Affordable Art Fair, Singapore - Featured on the 'Spotlight' wall
Art Rooms Awards show, Melia White House, London, UK
Art Rooms Roma, Rome, Italy (Art Awards Finalist)
Kriya Festival, Yogyakarta, Indonesia - Presentation and workshop at the Festival
Mainichi Auction, Tokyo, Japan
Art Rooms Roma, Selected artist (Rooms category), Rome, Italy
IRise, Group show for Women's day, Art Houz Gallery, Bengaluru, India

- 2018 The Ma Project, Two-person show, Japan Foundation, New Delhi, India
Gaj Mahotsav Group show, Wildlife Trust of India, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi, India
The Ma Project, Two-person show, Japan Creative Centre, Singapore
- 2017 Maybe, MFA Graduation show, Earl Lu Gallery, Lasalle College of the Arts, Singapore
Enriching and empowering multicultural craft, Indonesia Institute of the Arts, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
Multi Group show and Collaboration with KUAD+PROJECT 2016, Kyoto, Japan
- 2016 Freshly Squeezed, Brother Joseph McNally gallery, Lasalle College of the Arts, Singapore
- 2014 Gita Govinda, Lecture and presentation show, India House, Singapore
The Pink Filly Show in aid of the Cancer Foundation, Gallery ArtnSoul, Mumbai, India
Mela Phulkari, Visual Arts Gallery, India Habitat Centre. New Delhi, India
Word, Text, Image, Clarkes Amer, Jaipur, India
- 2013 T and T Contemporarian, Group show, (in honour of Frederic Brulee Bouabre), Guadalupe, France
Affordable Art Fair, Singapore
Kala Ghoda Festival, Mumbai, India
The Black Frame Project, Indigo Blue Gallery, Singapore
- 2012 Parallel Journeys, Two-person show, collateral event during the India Art Fair at the Spanish Cervantes Centre.
Public Art Project, Kala Ghoda festival, Mumbai, India
- 2011 Women's group show promoting cultural ties between India and Saudi Arabia, National Museum, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
- 2010 Under the Banyan Tree, India awakens, Essl Museum, Vienna
Where the Streets have no Name, Curated by Dr. Alka Pande for 'The Salaam Baalak Trust: New Delhi, Singapore, South Africa
- 2009 Journey V Group show in aid of Breast Cancer for the NGO 'Passages', at Gallery Art'n Soul, Mumbai
Colours of Life, CPAA Annual Exhibition, Cymroza Gallery, Mumbai, India
Creative Intent IV, Gallerie Alternatives' 10th Anniversary show, Gallerie Alternatives, Gurgaon and The Visual Arts Gallery, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi
- 2005 First Singapore Art Show 2005, Ministry of Communication and the Arts, Singapore
Judges Choice award for the work titled "Peace-Freedom"

MASTERCLASSES & WORKSHOPS

- 2022 Block Printing workshops, Artlink community programme
- 2021 Block Printing Workshop, India Heritage Centre, Singapore (March Holiday programme)
Block Printing Workshop, National Gallery, Singapore (ongoing)
- 2020 Online Zoom workshop on printing with recycled materials on fabric(part of the ViArt Award judging)
Block printing workshop, Lloyd's Inn, Singapore (in partnership with The Starving

Artists)

Block Printing workshop, British Club, Singapore

2019 Block Printing workshop, British Club, Singapore

Wood Block Printing Masterclass, Asia Society, New York, USA

Artpreneurs special workshop, Mural Arts, Philadelphia, USA

Wood Block printing Masterclass (ongoing), National Gallery, Singapore

Block Printing workshop, Victoria Cultural Centre, Bendigo, Australia

Wood Block Printing Masterclass, Disabled Care Centre Project, Myanmar

Wood Block Printing workshop, Tanglin Trust School, Singapore

Wood Block Printing workshops, Artist's studio (ongoing)

2018 Wood Block Printing workshop, Okada café, Joo Chiat, Singapore

2015 Wood Block Printing Masterclass, Kala Ghoda Festival, Mumbai, India

COLLECTIONS & COMMISSIONS

Goldman Sachs

India

The ESSL Museum

Vienna, Austria

The Albertina Museum

Vienna, Austria

Mumbai Airports Authority

India

The Godrej Collection

India

The Piramal Collection

India

Other Private Collections

Japan

Hong Kong

India

Singapore

United States of America

RESIDENCIES

2022 Objectifs women in Film and Photography, Singapore: A month long residency exploring the medium of film, focusing on trauma and the body

2023 Ajrakh printing workshop space, Bhuj, India: spent 10 days working with traditional ajrakh printer Fayaz Khatri, learning the technique and creating a body of work