



## PRESS RELEASE

### SHILPA GUPTA *DRAWING IN THE DARK*

**OPENING FRIDAY 20 OCTOBER, 6PM  
ATTENDED BY THE ARTIST  
EXHIBITION  
FROM 21 OCTOBER 2017 TO 18 FEBRUARY 2018**



Indian artist Shilpa Gupta presents the solo exhibition *Drawing in the Dark*. The title refers to the clandestine movements and practices in borderlands, and to the metaphor of the line or threshold that links several of the works on display here.

The show is part of Gupta's ongoing investigation into interrelations between structures, specifically those of the state and the individual, and their rescaling as encountered, at what is both frontier and periphery. Continuing her six years of ongoing research – specifically in the borderlands of India and Bangladesh – this new series of works is an extension of the *My East is Your West* project she developed for the 2015 Venice Biennale. In late 2016 Gupta returned to parts around the border fence that India is building, encircling its neighbor Bangladesh and that is notorious for being the world's longest separation barrier under construction between two nation states. However, says the artist, "daily life in the borderland belies state intentions and the flows of people and goods continue, prompted by historical and social affinities, geographical continuity and economic imperative".

Accompanying the central sculpture *24:00:01* (motion flapboard, 2010 -12) are a series of new pieces which can be seen as a collection of clandestine stories. The drawings, photos and sculptures draw a picture of the subversive, illegal and informal stream of goods, people and desires. An object wound with a shredded Dhakai Jamdani saree (traditional clothing), drawings made with marijuana and photo collages with spare motor parts carry narratives of unlisted journeys over a meandering map line.

What Gupta's work aims to provoke in the visitor, rather than a passive aesthetic experience, are questions. She initiates a dialogue on the perception and construction of identity, and on those notions that exercise an influence over these processes: nationality, technology, religion, borders, conflicts, control or censorship: "I am interested in perception and therefore, with how definitions get stretched or trespassed, be it by gender, beliefs, or the notion of a nation. There exists a chasm between the larger construct which seeks singularity, and its own fragment which may not. Markings and measuring, seemingly logical acts may not necessarily provide solutions" (Shilpa Gupta in Indian Express, 2016).

In the borderlands Gupta evokes with *Drawing in the Dark*, our apparently rigorous laws reveal themselves as in constant motion and subject to debate. The fringe area is shown as a stretch of no man's land where practices and narratives develop "in the dark", or as a parallel circuit of goods that operates "invisibly" before the authorities' eyes. The "law" of each identity is replaced here by a set of conditional rules, freeing up mental and experimental space in which to question ourselves.

*Drawing in the Dark* is a new collaboration between three European art centres: the exhibition is co-produced with KIOSK in Ghent, Belgium and the Bielefelder Kunstverein in Germany.

*Drawing in the Dark* was presented from 11 February to 16 April 2017 at KIOSK and from 29 April to 16 July 2017 at the Bielefelder Kunstverein.

**KIOSK**



BIELEFELDER KUNSTVEREIN

## BIOGRAPHY SHILPA GUPTA

Shilpa Gupta, born in 1976 in Mumbai, India, lives and works there as well. In the recent years solo exhibitions were shown, among others, in the context of the 56th Venice Biennial (2015, with Rashid Rana), at the Kunsternes Hus in Oslo (NO) (both 2014), at Galerie im Taxipalais in Innsbruck (AT, 2013) as well as at the Arnolfini in Bristol (UK, 2012) Furthermore she was represented by works in group exhibitions, among others, at the Kathmandu Triennial (2017), 12th Havana Biennial (CU), at the Göteborg International Biennial for Contemporary Art (SE), at SALT in Istanbul (TR), at Queens Museum in New York (USA) (all 2015). Shilpa Gupta is represented by Galleria Continua (San Gimignano / Beijing / Les Moulins / Habana) and Dvir Gallery (Brussels / Tel Aviv).

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

**Opening:** Friday 20 October at 6pm.  
Exhibition from 21 October to 18 February 2018.  
From Wednesday to Saturday, 2pm - 6pm  
and Sunday 11am - 6pm.  
**Admission free.**  
**Guided tour every Sunday at 4pm.**  
**Closed from 23 december 2017 to 2 january 2018 included.**

## PRESS CONTACT

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## CONTACT AND ACCESS

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FROM PARIS (by train 90mins):  
TGV Est, get off at Metz or Nancy

FROM METZ (by car, 30mins):  
D955, formerly route de Strasbourg

FROM NANCY (by car, 30mins):  
N74 towards Château-Salins  
then D955 towards Metz

This exhibition was made with the support of Galleria Continua and Dvir gallery.

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