



AVANTIKA BAWA
'ANOTHER DOCUMENTATION'

Show Information:

Curator: Abhay Maskara

Preview: August 9, 2012, 6:30pm to 9:30pm

Show Dates: August 10 – September 13, 2012

Location: Gallery Maskara, 6/7 3rd Pasta Lane, Colaba, Mumbai – 400 005

Gallery Timings: 11am to 7pm, Tuesday – Saturday

Special Events:

A Conversation with the Artist

7:30pm on August 9, 2012

Gallery Maskara

Walkthrough with the Artist

5:30pm on August 11, 2012

Gallery Maskara

Mumbai, India – July 26, 2012: Gallery Maskara is pleased to announce artist Avantika Bawa's second solo show at Gallery Maskara.

Another Documentation reflects the artist, Avantika Bawa's continued interest in investigating subtle links between drawing, sculpture and architecture. Through the choice and placement of works, Bawa presents the gallery as a 'construction-site' where notions of the everyday that may otherwise go unnoticed are put into creative order. The resultant assemblage simultaneously address and challenge conventions of art making, display and documentation.

Components of *Another Documentation* include altered functional objects, photographs and drawings that extend along the wall and floor. An enormous scaffold painted a cautionary orange, occupies a central part of this assemblage. Its futile yet commanding presence mirrors the ambitions of Mumbai's vertically growing landscape, much like a modern-day Tower of Babel. Photographs of architectural drawings, placed on modified workhorses at various construction sites are presented as a series of sequenced images. These appear to serve the function of capturing the work of a faux land surveyor.

This staged approach creates a platform where dialogue between construction and deconstruction, site and non-site, process and product are explored. Consequently, *Another Documentation* engages with the architecture of the gallery while also opening up conversations on the endless and often reckless construction in a heavily urbanized Mumbai.

ARTIST STATEMENT

I am interested in transforming the act of drawing into sculptural gestures that intimately connect to architectural spaces. This process emerges in part, due to my relationship to the legacy of minimalism and its emphasis upon reductive form, modularity and literal scale. I explore the tension between wholeness and fragmentation, gravity and suspension, containment and dispersal. Industrial materials such as brick, cardboard, wood and concrete as well as common actions such as sitting, leaning, tilting and stacking become the fodder and fuel for my works.

My practice reflects the regional, cultural and geographic influences of the time and space in which I am working. I explore new territories that allows for subtlety, anti-monumentality and unexpected levels of candor. Perhaps this comes from my ability to navigate the borders between drawing and sculpture, reticence and ambition, Punjabi and English.

About Avantika Bawa

Avantika Bawa is an artist, curator, and academic. She has an MFA in Painting from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (1998) and a BFA in the same from the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, India (1995). She was a participant at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture (2008), Vermont Studio Center, VT (2009), Milepost 5, Portland, OR (2010) and Jentel Artist Residency Program, WY (2010).

Note worthy exhibits include; solos at Suyama Space, Seattle, WA; The Columbus Museum, Columbus GA; Saltworks Gallery and the Atlanta Contemporary Arts Center, Atlanta, GA; Lalit Kala Academy and Nature Morte Gallery, New Delhi, India; Gallery Maskara, Mumbai, India; Disjecta and Portland State University, Portland, OR. She was part of the South by East Biennial in Boca Raton, FL; and juried group shows at the Museum of Contemporary Art, GA, The Drawing Center and Smack Mellon, NY and SAVAC, Canada. Her works has been reviewed in international publications such as The New York Times, Art Papers, Art Lies, Art India, Art Asia Pacific, The Oregonian, and The Times of India amongst others.

Bawa's curatorial work began with a hotel room show during the Art in Chicago fair (98') and has grown through her studio and gallery, *aquaspace* – a laboratory for new and multi media art. In April 2004 she was part of a team that launched *Drain* - Journal for Contemporary Art and Culture (www.drainmag.com). She is currently Assistant Professor of Fine Arts at Washington State University, Vancouver, WA. Her work can be viewed at www.avantikabawa.net.



Another Documentation, 2011-12
Site specific drawing interventions in Noida, UP and Mumbai, Maharashtra
Archival Digital Prints, 17 x 22 inches

About Gallery Maskara

Gallery Maskara has a clear and compelling mission to taking a *global* and *multidisciplinary* approach to art that responds to the cultural fabric of our time thus fueling critical dialogue, collaboration, and public engagement. More simply put it is to *EXHIBIT AND PROMOTE ART OF THE PRESENT*.

The project space known as '*Warehouse on 3rd Pasta*' is located in the heart of downtown Mumbai between 2nd and 3rd Pasta lane in Colaba, and functions as a hub for the exploration of emerging ideas in the contemporary art. The freestanding 3,250 square foot building served as a cotton godown during India's pre independence era and has been renovated by noted conservation architect Rahul Mehrotra to maintain its historic character. With a nearly 50 feet ceiling height and walls that run 100 feet in length, the cavernous space marks a shift from the typical white cube neutral space and is raw yet flexible, making the building extremely well-suited for contemporary art practices.

For more information, visit: <http://www.gallerymaskara.com>

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