

Bio

Gunjan Chawla Kumar is an American- Indian artist living and working in Chicago. Kumar was born in Ludhiana, India, in 1980, and moved to the United States in 2011. Gunjan is a materialist and works widely with various pigments and textiles from the around the world. She has spent many years traveling through India and other countries in South Asia observing age-old practices in textiles and indigenous arts. Her interest in archeology, particularly prehistoric cave paintings and related schools of art that she has been researching for many years, play an important role in carving her process and ideology. She is a textile graduate from National Institute of Design and Technology, New Delhi (2003) and holds a bachelor's in arts from DAV College, Chandigarh, India (2001). Her works have been exhibited and are a part of noted private collections globally - Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, Donnelley Foundation, TEDx Chicago, Chicago Artist Coalition, South Institute in Chicago, National College of Arts, Lahore, Art Dubai, India Art Fair, among others. She is currently a resident at the Chicago Art Department and has formerly been a resident fellow at the Edward Albee Foundation, Montauk. Her works are a part of collections at the Kiran Nadar Museum, New Delhi, Currell Collection, London, Edward Albee Foundation, New York, BML Munjal University, New Delhi, and other private collections.

Resume

Gallery Representation

Exhibit320, New Delhi, India

Education

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

1999-2001 Bachelor of Arts (Hons.), DAV College, Chandigarh, India

Solo, Two, Three Person Shows

2025 Untitled Solo Show, Exhibit 320, New Delhi, India (Uncoming)

2023 Dialogue, TEDx Chicago, Chicago, USA

2023 Sifr, Solo show, Gallery Exhibit 320 / Art Dubai, Dubai, UAE

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, South Asia Institute, Chicago, USA and National College of Arts, Lahore, Pakistan

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

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

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

2024 What is Seen and Unseen, South Asia Institute, Chicago

- 2024 Legacies of Crossings, Art Divvy and Shahnaz Gallery curated by Zahra Khan, London, UK
- 2024 Annual Juried Art Competition show, Bridgeport Art Center, Chicago, USA
- 2024 Art Dubai, Dubai, UAE
- 2020 Chicago Sculpture International Biennial, Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, Chicago, USA
- 2020 Collectively Shifting Juried Group Show, Women Caucus of Art National Exhibition, Bridgeport Art Center, Chicago, USA
- 2019 A Language of Form – Stories for Memory and Time curated by Veerangana Solanki, 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 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
- 2015 Far Flung – Contemporary Art of the Mid West, Juried Show, Arts on Elston, Chicago, USA

Residencies

- 2024 Bridge Program, Hyde Park Art Center, IL, USA
- 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
- 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

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
Other Private Collections.

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/>

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?spref=fb>

Related Experience

2023 Food Commission, Art Dubai 2023

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

2022 Speaker, The Sindhu Project Panel, American Cultural Center, 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, Discussion on 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 archeologist Prof. Jonathan Mark Kenoyer, Ph.D, South Asia Institute, Chicago USA

2020 onwards - Independent Educator on history, materials, and processes on using natural pigments as medium in arts, with various organizations - Pulitzer Art Foundation, Oxbow, MI, Shakerag Workshops, TN, Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, Chicago Artist Coalition, Design Museum of Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA.

2017 Visiting Artist, Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, USA

2017 Juror, The Edward Albee Foundation Residency, Montauk, NY, USA

Gunjan Chawla Kumar 2024