

Gauri Gill und Rajesh Vangad, "Gods of the Home and the Village" aus der Serie "Fields of Sight" (2021)

Foto Gauri Gill und Rajesh Vangad

Schirn Kunsthalle

Es gibt viele Indiens in einem Indien

article basisfication and the Display the basisfication and the Bible werten nicht, sie sind da. "Es gibt viele Indiens in Indien", sagte Gill, als sie zur Eröffnung in die Schirn gekommen war. "Wir haben viel zu lernen, vor allem von den Frauen auf dem Land". Die Teilnehmerin der Documenta 14 hat selbst die Ausstellung mit eingerichtet, die danach noch ins Louisiana Museum im dänischen Humleback weiterziehen wird, in einem Dockumentariti. "Es sind vor allem auch Bilder wirblichen Lebens, die num lé Ausstellung "Acts of Resistance and Repair" prägen. Es ist ein umfassen

Gauri Gill, aufgenom-men in der Schirn. Foto Esra Klein

Raum und Zeit für diejenigen, die man sonst kaum sieht: Die indische Fotografin Gauri Gill ist mit "Acts of Resistance and Repair" in einer großen Schau zu sehen. Von Eva-Maria Magel

der Einblick in ein Werk, das ganz nah bei denjenigen ist, die gezeigt werden. So kommen die Personen auf Gauri Gills Fotografien auch den Betrachtern ungeheu-er nah – so weit weg für uns die Orte, die gezeigt werden, auch sein mögen. Man trifft Namen und Gesichter, auch Motive wieder und kann so einen Hauch jenes Fielens und der Gemeinschaftlichkeit selbst spören, die Gills Herangehensweise zu einer ganz besonderen macht.

GAURI GILL, ACTS OF RESISTANCE AND REPAIR, bis 8. Januar 2023, Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt, Römerberg, Dienstag, Freitag bis Sonntag 10-19, Mittwoch und Donnerstag 10-22 Uhr.







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sehen werden. Für ihre Fotoserien arbeitet sie oft mit lokalen Aktivisten und Nichtregierungsinitiativen zusam und



English Translation -

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Schirn Kunsthalle There are many Indias in one India

Space and time for those who are otherwise hardly seen: Indian photographer Gauri Gill's "Acts of Resistance and Repair" in a major show.

The girls and young women look at us. Their names are Bhalmati or Hooran, Savita, Rahul. One girl is called Jannat. We meet her first as a child, then as a teenager, and then, at only 23, she is dead. Gauri Gill has captured Jannat's brief life in a series of 52 black and white images. In between are letters from her mother Izmat, a desperately poor Muslim woman, with English translation, crossed over Hindi, like a collage. A method that Gauri Gill also uses elsewhere. The photographic works of Gill, who was born in 1970, are very often also invitations to bring two points of view, two life experiences into one picture. This is now shown in the large exhibition "Acts of Resistance and Repair" at the Schirn in Frankfurt.

The fact that Gauri Gill consistently mentions names in the picture description is the first indication of the Indian photographer's connection with the people in her pictures. She has created an entire series together with Rajesh Vangad, for example, huge photographs of his living environment, which is increasingly subject to industrialization and thus to destruction. They now form the entrée of the first major survey exhibition of Gill's work. Vangad, though a traditionally feminine art form, is a warli painter. Instead of covering house walls with the friezes reminiscent of pictograms, he spent years working on Gill's photographic works for "Fields of Sight," and in the interplay, fascinating narrative landscapes emerge.

It does not stop at accessing local communities such as the Warli, there is also always an interaction involved with their work. Gill forges relationships, friendships, even artistic ones. She offers photo workshops for young girls, from which one young woman even found her way to the profession of photographer. And Gill presents her series of pictures where they were taken, as an exhibition.

This was also the case with the girls' festivals "Balika Mela," whose portraits are now strung on wires around the room. Her series "The Americans" about Indian Americans, are among the color photographs and compositions that have increased over the years. All the way to the most recent series, "Acts of Appearance" (2015-present), which is a body of work featuring local mask artists and the people who are pictured in everyday situations with these animal heads, human faces, and even status symbols like televisions in front of their faces: in this way, Gill brings into the picture those people who are otherwise overlooked.

For her photo series, she often collaborates with local activists and non-governmental initiatives. However, she does not want to call herself an activist. This also reflects the artist's freedom to take her time and space. You need that if, like Gill, you want to look at the small things.

She has been doing this since 1999, when she began with "Notes from the Desert." That her current art, working in open series over many years, is fed by her journalistic curiosity is evident in the pictures. Gill, who first studied painting in New Delhi, where she now lives, and then went on to study photography in New York and at Stanford University, was a journalist and even part of the initial team of a political magazine in her mid-20s.

And because she couldn't fit in a planned long report on the people in the outskirts of Rajasthan, she gave up journalism. Since then, she has been traveling incessantly, for example to where Rajasthan is barren, on the border with Pakistan, and she has been touring the villages of the Thar Desert again and again for the series "Notes from the Desert", which she began with. From it feed subgroups, like the life of Jannat (1999-2007), Gill collects traces of the Urbanization, the education policy, the building customer at the border between city and country, the pictures do not evaluate, they are there.

"There are many Indias in India". said Gill when she came to the opening at the Schirn. "We have a lot to learn, especially from rural women." The Documenta 14 participant herself helped set up the exhibition, which will move on to the Louisiana Museum in Humlebæk, Denmark, afterward; in a documentary film, she tells how she works.

Above all, it is images of female life that now characterize the exhibition "Acts of Resistance and Repair". It is a comprehensive insight into a work that is very close to those who are shown. Thus, the people in Gauri Gill's photographs also come tremendously close to the viewers - as far away as the places shown may be for us. One encounters names and faces, even motifs again, and can sense such a sense of sharing and community itself, which makes Gill's approach a very special one.

GAURI GILL, ACTS OF RESISTANCE AND REPAIR, through Jan. 8, 2023, Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt, Römerberg, Tuesday, Friday through Sunday 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday 10 a.m.-10 p.m.