



Recent works by Sudipta Das

Every Year the Flood Comes

GALLERY LATITUDE 28



Mother and Child
Hanji paper, rice paper and
watercolour
8 x 5 x 2 inches
2019



Untitled
Mixed media with Hanji paper
24 inches diameter each
2019



Crossing Over
Mixed media with Hanji paper
126 x 8 x 2 inches
2019



His/Her Belongings
Hanji paper, rice paper,
watercolour on board
12 x 18 inches
2019



Custody I
Hanji paper, rice paper,
watercolour on board
16.5 x 7.5 x 9 inches
2019



Custody II
Hanji paper, rice paper,
watercolour on board
10 x 7.5 x 3.5 inches
2019



Shelter I-V
Hanji paper, rice paper,
watercolour on board
12 x 12 x 2 inches
2019



Land of Exhile
Hanji paper, rice paper,
watercolour on board
168 x 168 inches
2019

Every Year the Flood Comes

Sitara Chowfla

Every Year the Flood Comes is an exhibition of new works by Baroda-based artist Sudipta Das. Referring both to the physical and emotional losses caused by seasonal floods that devastate the artist's home town of Silchar, Assam, *Every Year the Flood Comes* considers the precarious position of human lives in flux.

Through collections and assemblages of her now-iconic doll-like paper sculptures, Das dives into personal history and family narratives to explore themes of exile, refuge and temporariness of life. Meticulously crafted from layers and layers of handmade Hanji paper, her chosen medium is fragile, yet resistant. A quality that reflects the tenacity of the unnamed people whose stories she seeks to tell. An unsuspecting medium, paper has long been a hidden protagonist in the narratives of placelessness. Without paper, one has no form of identification. Without identification, one loses the

freedom to move from place to place. One loses their proof of belonging. Before rendering her work into human-like figures, Das's interest in paper was made explicit in her work with archival material and found photographs. In particular, she sought images and references from Partition which evidenced the formation of Bangladesh and the idea of Bangladeshi identity. These photographs were then torn, cut, painted and collaged. With this action, the artist 'pieces together a remembrance through storytelling and memory'. The photographs become a key to unlock a personal history and a lens through which to address her familial experience of identity loss as a micro-minority community. While the work starts out thinking about the historical significance of placelessness and belonging post-1971, it takes on a new meaning of precarity for the people of Assam following the recently released National Register of Citizens.

Inspired by the dakjee doll making technique learned while on residency in Korea in 2017, Das's interpretation updates these small human-like figures from something innocent, delicate and collectable to an eerie, exaggerated facsimile of the characters and personalities she seeks to communicate. Rendered in incredible detail, with delicately crafted handmade outfits and accessories, the paper sculptures have previously been installed in ways that leave their tiny bodies hanging off the ground or precariously suspended from the walls. Positions that further suggest their life in limbo. For *Every year the flood comes*, Das creates a new installation which forces viewers to navigate between the sea of nameless figures. The arrangement reinforces the idea of mass populations who have to cross over impermanent thresholds into uncertain futures, while the act of the viewer passing through reminds us of our complicity as silent bystanders to these incidents of forced mass exile.

About the Artist

Born in Assam, Sudipta Das (b.1985) completed her BFA and MFA in painting from Kala Bhavan, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan in 2009 and 2011 respectively. Sudipta's solo shows include, 'A Soaring to Nowhere', Gachang Art Studio, Deagu, South Korea (2017) and 'The Surface of Memory', Gallery Latitude 28, New Delhi (2016). Her installation, 'Soaring to Nowhere' was part of The Art Projects at India Art Fair 2018 and was supported by Gallery Latitude 28.

Her recent group shows include Delhi Contemporary Art Week, Gallery Latitude 28 at Visual Arts Gallery, New Delhi (2019 and 2018);

India Art Fair, Gallery Latitude 28 booth, New Delhi (2019, 2018, 2015 and 2014); 'Material Gains', Gallery Ark, Baroda (2019); 'Hanji Translated', INKO Center at Lalit Kala Akademi Regional Centre, Chennai (2019); 'Papier', Gallery Art Positive, New Delhi (2018); Delhi Contemporary Art Weekend, Gallery Latitude 28 at Saffronart, New Delhi (2017); 'Asian Young Artists Art Festival', DDP, Seoul, Korea (2017); 'The Nexus Art Show', Amdavad Ni Gufa, Ahmedabad (2016); 'Morphology of Archive (Connected Histories of Goa)', Museum of Goa (2016);

the 29th National Exhibition of Contemporary Art and Awards show, Hyderabad (2016); 'A Walk Elsewhere', PAIR-2 Art Center, Taiwan (2015); 'Yoga Chakra Tradition & Modernity', curated by Sushma Bahl and Archana Sapra, Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi (2015); Affordable Art Fair, Gallery Latitude 28 booth, Hong Kong (2015); CIMA Award Show, CIMA Art Gallery, Kolkata (2015); 'Her work is Never Done Part II', curated by Bose Krishnamachari, BMB Art Gallery, Mumbai (2014); 'Baroda March', Chattrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, Mumbai (2014); 'Asian Young Artists Art Festival', Gangnam-Gu, Seoul, Korea (2014); 'Diver-Cities' curated by Bhavna Kakar, Gallery Latitude 28, New Delhi (2013), 'The Web of Water' curated by Sandhya Gajjar, Artcore Gallery Derby, UK (2013); 'ART MAKERS: Circa 2012, The Next Level - Part 3', curated by Ranjita Chaney, Exhibit 320, New Delhi (2012).

Sudipta Das is a recipient of Visual Arts Award as part of Alpine Fellowship, Sweden (2019); Greenshield Fellowship, Canada (2019) and Junior Research Fellowship, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India (2013). She has also participated in the Gachang Art Studio residency in South Korea (2017); Pair-2 Artist Residency in Taiwan (2015), Reliance (Harmony Art Foundation) (2015), Khoj Kolkata residency (2015), Kanoria Residency (2011), and the Saavad Residency, Santiniketan (2011), and Space Studio, Baroda (2012-2015). The artist is currently based in Baroda.



For more details:

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