

For Immediate Release

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Change Exchange
Installations and canvases by Nitin Dutt and Lochan Upadhyay
Exhibition opens to the public December 17 - February 6, 2010

Opening Reception: 17 December 2009 6:30 to 8:00 pm

New York, New York- Tamarind Art Council is excited to present “*Change Exchange*,” an exhibition showcasing mixed media on canvas by Nitin Dutt and an installation by Lochan Upadhyay.

As an artist, Nitin Dutt’s endeavors range from sculpture, performance, drawing, painting, photo documentation, film making and architecture. Dutt’s art-making process stands witness to the passage of time as an omni present constant. Dutt’s experiences as an immigrant lurk in every layer of his colors. To Nitin, his relentless and repetitive mark-making is cathartic. The temporal component to his mark-making implicates a certain passage across the surface to register displacement and reclaim a sense of identity. Displayed canvases and installation are the end results that invite viewers to engage with Dutt’s expressive quest, evoking a remarkable reaction.

Originally created for a Sandarbh workshop, Lochan Upadhyay’s installation titled “Power of Cloth” is a multi-part installation consisting of large scale wedding chairs fabricated with “katran,” video projection with sound, quilted “shamiana,” and photographic transfer on cloth. As an artist, Upadhyay has always tried to address the diversities and hierarchies that exist in Indian society. He approaches his concerns by studying different relationships and interactions that people share in a given space. For this particular body of work, Lochan has used references from his native region, Vagad, Rajasthan; a society whose customs he is very well versed with. Upadhyay’s installation is an innovative take on the issues such as caste system and “Dowry.” Existing in various forms and across many cultures, the custom of “Dowry” is just one manifestation of an old pervasive discrimination against women. The expendable female child is treated not just as inferior but also subservient, very often as the legal, economical and sexual property of men. Outlawed by constitution, Dowry still retains a foothold in most areas of India, causing concomitant disregard for daughters.

About the Artists:

Nitin Dutt is an Indian artist who works with various mediums including sculpture, installation, painting and film. He graduated from Michigan State University in 1998 with an MFA in Sculpture.

Dutt has received several academic merits such as the Teaching Fellowship and the Graduate Students International Travel Grant from Michigan State University. He has been a recipient of many prestigious awards including First Place Sculpture at the Chandigarh Art Academy and Best Sculptor award at the All India Fine Arts and Crafts Society, New Delhi.

Dutt's work has been showcased worldwide in critically acclaimed group, solo and juried exhibitions. He has participated in numerous group exhibitions including "Consumption," "Repeat Offenders," and "Hyphenation." In his 2002 solo exhibition, he presented "Diaspora, Displacement and Dilemma of Maintaining an Identity."

In 2008, Dutt worked as a creative design intern for Barry Bryan and Associates in Toronto. Recently, Dutt has delivered scholarly lectures and presentations in India and the US, and his works have been widely featured in various collections including those of the Art Gallery Alliance Francaise, the Pujab Academy of Art, and the Government Museum and Fine Art Gallery in India.

Lochan Upadhyay received his MFA in 2007 and BFA in 2005 from MS University Baroda. He is the recipient of numerous awards such as FICA Public Grant Award, 2008 and Rajasthan Lalit Kala Award, '02-'04. Select group exhibitions include a prestigious Group show at Red Earth Gallery, Baroda, '09, 'The artist's word,' Chitrakala Parishat, Bangalore, 09, 'Hub.' Faculty of Fine Arts, Baroda, '08, 'Obscure objects' and 'Mysteries,' Open Eyed Dreams, Cochin, 07, 'Keep Drawing,' organized by Pundole Art Gallery, Mumbai, '07, 'Doubles' 'Open Eyed Dreams, Cochin. Since 2004, Upadhyay is actively involved with Sandarbh workshops bringing forward thought provoking and cut edge community art projects. The artist lives and works in Baroda, India.

About Tamarind Art Council

Tamarind Art Council (TAC) is a not-for-profit, 501(c)3 organization dedicated to promoting contemporary art in North America. Our focus is to support all types of artistic expression, including performing and fine arts, by sponsoring art-related activities and cross-cultural events in order to expand awareness for art and culture.

Our mission: Tamarind Art Council exemplifies how life can revolve around the arts. Our mission is to impel the work of contemporary artists and performers and to facilitate public appreciation for these unique cultural art forms. Some of our events include art exhibitions, performing arts, book launches, lectures and other cultural programs. As part of our ongoing efforts, we support art museums, cultural communities and not-for-profit organizations around the globe. Tamarind Art has become a nexus for many art organizations and is a foremost resource center for gaining an understanding of all art forms, artists, and other areas of interest to individuals, businesses and art connoisseurs.

Tamarind Art Council is proud to announce sponsorship of The Museum of Modern Art's (MoMA) film screening "INDIA NOW," a bi-annual program launched in 2007, which was presented at the museum as "NEW INDIA" again in June 2009.

For more information about Tamarind Art Council, please visit our website at www.tamarindarts.org. Tamarind Art Council is located at 142 E. 39th Street, New York, NY, 10016. Contact us by calling (212)200-8000 or emailing admin@tamarindarts.org.

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