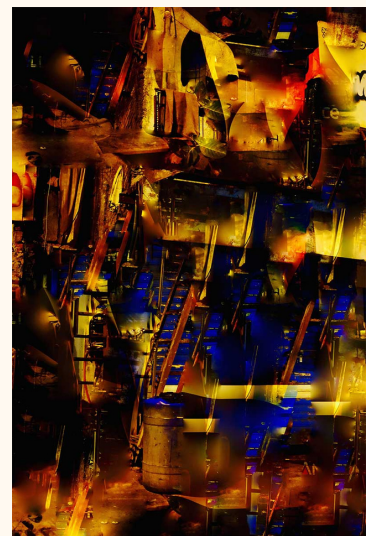


Press Release

A Love Letter to My Home. by Akshita Gandhi

23 - 27 May 2022

The Nehru Centre, 8 S Audley St, Mayfair
London W1K 1HF



Is India truly free seventy-five years after its independence? The Indian Independence Act, which established India's independence from British imperialism, went into effect in August 1947. However, the act partitioned India, causing significant social divisions. What is India's post-colonial identity now, amidst social and political upheaval and increasing censorship? And how does the surrounding architecture reflect the residents' vitality and spirit?

Akshita Gandhi, a photographer and multimedia artist, strives to answer these questions in her solo exhibition "A love letter to my home." Presented at The Nehru Centre by Gabriel Fine Arts to celebrate the 75th anniversary of India's independence, Gandhi's work casts new light on Mumbai and Udaipur, revealing cityscapes in flux and essentially coming undone.

G**o**briel Fine Arts

Connectivity in Diversity

For its vibrancy, chaos, and potential for upward mobility, Mumbai is known as the "City of Dreams."

Gandhi's images show futuristic skyscrapers rising above low-income neighbourhoods and post-colonial architecture. Chawls, tenements, British imperialist architecture, and high-rises dominate "Pincode," a collection of digitally reworked pictures in and around popular sites such as the racecourse, Horniman Circle, Colaba, and Bhendi Bazaar. They portray a lesser-known aspect of the city at night: peaceful and motionless, almost otherworldly. Obfuscated windows and doors, a symbol of inaccessibility, limit the viewer's entry point into the life of city people. They allude to the increasing censorship in India's media and cultural sector, an issue that reappears in Gandhi's past work. Through repetition and distortion, Gandhi explores stability and instability within image and memory.



The paintings on display in the "Fluid" series are more impassioned. The artist has splashed, smeared, and brushed paint on pictures of Mumbai's diverse architecture and material culture, resulting in the sense of disjointedness, vibrancy, and monumentality. These mixed media pieces, in stark contrast to her photographs, portray the city's frenetic vitality and colourful dynamism.

Beyond Mumbai, the exhibition features images taken by Gandhi while in Udaipur. She concentrates on short houses atop businesses in the city's town centre rather than the grand Rajput palaces that draw tourists to the area. To native audiences, her warm-toned photographs provide a sense of familiarity, while to outsiders, they provide a mix of local and worldwide reference points.

The exhibition will also feature an installation that incorporates parts from the images and allows people to sit and listen to sound composition. The track is inspired by India's cacophony and will thoroughly immerse guests.

Gandhi struggled to comprehend the idea of "home" and "freedom" after studying in an international education system and coming from a patriarchal society and traditional cultural background. Nonetheless, while her work is a love letter to cities, it also examines the conflict and mayhem that exists between forces of tradition and modern life.

About Akshita Gandhi

Akshita Gandhi (India, 1988) is a Mumbai-based photographer and multimedia artist. Gandhi manipulates her images by painting over them, working digitally with repetition and distortion, and collaging to study obscurity/perceptibility and construction/deconstruction, broadening the boundaries of the photographic medium. Gandhi has an MFA and has shown her work in twenty-seven galleries and art fairs around Asia, Europe, India, the Middle East, and the United States. She's also worked with the United Nations Chamber of Music Society, Katerblau, a German music festival, New York designer Frank DeBourge, India's Kurtees, a fashion label, and Celesté, a premium tea brand.

Gabriel Fine Arts

Gabriel Fine Arts was founded in London, United Kingdom, in June 2014. We are committed to bringing together and representing exceptional and well-known artists worldwide. Our online art gallery www.gabrielfinearts.com is open all year round, and we have curated art exhibitions and bespoke art displays in prime locations and a variety of settings. Gabriel Fine Arts work with curators, dealers, and galleries worldwide to provide Art Consultation and Project Partnerships.

General Opening Hours:

Tuesday - Thursday
10am - 6pm
Friday
10am - 4pm

Private View:

Monday 23 May
6pm - 8pm

Sales Contacts:

sales@gabrielfinearts.com

Book your **TICKETS** at Eventbrite

RSVP before 23 May to rsvp@gabrielfinearts.com