



PRIYANKA CHOUDHARY
“1914 – 2014”

Show Information:

Curator: Abhay Maskara

Preview: January 09, 2014, 6:30pm to 9:30pm

Show Dates: January 10 – February 28, 2014

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

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

Mumbai, India – January 3, 2014: To commemorate 100 years of World War 1, we are pleased to announce artist Priyanka Choudhary’s fourth solo show titled *1914 - 2014* at Gallery Maskara.

From Titian to today, war and the aftermath of war has always found its way into art and art history. The year 2014 is of particular significance as it is the centenary year of World War 1. It was a moment that forever changed the geo-political and economic landscape of the 20th century and had a catalytic effect on India's struggle for Independence.

Even though the conflict happened at a time that predates many of the contemporary artists living and working today, its consequence is undeniable. Conflict in one form or another is a harsh reality of the modern age that touches us all.

Artist Priyanka Choudhary reflects and responds to the nature of war;

“It’s a paradox. The monuments to extreme violence are only too peaceful. They are placid lakes. Blind spots. I threw a small stone to ruffle the surface. I performed there to unearth the anxiety and the real memories concealed therein.

The year 2014 contains a huge cemetery - a centenary to the First World War, a performance to bring up the dead. My current works are all apparently peaceful, but they reveal their violence on closer examination. The five performances in five major conflict zones in four different continents - at Tlatelolco, Soweto, Ypres, Ground Zero and Jallianwala Bagh - were only apparently peaceful. People gathered around me forgot to smirk. Peace had been disturbed for the better, I hope.”

While the works in the show calls attention to a long forgotten past where many lives were lost, at the same time it draws our attention to the subtle forms of violence that is still prevalent in urban cities like Mumbai - violence of submission that is often unspoken and shrouded in a veil of shame and secrecy.

About Priyanka Choudhary

Priyanka Choudhary was born in 1976, Delhi, India and holds a Bachelor of Fine Art from Delhi College of Art, Delhi, India. Her visual vocabulary spans Arte-Povera, Minimalism and contemporary practice including performance art.

In 2013, the artist performed in five major conflict zones in four different continents. She was artist-in-residence at the prestigious Nirox Residency, Cradle of Humankind, Krugersdorp, South Africa. She was also awarded a month long residency at [R.A.T.] Residencias Artísticas por Intercambio, Mexico City culminating in a show at the same venue. Her third solo show *Charkha* was mounted at Yam gallery, Mexico City and she was one of the featured artist in *Traditions\Transformation* at Geukens & De Vil, Antwerp, Belgium. Her works were shown at the Skoda prize show at National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), New Delhi, India; In 2012, Choudhary participated in two group shows at Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi including a performance *Shroud Reader* at the same venue. Her works were featured at the India Art Fair, New Delhi, VIP Art Fair (online) and she was one of 20 artists shortlisted for the ŠKODA Prize; In 2011 she had her second solo show *Tetanus Midas* at Gallery Maskara, Mumbai. Her works were also featured in *(M)other India* at Galerie du Jour – Agnès B, Paris, France and at the India Art Summit, New Delhi, India; In 2010, her first solo show, *NUL to Now* was curated by Abhay Maskara and was held at Gallery Maskara, Mumbai, India. The artist lives and works in Delhi, India.

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 gallery 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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