



## GROUNDED.

Artists: Parul Gupta, Chetnaa Verma, Ayesha Singh, Achia Anzi, Reyaz Badaruddin, Shalina S. Vichitra

Curated by: Kanika Anand

Venue: Garden of Five Senses

Dates: 14<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2015, 2- 8 pm

Fairs, bazaars and *haats* have become colloquial happenings of contemporary culture, bred from the effects of urbanism and global ideologies. The Art Gallery is hosted in a colonnaded section of the gardens interspersed with green foliage, and is conceived as an articulation of diverse landscapes, wherein artists explore their experiences and visions of the 'everyday' in abstract and provocative ways. The art and the manner of display are specific to the site, and therefore, aligned with a keen organic sensibility.

GROUNDED... to a past, to a place or site, to a frame or structure, to an idea or passion.

Found, photographed, drawn, mapped, or sculpted, the show seeks to reconfigure the built landscapes within and around which we construct our lifestyles. GROUNDED is an exhibition of personal architectures, extracted from the changing cityscape of Delhi and gauged by the relativity of subjective belonging.

Parul Gupta's spatial drawings and photographs are an exploration of the geometry of built environments. Her obsession with linearity drives her to seek the single ray of light amidst grey shadows, or the line in a structure that one sees only from a specific angle. Her works are interventions that inhabit physical spaces in order to insert or re-position a straight line, by the extension, animation, and interaction of different structural planes.

Another set of line drawings is presented by Chetnaa Verma who draws from her experiences of commuting large distances on the roads of Delhi. The daily monotony of getting from one point to another is reflected in drawings that trace the movement of a single point, perhaps the point representing herself as she reflects on the city's architecture, mentally deconstructing it into horizontals and verticals. Another set of works draw directly from Delhi's architecture, cut and layered in paper, evoking a sense of erasure in the fluid overlapping of the past with the present.

A similar intersection of histories is witnessed in Ayesha Singh's digital prints *Mimicked Colonial Structures and Mimicked Weave*. Singh's works represent a revision of functions- of derelict structures and their new, often anguished roles as scaffolding for other objects. This is reiterated in the *In Between*, obscuring the boundaries between painting and sculpture, art and furniture.

A sense of displacement is also exploited in the works of Achia Anzi. Having moved to Delhi from Isreal a few years ago, the artist adopted a new home, band in doing so, discovered the angst of relocating and redefining his idea of 'home' altogether. The STD booth, fallen into obscurity in an age of wireless communication, is much like Singh's representations of objects that have outgrown their functions, are now rendered obsolete, yet dot the urban landscape as relics of a bygone era.

Reyaz Badaruddin's ceramic installation *Changing Landscape* resembles the continuously mushrooming housing communities and apartment blocks, stacked beside one another, and on top of each other. He speaks of the loss of character in residential architecture, each home now identified by a window, a balcony, or a level of a high-rise building. The minimalism in his work takes on a new meaning describing a lack of space, and a claustrophobic, jostled living.

Shalina S. Vichitra's immersive geographies resume the interrogation of inhabited spaces. Her works are a foray into mapping the urban metropolis vis-à-vis natural unpopulated landscapes. Vertical constructions of urban sprawls meet lofty mountains, abandoned or ruined sites interact with open expanses, and waters flow organically between them all. These are representations of the makings of human identity, of nations and nature and a reflection on the relationships built and altered in their respective playing fields.

GROUNDING is an iteration of spaces, and of spatial constructions. Each artwork builds a dialogue between the space it represents and the one it now occupies. The diversity of mediums is a deliberate play on the tactility of states of transience discovered here through the materiality of structures and the chance inversion of their use.



(L) Entrance to the gallery, (R) Chetnaa Verma, *On Parallel Grounds* (2014)



Installation view of line drawings (Pen and ink on paper) by Chetnaa Verma (L to R): *Straight, Diagonal, Horizontal & Vertical V*, 2012, *Linear Polarity* (2012), *Crossways of Diagonals*, 2014



Chetnaa Verma, *Of Shadows & Light I & II*, Paper collage, (2015)



Installation view (L to R): Chetnaa Verma, *Linear Polarity*, 2012, *Crossways of Diagonals*, 2014, *Of Shadows & Light I & II* 2015



Achia Anzi, *STD/ISD* (an interactive installation)



Achia Anzi, *Before, After & Meanwhile*, 2015



Achia Anzi, *Pillar*, 2014



Shalina Vichitra, *Where on Earth*, Acrylic & charcoal on canvas, 2011



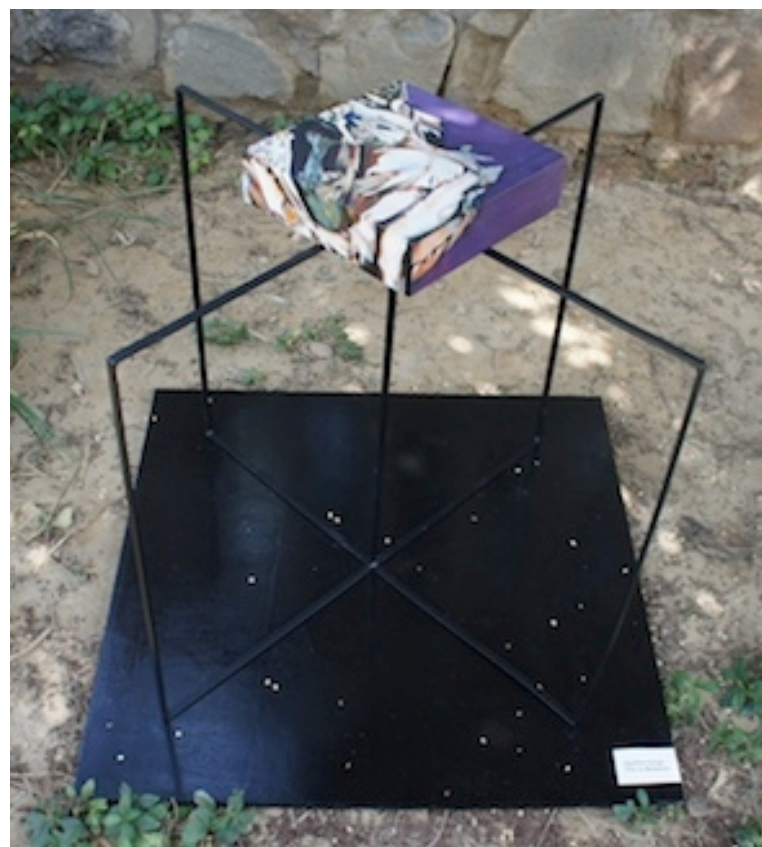
(L): Installed paintings by Shalina Vichitra, (R): Shalina Vichitra, *Embed*, Acrylic & charcoal on canvas, 2013



Ayesha Singh, *Micked Colonial Structure & Micked Weave*, Digital print on board with woven cloth, 2013

Ayesha Singh, *Micked Colonial Structure & Micked Weave*, Digital print on board with woven cloth, 2013





Ayesha Singh, *In Between*, Acrylic on canvas & metal frame (2013)



(L-R): Reyaz Badaruddin, *Changing Landscape*, Ceramic, 2014; Parul Gupta, *Untitled*, Digital photograph on archival paper, 2012



Reyaz Badaruddin, *Changing Landscape*, Ceramic, 2014



Shalina Vichitra, *Delhi*, Acrylic & charcoal on canvas, 2013



Installation view at sunset



Installation view at night

## Artist Biographies:

**Achia Anzi** (b. 1979, Israel) graduated with an MFA in Sculpture from the University of Rajasthan. He also obtained MA in History of Art from the National Museum Institute, New Delhi, 2011. Solo exhibitions include *Land of Nod*, Gallery Threshold, New Delhi, 2015, *I go to Eretz Yisrael*, STA Gallery, Tel Aviv, 2012 and *Peaceful be your return O lovely bird, from warm lands back to my window...* at Gallery Threshold, New Delhi, 2012. Select group shows include Artist House, *Nimrod Descendants*, curated by Gideon Ofrat, Jerusalem, Israel, 2011. *Lost Sparrow*, Threshold Gallery & India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, India, 2011. Amongst residencies and awards include Indian Sculpture (Shiva) Order, Erez Israel Museum, Tel Aviv, Israel, 2009, Supported Residency at Jawahar Kala Kendara studio, Jaipur, 2007, Product Designer & Developer at the Jaipur Sculpting Studio Workshop, Jaipur, India, 1998, Israeli Defence Force Leadership Award, 2006-08.

The artist is a visiting Professor of Hebrew at Jawaharlal Nehru University and lives and works in Delhi.

**Reyaz Badaruddin** (b.1974, Ranchi) graduated with an MA from Cardiff School of Art and Design, Cardiff, UK in 2009. He has apprenticed with Ray Meeker at Golden Bridge Pottery, Pondicherry in 2007- 08 and with Isaiah Zagar, Philadelphia in 2003. Solo exhibitions include *S C U L P T*, Gallery Art Spice, New Delhi, 2012, *Hearthenware*, a selection of Anagama fired ceramics, Art Heritage, New Delhi, 2011, *Ceramic Pottery and Sculpture*, Sanskriti Kendra, 2003. Select group exhibitions include *Bridges*,

Contemporary Ceramic Show, Stainless Art Gallery, New Delhi, 2015, *Digging Time*, Art Positive, New Delhi, 2015, International Ceramic Exhibition, Izmir, Turkey, 2014, Fule International Museum of Contemporary Ceramics, China, 2013, 4<sup>th</sup> ASNA Triennial, VM Art Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan, 2013. He has participated in numerous workshops and camps and has been awarded the Junior Fellowship for the excellence in the field of Visual Arts, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India, 2011 as well as the Charles Wallace (India) Trust Award, 2008. Residencies include Fule International Contemporary Ceramic Museum, China, 2013, National Centre for Ceramics, Wales, UK, 2011 and Goshogawara Ceramic Artist in Residence Program, Aomori, Japan, 2005 amongst others

The artist lives and works in New Delhi.

**Parul Gupta** (b. 1980, Delhi) graduated with an MA in Fine Art from Nottingham Trent University in 2011. Solo Exhibitions include *Space Phrases*, Lakeeren Gallery, Mumbai, 2014 and *Drawing the Line*, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, 2012. Select group shows include Deep (Skin) Skin Deep, Park Hyatt - Art Chennai, Chennai, 2014, India, Peers Share, Khoj International Artist Association, Delhi, 2014, Site Specific & Group Show, Project Jan-Path, New Delhi, 2014, Site Specific, Sarai Reader 09, Devi Art Foundation, Gurgaon, 2012.

The artist lives and works in Delhi.

**Ayesha Singh** (b. 1990, Delhi) graduated with a BA in Fine Art from the Slade School of Fine Art, University College of London in 2013. Group exhibitions include *Make/Do*, GallerySke, New Delhi, 2014, *Image/Object/Image: New Modes of Representation*, University of Cambridge, 'Notes' publications, Cambridge, 2014, *Enter13*, Waterman's Gallery, London, 2013- 2014. The artist lives and works in New Delhi.

**Chetnaa Verma** (b. 1981, Delhi) graduated with an MA in Fine Art in Painting from the Delhi College of Art, Delhi 2011. She has been a part of group exhibitions in Delhi, Chandigarh, Chennai and Brussels. The artist has received AIFACS, All India Drawing Award & the Emerging Artist of the Year by Glenfiddich, 2014. Her works are in the collection of the College of Art Museum, Museum of Sacred Art and private collections in India. The artist lives in Noida and works from her studio at home.

**Shalina S. Vichitra** (b. 1973, Delhi) graduated with an MFA from College of Art, Delhi in 1998. She has held solo shows at Delhi in 2007 & 2005 and at Art Inc in 2000. Besides these she participated in 23 group shows across India and Abroad. She is a recipient of Sahitya Kala Parishad, Delhi in 1996 and Swapan Biswas Award, College of Art, Delhi in 1996. The artist lives and works in Delhi.