

# GAURI GILL

Gauri Gill (b. 1970, Chandigarh, India) earned a BFA (Applied Art) from the College of Art, New Delhi; BFA (Photography) from Parsons School of Design/The New School, New York; and MFA (Art) from Stanford University, California. She has exhibited within India and internationally, including the Venice Biennale; Museum Tinguely, Basel; MoMA PS1, New York; Documenta 14, Athens and Kassel; Kochi Biennale; 7<sup>th</sup> Moscow Biennale; Wiener Library, London; and Whitechapel Gallery, London. Her work is in the collections of prominent institutions worldwide, including the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Tate Museum, London; the Smithsonian Institution, Washington and Fotomuseum, Winterthur. In 2011 she was awarded the Grange Prize, Canada's foremost award for photography.

Gill's practice is complex because it contains several lines of pursuit. These include an almost two decade long engagement with marginalised communities in rural Rajasthan called Notes from the Desert (since 1999)—this ongoing archive contains sub-series such as The Mark on the Wall, Traces, Birth Series, Jannat, Balika Mela, and Ruined Rainbow. She has explored human displacement and the migrant experience in The Americans and What Remains. Projects such as the 1984 notebooks highlight her sustained belief in collaboration and 'active listening', and in using photography as a memory practice. Beginning in early 2013, Fields of Sight is an equal collaboration with the renowned Adivasi artist, Rajesh Vangad, combining the contemporary language of photography with the ancient one of Warli drawing to co-create new narratives. In her recent body of work, Acts of Appearance, (2015—), the artist has worked closely with the paper mache artists of the Kokna tribe in Maharashtra, using unique masks to tell fictional stories improvised together of contemporary life in the village. Working in both black and white and colour, Gill's work addresses the twinned Indian identity markers of class and community as determinants of mobility and social behaviour; in it there is empathy, surprise, and a human concern over issues of survival.

## EDUCATION

**2002:** M.F.A. (Art) Stanford University, California

**1994:** B.F.A. (Photography) Parsons School of Design, New York.

**1992:** B.F.A. Applied Art) Delhi College of Art, New Delhi

## SOLO SHOWS

### 2019

'**Object/Set: Gauri Gill's Acts of Appearance**', Curated by Anna Lee, Columbus Museum of Art, Ohio

'**Acts of Appearance**', Curated by Grace Partridge for Antidote: A Festival of Ideas, Action and Change, Sydney Opera House, Sydney

### 2018

'**Traces**', in dialogue with Jean Tinguely's Mengele-Totentanz, Curated by Roland Wetzels, Museum Tinguely, Basel

'**Project 108: Gauri Gill**', Curated by Lucy Gallun, PS1 MoMA, New York

'**Acts of Appearance**', Nature Morte, New Delhi

### 2016

'**Notes from the Desert: Photographs by Gauri Gill**', Curated by Carol Huh, Freer-Sackler Gallery at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC

'**The Mark on the Wall**', Galerie Mirchandani and Steinruecke, Mumbai

### 2014

'**Balika Mela**' and '**Jannat**', Thomas Erben Gallery, New York

### 2012

'**Balika Mela**', Nature Morte Gallery, New Delhi; Book Launch at Fotomuseum, Winterthur

### 2011

'What Remains', Green Cardamom Gallery, London

## 2010

'Notes from the Desert', Nature Morte Gallery, New Delhi; Matthieu Foss Gallery, Mumbai; Focus Gallery, Chennai; Urmul Setu Sansthan, Lunkaransar

## 2008 – 11

'The Americans', Bose Pacia Gallery, Kolkata; Chatterjee and Lal Gallery, Mumbai; Nature Morte Gallery, New Delhi; Thomas Welton Art Gallery, Stanford University; Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago; Bose Pacia Gallery, New York; Missisauga Central Library, Missisauga

## SELECTED TWO PERSON/GROUP EXHIBITIONS

### 2019

'**Àbadakone | Continuous Fire | Feu continuuel**', Greg A. Hill; Christine Lalonde; and Rachele Dickenson, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa

'**Mask. In Present-Day Art**', Curated by Madeleine Schuppli and Yasmin Afschar, Aargauer Kunsthhaus, Aarau

'**The Life of Things**', Momenta Biennale de l'image, Curated by Maria Wills Londoño with Audrey Genois and Maude Johnson, Montreal

'**Mask: The Art of Transformation**', Curated by Barbara Scheuermann, Kunstmuseum Bonn

'**May you live in Interesting Times**', Venice Biennale, Curated by Ralph Rugoff, Venice

'**Moving Still: Performative Photography in India**', Curated by Gayatri Sinha and Diana Freundl, Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver

'**Vision Exchange: Perspectives from India to Canada**', Curated by Catherine Crowston and Jonathan Shaughnessy, Art Gallery of Alberta, Art Gallery of University of Toronto, Winnipeg Art Gallery

'**Chobimela**', Dhaka, Bangladesh

'**Chennai Biennale: Fauna of Mirrors**', Curated by N. Pushpamala, Chennai

### 2018

'**Nashashibi/Skaer: Thinking Through Other Artists**', Group exhibition curated by Rosalind Nashashibi and Lucy Skaer at Tate St Ives, UK

'**Bangkok Art Biennale**', Curated by Apinan Poshyananda, Bangkok

'**Thinking Ahead**', Erna Hecey Gallery, Luxembourg

'**Divine Bodies**', Organised by Asian Art Museum, San Francisco

'**FotoFest 2018 Biennial-Indian Photographic & New Media Art**', Curated by Sunil Gupta and Steven Evans, Houston, Texas

'**A Beast, a God and a Line**', Para Site, Hong Kong

'**Bearing Points**', Curated by Diana Campbell, Dhaka Art Summit, Bangladesh

'**Riots: Slow Cancellation of the Future**', Curated by Natasha Ginwala, ifa-Galerie, Stuttgart and Berlin

### 2017

'**Prospect 4: The Lotus In Spite Of The Swamp**', Artistic Director Trevor Schoonmaker, New Orleans

'**Memories from the Futures: Indian Modernities**', Curated by Catherine David, Centre Pompidou, Paris

'**7th Moscow Biennale, Clouds ⇌ Forests**', Curated by Yoko Hasegawa, New Tretyakov State Gallery, Moscow

'**Documenta 14**', Artistic Director Adam Szymczyk, Athens, Greece; Kassel, Germany

'**Balika Mela at ICP for International Womens Day**', International Center for Photography, NY

### 2016

'**Kochi-Muziris Biennale**', Curated by Sudarshan Shetty, Kochi, Kerala

'**Dislocation/Negotiating Identity: Contemporary Photographs from South and Southeast Asia**', Curated by Aprile Gallant, Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton

'**Unsuspending Disbelief**', Curated by Laura Letinsky, Logan Gallery, University of Chicago, Chicago

'**Tabiyat: Medicine and Healing in India**' Curated by Ratan Vaswani, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, Mumbai and '**Jeevanchakra**', Curated by Latika Gupta, Akar Prakar, Kolkata

### 2015

'**Picture This: Contemporary Photography and India**', Curated by Nathaniel Stein, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia

'Ruins and Fabrications', Curated by Bakirathi Mani, Twelve Gates Arts, Philadelphia  
'POST DATE: Photography and Inherited History in India', Curated by Jodi Throckmorton, San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose; Ulrich Museum of Art, Kansas  
'Nameless here for evermore', Khoj International Artists Association, New Delhi  
'My Memory, Your History: Narratives on the North', Curated by Priya Pall, Birla Academy of Art and Culture, Kolkata

#### 2014

'The Missing Pavilion', Curated by Gayatri Sinha and JNU students, School of Arts and Aesthetics, JNU, New Delhi  
'Ways of Seeing: Gauri Gill and Seher Shah', Experimenter Gallery, Kolkata  
'1984', The Wiener Library, London  
'Rectangular Squares', Curated by Esa Epstein, Sepia Eye Gallery, New York  
'Punctum Reflections on Photography', Curated by Seamus Healey, Salzburger Kunstverein, Salzburg  
'Invisible Cities', Curated by Bhooma Padmanabhan, Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi  
'Ganjad Portraits', Regal Cinema Building, Connaught Place, New Delhi; Ganjad Primary School, Ganjad  
'Forms of Activism: 25 years of Sahmat', Lalit Kala Academy, New Delhi  
'Insert 2014', Curated by Raqs Media Collective, Indira Gandhi National Center for the Arts, New Delhi

#### 2013

'Aesthetic Bind Citizen Artist: Forms of Address', Curated by Geeta Kapur, Chemould Gallery, Mumbai  
'Delhi Photo Festival', Habitat Center, New Delhi  
'Lines of Control: Partition as a productive space', Curated by Iftikhar Dadi and Hammad Nasar, Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University  
'Duende', Curated by Gitanjali Dang, Rote Fabrik, Zurich  
'A Photograph is Not an Opinion – Contemporary Photography by Women', Curated by Sunil Gupta and Veerangana Solanki, Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai

#### 2012

'The Needle on the Gauge', Curated by Ranjit Hoskote, The Contemporary Art Institute of Southern Australia, Adelaide  
'There Was A Country Where They Were All Thieves', Curated by Natasha Ginwala, Jeanine Hofland Contemporary Art, Amsterdam  
'The Portrait: Contemporary Indian Photography', Curated by Devika Daulet-Singh, Fremantle Arts Centre, Fremantle  
'Lines of Control: Partition as a Productive Space', Curated by Hammad Nasar, Iftikhar Dadi and Ellen Avril, Herbert F. Johnson Museum at Cornell University; Nasher Museum, Duke University  
'Cynical Love: Life in the Everyday', Curated by Gayatri Sinha, Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, New Delhi

#### 2011

'The Grange Prize Exhibition' Curated by Michelle Jacques, Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto  
'Step Across This Line', Contemporary artists from Bangladesh, India and Pakistan, Curated by Deeksha Nath, Asia House, London  
'The Matter Within: New Contemporary Art of India', Curated by Betti-Sue Hertz, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco  
'Generation in Transition', Curated by Magda Kardasz, Zacheta National Gallery of Art, Warsaw; Contemporary Art Centre, Vilnius  
'Staging Selves: Power, Performativity and Portraiture', Curated by Maya Kovskaya, Sakshi Gallery, Mumbai  
'Homespun', Curated by Girish Shahane, Devi Art Foundation, New Delhi  
'Picturing Parallax: Photography and Video from the South Asian Diaspora', Curated by Santhi Kavuri-Bauer, SF State Fine Arts Gallery, San Francisco  
'The Americans', Curated by Haema Sivanesan, Mississauga Central Library, Mississauga. Featured exhibition in Contact Photo Festival (solo)  
'Something I've been meaning to tell you', Curated by Sunil Gupta and Vidya Shivadas, Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi  
'Hall of Technology', Artist Project, Indian Art Summit, New Delhi

## 2010

'**Light Drifts**', Curated by Eve Lemesle, Matthieu Foss Gallery, Mumbai

'**US TODAY: AFTER KATRINA**', Curated by Phillippe Durand and Joerg Bader, Institut d'art Contemporain, Villeurbanne, Lyon

'**Docutour**', Curated by Bose Krishnamachari, BMB Gallery, Mumbai

'**Where Three Dreams Cross – 150 years of photography from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh**', Whitechapel Gallery, London; Fotomuseum, Winterthur, Switzerland. Curated by Sunil Gupta.

'**Punctum 1 – A critical look at the landscape in South Asian Photography**', Curated by Arshiya Lonkhandwala, Lakeeren, Mumbai

## 2009

'**Outside In: Indian Art Abroad**', Curated by Courtney Gilbert, Sun Valley Center for the Arts, Idaho

'**Rememory**', Two-person show with Tomoko Yoneda, Lucy Mackintosh Gallery, Lausanne

'**The Astonishment of Being**', Curated by Deeksha Nath, Birla Academy of Art and Culture, Kolkata

'**The Self and The Other - Portraiture in Contemporary Indian Photography**', Curated by Luisa Ortez and Devika Daulet Singh, La Virreina Centre de la Imatge of the Institut de Cultura (City Council of Barcelona), Palau de La Virreina. Exhibition travels to Atrium in Vitoria

'**Shifting Shapes –Unstable Signs**', Curated by Robert Storr and Jaret Vadehra, Yale Art Gallery, Yale University, New Haven

## 2008

'**The Nature of the City**', Curated by Alexander Keefe and Nitin Mukul, Religare Art Gallery, New Delhi

'**Zeitgeist**', Curated by Latika Gupta, Palette Art Gallery, New Delhi

'**Click! Indian Photography Now**', Curated by Sunil Gupta and Radhika Singh, Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi and London

## 2007

'**City Cite Site**', Curated by Latika Gupta, Anant Art Gallery, New Delhi

'**Photoquai**', Curated by Helene Cerruti, Musee Quai Branly, Paris

'**Public Places, Private Spaces' - Contemporary Photography and Video Art in India**', Curated by Paul Sternberger and Gayatri Sinha, The Newark Museum, New Jersey

'**Autoportraits**', Photographic portfolio of 12 Indian artists, Khoj at Freize Art Fair, London

'**Gill and Gupta**', Two person show with Sunil Gupta, India International Center, New Delhi

'**I fear I believe I desire**', Curated by Gayatri Sinha, Gallery Espace, New Delhi

## 2005

'**Women Photographers from SAARC countries**', Curated by Alka Pande, Italian Cultural Center, New Delhi

## 2002

'**Award Winners Show**', Fifty Crows Foundation, San Francisco

## 1998

'**In Black and White' - What has Independence meant for Women**', Curated by Bisakha Dutta, Point of View, Lalit Kala Academy, New Delhi; Admit One Gallery, New York

## 1995

'**Alliance Francaise prizewinners exhibition**', exhibition traveled all over India

## BOOKS

1984, document released on Kafila.org, free to download on [www.gaurigill.com](http://www.gaurigill.com), New Delhi 2013/2014

Balika Mela, published by Edition Patrick Frey, Zurich 2012

The Americans, catalogue published by Nature Morte/Bose Pacia 2008

## SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Museum of Modern Art, New York  
Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC  
Tate Museum, London  
Deutsche Bank Collection, Frankfurt  
Philadelphia Museum of Art  
San Jose Museum of Art  
National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa  
Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto  
Fotomuseum, Winterthur  
Kiran Nadar Museum, New Delhi

## CURATING

**2010: 'Transportraits'**, Curated exhibition on women navigating public places in the city for the feminist activist group Jagori, to coincide with the Delhi Declaration on Women's Safety, New Delhi; the exhibit later travelled to schools and colleges across India.

**2005: 'Nobody's Children'**, Curated Tarun Chhabra's photographic work with Delhi's street children for Youthreach, India Habitat Center, New Delhi.

**2005: '1000 Peace Women across the Globe'**, Photographed and exhibited the work of women activists across India for Sangath. The work was shown in Delhi, Kashmir and the Northeast, and later published as a book by Scalco.

## TEACHING AND TALKS

**November 2015:** Master Class at FICA, New Delhi

**April 2015:** Workshop with MA class in Visual Arts, Ambedkar University, New Delhi

**Dec 2014:** Workshop with MA class on Contemporary Practice, NID Ahmedabad

**Dec 2012:** Workshop with MA class on Contemporary Practice, NID Ahmedabad

**Nov/Dec 2012:** Part of external jury and subsequent workshop with the MA class at NID, Ahmedabad

**Aug 2003 - Dec 2008:** High School and Middle School photography at the American School, New Delhi

**Nov 2007:** Presentation and exhibition, Center for Social Action, Christ College, Bangalore

**Apr 2007:** Workshop with local photographers, Goethe Institute, Kabul

**2003 - 2005:** Series of workshops with local teenage girls through Urmul Setu Sansthan, Lunkaransar,

**Jun 2002 - Jul 2002:** Photography I, Cantor Center for the Arts, Stanford University

**Feb 2002:** Workshop on photography in Visual Anthropology seminar, Stanford University

**Nov 2001:** Presentation in Jim Goldberg's class on Documentary Photography, California College of Arts and Crafts

**Sept 1996:** Workshop on 'the personal voice in documentary photography', Apeejay Institute of Design, New Delhi

## OTHER

**2006 - 2011:** Co-editor at 'Camerawork Delhi' a free newsletter about independent photography from New Delhi and elsewhere

**1995 - 2000:** Photojournalist with 'Outlook' magazine, New Delhi, freelance work for various publications

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Laura Cummings: Venice Biennale 2019 review – preaching to the converted, Guardian newspaper, 2019

Portfolio: Du magazine, July/August 2019

Dale Berning Sawa: Gauri Gill's best photograph: a rat nursing an elderly woman, Guardian newspaper, 2019

Andrew Russeth: 'Part of My Job Is Just to Listen': Photographer Gauri Gill on Her Peripatetic Art, ArtNews, 2018

Dean Kissick: Gauri Gill and Julia Phillips at MOMA PS1, Spike Magazine, 2018

Sharmistha Ray: Harnessing the Revelatory Power of Masks, Hyperallergic, 2018

Nicole Miller: Projects 108: Gauri Gill, Brooklyn Rail, 2018

Interview with Tausif Noor, 500 words, Artforum magazine, 2018

Vandana Kalra: Photographer Gauri Gill takes her desert journeys, Indian Express newspaper, 2018

Bansie Vasvani: Gauri Gill and the Acts of Appearance, COBO Social, 2018

Will Heinrich: Behind a mask, in front of a lens, New York Times, 2018

Natasha Ginwala: Image as Dwelling, Gauri Gill's photography and collaborative approach, DB ArtMag, 2018

Jyoti Dhar: Gauri Gill, Nature Morte, Artforum magazine, 2018

Chanpreet Khurana: With masks and some alchemy, photographer Gauri Gill tells real and fantastic stories in Maharashtra, Scroll, 2018

Rashmi Meenakshi Vishwanathan: An Architecture of Memory, Third Text, 2017

Kaelen Wilson-Goldie: At Documenta, Blurred Lines Between Art and Politics, Aperture magazine, 2017

Girish Shahane: The Grand European Art Tour, Scroll magazine, 2017

Anar Parikh: The Americans: Representations of South Asian American Life, South Asian American Digital Archive, 2017

Prajna Desai: The Kids Aren't All Right, Aperture magazine, 2017

Nabil Ahmed: Negative Moment: Political Geology in the Twenty - First Century, South, documenta 14, Issue 3, 2016

Annalisa Merelli: When an ancient tribal art depicts modern Indian life, Quartz India, 2016

Pooja Pillai: Stitched in Time, Indian Express newspaper, 2016

Nancy Adajania: Bearing Witness: Creations of the "Human Hand" in Gauri Gill's photography, The Wire, 2016

Reema Gehi: Retellings, Mumbai Mirror newspaper, 2016

Chanpreet Khurana: The art of slowing down, Mint newspaper, 2016

Inderpal Grewal: Gauri Gill and Rajesh Vangad, Fields of Sight, Trans Asia Photography Review, 2015

Portfolio: 'Another Way of Seeing, Granta magazine, 2015

The Salon: Conversation between Lola Mac Dougall and Gauri Gill, Johannesburg Workshop in Theory and Criticism, 2014

Somak Ghosal: 'Eye Spy: The work of mourning' Mint newspaper, 2014

Deeksha Nath: 'Violence and Resistance' Review of Forms of Activism, Frontline magazine, 2014

Geeta Kapur: 'Aesthetic Bind, Citizen Artist: forms of address, 2013  
Jaspreet Singh: 'Thomas Bernhard in New Delhi', New York Times, 2013

Avtar Singh: 'Returning to 1984', Timeout magazine, New Delhi, 2013

Neha Thirani: 1984, 'Mumbai's 'Focus' Festival Showcases Women Photographers'. New York Times, 2013

Portfolio: 'Extra-Urban', Domus, Mumbai 2012

Aditi Saxton: 'Do you see what I see', Review of Balika Mela, Tehelka magazine, 2012

Rosalyn D'Mello: 'Gauri Gill's New Book is a Chapter in the Art of Portraiture', Artinfo.com, 2012

Nao Katagiri: 'New generation of Indian Artists', Bird magazine, Tokyo, 2012

Murtaza Vali: 'Eluding Presence: Portraiture in South Asian Photography', Trans Asia Photography Review, 2011  
Portfolio: 'Balika Mela', Inge Morath Foundation, 2011

Portfolio: 'Nizamuddin at Night', Civil Lines, Edited by Mukul Kesavan, Kai Friese and Achal Prabhala, Harper Collins, New Delhi 2011

Portfolio: 'Balika Mela', Sunday Guardian newspaper, New Delhi 2011

Christopher Lord: 'Professional and amateur pictures of war-ravaged Kabul on show in London', Review in The National newspaper, Abu Dhabi 2011

Neha Thirani: 'The Peacocks on the Periphery', Review in Times of India newspaper, Mumbai 2010

Zeenat Nagre: 'State of Discomfort', Review in Time Out magazine, Mumbai 2010

Anita Dube: 'Notes on Gauri Gill's Notes from the Desert', Art India Magazine, Mumbai 2010

Portfolio: 'Notes from the Desert', Du magazine, Zurich, 2010

Maya Kovskaya: Review in www.artinfo.com, 2010

Jane Mikkelsen: 'Nomad Land', Review in Timeout magazine, New Delhi 2010

Mario Cresci and Radu Stern: 'Future Images – A Collection of the World's Best Young Photographers', 24Ore Motta Cultura, Italy 2010

Von Feli Schindler: 'Bilder des Glücks und der Tristesse', Review in Tages Anzeiger newspaper, Zurich 2010

Portfolio: 'Balika Mela Portraits', Ojodopez, Spain 2010

Portfolio: 'The Americans', Gup Magazine, The Netherlands, 2010

Deepanjana Pal: 'Beyond Photoshop', Review in The Caravan magazine, New Delhi 2010

Alexander Keefe: 'On Nizamuddin at Night', Essay in Marg magazine, Mumbai 2010

Veerangana Solanki: 'More than a thousand words', Review in The Economic Times newspaper, New Delhi 2010

Himanshu Bhagat: 'Art of the Here and Now', Review in Mint newspaper, New Delhi 2010

Bakirathi Mani: 'Viewing South Asia, Seeing America: Gauri Gill's "The Americans"', Essay in American Quarterly, March 2010

Deeksha Nath: 'The Americans', Essay in Special Issue edited by Shaheen Merali, Black, Take on Art Magazine, New Delhi 2010

Nilanjana Roy: 'Fighting for safe passage on Indian Streets', NYT, 2010

Ravi Agarwal: 'Interview for KHOJ BOOK - Ten years of Khoj Artists', New Delhi 2010

Paul Sternberger: 'Me, Myself and India', Essay in Photographies, London 2009

Christopher Pinney: Comments on The Americans, Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago 2008

Portfolio: 'Urban Landscapes', Private Photo Review, France 2009

Marina Budhos: 'The Uneven Promise of a New Land', Essay on The Americans, Tehelka magazine, New Delhi

Aveek Sen: 'Vast Native Thoughts', Review in Telegraph newspaper, Kolkata 2008

Gayatri Sinha: Essay for The Americans, New Delhi 2008

Holland Cotter: 'INDIA Public Places/Private Spaces Contemporary Photography and Video Art', Review in New York Times newspaper, January 2008

Ella Dutta: 'Holding the city open', Review in Art India magazine, Mumbai, 2008

#### **AWARDS/RESIDENCIES**

**2013:** Arts Fellow, Rockefeller Foundation, Bellagio, Italy

**2013:** Wall Art residency, Ganjad village, Maharashtra

**2012:** Residency at Space 118, Mumbai

**2011:** Grange prize, Toronto

**2011:** Chitrakala Parishath, Bangalore. Residency on New Media organized by Lalit Kala Academy

**2005:** Photography Residency at Khoj, New Delhi

**2002:** Fifty Crows Award, San Francisco

**2001:** Anita Squires Fowler Memorial Fund in Photography, Stanford University

**2000:** Nathan Oliviera Fellowship, Stanford University

**1995:** Alliance Francaise National Photography Contest

#### **WEBSITE**

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