

Resume

Gunjan Kumar is an Indian – American artist and scholar based in Chicago, originally from Punjab, India. Kumar received her Bachelor's in Arts from DAV College for Women, Chandigarh, and is a postgraduate in Textiles from the National Institute of Design and Technology, New Delhi. She has spent many years traveling through India and other countries in South Asia, observing age-old practices in textiles and indigenous arts and crafts, visiting archeological sites, observing 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 all over the world and are a part of noted private collections globally. She has been a resident fellow at the Edward Albee Foundation, Montauk, NY (2016-2017) and Chicago Art Department (2021-2022).

Kumar recently concluded the Sindhu Project with American Pakistani artist Mahwish Chishty, 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 (June 2021), was exhibited at the National College of Arts, Lahore, Pakistan (November 2021) and Gallery Exhibit320, in collaboration with the American Embassy, New Delhi (April 2022). To know more about the project, please visit link <https://youtu.be/3cpDHqQNpPA>.

As an independent educator, she has worked with art and design institutions such as University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, Harper College, Palatine, IL, Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, IL, Pulitzer Arts Foundation, St. Louise, Design Museum of Chicago, Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, Chicago Artist Coalition, Chicago, among others.

Education

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

1999-01 Bachelor of Arts, DAV College, Chandigarh, India

Independent Study

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

2005-2013 – Research trips to various parts of India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Japan to study natural pigments, indigenous forms of weaving, traditional paper making, dyeing, sculpture making, pottery and wood carving.

Solo, Two, Three Person Shows

2023 Solo project at Art Dubai (Upcoming)

- 2022 The Sindhu Project, Two Person Show, Gallery Exhibit320 in collaboration with the American Embassy, New Delhi, India
- 2021 The Sindhu Project, Two Person Show, National College of Arts, Lahore, Pakistan
- 2021 The Sindhu Project, Two Person Show, South Asia Institute, Chicago, USA
- 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

Residencies

- 2021 – Present Chicago Art Department, Chicago, IL, USA
- 2016 The Edward F. Albee Foundation, Montauk, NY, USA

Honors, Grants & Awards

- 2022 Sparks Grant, Chicago Artist Coalition, Chicago, USA

2021 South Asian Arts Resiliency Fund, The India Center, NY, USA
 2020 Propeller Impact Fund, Three Walls, Chicago, USA
 2017 Among top 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 Most Creative Knitwear Design Collection at college level and at the National Confluence
 '03, NIFT, New Delhi, India
 The design collection was made from 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

Kiran Nader Museum of Art, New Delhi, India
 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

Select Publications

The Stir World, Delhi, India, June 2022 <https://www.stirworld.com/see-features-the-sindhu-project-enigma-of-roots-probes-shared-histories-via-art-and-archaeology>
 The News, Lahore, Pakistan, December 2021 <https://www.thenews.com.pk/tns/detail/915955-the-story-of-a-past>
 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

2022 Speaker, The Sindhu Project Research Presentation, Center of South Asian Studies, University of Michigan

2022 Speaker, The Sindhu Project Panel Discussion, American Cultural Center at American Embassy New Delhi, with Prof. Naman Ahuja, JNU New Delhi, Prof. Zohreen Murtaza, NCA, Lahore, Shaleen Wadhvana and Mahwish Chishti

2021 Panelist, Voices of the Indus Valley, The Sindhu Project, Lahore, Pakistan, Virtual talk that presented the historic Indus Valley Civilization Collection from the Lahore Museum, Pakistan, and public museum collections across India

2021 Speaker, Artistic Traditions of the Indus Region, The Sindhu Project Symposium, with key archeologist on Indus Valley Civilization, Prof. Jonathan Mark Kenoyer, Ph.D, South Asia Institute, Chicago USA

2020 onwards - Independent Educator imparting courses and lectures on history, materials, and processes on using natural pigments as medium in arts, with various organizations such as Pulitzer Art Foundation, St. Louise, Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, Chicago Artist Coalition, Chicago Art Department, Design Museum of Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA.

2017 Visiting Artist, 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 2022