

## 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 indigenous textiles, crafts, and various forms of native 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. She is a textile graduate from National Institute of Design and Technology, New Delhi (2003) and holds a bachelor's degree in economics (Honors) from Mehr Chand Mahajan DAV College for Women (2001). Her works have been exhibited at the South Asia Institute, Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, Donnelley Foundation, Chicago Sculpture International, Chicago Artist Coalition, Chicago, National College of Arts, Lahore, India Art Fair, New Delhi, among others. In India, Kumar is represented by Gallery Exhibit320, New Delhi. She is a resident artist at the Chicago Art Department, Chicago (2021) and has been a resident fellow at the Edward Albee Foundation, Montauk, NY (2016-2017). Kumar is currently working on a 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 in June 2021, and was recently exhibited at the National College of Arts, Lahore, Pakistan (November 2021). The works in this project will be showcased in New Delhi, India in January 2022. To know more about the project, please visit link <https://youtu.be/3cpDHqQNpPA>.

To know more about the artist, please visit [www.gunjankumar.com](http://www.gunjankumar.com)

### 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 called *Nihonga* 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, dying, sculpture making, pottery, wood carving etc.

### **Solo, Two, Three Person Shows**

- 2022 *The Sindhu Project*, Two Person Show, Gallery Exhibit320, New Delhi, India  
(Upcoming)
- 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

### **Art Fair**

India Art Fair, New Delhi, India

### **Residencies**

2021 Chicago Art Department, Chicago, IL, USA

2016 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 *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**

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**

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?spref=fb>

### **Related Experience**

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 renowned authority on Indus Valley Civilization, Prof. Jonathan Mark Kenoyer, Ph.D, Chicago USA

2020 onwards - Independent Educator imparting various courses and lectures on history, materials, and processes on working with natural pigments 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 2021