

# SHARMISTHA RAY



## BRIEF

Sharmistha Ray is an artist, writer and curator who lives and works in New York City. She is the recipient of the Montblanc Young Artist Worldwide Patronage Award (2012), TED Fellowship (2009) and Joan Mitchell MFA Grant (2004). She has exhibited internationally and her paintings are in private collections around the world.

sray@sharmistharay.com  
917.254.6154

## 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 & PROJECTS

**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  
**2012** *hidden geographies*, Galerie Mirchandani + Steinruecke, Mumbai, India  
**2004** *Crossroads*, M.F.A. Thesis Exhibition, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York  
**1998** *Queer Series*, Wilde Gallery, Williams College, Williamstown, USA

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS & ART FAIRS

### 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

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[www.sharmistharay.com](http://www.sharmistharay.com)

*Reviving the Retinal*, Curated by Kathleen Wyma, Gallery OED, Kochi, India  
*India Art Fair*, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, New Delhi, India (Booth: The Loft at Lower Parel)

#### **2014**

*Cursory Glances*, Curated by What About Arts?, Palladium Mall, Mumbai, India  
*Asia Contemporary Art Show*, Hong Kong  
*Noir/Blanc*, The Loft at Lower Parel, Mumbai, India

#### **2013**

*Touched by Bhupen*, Galerie Mirchandani + Steinruecke, Mumbai, India  
*Vikhroli Skins*, Curated by India Culture Lab, Godrej Industries, Mumbai, India  
*OUT/OFF: Out of the gallery and off the walls*, Curated by Chameleon Art Projects,  
Mumbai, India  
*RESIST*, Engendered Gallery, New Delhi; Gallery Beyond, Mumbai; Forum Art  
Gallery, Chennai  
*India Art Fair*, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, New Delhi, India (Booth: Aicon Gallery)

#### **2012**

*Open Studios*, Space 118, Mumbai, India  
*Museum of Memories*, Curated by India Culture Lab, Godrej Industries, Mumbai  
*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*, Curated by Sonal Singh and Brinda Kumar, Bodhi Art, Mumbai, India

#### **2006**

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

#### **2004**

*Territories*, Arts India Gallery (now Aicon), 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

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## **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, TED, New York, 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, Joan Mitchell Foundation, New York, USA. Cash Award: \$10,000

### **2000**

*cum laude*, Williams College, Williamstown, USA

Dean's List (four-time recipient, 1997-2000), Williams College, Williamstown, USA

Berkshire Artisans Association Fellowship, Berkshire Artisans Association, USA

Class 1960 Scholars in Art, Williams College, Williamstown, USA

Museum Associate (1999-2000), Williams College Museum of Art, Williamstown, USA

### **1998**

BiGLaTA Fellowship, Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian and Transgendered Alumni, Williams

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College, USA. Cash Award: \$2,500

## **ART RESIDENCIES, TALKS & CURATED PROJECTS**

### **Residencies & Retreats**

Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts, New York, 2017  
*Swimming Against the Tide*, TED Fellows Retreat, Monterey, California, 2015  
*Fellows Climbing Mountains*, TED Fellows Retreat, Whistler, Canada, 2013  
Engendered Artist Residency, New Delhi, India, 2012  
ProHelvetia Curators' Residency, Art Basel 41, Switzerland, 2010

### **Talks, Speaking Engagements & Panel Discussions**

Discussant, "Fine Arts: Entrepreneurship and the Creative Economy," Roundtable discussion, Steuben Gallery, Pratt Institute, New York, 2017  
Moderator, "Hope & Peace," 20 Years of Gallerie Magazine, The Royal Opera House, Mumbai, 2017  
Panelist, "Migration: To Be And Not To Be," Literature @ Kala Ghoda Arts Festival 2017, David Sassoon Library, Mumbai, 2017  
Moderator, "When Words Imitate Art," Literature @ Kala Ghoda Arts Festival 2016, Mumbai, India, 2016  
Public Lecture, "Indian Artists and the Flat World," CSMVS (Museum), Mumbai, 2016  
Public Lecture, "Second Wave Feminism," Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan, Mumbai, India, 2015  
Speaker, "Distilling Culture," INK Salon, Four Seasons Hotel, Mumbai, India, 2014  
Visiting Artist Lecture, WLS Spencer Art Studio, Williams College, USA, 2013  
TED Talk, TED Fellows Retreat, Whistler, Canada. Duration: 8 min, 2013  
Moderator, "Leaps of Faith: Collector's Narratives," Art Chennai, India, 2012  
Public Lecture, "The Persistent Question of Indianness," India Art Festival, Nehru Center, Mumbai, 2011  
Chairperson & Moderator, "Art Conversations," Art Chennai, India, 2011  
Moderator, "Sources of Departure, Sites of No-Return," Emami Chisel, Kolkata, 2010  
Public Lecture, "Mapping South Asian Diaspora Art," Asia Society, Mumbai, 2009  
Chairperson, "Global and Romani," Symposium, Emami Chisel, Kolkata, 2009  
Panelist, "Asian Art on Western Circuits of Exchange," Co-panelists: Yuko Hasegawa, Hans Ulrich Obrist, Ranjit Hoskote. India Art Summit, New Delhi, 2009  
Panelist, "India – Personal and Political," Co-panelists: Bina Sarkar Ellias, Ranjit Hoskote. Crossword Bookstore, Mumbai, 2009  
Discussant, Conversation with artist Maryam Jafri, Mohile Parikh Center @ Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan, Mumbai, 2009

### **Art Juries**

Juror, INK Fellows Program (Category: Art), INK Conferences, India, 2017  
Juror, *binary*, Piramal Art Residency, Mumbai, 2016

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### **Visiting Artist**

Visiting Artist, What About Arts?, Artist Residency, Mumbai, 2016

Visiting Artist, *binary*, Piramal Art Residency, Mumbai, 2016

### **Curated Projects: Bellevue Salons & Art Conversations**

Curator & Moderator, Bellevue Salons: *Politics of Art*, Salonists: Tasneem Mehta, Dr. Arshiya Lokhandwala, Prajna Desai. Goethe-Institut/Max Mueller Bhavan, Mumbai, 2017

Curator, Bellevue Salons: *Raising Feminist Sons*, Co-curated by Tara Kaushal. The Upstairs Studio, Mumbai, 2017

Curator & Moderator, Bellevue Salons: *Body Politics: Deconstructing the Male Gaze in the Visual, Literary and Performative Arts*, Salonists: Rosalyn D'Mello, Lavani performing troupe. Piramal Museum of Art, Mumbai, 2016

Curator, Bellevue Salons: *Genesis Eternal: Art Production, Sustainable Materials and the Environment*, Salonists: Kanchi Mehta, Sanvar Oberoi, Subodh Kerkar, Shilpa Joglekar. Museum of Goa, 2016

Curator, Bellevue Salons: *Sentient Objects, Second Lives*, Salonists: Kala Ghoda Arts Festival 2016. Artisans Gallery, Mumbai, 2016

Curator & Moderator, Bellevue Salons: *Pushing Boundaries: Design on the Edge*. TARQ, Mumbai, 2016

Curator, Bellevue Salons: *Mythic Beings*, Salonists: Joi Barua, Geetu Unplugged. Sharmistha Ray Studio, Mumbai, 2015

Curator, Bellevue Salons: *Secret Supper Project*, Salonists: Secret Supper Project, The Vault, Funky Kitchen Company. Off-site project, Mumbai, 2015

Curator, Bellevue Salons: *Writer as Shaman*, Salonists: Ranjit Hoskote, Anupa Mehta. Sharmistha Ray Studio, Mumbai, 2014

Curator, Bellevue Salons: *New Initiatives in Indian Art*, Salonists: Elise Foster vander Elst, Gitanjali Dang, CAMP. Sharmistha Ray Studio, 2014

### **Independently Curated Exhibitions**

*Art of Travel*, Group Exhibition with leading contemporary Indian artists for Conde Nast Traveler's launch in India, Oberoi Hotel, Mumbai, 2010

*A Place of Their Own*, Group Exhibition of South Asian Diaspora Artists from New York, Gallery BMB, Mumbai, 2010

## **PRESS & BIBLIOGRAPHY**

### **Journals, Books & Exhibition Catalogues**

Adajania, Nancy (editor), "Some Things That Only Art Can Do: A Lexicon of Affective Knowledge," *Aroop / The Raza Foundation*, 2017

Adajania, Nancy, "A Polymorphous Love: Queering the Straight and Narrow,"

[studio@sharmistharay.com](mailto:studio@sharmistharay.com)

[www.sharmistharay.com](http://www.sharmistharay.com)

Catalogue essay, *we are all islands*, 2016  
Hoskote, Ranjit (editor), "Touched by Bhupen," Catalogue, *Touched by Bhupen*, 2013  
White, Kit, Q&A, Exhibition Catalogue, *Reflections + Transformations*, 2013  
Pal, Deepanjana, "The act of seeing," e-catalogue essay, *Can You See Me?*, 2012  
Adajania, Nancy, "How the Nomad Holds, Grasps and Moulds the Shape of her Location," e-catalogue essay, *hidden geographies*, 2012

### **Exhibition Reviews**

Kanoria, Jaya, "Looking into the well," *ART India*, Volume XXI, Issue II Quarter II, 2017  
Domscheit-D'Souza, Katharina, "Queering the Landscape," *Take on Art*, Jan-Jun 17  
Shah, Lajja, "The Sea, The Sea," *ART India*, Vol XIX, Issue III, Jun 2015  
Shah, Siddhartha, "Space between Spaces," *ART India*, 2014  
Mehta, Samanta Batra, "In her own voice," *Take on Art*, 2014  
Desai, Phalguni, "In Memory," *Time Out Mumbai*, Nov 22 – Dec 5, 2013

### **Features & Exhibition Previews**

Ellias, Bina Sarkar (editor), "Hope & Peace," *International Gallerie*, Vol. 20 No. 1, 2017  
"Beyond Words," *Harper's Bazaar India*, Nov 2016  
Doshi, Riddhi, "Merging into a Digital Reality," *The Hindu*, Oct 2016  
"Artist Sharmistha Ray takes us behind the scenes," *Vogue India Blog*, 2016  
Couto, Cheryl-Ann, "Digital Dystopia," *Elle India*, Oct 2016  
Eng, Karen, "In Search of the Queer Divine," *TED Fellows Blog*, Oct 2016  
Das, Kusumita, "An archipelago of art forms," *The Hindu*, 25 Sep 2016  
Louis, Maria, "Being Woman," *Architecture and Interiors India*, Aug 2015  
Louis, Maria, "Crescent of a Woman," *Architecture and Interiors India*, Mar 2015  
Eng, Karen, "Hidden Geographies," *TED Blog*, 18 Oct 2013  
Nagree, Zeenat, "Spot Colour," *Time Out Mumbai*, Jan 20 – Feb 2, 2012  
Campbell, Diana, "Show and Tell," *Vogue India*, Jan 2012  
Nagree, Zeenat, "Homeward Bound," *Time Out Mumbai*, 15 – 28 Oct 2010 (Vol7 Iss4)  
Ratnam, Dhamini, "The Art of Peeling Pink," *Sunday MIDDAY*, 25 Dec 2011

### **Selected News Articles**

Maskeri, Anju, "Take it easy," *Sunday MIDDAY*, 30 July 2017  
"Bite of the Big Apple," *Mumbai Mirror*, 25 July 2017  
Sangghvi, Malavika, "Raising Feminist Sons," *MIDDAY*, June 2017  
Fernando, Benita, "Wikipedia for female artists," *MIDDAY*, 23 April 2017  
Dinesh, Arya P., "Seamless Expressions," *Indulge Magazine, Indian Express*, Feb 2017  
"Migration and its problems are here to stay," *Indian Express*, 13 Feb 2017

[studio@sharmistharay.com](mailto:studio@sharmistharay.com)  
[www.sharmistharay.com](http://www.sharmistharay.com)

Singh, Deepali, "Two Women, Two Shows," *DNA After Hours*, 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 India*, 4 Oct 2016  
"Best of Mumbai this weekend in 10 events," *Hindustan Times*, 29 Sep 2016  
Basu, Indira, "Redefining body politics," *The Hindu*, 29 Apr 2016  
Fernando, Benita, "Women gaze back at Raja Ravi Varma," *Midday*, 24 Apr 2016  
Sangghvi, Malavika, "The Warhol Effect," *Midday*, 26 Nov 2015  
Shahani, Parmesh, "Parmesh's Viewfinder: Breaking Stereotypes," *Verve India*, 13 Oct 2015  
Paul, Amrita, "Art of Steel with artist Sharmistha Ray," *shethepeople.tv*, 8 Sep 2015  
"Artist Sharmistha Ray Unveils First Figurative Painting," *Gaysi Family Blog*, [gaysifamily.com](http://gaysifamily.com), 24 Jul 2015  
Sangghvi, Malavika, "Soulful Salon," *Midday*, 21 Jul 2015  
Tata, Huzan, "Three's Company," *Verve India*, Jul 2015  
"Indian Artists Who Are Exploring Sex & Sexuality in Important Ways," *Homegrown Blog*, 2015  
"Painting the Town Blue," *Times of India*, Feb 2015  
Chevalwala, Arshie, "Sharmistha Ray Images a Painting in 3D," *Elle India Blog*, [elle.in](http://elle.in), Feb 2015  
Doshi, Riddhi, "Visitors get up close and personal with art," *Hindustan Times*, 9 Feb 2015  
Ratnam, Dhamini, "The Sex Talk: Not Just a Story," *Mint Lounge Blog*, [livemint.com](http://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  
"Alpha Female," *Elle India*, Oct 2013  
"Delhi Spread," *Art + Auction Magazine*, Jan 2013  
Banerjee, Olina, "Global Art Comes Home," *India Today*, 13 Feb 2012  
Bhalla, Simran, "Spaced, out," *Time Out Delhi*, Feb 2012  
Som, Rituparna, "Deskjob to workshop," *Grazia India*, Feb 2012  
Shahani, Parmesh, "Geographies of Being," *Verve India*, 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  
Thani Daswani, Divia, "Art of Travel," *Conde Nast Traveller India*, Dec 2010  
Dixit-Hathi, Nirali, "Beyond borders," *Bombay Times*, 20 Nov 2010  
Maddox, Georgina, "Diaspora and the Arts," *Indian Express*, 18 Jun 2009  
Flock, Elizabeth, "The Fine Art of Investing in Fine Art," *Forbes India*, 2009  
Melwani, Lavina, "A Space of Their Own," *Anokhi Vibe*, Fall 2004



"Artist Sharmistha Ray gets Joan Mitchell MFA Award," *India Abroad*, Sept 2004

### **Selected Writings, Interviews & Visual Essays**

Ray, Sharmistha, "Angel Network" *Elle India*, Nov 2016

Ray, Sharmistha, "Dreamworks," *Vogue India*, Nov 2016

Ray, Sharmistha, "Interview with Hans Ulrich Obrist," *Curators' Hub Blog*,  
*experimenter.in*, 28 Jul 2016

Ray, Sharmistha, "Interview with Naman Ahuja," *Curators' Hub Blog*, Jul 2016

Ray, Sharmistha, "Interview with Natasha Ginwala," *Curators' Hub Blog*, Jul 2016

Ray, Sharmistha, "Interview with Rahaab Allana," *Curators' Hub Blog*, Jul 2016

Ray, Sharmistha, "Interview with Marta Smolinska," *Curators' Hub Blog*, Jul 2016

Ray, Sharmistha, "Interview with Ariana Pradal," *Curators' Hub Blog*, Jul 2016

Ray, Sharmistha, "In India, Choosing a Hairstyle is an Act of Social Revolt," *TED  
Fellows x Medium.com*, 25 Apr 2016

Ray, Sharmistha, "Hit List," *Elle India*, Jan 2016

Ray, Sharmistha, "The Mumbai of Howard Hodgkin," *Mint Lounge*, 7 Feb 2015

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, "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

Ray, Sharmistha, "States of Arousal," Visual Essay, *Gaysi Zine 05*, Nov 2014

Ray, Sharmistha, "Walking the Razor's Edge," *Art India*, Dec 2010

Ray, Sharmistha, "Curating in the Ghetto," *Indian Contemporary Art Journal*, 2010

Ray, Sharmistha, "Artistic Trail," *Vogue India*, Sep 2010

Ray, Sharmistha, "When Indian art went global," *Man's World India*, 2010

Ray, Sharmistha, "Young artists lay new foundations," *The Economic Times*, 10 Mar

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

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

Ray, Sharmistha, "Yamini Nayar - Intimate Theater: A Soliloquy of Dislocations,"  
*Wynwood Art Magazine*, 2009

Ray, Sharmistha, "The Business of Art," *Verve India*, 2009

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

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

### **COLLECTIONS**

Art works in private and corporate collections around the world, including U.S.A., U.K., Germany, Austria, Italy, India & Singapore.

[studio@sharmistharay.com](mailto:studio@sharmistharay.com)

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