

PRESS RELEASE

Hemali Bhuta

Subarnarekha (La ligne d'or) au Centre d'art de Vassivière

Exposition
personnelle
du 3 décembre 2017
au 11 mars 2018
du mardi au dimanche
de 14 h à 18 h

**CENTRE
INTERNATIONAL
D'ART &
DU PAYSAGE** ILE DE
VASSIVIÈRE

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HEMALI BHUTA
SUBARNAREKHA (THE STREAK OF GOLD)

SOLO EXHIBITION

2 DECEMBER 2017 – 11 MARCH 2018

Opening: Saturday 2 December, 3:30pm

The International Centre for Art and Landscape is welcoming Indian artist Hemali Bhuta – born in 1978 in Mumbai, where she lives – for her first solo exhibition outside India. For the most part Bhuta's sculptures comprise organic and ephemeral natural materials such as salvaged objects, rubber, alum, elastic, incense, wax and soap, which she associates with geology, architecture and ritual.

The exhibition "Subarnarekha" presents a group of new works created during a three-month residency on Vassivière Island. Bhuta set out to work with local artisans and get to know their methods, materials and tools. At the same time she explored the history of mining in the Limousin region, with particular emphasis on gold gneiss and granite.

Subarnarekha is the name of a river in east India. It is also the title of a film by Ritwik Ghatak in 1962 which depicts through a family and social drama the uprooting of peoples from Eastern Bengal (now Bangladesh) and their forced exile in Western Bengal in the wake of Partition in 1947¹. Meaning "line of gold", the river sandy bed was once mined for copper and uranium, as well as for the deposits of gold that gave it its name.

¹ Viewable with English subtitles at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jeiGPWYIOqs>

Indian culture sets great store by gold, especially in Ayurvedic medicine; here, however, Bhuta has opted for working against the grain, using gold to criticise the obsession with appearances it characterises socially. The humble gold objects in the exhibition emphatically do not gleam; they are placed alongside gilded, pseudo-precious pieces or everyday objects the artist's overtly alchemical approach aims, contrariwise, to render sublime.

In the final analysis this scrutiny of the value generated by gold is a way of challenging the status of the artwork as such. "Subarnarekha" is the third in a series of exhibitions that began in 2013 at the Project 88 gallery in Mumbai, with "Point-Shift and Quoted Objects" and continued there in 2016 with "Measure of a foot"; the second exhibition offered the same works, but dismantled and left lying on the floor like fossilised bodies. For her exhibition at Vassivière, whose invitation reproduces the matrix used for printing the plan of the 2016 presentation, Bhuta has made three miniature gold copies of works from that show: models created, so to speak, as an afterthought, and conferring immortality on a perishable original.

The works have been produced in association with the following local concerns: Men Arvor quarries (Saint-Yrieix-la-Perche), Verlinden jewellers (Limoges/Eymoutiers/Saint-Léonard-de-Noblat), the Moulin du Got paper mill (Saint-Léonard-de-Noblat), the Musée de l'Or gold museum (Le Chalard) and the Marbrerie Bonnichon stone and ceramics works (Linards).

THE ARTIST'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

"Subarnarekha, the accursed line that has not only witnessed the grave consequences of displacement and alienation, but is also contaminated with greed and reeks of transgression. The journey from the project's germination to where it has come to be, interjected with geologies of another apparatus, employing tools of deliberation, distraction, separation, coincidences within the new genealogical framework to discover the little treasures in the vast landscape. Maquettes as afterthoughts, intercalation in the process wherein the materiality of the maquette and its value has the potential to supersede the art object and its ability to remain just that. Or whether the intention of the maquettes being the future memorials continues to remain a fantasy of the artist. This reversal of the form becomes the catchment of the project where all that glitters does propose to be gold and where traversing through rituals and legends, every scratch, every streak, everyday a new god is born."

— Hemali Bhuta, October 2017

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Hemali Bhuta was born in Mumbai, India, in 1978. She is a joint founder of the CONA Foundation (conafoundation.net), an artist-run body in northern Mumbai which organises residencies, discussions and publications.

The holder of a degree in painting from the L.S. Raheja School of Art in Mumbai (2003) and a postgraduate degree from the M.S. University in Baroda in (2009), Bhuta was chosen for an exchange programme with the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris in 2010. In the same year she received the FICA Emerging Artist Award in Delhi and was a finalist in the Rolex Mentor Protégé Program (mentor: Anish Kapoor).

She is represented by **Project 88 (project88.in)** gallery in Mumbai, where she has had three solo exhibitions: "The Hangover of Agarlum", 2010; "Point – Shift and Quoted Objects", 2012; and "Measure of a foot", 2016.

In 2012 her works *The Column in Transit* and *The Wall Piece* were shown at the Mumbai Art Room, in Mumbai.

She has also taken part in group shows in India, most recently "Deliberated Time" at the Sunaparanta Centre for the Arts in Goa (2017); "Gallerists as Interventionist", at the Lakeeren Gallery in Mumbai (2017); "Diary Entries", Gallery Espace in Delhi, (2016); "Unwinding", at the Nazar Art Gallery de Baroda (2016); and "Len Den" at the CONA Foundation, in association with Mumbai Art Room (2015).

Outside India, her work has featured at the Frieze Art Fair in London in 2012 and 2015 and in the exhibitions "Textile Languages" at Thalie Art Project, Brussels (2014); "Citizen of Time" at the Dhaka Art Summit in Bangladesh (2014); "Energy Plus" in the Mumbai City Pavilion at the Shanghai Biennial (2012); "India Today" at the ARKEN Museum in Denmark (2012); "Indian Highway V" at the MAXXI Museu in Rome (2011) and "Indian Highway IV" at MAC Lyon (2011).

HEMALI BHUTA – PHOTOS AVAILABLE FOR THE PRESS



Hemali Bhuta, *Layout for Project 88* (2016),
Engraved zinc sheet on wood,
32 x 38 inches
Courtesy of the artist and Project 88, Bombay



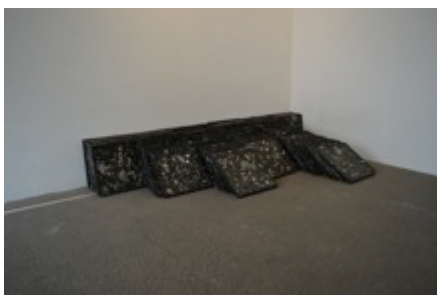
Hemali Bhuta, *Grayscale* (2012)
Glycerine soap, edible colour, S.S. rod and S.S. plate
12 inches cube x 10 nos
Courtesy of the artist and Project 88, Bombay



Hemali Bhuta, *Copy* (2016)
Bees wax, termite infested wax, paraffin wax,
soap, adhesive, incense powder
8.5 x 0.5, 8 x 0.5, 8 x 1 inch
Courtesy of the artist and Project 88, Bombay



Hemali Bhuta, *16 sq. ft* (2016)
Glycerine soap, edible colour, and nylon thread
10 x 11 x 12 inches
Courtesy of the artist and Project 88, Bombay



Hemali Bhuta, *Fusion Series TR 95. 17/120*
(2016)
Asphalt, soap, wax, mica and others
12 x 12 x 1 inch x 120 nos.
Courtesy of the artist and Project 88, Bombay

300 dpi photos available
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EXHIBITION EXTRAS

CONVERSATION BETWEEN NADA RAZA AND HEMALI BHUTA

SATURDAY 2 DECEMBER, 4:30 PM, VASSIVIÈRE ISLAND, AT THE OPENING

Talk by Nada Raza, curator at Tate Research Centre: Asia (Tate Gallery, London), on the South Asian art scene and the use of materials in the work of Hemali Bhuta. Followed by a conversation with the artist.

In English, with French translation

Free

TALK: A LOOK AT A CERTAIN CURRENT IN INDIAN CONTEMPORARY ART

THURSDAY 18 JANUARY AT 6:30 PM, FRAC-ARTOTHÈQUE, LIMOGES

Marianne Lanavère, director of the Art Centre, talks about abstraction, formlessness and process in Indian art from the 1970s to the present day.

At the Frac-Artothèque, Impasse des Charentes, Limoges

Admission: 5 €/9 € (free/6 € for Friends of the Limousin Frac-Artothèque)

Organised by the Friends of the Limousin Frac-Artothèque

VISIT THE EXHIBITION

TUESDAY–SUNDAY, 2–6 PM

A cultural liaison officer is available on request

4€/2€

ART WORKSHOPS FOR KIDS AND PARENTS

WEDNESDAY 14 AND 21 FEBRUARY

• **11 AM FOR AGES 3–6 (1 HOUR)**

• **3 PM FOR AGES 6+ (90 MINUTES)**

Spark kids' creativity with the Hemali Bhuta exhibition. Interpret the works in different ways, bring new magic to things that usually go unnoticed.

Children 2€/adults 4€

Booking essential, until the day before (maximum 15 people)

Meet at the Art Centre reception desk 5 minutes before starting time

THE CENTRE INTERNATIONAL D'ART ET DU PAYSAGE

A landscape consciously designed and shaped, Vassivière Island is a meeting point for nature and sculpture, a place whose distinctive history makes it a remarkable imaginative and creative stimulus. The International Centre for Art and Landscape site was created in 1991 by architects Aldo Rossi and Xavier Fabre.

Located in France's Limousin Region, this contemporary art touchstone now presents three exhibitions every year, backed up as a rule by screenings, talks and discussions that promote experience-sharing. It also offers its public an open-air sculpture collection unique in the world: the Sculpture Wood currently comprises sixty-four works in a setting comprising forest, grassland and the lakeshore.

In October 2012 the International Centre for Art and Landscape initiated a new artists in residence programme, funded by the Limousin Region and the Ministry of Culture's Limousin Region Cultural Affairs Office (DRAC). Lake Vassivière's distinctive history and striking landscape, together with the cultural and architectural qualities of these new spaces, provide a remarkable setting for artists and researchers, and for reflection and experimentation. The Castle – home to the residency programme organised by the art centre as a complement to the exhibitions and the Sculpture Wood – exists to foster inspiration and the shaping of projects in a time frame adapted to the region's shifting seasons and climate.

FORTHCOMING EXHIBITIONS

- Rebecca Digne, solo exhibition from 25 March to 24 June 2018
- Joëlle Tuerlinckx, solo exhibition from 8 July to 11 November 2018

RESEARCH AND CREATION RESIDENCIES AT THE CASTLE

COMBINED ART AND ENVIRONMENT RESIDENCY

14TH SEASON: UNTIL 31 JANUARY

François Génot (artist) and **Alexis Zimmer** (biologist, philosopher) are in residence at the Art Centre until 31 January, then at NEKaTOENEa, the CPIE Littoral Basque artists' residence at the Domaine d'Abbadia, in Hendaya. They are looking into the issues of nature reserves and preservation of living systems.

This combined residency is also financed by the Carasso Foundation as part of its "Citizen Art" programme. In partnership with the Géolab laboratory at the University of Limoges and the Territorial and Communication Science Department at the University of Bordeaux Montaigne.

ADVANCE PLANNING RESIDENCY FOR ECOLOGICAL CAMPSITES IN THE MILLEVACHES REGION

15TH SEASON: FEBRUARY–MARCH

Multidisciplinary teams will be in residence at the Art Centre in February–March to discuss planning for innovative ecological campsites in the Millevaches Nature Reserve. The project is jointly financed by IPAMAC (the Massif Central Nature Reserve Network), the Millevaches Nature Reserve, the Accompagnateurs de la Montagne Limousine (a mountain guides organisation), the relevant CAUEs (architecture, town planning and environmental bodies) and the APPAAT Millevaches tourism professionals network.

NEARBY, THE ART CENTRE'S RECOMMENDATIONS

EYMOUTIERS (13 KM) : ESPACE PAUL REBEYROLLE

www.espace-rebeyrolle.com/

MEYMAC (50 KM) : CENTRE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN

« PREMIERE », « VENDANGES TARDIVES », « MARIE-FRANCE UZAC »
until 14 January 2018

www.centre-art-contemporain-meymac.com

LIMOGES (60 KM) : FRAC LIMOUSIN

« SARAH TRITZ, J'AI DU CHOCOLAT DANS LE CŒUR » until 20 January 2018

www.fraclimousin.fr

ROCHECHOUART (90 KM) : MUSEE DEPARTEMENTAL D'ART CONTEMPORAIN

« L'AIR VIBRE DU BOURDONNEMENT DES INSECTES » until 17 December 2017

« GYAN PANCHAL, ROMPRE L'ORBE » until 17 December 2017

www.musee-rochechouart.com

Regional network of contemporary art CINQ,25 : www.cinqvingtcing.org

Cultural programmes : www.culture-en-limousin.fr

Public art in the Limousin region: geo.culture-en-limousin.fr/

VISITORS' INFORMATION

CENTRE INTERNATIONAL D'ART ET DU PAYSAGE

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OPENING HOURS

Open every day 2.00 pm - 6.00 pm, except Monday

ADMISSION

- Exhibitions: 4 € / 2 €
- The sculpture Wood: free, permanent and unrestricted access to 63 works.

HOW TO FIND US

- BY CAR: A20 motorway

The Art Centre is situated in Limousin in the Millevaches Regional Nature Reserve at the meeting point of the Haute-Vienne and Creuse départements.

On an island in the municipality of Beaumont-du-Lac, it can be reached by a footbridge from the Pierrefitte Peninsula.

- BY TRAIN - TER REGIONAL EXPRESS: Nearest station: Eymoutiers (Ussel-Limoges line)
- BY PLANE: Limoges International Airport www.aeroportlimoges.com
- FOR LOCAL ACCOMODATIONS – www.lelacdevassiviere.com

PARTNERSHIP

ParisART – www.paris-art.com/

The Art Centre receives the support of the ministry of Culture Nouvelle-Aquitaine Cultural Affairs Office and Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region (including assistance under the provisions of the Emplois Associatifs job scheme).

