

Gunjan Chawla Kumar (b. 1980) is an India-born artist, educator, and independent scholar practicing between Chicago and New Delhi. A textile graduate of the National Institute of Fashion Technology (New Delhi), Kumar's multidisciplinary practice is rooted in materialistic inquiry into global pigments and textiles. Her ideology is shaped by extensive field research across South Asia, where she studied indigenous arts and textile traditions. This interest in material culture is further informed by an archaeological lens, particularly the study of prehistoric cave paintings and traditional artistic lineages. Through the application of pigments, earth sediments, and handwoven textiles, Kumar produces paintings and sculptural forms that explore the elemental relationships between matter, time, and space. Currently a resident at the Chicago Artist Coalition, she has previously been a resident at the Chicago Art Department (2021- 2025) and the Edward Albee Foundation in Montauk (2016-2017). Kumar's work has been exhibited in Usa and Asia, including the South Asia Institute, the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, the National College of Arts (Lahore), Art Dubai, and the India Art Fair. *She has lectured widely on natural pigments and material histories across cultures.* Her work is a part of private and public collections worldwide.

Website: www.gunjankumar.com

Resume

Gallery Representation

Exhibit320, New Delhi, India www.exhibit320.com

Education

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

1999-2001 Bachelor of Arts, DAV College, Chandigarh, India

Solo and Two Person Shows

2027 Two person show at the Chicago Artist Coalition (Upcoming)

2026 The Sindhu Project, Iteration II, USA, India (Upcoming)

2025 Sifr, Solo Show, Exhibit 320, New Delhi, India

2023 Dialogue, TEDx Chicago, Chicago, USA

2023 *Sifr*, Solo Booth, Gallery Exhibit 320 / Art Dubai, Dubai, UAE

2022 The Sindhu Project, Gallery Exhibit320 in collaboration with the American Embassy, New Delhi, India

2021 The Sindhu Project, South Asia Institute, Chicago, USA and National College of Arts, Lahore, Pakistan

2019 MANIFESTATIONS, Gallery One after 909, Chicago, USA

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

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

2017 What Lies Beneath, Chicago Art Department, Chicago, USA

Select Group Exhibitions

- 2025 Shared Worlds, Bikaner House, New Delhi, India
- 2024 Bridgework, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, USA
- 2024 What is Seen and Unseen, South Asia Institute, Chicago
- 2024 Legacies of Crossings, Art Divvy 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 INVISIBLES, Juried Group Show at the Governors State University, 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 Home is where I am, Juried Group Show, ARNA, Skane, Sweden
- 2015 Unfolding Matter, Fulton Street Collective, Chicago, USA

Residencies

- 2025 Chicago Artist Coalition Residency (2025-2027) Chicago, IL, USA
- 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

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
- 2003 Most Creative Textile Design Collection at the National Confluence '03, NIFT, India

Select Permanent Collections

- Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, New Delhi, India
- South Asia Institute, Chicago, USA
- The Currell Collection, London, UK
- The Edward Albee Foundation, New York, USA
- Other Private Collections

Select Publications

Platform Magazine, India, December 2025

<https://www.platform-mag.com/art/sifr.html>

Artsy, December 2025

<https://www.artsy.net/viewing-room/exhibit-320-sifr-a-solo-show-by-gunjan-chawla-kumar>

Architect and Interiors India, December 2025

<https://www.architectandinteriorsindia.com/news/enter-the-paradox-of-zero-where-absence-becomes-form-at-this-material-led-exhibition-in-new-delhi>

The New Indian Express, New Delhi, India, September 2024

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/amp/story/magazine/2024/Sep/07/a-bloom-for-their-thoughts>

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 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, Center of South Asian Studies, University of Michigan

2022 Panelist, The Sindhu Project, Panel Discussion, American Embassy New Delhi

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

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

2017 Visiting Artist, Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, USA

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

Gunjan Chawla Kumar 2026