



*Foreign Lands, 36x36 inches, Archival ink, gouache, watercolor on archival paper, 2015*

## 'IN SEARCH OF A DREAM AND OTHER STORIES'

### Solo show by Kartik Sood

Exhibition dates: 20<sup>th</sup> January – 1st March 2016

Gallery timings: 11 am-7 pm Sundays closed (by special appointment only)

Venue: Gallery LATITUDE 28, F 208 Lado Sarai, New Delhi, India – 110030

This project was inspired by the tradition of oral culture and story telling. The artist reinterprets the everyday in a visual format reminiscent of folktales, short stories and the Modern play. Each day piles upon the next, constructing pasts and personal histories of meandering anecdotes, hearsays, gossip and popular wisdom—creating tangible meanings—that bypass the elusiveness of one's own identity. And this meaning making, being a process of tracing random associations by the unconscious, assumes a dreamlike quality. The visuals are saturated with unreal colours, telling tales of the subtle, subjective realities of life that are absurd even when they feel profound. As these deceptively straightforward and random stories unravel and untangle, they reveal a complex subtext: a circuit of visceral sensibilities, philosophical concepts, popular culture, myths and fictions that propel us towards an anxious and uncertain future by informing our unique negotiations with the mundane and dramatic elements embedded in the past and the present. Inspired by and contributing to the particular ways in which we construct our sense of self are videos and mixed media work on paper that interplay with text by writer Manoj Nair to form little stories. The project aims to eventually assume the format of a paperback publication and hopefully a quarterly of stories and visuals, to fit with patterns of consumption that we have managed to import to metaphysical and transient experiences.

**Bhavna Kakar**, the founder-director of Latitude 28, has been following Kartik Sood's practice since his days as a student in Painting at the **Faculty of Fine Arts, M.S.U, Baroda**. "Sood's debut in the art world was with a four-person exhibition I curated titled 'Urban Testimonies'

at Latitude 28 in 2010, the same year that we opened. Sood's works are particularly interesting for their interface with time. He uses the medium of photography to preserve the past and map cultural metamorphosis. Over the years the gallery has exhibited his work at various destinations including **Hong Kong, Dhaka Art Summit, Art Gwangju 2012** and the **India Art Fair (2010-2013)**. We are pleased to present his first solo exhibition featuring a consolidated body of paintings and video works from the past 4-5 years. This exhibition marks another high point for both, the gallery and the artist in a long and eventful journey together," says Kakar.

## THE LEAP

- by Manoj Nair

"I have never felt more beautiful," he assured himself as he stood atop the piece of stone from where the bridge across the valley began. He had always known that he had several rivers to cross but he longed for some company to do that. And all hopes of finding a friend who would understand fell by the wayside. It's been a year and a half since his last relationship. The last one lasted only three months, as did the one before. Yet he was not used to being really single or even understanding what was it in him that drove people away. Those that he really cared for and wanted to be with. He had always been looking for that bridge across, what is it — Yes, forever.



*In Search of a Dream, archival ink, gouache, water color on archival paper, 44x44", 2015*

And now after a short career of fits and starts that never seem to be going anywhere he had lost all importance of life in his own eyes. He was an athlete and he had not been able to run far with it. But now when he stood there feeling the cold breeze stroking his bare body, he realized there could be no respite from despair that had become his only soul mate in a city that had hardly anything to offer but lonesomeness. So he had chosen that spot and a full moon night to scream loudly about how he felt in that solitary moment of joy. Because he wanted to bask in the shiny, silver light as he took the last plunge into the ravine.

### Artist Statement:

"Every day I write, draw, shoot videos or record sounds. My art works are stories developed from these diaries. Subtle in colour and painterly in approach, they are autobiographical, inventive and dislocated. My stories are about reality as I perceive, but often they lose the essence of reality (just like reality does) and turn into fictitious tales. Stories are knit out of my interactions with people around me from conversations silly and profound, from my surroundings, from music and art – all influencing my thoughts. My works are process based. They start intuitively and grow organically. My current work is a part of a major multi-projection audio-video piece and talks about desire and solitude. How an inner world seeps into the outer world as symbols to signify its force."

**About the artist:**

Kartik Sood was born in 1986 and pursued his Bachelors in Painting from College of Art, New Delhi in 2008 and completed his Post-Graduation in Painting from the Faculty of Fine Arts, MSU Baroda in 2010.

The artist's group shows include 'Works in Progress', IAAB Studios, The Dock, Basel, Switzerland (2014); 'Sacred/Scared', curated by Nancy Adajania, Latitude 28, India (2014); 'Citizens of Time' curated by Veeranganakumari Solanki 2014, at Dhaka Art Summit, 'Matter of Importance', Sakshi Gallery in collaboration with Latitude 28, Mumbai (2013); 'In You is the Illusion of Each Day', curated by Maya Kovskaya, Latitude 28 (2011); 'Urban Testimonies', Latitude 28 (2010) 'Turn the Tables', Gallery Art Alive (2010); 'New Focus', organized by Sakshi Gallery at FTII, Pune (2010); and 'Scratch', Sakshi Gallery, (2010).

He has also been represented by Latitude 28 at the Dhaka Art Summit, 2014; Art Gwangju 2012 and the India Art Fair 2011 – 2014 and was a participant in 'Contested Spaces', a video project curated by Bhavna Kakar, especially for the India Art Fair, 2014.

The artist's residencies include 'Refracting Rooms', Khoj International Artists' Association, Pune, 2015; IAAB Studios, Pro Helvetia residency, Switzerland, 2014; Gasworks International Studios residency, London, 2014; Artist in residence, 1Shanthi Road/Latitude 28 residency, Bangalore, 2013; and The Why Not Place residency, Religare Arts, 2011.

Kartik was the recipient of the 'Forbes India's 30 Under 30 list' award, in the category of Arts & Culture, 2015; as well as was nominated for 'The Best Emerging Artist Using Photography', in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Prudential Eye Awards for Asian Contemporary Art, Singapore Art Week 2015. Sood was also chosen for the prestigious Gasworks International Residency Programme in the U.K. in 2015. He is the recipient of The Inlaks Shivadasani Foundation/ Charles Wallace India Trust Award, 2014 and Emerging Artist award, presented in collaboration with Pro Helvetia- Swiss Arts Council and FICA, 2013. He was the recipient of the Nasreen Mohammadi Scholarship at MSU Baroda. He has also received the award for the best film "Cutting Edge Category", at the Scotland University Film Festival, 2012.

The artist currently lives and works between New Delhi and Baroda.

**For more information on Gallery Latitude 28 please visit:**

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