LUMEN TRAVO

MONALI MEHER

Indian artist **Monali Meher** presents her new body of work, which finds its inspiration in the intense and unprecedented sequence of lockdowns the world has recently experienced. Through a new series of mixed media drawings and assemblages, Meher reflects on the pandemic period just gone by (or, maybe, still in the process?), highlighting the relentless cycle of 'multiple beginnings' we, as humans, are enduring in the hope to find a renewed and positive perspective for the world.

Over the last years, multi-disciplinary artist Monali Meher (India, 1969) has created a body of work that reflects on notions of moving from place to place, migration, loss, change, hybrid identity, re-shaping memories, recycling materials & belongings, transformation and confrontation. By mirroring her own experience through the various artistic disciplines involved in her practice, she explores the present time with her unique sensibility, creating a versatile oeuvre of mixed media drawings, installations, photographs and performances. Monali Meher's artistic practice witnesses her quest for defining the body as a trouble spot of time and space's connections or mutual extensions. With her mixed media works, she transfers her performance on the paper, by transforming a dynamic movement into a frozen bi-dimensional image or in reverse.





The five works titled *Gauze, Wick & Turmeric* are mixed media collages, of which the vivid color and scent are from the traditional Indian spice turmeric, which is also sprinkled on top of the glass sculptures that punctuate the exhibition space.



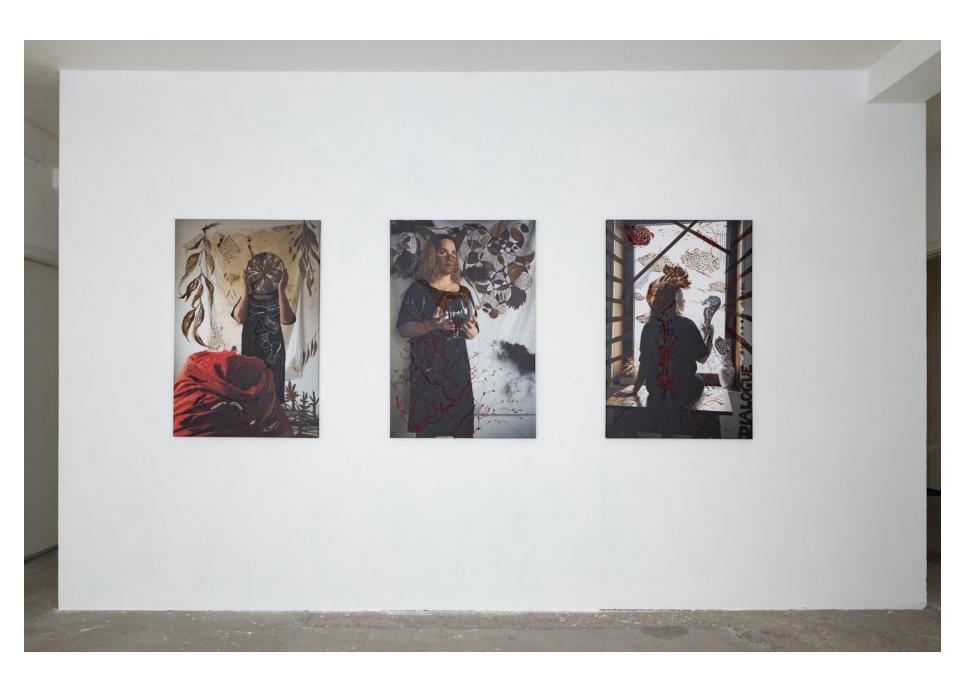
Gauze, Wick & Turmeric, 2022 gauze, cotton, turmeric, black Japan ink, oil pastel, filter paper 45 x 45 cm



< *Melted Sand no. 5,* 2019 -2022 Glass, plexi glass, metal, turmeric 55 x 60 x 55 cm

< *Melted Sand no. 4*, 2019 -2022 Glass, plexi glass, metal, turmeric 70 x 65 x 50 cm

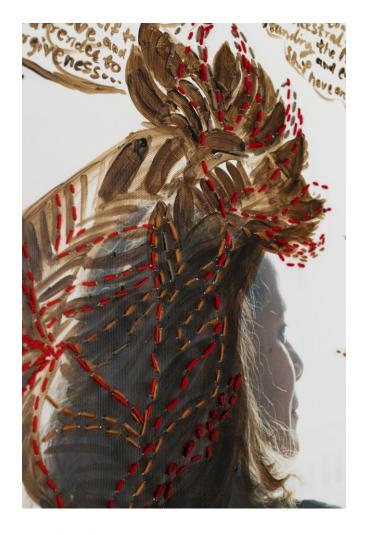




The *Quarantine series* consists of mixed media drawings created on digital photo canvas.

Feelings of longing, fear, acceptance and change are intertwined into the work through the use of red threads, stitches and Black Japan inked text added by Meher as a sort of daily diary notes.





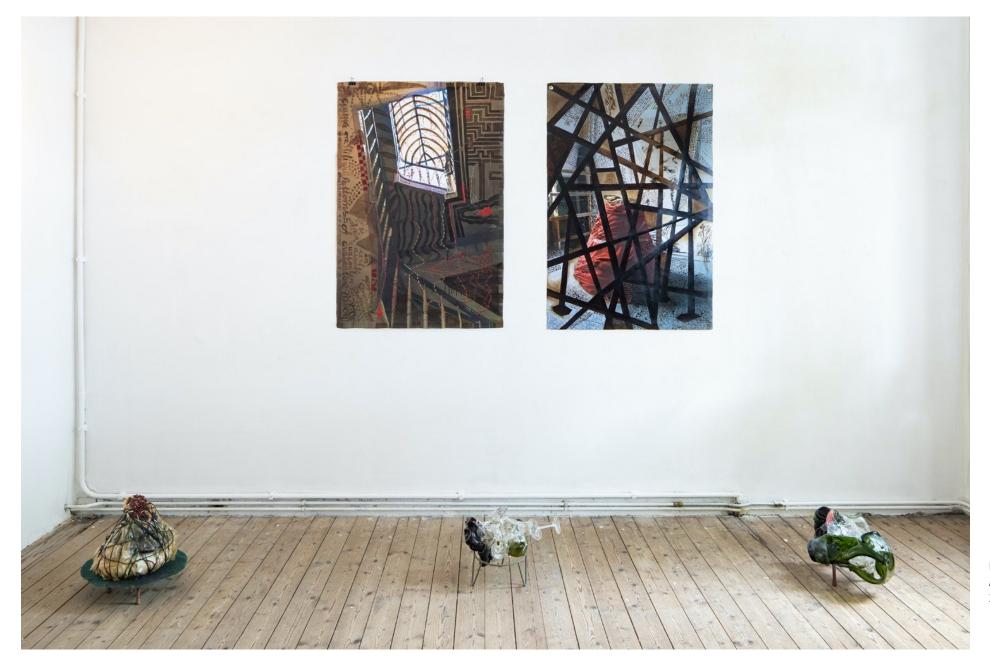
Fragile Dialogue, 2021 Mix media, digital photo on canvas, black Japan ink, wool & cotton threads 120 x 80 cm



Falling Star 4, 2019 -2022 various objects, wool, cloth, resin, gauze, plexi-glass, metal 97 x 75 x 80 cm







Monali Meher, *The Beginning of A New Beginning*, installation view, 2022, Lumen Travo Gallery



The several glass works exhibited in the show result from Meher's residency at Gent-Glas in 2019.

Inspired by the Japanese art form 'Kintsugi', which enhances the cracks and signs of time as the ultimate charm of an object, Meher creates 'Melted glass pieces': recycled glasses and bottles recovered from her café are combined together to form these dreamlike aggregations of matter.

Melted Sand no. 2, 2019 -2022 Glass, painted plastic stand 26 x 37 x 25 cm

Melted Sand no. 3, 2019 -2022 Glass, painted metal stand 29 x 37 x 38 cm





Silent Land, 2022 at Lumen Travo Gallery with Razia Barsatie, Otobong Nkanga and Mariëlle Videler

In a context where human actions seem to speak more loudly and violently than thousands of years of natural evolution, Silent Land aims to set the stage for a conversation in which man and nature can take equal part.

In the site-specific installation **Unknown Landscape**, the artist combines several natural elements such as soil, bark and coal together with glass works. The result is a colorful and dynamic assemblage laid on the gallery floor.

Like a natural landscape, this installation is alive, evolving silently but persistently.







Golden Quadrilateral, 2011 at MAXXI Museum, Rome, Italy

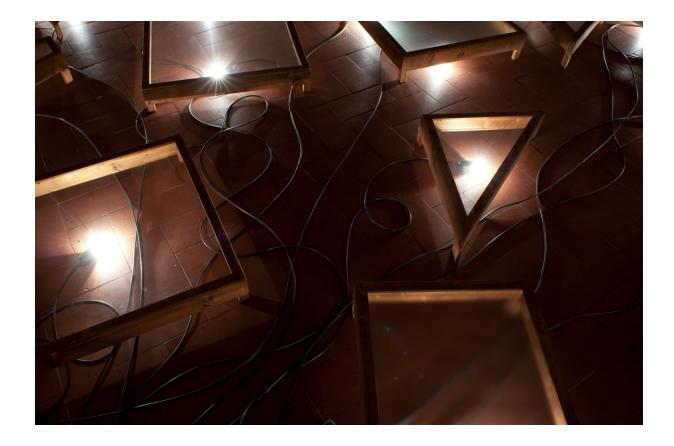




The Transparent Door, 2011 Part of the exhibition *Contemporary Renaissance* at Casa Masaccio Museum

During her stay in Italy, Monali Meher drew inspiration from the experience with the new environment, nature and architecture, interior spaces as well as people and their customs. Here she makes reference to the miracle of the milk present in the Basilica of Santa Maria delle Grazie at San Giovanni Valdarno: the environment created thanks to the moderate use of light evokes a profound sense of intimate mystery.





In Determination, 2010 At NRLA (National Review on Live Art) Glasgow, Scotland

The action of determination is the action of Cleaning, an action of Peace. In this action of cleaning violence, the artist keeps cleaning the bloodstains with strong determination. Cleaning the blood is a metaphor towards the action to wipe out those stains of violence and bloodshed.

This performance and installation has a poignant quality of change and transformation. This world that is created by us to live in – we have a responsibility to keep it, clean it and make harmony and peace with determination.





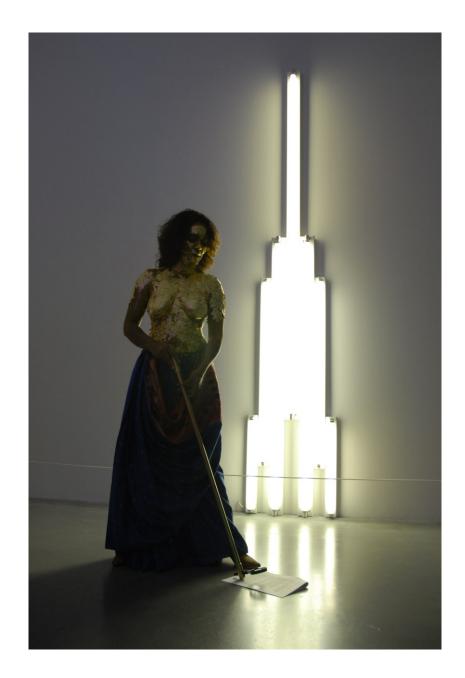
Riceville II

Performance/Temporary Landscape Installation 'Boeren Meisjes Show' (Black Magic Woman Festival) Bijlmer, CBK, Amsterdam, 2007.









Between Familiar/ Unfamiliar, The Home & Heart, Beats a Golden Kiss, 2006 Idea & Object wing, level 5, Saturday Live Mumbai, Tate Modern, London



Wrapped assemblages Wrapped personal objects in red wool 2004, 2005, 2006, Amsterdam.







Non-Repeating Loop Performance at Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam 2000



Monali Meher (India,1969) lives and works in Ghent, Belgium. Meher received 'Unesco -Aschberg' residency, Vienna 1998, Rijksakademie Van Beeldende Kunsten 2000- '01, Amsterdam, KHOJ New Delhi 2004, VASL residency, Karachi 2008, ComPeung, Thailand 2011, 'Casa Masaccio' Italy 2012.

She performed and exhibited internationally; Tate Modern, Sinop Biennale Turkey, Rijksmuseum Twenthe, Art Dubai, 'Rebelle', MMKA Arnhem, NRLA Glasgow, Prague Biennale 5th, MAXXI museum Rome, Guangzhou Live, China, Infr'action Sete, France, 4th Thessaloniki Biennale, Bochum kunstmuseum Germany, Arezzo Biennial.

In 2013 Meher received the prestigious 'Golden Chimera Award' for innovation and originality. Recent exhibitions include: 'Living, Forgiving, Remembering' at De Kerk, Museum Arnhem; 'Ben Cobra' at Cobra Museum Amstelveen; Kunsthall 3,14 Bergen, Norway, performed at museum SMAK for Art Ghent, participated in VAICA 2 'Field of vision', video art, Mumbai, performed at Arctic Action VI in Longyearbyen, Spitsbergen. In 2021- 22, she was part of online 'Upcycling' Sinop Biennale 8, Turkey.



Solo Shows

2022

The Beginning of A New Beginning, Lumen Travo Gallery, Amsterdam, The Netherlands 2019 Falling Star, (works 2004 – 2019), CJK, Mariakerke, Ghent, Belgium

2017

Roots and Threads, Boarders and Pieces, Lumen Travo, Amsterdam, The Netherlands 2016

Spirit House, Museum Van Alle Tijden, Beugen, Brabant, The Netherlands

2013

Meat Markets and Spirit Houses, Lumen Travo gallery, Amsterdam, The Netherlands 2009

Departed, Assembled, Wrapped, Captured: Time, Project 88, Mumbai, India *Measures & Weight*, Live Funds, Fonds BKVB, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

2008

Departed, Assembled, Wrapped, Captured: Time, Lumen Travo, Amsterdam, The Netherlands 2005

Reverse, Rewind, Replay, Goliath Visual Space, New York. Untitled, Artkitchen Gallery, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

2004

Ceremony, Artkitchen gallery, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

1999

Theatre of Memory, Lakeeren Art Gallery, Mumbai, India

1998

Reflect: A Personal Window Display, Jehangir Art Gallery & Lakeeren Art Gallery, Mumbai, India, Gallery Jüttner, Vienna, Austria Untitled, F.I.A. (Foundation for Indian Artists), Amsterdam, The Netherlands

1996

Bio-Morphosis, Lakeeren Art Gallery, Mumbai, India

1993

Untitled, Contemporary Art Gallery, Ahmedabad, India

Group Exhibitions

2022

Silent Land, Lumen Travo Gallery, Amsterdam, The Netherlands Upcycling, Sinopale 8, online Sinop biennale, Sinop, Turkey

2021

Hidden Structures, Street-view Anderlecht, Anderlecht, Brussels, Belgium VAICA 2, Fields of Vision, online video art presented by Dr. Bhau Daji Lad museum & Comet Media Foundation, Mumbai, India Love Thy Neighbor, Asia Triennial Manchester 2021, Manchester Poetry Library, Manchester, UK Art Rotterdam 2021, Gallery Lumen Travo, Van Nellefabriek, Rotterdam, The Netherlands Imaginary Travels, Gallery Lumen Travo, Amsterdam, The Netherlands Living, Forgiving, Remembering, Kunsthall 3,14, Bergen, Norway Public space installation, shop/Cafe windows Ledebergplein, Ghent, Belgium ART GHENT, group show, Ghent, Belgium

2020

Collector's Item, Contemporary Art Collection of Sanders, Centraal Museum Utrecht, The Netherlands 15th Anniversary Online Live Action, videos group show, LA15, Sweden Living, Forgiving, Remembering, De Kerk, Museum Arnhem, The Netherlands. Ben Cobra, curated by Aziz Bekkaoui, Cobra Museum Amstelveen, The Netherlands ZOMERSALON 2020, Kunsthal Gent, Ghent, Belgium, Solitary Confinement', online group show, Desk for contemporary art, Oudenaarde, Belgium 2019 VAICA, video art by Indian contemporary artists, G5A foundation, Mumbai, India, India Paper, drawings group show, Street-view Anderlecht, Brussels, Belgium 2018 Connecting Threads: Textiles in Contemporary Practice, curated by Tasneem Zakaria Mehta & Puja Vaish, BDL Museum (Bhau Dajji Lad Museum) Mumbai, India The Proposal, Biennale of ideas, Cultuurcentrum De Steiger, Menen, Belgium Art Rotterdam, Lumen Travo Gallery, Amsterdam, The Netherlands 2017 Amsterdam Art Fair, Lumen Travo Gallery, Amsterdam, The Netherlands Dialogues, by Lumen Travo, Gallery, Manifesta Office, Amsterdam, The Netherlands Amsterdam TRAIL, Lumen Travo Gallery, Amsterdam, The Netherlands 2016 What we have overlooked, Museum Arnhem collection-show, Gallery Framer's Framed, Amsterdam, NL Biennale Arte Dolomiti, Ex Caserma Monte Rite – Cibiana di Cadore, Italy. Amsterdam TRAIL, Lumen Travo Gallery, Amsterdam, The Netherlands Traditions, Transmissions & Contemporary Society, OFF biennale, Medina, DAK'ART 2016, IFAA, KAANI & Yataal Art, Dakar, Senegal. AS ONE, NEON+MAI (Marina Abramovic Institute), video Riceville/ Whiteville part of the film program IMMATERIAL, Benaki Museum, Athens, Greece +51°13'00.0"N +4°23'40.4"E CONVERSATIONS, Antwerp, Belgium RCA SECRET DUBAI, Art Dubai 2016 Donation show, Dubai. Culture of Colors, AkzoNobel Essential Art Space & collection, Amsterdam, The Netherlands 2015 Kunst op de koffie, site-specific installations in private houses of Spijkerskwartier, Arnhem, The Netherlands Spiegeloog/Mirrored Eye, curated by Mirjam Westen, Museum Arnhem, Arnhem, The Netherlands LAND, curated by Amit Mukhopadhyay, Shantiniketan, Kolkata, India STILLS, Gallery Lumen Travo, Amsterdam, The Netherlands India Art Fair, MK Search Art, New Delhi, India. Der Fremde in Mir, SMAHK, Stedelijk Museum Assen, The Netherlands 2014

Sparsha: Ritual and contemporary, Kunstmuseum Bochum, Bochum, Germany, Undisclosed Territory #8, Studio Plesungan, Indonesia. Aerial Views, Gallery Lumen Travo, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Threads, curated by Mirjam Westen, Museum Arnhem, The Netherlands. India Art Fair, MK Search Art, New Delhi, India.

2014

Sparsha: Ritual and contemporary, Kunstmuseum Bochum, Bochum, Germany. Undisclosed Territory #8, Studio Plesungan, Indonesia. Aerial Views, Gallery Lumen Travo, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Threads, curated by Mirjam Westen, Museum Arnhem, The Netherlands. India Art Fair, MK Search Art, New Delhi, India.

2013

Art the Hague, show Indian Session curated by Liesbeth Willems (curator KRC Collection) in collaboration with Monali Meher, Den Hague, The Netherlands

Expansion, Art and Documentary, 10th Anniversary of ECA (European cultural Association), Siemens Art gallery, Istanbul, Turkey.

We like art, Westergasfabriek, with Gallery Lumen Travo, Amsterdam.

The Material Point: Reconsidering the Medium in the (Post) modern Moment, curated by Katheen Wyma, OED Gallery, Kochi, Kerala, India.

Souvenir, curated by Lucie Fontaine, Galerie Perrotin, Paris.

Auspiciously Red Installation, Casa delle Culture, ICASTICA 2013, (Glocal women) 1st Arezzo Art Biennial, Italy

Nieuwe Lente (A New Spring), curated by AZIZ, Corrosia Almere, NL

Hail, Contemporary Indian Artists, curated by Madhu V. MNF Museum, Kerala, India.

2012

Re-Picturing the Feminine: New and Hybrid Realities in the Artworld, A survey of Indian and Australian Contemporary Female Artists, curated by Marnie Dean, Gallery OED, Cochin, India. Contemporary Renaissance curated by Veeranganakumari Solanki, Casa Masaccio Museum,

San Giovanni Valdarno, Tuscany, Italy.

Il Siero Della Verita, MK Search Art Gallery, San Giovanni Valdarno, Italy.

Unbound, video art India, curated by A. Kulkarni, Belgrade art fair, Serbia

Skin and Spirit, Group show, Siemens Sanat, Istanbul, Turkey.

[UN]PAIRED, Stichting Kulter, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

pREpellers, curated by Kavitha Balakrishnan Art Chennai, Gallery Art and Soul, Chennai, India.

2011

Who is afraid of oriental girls, Delta Lloyd (Espace Enny), Amsterdam.
ComPeung- Revisited, Chiang Mai City arts and cultural Centre, Thailand.
Connect, Rijksakademie Alumni, Gallery Lumen Travo, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Prague Biennale 5th, Art in general, Crossroads: India Escalate, curated by Kanchi Mehta, Prague, CZ.
Who is afraid of oriental girls, Gallery Espace Enny, Laag Keppel, The Netherlands.
Video Wednesday II, Gallery Espace, curated by Gayatri Sinha, New Delhi
Hong Kong Art Fair (ArtHK11), Gallery Lumen Travo, Amsterdam.
Art Chennai, Project 88, at Taj Coromandel, Chennai, India.
Art Rotterdam, Lumen Travo gallery, Cruise Terminal, Rotterdam.
2010

Body Language, Lumen Travo Gallery, Amsterdam.

Frictive Familiarities, curated by Diana Kaur & Farah Siddiqui, Videos by south Asian diaspora, Art Kino, Stockholm. Art Amsterdam, Lumen Travo Gallery, Amsterdam, The Netherlands Logged, drawing show, curated by Amit Mukhopadhyay, Emami Chisel Art Pvt. Ltd, Kolkata, India. Ballard Estate, curated by Gitanjali Dang, Religare Art gallery, New Delhi, India

2009

What the Body Remembers, Asian Video Art, curated by Arshiya Lokhandwala, Bhavan Centre, London. rebelle, Art and Feminism 1969-2009", curated by Mirjam Westen, mmka, Museum voor Moderne Kunst Arnhem, The Netherlands. Calvin Me, curated by AZIZ, CBK Dordrecht, The Netherlands. De Stomme Van Portici, hoet bekaert gallery, Ghent, Belgium, The other Indian story, curated by Arshiya Lokhandwala, Jehangir Nicholson Gallery, NCPA, Mumbai. Art Rotterdam, Lumen Travo gallery, Cruise Terminal, Rotterdam, The Netherlands Video Wednesday, Gallery Espace, curated by Johny ML, New Delhi, India 2008 My wrapped home: My Tehvar, (Writing home about home) Karachi, Pakistan. Restoring Our Temples, (New order of Things) Sinop Biennale II, Turkey. 360 degrees, Project De Zone, Stichting Nutuur, Arnhem forest, The Netherlands Discomfort at performance, Siemens Sanat Gallery, Istanbul, Turkey. Art Rotterdam, Lumen Travo gallery, Cruise Terminal, Rotterdam, The Netherlands 2007 BMW Award, Boerenmeijes, curated by Maaike Gouwenberg CBK Zuidoost, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Anonymous Body, curated by Dirk Jan Jager, Menier Gallery, London, UK. Travelogue, Lumen Travo Gallery, Amsterdam, The Netherlands Serenity, curated by Mark van Hees, Gallery Dis, Maastricht, The Netherlands Icons, Lumen Travo Gallery, Amsterdam, The Netherlands Who is your friends/the soap operas, video show, curated by Declan Rooney, Soap Gallery, Kitakyushu, Japan. Group show, Lumen Travo Gallery, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

2006

Too much freedom, freewaves, 10th Biennial, new media festival, CA, USA Rites, Rights, Rewrites, curated by Arshiya Lokhandwala, Rutgers University, Mason Gross Galleries, NJ Mensen Familie, SKOL, Kunstmanifestatie, Uithof Universiteit, Utrecht, The Netherlands Nederlands Een, curated by Tiong Ang, Museum Gouda, The Netherlands. Revisited, Outline Gallery, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

2005

Love & Death, Schiele exhibition, IPG, Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands Rites, Rights, Rewrites, curated by Arshiya Lokhandwala, Duke University, NC, USA.

2004

LA Freewaves, video art India/Pakistan, LA, USA

Another Passage to India, Théâtre Saint-Gervais, Musée d' Ethnographie, Genève, Switzerland Flash Right Turn Left, curated by Dirk Jan Jager, ARTWALK, Amsterdam, The Netherlands Human Interest, (Body, Mind, Soul), Outline, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Rites/Rights/Rewrites, video show, curated by Arshiya Lokhandwala, Hartell Gallery, Cornell University, Ithaca, USA. Broedplaats Visite, SFA, Arti Et Amicitiae, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

2003

De Inrichting, curated by Dirk Jan Jager, Willibrord, Heiloo, The Netherlands. Space For Artists, Amsterdam, The Netherlands Verborgen Kindertekeningen, Het Raadhuis, Aalsmeer, The Netherlands Kunst Rai with gallery Artkitchen, Amsterdam, The Netherlands 2002

Handle with Care, Art Kitchen, Amsterdam, The Netherlands No I.D., Dutch & Indian Artists show, Sakshi Gallery, Bombay, India. Art Asia Pacific, Multi Media Art Festival, Beijing, China. SOLD, Christies Auction, Amsterdam, The Netherlands Straat Opera, Video Installation, Stubnitz Ship, N.D.S.M. Amsterdam, The Netherlands *Fake Or Real*. Kunstruimte NP 40. Amsterdam. The Netherlands Amsterdamse Visite, Arti et Amicitiae, Amsterdam, The Netherlands River Deep, Mountain High, Glazen Huis, Amstelpark, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

2001

Open Studio, Rijksakademie van beeldende kunsten, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Labyrinths, ASIART, Asian Contemporary Art- Biennale d' Art Contemporanea, Genoa, Italy. Camouflage, curated by Arshiva Lokhandwala, Nehru Centre, London, UK. Bollywood has arrived, curated by Els Rijnders, P.T.A. (Passengers' Terminal) Amsterdam, The Netherlands. 2000

May for India & you, Festival in Tulln, Performance/ Interactive Installations, Tulln, Austria. Gehakt Masala, Performance, Installations, Outline Art Gallery, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. 1999

Smell the Art, Perishable Installation at N.G.M.A. (National Gallery of Modern Art) Mumbai, India. Group show, Fine Art Company, Mumbai, India.

Protected Reflections, Installation based on performance, N.G.M.A, National gallery Of Modern Art, Mumbai Christie's Auction, Women for Wise, N.G.M.A. National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai, India. Wallpaper, Lakeeren art Gallery (Kala Ghoda Festival), Mumbai, India.

1998

Next Wave Festival (Distance), Biennale, Australia.

1997

50 years of Independence, Bombay Art Society, Jehangir Art gallery, Mumbai, India. 50 years of Art in Mumbai, 1947-1997 Part II, National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai, India, 1996

Awards, Residencies, Funded Projects

2021

Arctic Action VI, International performance art festival, Longyearbyen, Svalbard, Norway, funded by Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

2019

INSPIREREN-INSPIRATIEON, project residency award, Funded by Provincie Oost Vlaanderen Transitiereglement Gent-Glas, Ghent, Belgium

2017

International presentation grant by Mondriaan Funds, performance, bound/unbound, Patan Museum, LASANAA, Siddhartha art foundation, Kathmandu Triennale, Kathmandu, Nepal

2016

International presentation grant by Mondriaan Funds & NYC Culture, performance, Visiting Brooklyn Bridge, project Ritual Traces by SAWCC (South Asian women's creative collective), New York.

2013

Golden Chimera Award, ICASTICA 2013, 1st Arezzo Art Biennial, Italy.

2012

Contemporary Renaissance, Residency Casa Masaccio Arte contemporanea and MK Search Art, San Giovanni Valdarno, Tuscany, Italy

2011

The Bridge Is Open, Public Space Project, installation under Willem's bridge, Haarlemmerpoort, Amsterdam, funded by Amsterdam Fonds voor de Kunst, Fonds BKVB, Co-operated by DIVV, DOCK Stadsdeel West.

ComPeung, Artists' Residency, Chiang Mai, Thailand

2010

Nominated for FRITSCHY AWARD, Museum Het Domein, Sittard, The Netherlands

2009

Travel grant Mondriaan Funds, performance In Determination, Art Dubai

LIVE Fonds, Funds BKVB, Project Measures & Weights, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

2008

VASL International Residency, Triangle Arts Trust Network, Artists' in Diaspora, Karachi, Pakistan.

2007

Finalist Black magic Woman Award 2007, CBK, Zuid Oost, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

2004

Khoj International Residency, Funded by Hivos, New Delhi, India

2001

Rijksakademie Van Beeldende Kunsten, Funded by Nuffic, Huygens grant, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

2000

Rijksakademie Van Beeldende Kunsten, funded by Dutch Ministry foreign & Affairs (BUZA/DCOIC) Amsterdam. 1998

UNESCO- ASCHBERG, International Artists Residency, Federal Chancellery for Arts and Science, Vienna, Austria. 1997

Fine arts Award, Inlaks Foundation', New Delhi, India

1993

Residency at Kanoria Centre for the Arts, Ahmedabad, India.



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