

‘Sheher, Prakriti, Devi’: Dubai exhibition explores the interconnectedness of cities, nature, and the divine

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'Sheher, Prakriti, Devi', an exhibition that marks artist and photographer Gauri Gill's first extensive curation, in collaboration with Ishara Art Foundation is being showcased in Alserkal Avenue, Dubai, from January 19 to June 1, 2024. (Source: PR Handout)



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Ruminating on the interwoven relationship between dynamic cities, the natural environment and the inseparable sacred, the show presents twelve artists and collectives working across diverse contexts of urban, rural, domestic, communitarian, public and non-material spaces.

(Source: PR Handout)



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'Sheher, Prakriti, Devi' comes from the Hindi terms for 'city', 'nature' and 'deity'. The exhibition germinates from Gill's ongoing documentation of urban and semi-urban spaces in India since 2003 in a series titled 'Rememory' (after Toni Morrison). (Source: PR Handout)



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Gill offers a unique lens to regard cities as spaces of habitation that are shaped by multiple life-worlds. (Source: PR Handout)

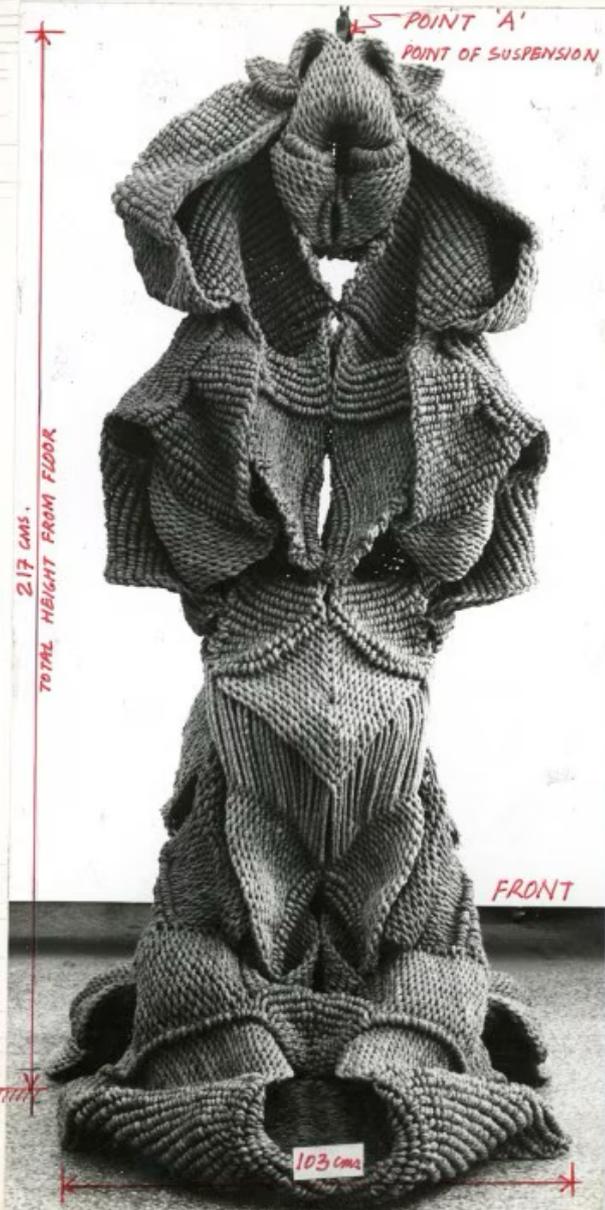
INSTRUCTIONS FOR INSTALLATION

1. THE SCULPTURE HAS TO BE VIEWED FROM ALL SIDES AND NEEDS SPACE ALL AROUND
2. THE SCULPTURE HAS TO BE SUSPENDED FROM THE POINT MARKED 'A' AT A HEIGHT OF 217 CMS FROM THE FLOOR AND SPREADS 116 CMS WIDTH AND 142 CMS DEPTH ON FLOOR
3. THE TOTAL HEIGHT OF THE SCULPTURE IS 217 CMS.
4. THE SCULPTURE IS PACKED FOLDED, FROM WAIST WITH HEAD RESTING IN LAP IN FRONT
5. THE SCULPTURE IS RESTING ON A LADDER FOR EASIER HANDLING AND THE LADDER SHOULD BE REMOVED AFTER INSTALLATION WITH THE CORRECT HEIGHT OF 217 CMS.
6. THE SCULPTURE SHOULD BE MOULDED INTO SHAPE WITH HANDS TO MAINTAIN THE SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS AS IN THE PHOTOGRAPHS
7. THE SCULPTURE IS SYMMETRICAL AND SHOULD BE ADJUSTED TO LOOK SYMMETRICAL
8. REMOVE ALL PACKINGS AND LABELS AFTER INSTALLATION

TITLE: 'DEVI'
ARTIST: MRINALINI MUKHERJEE
DIMENSION: H=217cm W=116cm D=142cm.
MATERIAL: HEMP FIBRE.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR REMOVING

1. PACK THE HOLLOW SPACES WHILE THE SCULPTURE IS HANGING
2. SLIDE THE LADDER UNDER THE SCULPTURE
3. UNTIE THE SUSPENSION CORD AND LET THE TORSO FOLD ONTO THE LAP.
4. HOLD THE LADDER WHILE TRANSPORTING



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Together with various practitioners with whom she shares an affinity, the exhibition presents a world where built and natural structures are rendered porous by termites; gates open to unfinished roads; historical ruins become homes to migratory birds while pigeons become occupants of post-colonial houses; locusts bear witness to contemporary terrors and forests manifest as spirit sisters. (Source: PR Handout)



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In this show, viewers are invited to regard ecology as an overlap of cultural, natural and spiritual domains. (Source: PR Handout)



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In Gill's words, "Apart from the sheer beauty and multiple truths expressed by the different artists - from the mundane to the transcendental, the gross to the subtle, and, the manmade to the sacred -- through this palimpsestic and idiosyncratic exhibition, I wish to acknowledge those who have found ways to stubbornly persist in their practice, often sharing their work only within their families and local communities, completely outside the circuits and networks of professional artists, contemporary art discourse, galleries and markets." (Source: PR Handout)



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"Through this gathering of insistent voices we hope to consider the dualistic worlds of the depleted and regenerative, manmade and natural, colonial and Indigenous, young and old, English and non-English, mundane and magical, absent and present," she adds. (Source: PR Handout)



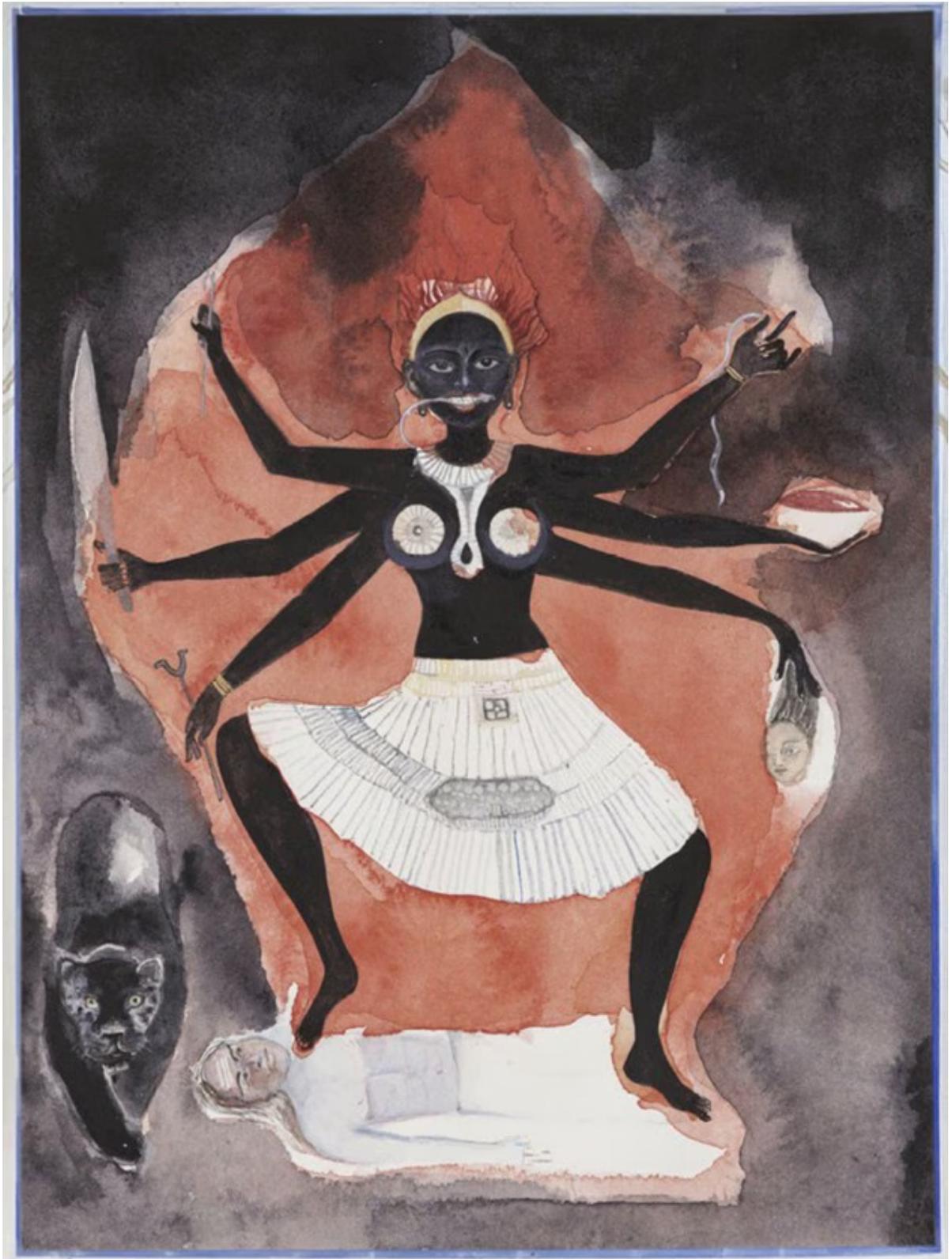
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'Sheher, Prakriti, Devi' includes works by Chamba Rumal, Chiara Camoni, Gauri Gill, Ladhki Devi, Mariam Suhail, Meera Mukherjee, Mrinalini Mukherjee, Rashmi Kaleka, Shefalee Jain, Sukanya Ghosh, Vinnie Gill and Yoshiko Crow. (Source: PR Handout)



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Ishara Art Foundation was founded in 2019 as a non-profit organisation dedicated to presenting contemporary art of South Asia. Located in Dubai, the Foundation supports emerging and established practices that advance critical dialogue and explore global interconnections. (Source: PR Handout)



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Gill has exhibited in solo and group exhibitions within India and internationally since 1995, including the 58th Venice Biennale (2019) and Documenta 14, Athens and Kassel (2017). (Source: PR Handout)



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Her work is in the collections of prominent institutions worldwide, including the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Tate Museum, London; Smithsonian Institution, Washington; Fotomuseum, Winterthur; and the Ishara Art Foundation and the Prabhakar Collection, Dubai. (Source: PR Handout)