

Resume

Gunjan Chawla Kumar

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Overview

Gunjan Kumar is an artist based in Chicago originally from Punjab, India. She has spent many years traveling through rural parts of India and other countries in south east Asia, observing age-old practices in art, visiting archaeological sites, observing prehistoric caving paintings and other tribal arts. All these experiences form the undertone of her art practice. The artist's process involves ground earth and minerals like shell oysters, clay, calcium carbonate and turmeric as core mediums applied on mulberry paper, wood and other materials. She uses self-developed techniques inspired by traditional methods. Her works have been showcased at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, the Donnelley Foundation, Chicago; Governors State University, IL; Olivet Nazarene University, IL; Gallery Exhibit 320 and India Art Fair, Delhi amongst others. Kumar graduated in textiles from National Institute of Design and Technology, New Delhi. She is currently working on a collaborative project with an American Pakistani artist 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 will premiere at the South Asia Institute, Chicago in May 2021 before it travels to be showcased in New Delhi, India and Lahore, Pakistan in the later part of 2021.

Education

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

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

Independent Study

2014 Workshop – *Nihonga* – Then and Now with artist Judith Kruger, Litchfield, Connecticut, USA

2005-2013 – Research trips to various parts of India to study natural dyes, weaving, folk art making, traditional forms of dying, traditional sculpture making, traditional paper making, old forms of 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 Biennale, 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

2020 Artist Grant, Propellor Impact Fund, 3 Arts, Chicago

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

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

Swahney Art Collection, New Delhi, India

Other Private Collections, China, USA, UK, India, Australia

Select Publications

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, USA, October 2015

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

Related Experience

2020 onwards – Educator. Teaching a course titled “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, Chicago, among others. The workshop aims to bring to awareness some of nature's core principles and our interconnectedness with them as we aim to better understand our shared resources and psychological functions in face of the pandemic. This is done through simple art making techniques, 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

2016 Developed Art Workshop 'Nature – Inside Out', Skylight Counseling, Chicago, USA. This workshop focused on certain nature inspired art practices and their role in psychotherapy as a tool for healing.

Gunjan Chawla Kumar 2021