

## PRESS RELEASE

Experimenter Curators' Hub  
27th, 28th & 29th July 2017

Experimenter is pleased to announce the 7th edition of the Experimenter Curators' Hub on Thursday 27, Friday 28 & Saturday 29 July 2017 at Experimenter, 2/1 Hindustan Road, Kolkata 700029, India.

Experimenter Curators' Hub is a platform in developing and sustaining discourse on curatorial practice and exhibition making through critical discussion and debate. Structured as a deeply intensive 3-day program, every year the hub invites some of the foremost curators of the world to present their practice with reference to recent exhibitions curated by them. The audience at Experimenter Curators' Hub plays an active role in this exchange and contributes significantly to the conversations. The final day ends with a moderated panel discussion with all the participating curators, reflecting on the key aspects that emerged over the three days.

The participating curators at ECH 2017 are:

Barbara Piwowarska, Hammad Nasar, Lauren Cornell, Olivier Kaeser, Pedro de Almeida, Reem Fadda, Roobina Karode, Ruba Katrib and Nada Raza (via video conference)

Moderated by Natasha Ginwala.

Experimenter Curators' Hub 2017 is presented in lead partnership with JSW Foundation and is supported by Pro Helvetia - The Swiss Arts Council, Australia Council for the Arts & The Park Hotels. Take on Art Magazine is a media partner for the Hub.

Experimenter Curators' Hub presentations and ensuing discussions are extensively video-documented and archived as an online, freely-accessible resource and may be viewed by fellow curators, researchers, scholars, artists and others. To view previous editions of the ECH please visit <http://www.experimenter.in/web/?q=node/49>

The hub is web-streamed live and gives an opportunity for the online audience to interact with, or question the curators in real time and be part of the proceedings from anywhere in the world.

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## CURATOR BIOGRAPHIES

### BARBARA PIWOWARSKA

Barbara Piwowarska is a curator and art historian specialized in the legacy of the avant-garde and in contemporary art. In past years she curated and co-curated numerous exhibitions and projects such as: Polish New Wave at Tate Modern, London and Anthology Film Archives, New York; Polish Socialist Conceptualism of the 70s at Orchard, New York; Film Matters at Beton7, Athens; Die at COCO Kunstverein, Vienna; Erna Rosenstein: I Can Repeat Only Unconsciously at Foksal Gallery Foundation and Edward Krasinski Studio, Warsaw; The Third Room at Kunsthalle Düsseldorf and Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw; Jadwiga Maziarska 1913-2003 at Johnen Galerie, Berlin; Zofia and Oskar Hansen: Private Spaces at Arton Foundation, Warsaw. Since 2010 she runs the Footnote project employing "methodology of margins", referencing existing institutions and concepts in format of exhibitions and interventions, including: Footnote 1. Phantom Limb at CCA, Warsaw; Footnote 3. Andrea Fraser at Foksal Gallery, Warsaw; Footnote 5. Screening Space at MUMOK, Vienna; Footnote 6. As Model at Miguel Abreu Gallery, New York; or Footnote 10: Museum of the Unknown at Centre Pompidou, Paris. Since 2016 she works as a curator at Galeria Studio in Warsaw, where she recently organized Aura Rosenberg's exhibition Angel of History devoted to contemporary reception of Walter Benjamin. In 2017 she curated Polish Pavilion for 57th Venice Biennale with the Little Review project by Sharon Lockhart prepared in collaboration with teenaged women from Youth Centre for Socio-Therapy in Rudzienko, inspired by theory and practice of the pre-war pedagogue and writer Janusz Korczak.

### HAMMAD NASAR

Hammad Nasar is a curator, writer, and researcher based in London. He was Head of Research & Programmes at Asia Art Archive (AAA), Hong Kong (2012-2016), and co-founded the non-profit arts organisation Green Cardamom (2004-2012). He curated Rock, Paper, Scissors: Positions in Play at the 57th Venice Art Biennale (2017). Selected public exhibitions he curated or co-curated include: Lines of Control: Partition as a Productive Space at Johnson Museum, Cornell University & Nasher Museum, Duke University (2012-13); Drawn from Life at Abbot Hall, Kendal (2011); Beyond the Page: The Miniature as Attitude in Contemporary Art from Pakistan at Manchester Art Gallery & Pacific Asia Museum, Pasadena (2006-10); Where Three Dreams Cross: 150 Years of Photography from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh at Whitechapel Gallery, London (2010); Safavids Revisited at British Museum, London (2009); Who are you? Where are you really from? at Whitworth Gallery, Manchester (2006); and Karkhana: A Contemporary Collaboration at

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Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, CT and Asian Art Museum, San Francisco (2005-7). At AAA he led many collaborative research projects and exhibitions, and collaborated with diverse institutions including the University of Hong Kong, the Museum of Modern Art (NY), the Indonesian Visual Art Archive, and the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art.

## LAUREN CORNELL

Lauren Cornell is Director of the Graduate Program at the Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College & Chief Curator of the Hessel Museum of Art. From 2005-2017, Cornell worked at the New Museum, most recently as Curator and Associate Director of Technology Initiatives. Here, Cornell organized exhibitions including the 2015 New Museum Triennial, "Surround Audience," with artist Ryan Trecartin, "Beatriz Santiago Munoz: Song, Strategy, Sign," with Johanna Burton & Sara O'Keeffe (2016); "Walking, Drifting, Dragging" (2013); "Free" (2010); and "Younger than Jesus," with Massimiliano Gioni & Laura Hoptman (2009), among others. Cornell produced over eighty performances, screenings, and conversations while at the New Museum, and commissioned over one hundred works in a variety of mediums, including sculpture, painting, photography, installation, and video, as well as browser-based work and virtual reality. She founded the annual conference Seven on Seven (2010) & cofounded Open Score (2016), an annual forum exploring issues in art and technology. From 2005-2012, she served as executive director of the New Museum's affiliate Rhizome, an organization that commissions, exhibits, and preserves art engaged with technology. She is a co-editor of *Mass Effect: Art and the Internet in the Twenty-First Century* (New Museum and MIT Press, 2015). Cornell has served on Bard Center for Curatorial Studies faculty since 2010, and organized the Hessel Museum's tenth anniversary exhibition "Invisible Adversaries" with Tom Eccles. In 2017, she received ArtTable's New Leadership Award.

## NADA RAZA

Nada Raza is the Research Curator for Tate Research Centre: Asia with a particular focus on South Asian art. Raza is also the Curator for the South Asian Acquisitions Committee, working on major acquisitions from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. Previously the Assistant Curator at Tate Modern (2012 – 2016), Raza co-curated Bhupen Khakhar: You Can't Please All at Tate Modern (2016) and contributed to Meschac Gaba: Museum of Contemporary African Art (2013). She curated the collection displays of work by Monir Shahroudy Farmanfarmaian and Zarina Hashmi, and of Sheela Gowda. Raza also curated a thematic exhibition for the Dhaka Art Summit in Bangladesh in 2016 and was selected to be the curator of the Abraaj Capital Art Prize 2014.

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## OLIVIER KAESER

Olivier Kaeser is an art historian and curator currently based in Paris. After his studies at the University of Geneva, he worked at the Contemporary Art Center in Geneva, and then founded the independent art space attitudes in 1994, with Jean-Paul Felley. Under this name, both organized and curated exhibitions and public programs in Switzerland and other European countries. In Buenos Aires, Santiago de Chile and Beirut, they curated "expedition group shows", based on short production residencies on sites. Gruppo A12, Marc Bauer, Marie Cool & Fabio Balducci, Sebastian Diaz Morales, Mark Lewis, Multiplicity, Antoni Muntadas, Shahryar Nashat, Dan Perjovschi, Tobias Putrih, Raster Noton, Michael Sailsdorfer, Tomas Saraceno or Hans Schabus had, among others, solo shows at attitudes. In 2008, he was appointed co-director of Swiss Cultural Center (CCS) in Paris, still with Felley. CCS - which is part of Pro Helvetia, the Swiss foundation for culture - is a multidisciplinary institution dedicated mainly to contemporary Swiss artistic practices, such as contemporary art, theater, dance, music, performance, architecture, graphic design, film or literature. In the field of contemporary art, the programme of CCS is mainly dedicated to solo shows, often composed by new commissioned works. Artist' books are also often published with the shows. In 2015, he co-curated PerformanceProcess, an exhibition/festival dedicated to Swiss performance art from 1960. This project will be rearticulated, expanded and developed in the fall 2017 in Basel, in partnership with three institutions, Museum Tinguely, Kaserne Basel and Kunsthalle Basel.

## PEDRO DE ALMEIDA

Pedro de Almeida is program manager at 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, Sydney. As an arts manager, curator, programmer & writer, over the past decade he has developed and delivered artistic and cultural programs that have been distinguished by their engagement of culturally and socially diverse artists, communities and audiences. Curatorial projects for 4A include Dacchi Dang: An Omen Near and Far (2017), a survey of one of the preeminent Vietnamese-Australian artists working today; Sea Pearl White Cloud (2016, co-curated with Anthony Yung, Observation Society), a two part exhibition staged in Guangzhou and Sydney that presented new works by Lucas Ihlein and Trevor Yeung informed by questions of temporality, exchange and poetics at play in urban and natural environments; and MASS GROUP INCIDENT (2015, co-curated with Toby Chapman and Aaron Seeto), a multi-stage program of exhibitions, performances & site-specific projects that explored ideas of collective action through the complex position of the individual in relation to the group. Pedro's critical writing on art is published regularly, appearing in ArtAsiaPacific, Art Monthly Australasia, Broadsheet Journal, LEAP, Photofile and un Magazine. He is editor of 4A Papers, a newly established online platform for writing on contemporary

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art and culture in the Asia Pacific region, and a member of Broadsheet Journal's international editorial advisory board. He is currently undertaking a MPhil at the University of New South Wales Art & Design with a research focus on the politics of art projects in public housing sites.

## REEM FADDA

Reem Fadda was the former Associate Curator, Middle Eastern Art for the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi Project from 2010-2016. Between 2005 and 2007, she was Director of the Palestinian Association for Contemporary Art (PACA) and worked as Academic Director to the International Academy of Art – Palestine, which she helped found in 2006. She was appointed as the Curator for the National Pavilion of the United Arab Emirates of the 55th Venice Biennale, 2012. And was recently the curator of the 6th Marrakech Biennale, held Feb-May 2016. She will curate the inaugural exhibition of the Palestinian Museum, in Ramallah opening on September 1, 2017. Fadda was awarded the 2017 8th Walter Hopps Award for Curatorial Achievement awarded by the Menil Collection.

## ROOBINA KARODE

Roobina Karode is the Director & Chief Curator at the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, New Delhi. Between 1990 and 2006, she taught Art History at various institutions, mainly the School of Arts & Aesthetics in JNU, the National Museum Institute, College of Art, Jamia Millia University, Gargi College, NIFT and Shankar's Academy of Art & Book Publishing. She was awarded the Fulbright Fellowship in 2000 and the Ford Teaching Fellowship in 2005-7. Karode has over the years curated numerous exhibitions including Nasreen Mohamedi: a view to infinity, 2013 and Is it what you think? Ruminations on Time, Memory and Site, 2014 at KNMA with 17 contemporary artists, Nasreen Mohamedi: waiting is a part of intense living, 2015 at the Reina Sofia Museum in Spain and co-curated NASREEN MOHAMEDI at the MET Breuer, New York in 2016, Nalini Malaini's Retrospective You can't put acid in a paperbag 2014 in 3 chapters, Constructs-Constructions, Pond near the Field ( Five artists from Kerala) ,Himmat Shah: Hammer on the Square, 2016, Jeram Patel : The Dark Loam- between memory and membrane, Enactments and each passing day and Stretched Terrains – a string of exhibitions. She had also co-curated travelling exhibits on contemporary women artists of India at the Women's Studies Research Center, Brandeis University, USA, titled Tiger by the Tail, Women Artists of India Transforming Culture, 2008. She was the co-curator from India to the First Asian Art Triennale in Fukuoka, Japan. In 2016, she was the recipient of the India Today Best Curator award for the year.

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## RUBA KATRIB

Ruba Katrib is Curator at SculptureCenter in New York City. At SculptureCenter she has produced the group shows "The Eccentrics" (2015), "Puddle, Pothole, Portal" (2014) (co-curated with artist Camille Henrot), "Better Homes" (2013), & "A Disagreeable Object" (2012). Recent solo shows organized include exhibitions with Sam Anderson, Teresa Burga, Charlotte Prodger, Cercle d'Art des Travailleurs de Plantation Congolaise (CATPC) (2017), Cosima von Bonin, Aki Sasamoto, Rochelle Goldberg (2016), Anthea Hamilton, Gabriel Sierra, Magali Reus, Michael E. Smith, Erika Verzutti, Araya Rasdjarmrearnsook (2015), Jumana Manna, and David Douard (2014). Katrib regularly organizes panels, lectures, & performances at SculptureCenter. Katrib contributes to a number of museum catalogues and periodicals including Art in America, Artforum, Cura, Magazine, Kaleidoscope, Parkett, & Mousse. She frequently presents lectures; recent talks have taken place at the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation (2017), the University of Oregon as part of the Ford Family Foundation's Connective Conversations Series (2016), the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, Québec (2016), the Jewish Museum (2016), Virginia Commonwealth University (2016), the Institute of Fine Arts at New York University (2015), Tyler School of Art, Philadelphia (2015), and Museo de Arte Moderno de Medellín (MAMM) in Colombia (2015). She has participated in panels on indigenous issues in contemporary art & on the Syrian collective Abounaddara, both at the Vera List Center for Art & Politics at the New School. Katrib has also served as a research "Companion" for the next Carnegie International 2018, conducting travel & research in the Caucasus region.

## NATASHA GINWALA (moderator)

Natasha Ginwala is a curator, researcher, and writer. She is curator of Contour Biennale 8 and curatorial advisor for documenta 14 (2017). Recent projects include My East Is Your West featuring Shilpa Gupta and Rashid Rana at the 56th Venice Biennale; Still Against the Sky at KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin; and Corruption: Everybody Knows... with e-flux, New York within the framework of the SUPERCOMMUNITY project. She was a member of the artistic team for the 8th Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art (with Juan A. Gaitán) and curated The Museum of Rhythm at Taipei Biennial 2012 (with Anselm Franke) and at Muzeum Sztuki 2016–2017 (with Daniel Muzyczuk). From 2013–15 she led the multi-part curatorial project Landings presented at Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art, David Roberts Art Foundation, Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, and other partner organizations (with Vivian Zihler). Ginwala writes on contemporary art and visual culture in various periodicals and has contributed to numerous publications.

Participating curators at previous editions include Jitish Kallat, Doryun Chong, Shanay Jhaveri,

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Hoor Al Qasimi, Giovanni Carmine, Eugenio Viola, Tasneem Zakaria Mehta, Matt Packer, Aleksandra Kedziorek, Kazuhiko Yoshizaki (2015); Ranjit Hoskote, Adam Szymczyk, Grant Watson, Riyas Komu, Shuddhabrata Sengupta, Eungie Joo, Pooja Sood, Magdalena Ziolkowska, Alexander Koch, Yuko Hasegawa (2014); Nancy Adajania, Natasha Ginwala, Sandhini Poddar, Oliver Kielmayer, Che Kyongfa, Daniel Muzyczuk, Kathrin Rhomberg, Girish Sahane, Allessandro Vincentelli (2013); Annapurna Garimela, Inke Arns, Abhay Maskara, Aveek Sen, Diana Campbell, Meera Menezes, Patrick Gosatti, Suman Gopinath, Sumesh Sharma, Zasha Colah, Susan Hapgood (2012); Deeksha Nath, Gitanjali Dang, Heidi Fitchner Maya Kovskaya, Oindrilla Maity Surai, Meenakshi Thirukode, Nadia Schneider-Willen, Arshiya Lokhandwala (2011).

## About Experimenter:

Experimenter was envisioned and started by Prateek & Priyanka Raja in 2009. Experimenter goes outside the expected imperatives of the art market, highlighting instead experimental and alternative artists from all over the world. With an ambitious and challenging multidisciplinary approach, Experimenter mounts interactive installations, multiple channel work, live projects and political interventions that question the fraught and kinetic era we live in. Housed in a 1930's heritage building in Kolkata, India, the space is used by artists for large installations, performances and talks that accompany wall and floor based works.

Experimenter represents and manages the careers of some of the most exciting and celebrated contemporary artists from South Asia and the rest of the world, whose practices are exhibited at crucial international exhibitions and museums worldwide. Experimenter participates in major international art fairs in Europe, the United States, the Middle East and Asia.

Considered to be at the forefront of contemporary art, Experimenter has played a pioneering role in bringing exhibitions of critical international acclaim to India, and in particular to Kolkata. Experimenter was awarded the Best Contemporary Gallery of the Year award at the Forbes India Art Awards in 2014 and the best gallery of the year award by the India Today Art Awards in 2016. Since its inception, Experimenter's program has constantly challenged the pre-existing norms in the art world, garnering critical acclaim and is looked upon as a pacesetter for contemporary practice from the region.

For further information or press related inquiries, please write to [admin@experimenter.in](mailto:admin@experimenter.in) or call on +91.33.2463.0465 / 4001.2289.

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