

## **SHARMISTHA RAY**

b. Kolkata, India.

### **EDUCATION**

**2001-2005** M.S. Art History/M.F.A. Painting, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York

**1997-2001** B.A. Art, Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts

### **SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

**2017**

*we are all islands 2*, Mill Hall, Kochi, India

**2016**

*we are all islands*, Nine Fish Art Gallery, Mumbai, India

**2015**

*On the Seashore of Endless Worlds*, Kala Ghoda Arts Festival, Mumbai, India

**2014**

*Sweet Surrender: Studies in Abstraction*, Galerie Steph, Singapore

**2013**

*Reflections + Transformations*, Aicon Gallery, New York, USA

**2012**

*hidden geographies*, Galerie Mirchandani + Steinruecke, Mumbai, India

**2004**

*Crossroads*, M.F.A. Thesis Exhibition, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York, USA

**1998**

*Queer Series*, Wilde Gallery, Williams College, Williamstown, USA

### **GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

**2016**

*Studio Picks*, The Loft at Lower Parel, Mumbai, India

*Art for Concern Annual Charity Exhibition & Auction*, Mumbai, India

**2015**

*Sparsh/Tactile*, Kala Ghoda Arts Festival, Mumbai, India  
*The 377191 Wall: A New Window to Understanding*, Gallery Beyond, Mumbai, India  
*Reviving the Retinal*, Gallery OED, Curated by Kathleen Wyma, Kochi, India  
*India Art Fair*, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, New Delhi, India

**2014**

*Cursory Glances*, Curated by WAA, Palladium Mall, Mumbai, India  
*Asia Contemporary Art Show*, Hong Kong  
*Noir/Blanc*, The Loft at Lower Parel, Mumbai, India  
*Liberation*, YouTube campaign by Gaysi Family, Mumbai, India

**2013**

*Touched by Bhupen*, Galerie Mirchandani + Steinruecke, Mumbai, India  
*Vikhroli Skins*, an initiative by India Culture Lab, Mumbai, India  
*OUT/OFF: Out of the gallery and off the walls*, Chameleon Art Projects, Mumbai  
*RESIST*, Engendered Gallery, New Delhi, India  
*India Art Fair*, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, New Delhi, India

**2012**

*Open Studios*, Space 118, Mumbai, India  
*Museum of Memories*, India Culture Lab, Mumbai, India  
*Mumbai Galleries Weekend*, sponsored by Citibank. Mumbai, India  
*Can You See Me?*, Engendered Gallery, New Delhi, India

**2010**

*Hope for Haiti-India Cares*, Grand Hyatt, Mumbai, India

**2007**

*In-si-der*, Bodhi Art, Mumbai, India. Curated by Sonal Singh and Brinda Kumar

**2006**

*Joan Mitchell M.F.A. Grant Recipients*, CUE Art Foundation, New York, USA

**2004**

*Territories*, Aicon Gallery, New York, USA  
*2004 CAC Juried Exhibition*, Contemporary Artists Center, North Adams, USA  
*Explorations/Innovations*, Kingsborough Community College, New York, USA  
*2004 Annual Pratt MFA Exhibition*, Pratt Manhattan Gallery, New York, USA  
*Grand Group Show*, Danny Simmons Corridor Gallery, Brooklyn, New York, USA  
*Drawing Show*, Parsons Institute, New York, USA  
*MFAs Colliding*, New York University, New York, USA

**2002**

*Extreme Existence*, Schafler Gallery, Pratt Institute, New York, USA  
*9/11: Artists Respond*, Schafler Gallery, Pratt Institute, New York, USA

**2000**

*B.A. Thesis Exhibition*, Williams College Museum of Art, Williamstown, USA  
*Berkshire Artisans Association Juried Show*, Lichtenstein Art Center, Pittsfield, USA

**AWARDS & RECOGNITION****2014**

Civitella Ranieri Fellowship, Visual Arts Nominee, Italy

**2013**

L'Oreal Paris Femina Women Awards, Nominee, Artist of the Year, India

**2012**

Montblanc Young Artist World Patronage Award, Germany

**2009**

TED Fellowship, USA

**2005**

Pratt Circle Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement, Pratt Institute, USA  
Certificate of Excellence Award for Outstanding Merit in Graduate Fine Arts, Pratt  
Institute, USA  
Certificate of Excellence Award for Outstanding Merit in Graduate Art History, Pratt  
Institute, USA

**2004**

Joan Mitchell M.F.A. Grant, USA

**2000**

*cum laude*, Williams College, USA  
Berkshire Artisans Association Fellowship, USA  
Class 1960 Scholars in Art, Williams College, USA

**1998**

BiGLaTA Fellowship, Williams College, USA

**TALKS, CURATED PROJECTS & RESIDENCIES****2017**

Speaker, "Migration: To Be And Not To Be," Kala Ghoda Arts Festival 2017, Mumbai

**2016**

Curator, "Body Politics: Deconstructing the Male Gaze in the Visual, Literary and  
Performative Arts," Art Salon, Piramal Museum of Art, Mumbai, India

Curator, "Genesis Eternal: Art Production, Sustainable Materials and the Environment," Art Salon, Museum of Goa, India  
Curator, "Sentient Objects, Second Lives," Art Salon, KGAF16, Mumbai, India  
Curator, "Pushing Boundaries: Design on the Edge," Art Salon, TARQ, Mumbai  
Masterclass, "Masterclass: Painting with Words," CSMVS (Museum), Mumbai  
Moderator, "When Words Imitate Art," Kala Ghoda Arts Festival 2016, Mumbai  
Visiting Artist, WAA Residency, Mumbai, India  
Juror & Visiting Artist, Piramal Art Residency, Mumbai, India

## **2015**

"Swimming Against the Tide," TED Fellows Retreat, Monterey, California  
Curator, "Mythic Beings," Art Salon, Mumbai, India  
Curator, "Secret Supper Project," Art Salon, Mumbai, India  
Public lecture, "Second Wave Feminism," Goethe-Institute, Mumbai, India

## **2014**

Curator, "Writer as Shaman," Art Salon, Mumbai, India  
Curator, "Conversations," Art Salon, Mumbai, India  
Speaker, "Distilling Culture," INK Salon, Mumbai, India

## **2013**

Visiting Artist Lecture, Williams College, Williamstown, USA  
TED Talk, "Fellows Climbing Mountains," TED Fellows Retreat, Whistler, Canada

## **2012**

Moderator, "Leaps of Faith: Collector's Narratives," Art Chennai, India  
Engendered Artist Residency, New Delhi, India

## **2011**

Speaker, "The Persistent Question of Indianness," India Art Festival, Mumbai, India  
Curator, "Art Conversations," Art Chennai, India

## **2010**

Moderator, "Sources of Departure, Sites of No-Return," Emami Chisel, Kolkata, India  
Curator, "Art of Travel," Group Exhibition, Conde Nast Traveler, Mumbai, India  
Curator, "A Place of Their Own," Group Exhibition, Gallery BMB, Mumbai, India  
Pro Helvetia Curators' Residency, Art Basel 41, Switzerland

## **2009**

Chairperson, "Global and Romani," Symposium, Kolkata, India  
Speaker, "Asian Art on Western Circuits of Exchange," India Art Summit, New Delhi  
Speaker, "India – Personal and Political," Crossword, Mumbai, India  
Public lecture, "Mapping South Asian Diaspora Art," Asia Society, Mumbai, India

## **2006**

Public lecture, "Indian Artists and the Flat World," CSMVS (Museum), Mumbai

## PRESS & BIBLIOGRAPHY

### 2017

- Dinesh, Arya P., "Seamless Expressions," *Indulge*, Indian Express, Feb 2017  
"Migration and its problems are here to stay," Indian Express, 13 Feb 2017  
Domscheit-D'Souza, Katharina, "Queering the Landscape," *Take on Art*, Jan-Jun 17

### 2016

- Adajania, Nancy, "A Polymorphous Love: Queering the Straight and Narrow," Cat. Essay, *we are all islands*, 2016  
Ray, Sharmistha, "Angel Network" *Elle India*, Nov 2016  
Ray, Sharmistha, "Dreamworks," *Vogue India*, Nov 2016  
"Beyond Words," *Harper's Bazaar*, Nov 2016  
Couto, Cheryl-Ann, "Digital Dystopia," *Elle India*, Oct 2016  
"Artist Sharmistha Ray takes us behind the scenes," *Vogue India - vogue.in*, 2016  
Singh, Deepali, "Two Women, Two Shows," *DNA After Hours*, Oct 2016  
Doshi, Riddhi, "Merging into a Digital Reality," *The Hindu*, Oct 2016  
"A Trip to an Astral Land," *Mumbai Mix*, Oct 2016  
"Recharge: The Hindu's pick of the best events in the city," *The Hindu*, 2 Oct 2016  
"Sharmistha Ray's Interpretation of Love in the Technological Age," *Verve*, 4 Oct 16  
Eng, Karen, "In Search of the Queer Divine," *TED Fellows Blog*, Oct 2016  
"Best of Mumbai this weekend in 10 events," *Hindustan Times*, 29 Sep 2016  
Das, Kusumita, "An archipelago of art forms," *The Hindu*, 25 Sep 2016  
Ray, Sharmistha, "Interview with Hans Ulrich Obrist," *experimenter.in*, 28 Jul 2016  
Basu, Indira, "Redefining body politics," *The Hindu*, 29 Apr 2016  
Ray, Sharmistha, "In India, Choosing a Hairstyle is an Act of Social Revolt," *TED Fellows x Medium.com*, 25 Apr 2016  
Fernando, Benita, "Women gaze back at Raja Ravi Varma," *Midday*, 24 Apr 2016  
Ray, Sharmistha, "Hit List," *Elle India*, Jan 2016

### 2015

- Sangghvi, Malavika, "The Warhol Effect," *Midday*, 26 Nov 2015  
Shahani, Parmesh, "Parmesh's Viewfinder: Breaking Stereotypes," *Verve*, 13 Oct 15  
Paul, Amrita, "Art of Steel with artist Sharmistha Ray," *shethepeople.tv*, 8 Sep 2015  
Louis, Maria, "Being Woman," *Architect and Interiors India*, Aug 2015  
"Artist Sharmistha Ray Unveils First Figurative Painting," *gaysifamily.com*, 24 Jul 15  
Sangghvi, Malavika, "Soulful Salon," *Midday*, 21 Jul 2015  
Tata, Huzan, "Three's Company," *Verve*, Jul 2015  
"Indian Artists Who Are Exploring Sex & Sexuality in Important Ways," *homegrown.in*  
"Crescent of a Woman," *Architect and Interiors India*, Mar 2015  
"Painting the Town Blue," *Times of India*, Feb 2015  
Shah, Lajja, "The Sea, The Sea," *Art India*, Vol XIX, Issue III, Jun 2015  
Chevalwala, Arshie, "Sharmistha Ray Images a Painting in 3D," *elle.in*, Feb 15  
Doshi, Riddhi, "Visitors get up close and personal with art," *HT*, 9 Feb 2015  
Ray, Sharmistha, "The Mumbai of Howard Hodgkin," *Mint Lounge*, *livemint.in*, 7 Feb

## 2014

Ray, Sharmistha, "Inspiration from a Port," *livemint.com*, 22 Dec 2014  
Ray, Sharmistha, "Seven artists you must see at Kochi," *livemint.com*, 17 Dec 14  
Ray, Sharmistha, "A vortex near the sea," *livemint.com*, 14 Dec 2014  
Ray, Sharmistha, "Anish Kapoor: Home Truths," *Elle India*, Dec 2014  
Ray, Sharmistha, "States of Arousal," Visual Essay, *Gaysi Zine*, Nov 2014  
Ratnam, Dhamini, "The Sex Talk: Not just a story," *livemint.com*, 21 Nov 2014  
Sangghvi, Malavika, "The Maestro with a Thousand Crystals," *Midday*, 24 Nov 2014  
"Host with the Most," *Mumbai, Pune & Ahmedabad Mirror*, Oct 2014  
Sangghvi, Malavika, "Smart Art Move," *Midday*, Oct 2014  
Sangghvi, Malavika, "Revisiting the Masters," *Midday*, Aug 2014  
Ray, Sharmistha, "Media Frenzy," *Elle India*, Mar 2014  
Ray, Sharmistha, "The Vanhaerents Art Collection" *Take on Art*, 2014  
Ray, Sharmistha, "Conversation with Uli Sigg," *Take on Art*, 2014  
Shah, Siddhartha, "Space between Spaces," *Art India*, 2014  
Mehta, Samanta Batra, "In her own voice," *Take on Art*, 2014  
"Critic's Choice," *Time Out Singapore*, Jan 2014

## 2013

White, Kit, Interview, Catalogue, *Reflections + Transformations*, 2013  
Eng, Karen, "Hidden Geographies" *blog.ted.com (TED Blog)*, 18 Oct 2013  
"Alpha Female," *Elle India*, Oct 2013  
"Delhi Spread," *Art + Auction Magazine*, Jan 2013

## 2012

Adajania, Nancy, "How the Nomad Holds, Grasps and Moulds the Shape of her Location," E-catalogue essay, *hidden geographies*, 2012  
Pal, Deepanjana, "The Act of Seeing," E-catalogue Essay, *Can You See Me?*, 2012  
Banerjee, Olina, "Global Art Comes Home," *India Today*, 13 Feb 2012  
Bhalla, Simran, "Spaced, out," *Time Out Delhi*, Feb 2012  
Shahani, Parmesh, "Geographies of Being," *Verve*, Feb 2012  
Dixit-Hathi, Nirali, "Look hues here," *Bombay Times*, 9 Feb 2012  
Sahani, Alaka, "Bold and Colourful," *The Indian Express*, 5 Feb 2012  
Mazumder, Jayeeta, "Beauty always resides in the mundane," *DNA*, 17 Jan 2012  
Campbell, Diana, "Show and Tell," *Vogue India*, Jan 2012

## 2011

Ratnam, Dhamini, "The Art of Peeling Pink," *Sunday Midday*, 25 Dec 2011

## 2010

Ray, Sharmistha, "Walking the Razor's Edge," *Art India*, Dec 2010  
Ray, Sharmistha, "Curating in the Ghetto," *Indian Contemporary Art Journal*, 2010  
Thani Daswani, Divia, "Art of Travel," *Conde Nast Traveller India*, Dec 2010  
Dixit-Hathi, Nirali, "Beyond borders," *Bombay Times*, 20 Nov 2010  
Nagree, Zeenat, "Homeward Bound," *Time Out Mumbai*, 15 Oct 2010  
Ray, Sharmistha, "Artistic Trail," *Vogue India*, Sep 2010  
Ray, Sharmistha, "When Indian art went global," *Men's World*, 2010  
Ray, Sharmistha, "Young artists lay new foundations," *The Economic Times*, 10 Mar

**2009**

Ray, Sharmistha, "A Place of Their Own," Art Pulse, Oct - Nov 2009

Ray, Sharmistha, "Review: L.N. Tallur," Art Asia Pacific, Sep 2009

Maddox, Georgina, "Diaspora and the Arts," Indian Express, 18 Jun 2009

Ray, Sharmistha, "A Way in the World," Art India, Jun 2009

**2006**

Ray, Sharmistha, "In touch with the Indian inside," The Telegraph, 9 Nov 2006

## **SHARMISTHA RAY**

### **SHORT BIO**

Sharmistha Ray is a contemporary visual artist whose work encompasses painting, installations, electronic media, photography, sculpture and drawing. She is a TED Fellow who has exhibited in Delhi, Hong Kong, New York and Singapore and recently staged the critically acclaimed travelling exhibit *we are all islands* in Mumbai and Kochi.

A citizen of the world, Ray's works address personal identity as viewed through the chaos of migration. Born in Kolkata, Ray spent her childhood growing up in Kuwait until the Gulf War brought her back briefly to Kolkata. Ray pursued her further studies at Williams College and Pratt Institute in America.

Fate struck when Ray happened upon a show at the Reina Sofia in Madrid that would change her outlook forever. A retrospective exhibition of the radical gay painter, Bhupen Khakar, the show had a visceral impact on Ray and fuelled her determination to return to India—if only to bear witness to the incredible subjects Khakar painted.

Ray returned to her birthplace of Kolkata in 2006. Then, after a few months of capturing the sensations of urban life in miniature vignettes, fate struck again. In a chance encounter with a long-lost acquaintance, she was led to discover the city by the Arabian Sea—Mumbai.

Ray has called Mumbai home for the past decade where, in addition to exhibiting, she is the founder of Bellevue Salons a popular cross-pollinating platform for dialogues in art and culture.