

Resume

Bio

Gunjan Kumar is an artist based in Chicago originally from Punjab, India. She has spent many years traveling through India and other countries in South Asia, observing age-old practices in art particularly in textiles and handmade indigenous crafts, prehistoric paintings, and other tribal arts. All these experiences form the undertone of her art practice. Her process involves ground earth and organic matter used as core mediums, applied on natural surfaces with techniques inspired by traditional methods. Her works have been exhibited in the United States and India at the South Asia Institute, Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, Donnelley Foundation, Chicago Sculpture International, among others. She has been a resident fellow at the Edward Albee Foundation, Montauk, NY (2016). Kumar received her Bachelors in Economics (Honors) from Mehr Chand Mahajan DAV College for Women, Chandigarh and is a postgraduate in Textiles from National Institute of Design and Technology, New Delhi. Kumar is currently working on a project with an American Pakistani artist Mahwish Chishty curated by Dr. Lise McKean, that presents their responses to exploration of archaeological sites and artifacts in the Sindhu (Indus) watershed, a geographical region extending across northwest India and much of Pakistan. This project premiered as a two-person show at the South Asia Institute, Chicago in June 2021 and will travel to be exhibited in New Delhi, India and Lahore, Pakistan in the later part of 2021. More on this project can be known here <https://youtu.be/3cpDHgQNpPA>

In 2020, Kumar started an education program called Nature Studies, with two workshops on working with nature as a medium in arts. The workshops have been held at the Design Museum of Chicago, Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, Chicago, Pulitzer Art Foundation, St. Louise among others and have had an ongoing reach.

Education

2001-03 Post Graduate Diploma in Textiles and Knitwear, National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), New Delhi, India

1999-01 Bachelor of Arts-Economics (Honors), MCM DAV College, Chandigarh, India

Independent Study

2014 Studied Japanese Mineral Painting known as *Nihonga* with artist Judith Kruger, Litchfield, Connecticut, USA

2005-2013 – Research trips to various parts of India to study natural dyes, weaving, traditional forms of dying, sculpture making, paper making, pottery etc.

Solo, Two, Three Person Shows

2021 *The Sindhu Project*, Two Person Show, Chicago, USA; New Delhi, India; Lahore, Pakistan (Upcoming, June 2021)

2019 *MANIFESTATIONS*, Three Person Show, Gallery One after 909, Chicago, USA

2017 *Comma*, Solo Show, Victorian House Art Gallery, Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, USA

2017 *What Lies Beneath*, Two-Person Show, Chicago Art Department, Chicago, USA

2015 *Unfolding Matter*, Three-Person Show, Fulton Street Collective, Chicago, USA

Select Group Exhibitions

2020 Chicago Sculpture International Biennial, Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, Chicago, USA

2020 *Collectively Shifting* Juried Group Show, Women Caucus of Art National Exhibition curated by Cecilia Vargas, Bridgeport Art Center, Chicago, USA

2019 *A Language of Form – Stories for Memory and Time* curated by Veerangana Kumari Solanki, Invitational Group Show, Gallery Exhibit 320, New Delhi, India

2018 *INVISIBILIA*, Juried Group Show at the Governors State University, University Park, USA

2017 *I Have Vivid Memories of Lightning* curated by Kate Pollasch, Donnelley Foundation in collaboration with Chicago Artist Coalition, Chicago, USA

2017 *SEDIMENTED*, Four Person Show, Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, Chicago, USA

2017 *UNEARTH* curated by Kanika Anand, Gallery Exhibit 320, New Delhi, India

2016 *Expanding Borders: 2nd Biennial ONU Regional Art Exhibition*, Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, USA

2016 Tall Grass Association Annual Gallery Artist Exhibition, Juried Show, Park Forest, USA

2016 *Nine – A Window to Contemporary India* – Show of select works by Nine Indian Artists, Hubbard Street Lofts, Chicago, USA

2016 *Home is where I am*, Juried Group Show, ARNA, Skane, Sweden

2016 *One Inspired Evening* Benefit Auction for Inspiration Corporation Juried by Stan Klein, Deborah Maris Lader and Steven E. Gross, Chicago, USA

2015 *Far Flung – Contemporary Art of the Mid West*, Juried Show, Arts on Elston Gallery, Chicago, USA

Art Fair

India Art Fair, New Delhi, India

Residency Awarded

2016 - 2017 The Edward F. Albee Foundation, Montauk, NY, USA

Honors, Grants & Awards

2021 South Asian Arts Resiliency Fund, The India Center, NY, USA

2020 Propeller Impact Fund, Three Walls, Chicago, USA

2017 Among 20 Nominations for the Amol Vadehra Art Grant 2017-

2018, Foundation for Indian Contemporary Art (FICA), New Delhi, India.

2014 Tip Coleman Scholarship for *Nihonga* – A workshop demonstrating age-old Japanese painting techniques using natural mineral pigments.

2003 Awarded the *Most Creative Knitwear Design Collection* at college Level and at National level Confluence '03, NIFT, New Delhi, India

The design collection was made out of organic and eco-friendly fibers – cotton, jute, linen etc. dyed in vegetable dyes. It is now a part of the Resource Center of National Institute of Fashion Technology, New Delhi.

Select Permanent Collections

South Asia Institute, Chicago, USA

The Currell Collection, London, UK

The Edward Albee Foundation, New York, USA

Charles Katzenmeyer, Vice President, Field Museum, Chicago, USA

BML Munjal University, New Delhi, India

Tarun and Tarana Swahney Collection, New Delhi, India

Other Private Collections ; USA, UK, Sweden, India, Australia

Select Publications

Sixty inches from center, Chicago, USA, August 2021

<https://sixtyinchesfromcenter.org/more-in-common-a-review-of-the-sindhu-project-enigma-of-roots/>

The Friday Times, Lahore, Pakistan, August 2021

<https://www.thefridaytimes.com/art-exhibition-in-chicago-explores-enigma-of-lost-indo-pak-heritage/>

Indian Express, India, Show Review, New Delhi, India, November 2019

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/delhi/2019/nov/19/symphony-of-time-and-memory-2063704.html>

The Currell Collection, UK

<https://www.currellcollection.com/artists/81-gunjan-kumar/overview/>

Art Review, New Art Examiner, Chicago, USA, May 2017

<http://newartexaminer.org/archive.html>

Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, Chicago, USA, February 2017

<https://uima-chicago.org/new-blog/2017/2/1/sedimented>

Unfolding Matter, Show review, Chicago, USA, October 2015

<https://philiphartiganpraeterita.blogspot.com/2015/10/unfolding-matter-exhibition-at-hubbard.html?sref=fb>

Related Experience

2020 onwards – Educator; Has been teaching a course “Introduction to Natural Pigments – Beginners Guide to Process, Material and History” at Chicago Art Department and via Independent Groups.

2020 onwards – Community workshop titled Nature – Inside Out, at various art venues across Illinois and Delhi such as Pulitzer Art Foundation, St. Louise, Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, Chicago Art Department, Design Museum of Chicago. The workshop aims to bring to awareness some of nature’s core principles and our interconnectedness with them by knitting together simple techniques of art making some that have existed for over thousand years, across various cultures and geographies.

2017 Visiting Artist Guest Speaker, Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, USA

2017 Guest Speaker, Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, Chicago, USA

2017 Juror for incoming artist residents (2017-2018), The Edward Albee Foundation Residency, Montauk, NY, USA

Gunjan Chawla Kumar 2021