

Press Release: 17 July 2018

## EXPERIMENTER CURATORS' HUB 8<sup>th</sup> Edition



Experimenter Curators' Hub 2017, Kolkata. Courtesy of Experimenter.

Experimenter Curators' Hub: 26-28 July 2018

Experimenter is pleased to announce the 8th edition of the Experimenter Curators' Hub on Thursday 26, Friday 27 & Saturday 28 July 2018 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.

Experimenter Curators' Hub is organised by Experimenter Learning Program in partnership with Sharjah Art Foundation. Experimenter Curators' Hub is also supported by Australia Council for The Arts and Goethe Institute, as well as The Park (hospitality partner) and Take Magazine (media partner).

The participating curators at ECH 2018 are documenta 14, 2017 Artistic Director, Adam Szymczyk; Curator at Shanghai Biennale 2016, Jeebesh Bagchi; Founding director of SAVVY Contemporary Berlin, Bonaventure Soh Bejeng Ndikung; and Cultural Critic and Commissioner of Global Art Forum, Shumon Basar. Completing this year's revered group are independent curator Erin Gleeson; Urbanists Prasad Shetty and Rupali Gupte; Professor of Art and Aesthetics at JNU, Delhi, Kavita Singh; Researcher at Asia Art Archive, Sabih Ahmed; Curator at the Institute of Modern Art in Mi-anjin, Léuli Eshraghi; Curator at Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin, Övül Ö. Durmusoglu. The hub is moderated by curator, researcher, and writer, Natasha Ginwala.

Since it was founded in 2011, ECH has hosted 67 leading practitioners. Last year's speakers included curator, writer and Arts Manager, Pedro de Almeida, Associate Curator at Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, Reem Fadda, Director of Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, Roobina Karode, Curator and Co-Director of Swiss Cultural Centre in Paris, Olivier Kaeser, Head of Research and Programming at Art Asia Pacific,

# experimenter

Hammad Nasar, Curator and Art Historian, Barbara Piwowarska, curator at PS1 MOMA, Ruba Katrib, Director of Graduate Programme at Bard College, Lauren Cornell, and Curator at Tate Modern, Nada Raza.

The Hub will be live streamed, breaking down traditional constraints of location and opening up the debate to people around the world. Online audiences will have the chance to interact with, and question the curators in real time. In 2017, over 18,000 people were connected to the Hub via web-streaming.

During ECH, the gallery will also announce full details of the Experimenter Learning Program (ELP), an ambitious and deeply enriching yearlong educational programme. Sharjah Art Foundation is the lead partner for ECH and ELP. Sharjah Art Foundation will be hosting a parallel event to the annual Experimenter Curators' Hub, which will be held in Gallery 2, Al Mureijah Square on Saturday, July 28th and will be free to all, offering UAE-based curators, practitioners and members of the public the opportunity to gather for a live-stream of the day's talks, inclusive of a networking lunch, followed by an interactive discussion with Kolkata during the closing panel. Attendees will be given the opportunity to ask questions and contribute to an essential conversation with ECH's participating curators. The full three-day programme of talks in Kolkata will also be available to live-stream on Sharjah Art Foundation's website. Viewers are encouraged to watch the first two days of talks before attending Saturday's event at SAF for the opportunity to participate and discuss.

The Experimenter Learning Program (ELP) is envisioned as a long-term, sustainable and multifaceted learning and education programme that keeps visual culture at its root to build discourse around. ELP will be the kernel on which Experimenter will expound its continued interest in enabling dialogue, discussion and debate in fields of contemporary and performing arts, curatorship, film, writing, language and social culture. ELP will have a year-long schedule that will include the annual ECH, workshops, salon-style classrooms, symposia, lecture performances and Experimenter Juniors Program.

*Prateek and Priyanka Raja, Experimenter co-founders said: 'The Experimenter Curators' Hub was organised out of a crucial need to critically discuss and debate curatorial practices across the world, to learn, converse and thereby possibly throw open possibilities of understanding what lies behind significant contemporary exhibition-making. The ECH is a unique setting that allows for a certain intimacy, letting curators open up in a way that no other forum allows. The intimacy of the conversations and the possibilities that emerge from some of the most fertile minds in the world of contemporary art is palpable. The energy in the room augments criticism and theory as a starting ground'.*

Hammad Nasar, Executive Director of Stuart Hall Foundation, London and ECH 2017 participant said: *'Experimenter Curators' Hub is a well of collegiality. It is critical, supportive, and generous, and is a welcome pause to reflect and share'*

All presentations by curators will be added to the Experimenter website, offered as a resource to enable further audiences to experience the event. Films from the previous editions can also be viewed here: [www.experimenter.in/web/node/49](http://www.experimenter.in/web/node/49)

## Ticket Information

The Experimenter Curators' Hub is free to attend. Places at the event will be offered on a first come, first served basis. Please email [admin@experimenter.in](mailto:admin@experimenter.in) to register for the date/s on which you would like to attend.

# experimenter

The Experimenter Curators' Hub 2018 will take place at Experimenter: 2/1 Hindustan Road, Kolkata 700029, India. For more information please visit: [www.experimenter.in](http://www.experimenter.in) or email [admin@experimenter.in](mailto:admin@experimenter.in)

ENDS

For further press information and images please contact:

Rebecca Butler at Sutton E: [rebecca@suttonpr.com](mailto:rebecca@suttonpr.com) | T: +44 (0) 207 1833577

## NOTES TO EDITORS

### About Experimenter

Experimenter was co-founded by Prateek & Priyanka Raja in 2009. With a multidisciplinary approach, the gallery is an incubator for an ambitious and challenging contemporary practice. The program represents some of the most critical contemporary artists worldwide. Considered to be a 'pace-setter' for its region, the program extends from exhibition-making, to knowledge creation, through regular talks, performances, workshops and most importantly, through its much acclaimed, annual curatorial intensive, Experimenter Curators' Hub. In 2016, its artist-book publishing wing, Experimenter Books was launched. Experimenter's program is rooted in dialogue and dissent.

### About Experimenter Curators' Hub

The Experimenter Curators' Hub brings together some of the foremost minds in curatorship from all over the world. Founded in 2009 by Priyanka and Prateek Raja, the event is a crucial platform for developing and sustaining discourse on curatorial practice and exhibition making. Each year, ten curators, artists, designers and architects are invited to present and discuss their practice in depth through presentations on recent exhibitions they have personally conceived. Experimenter Curators' Hub presentations and ensuing discussions are extensively video documented and archived as an online, freely-accessible resource offered to fellow curators, researchers, scholars, artists and members of the public.

### About Sharjah Art Foundation

Sharjah Art Foundation is an advocate, catalyst and producer of contemporary art. Through the Sharjah Biennial, the annual March Meeting, year-round exhibitions, film and music programmes, education and community outreach programmes, grants, residencies, commissions and publications, the foundation encourages a shared understanding of the transformational role of art.

## Further Information on the 2018 Participants:

### JEEBESH BAGCHI

Jeebesh Bagchi, along with Monica Narula and Shuddhabrata Sengupta, is a member of Raqs Media Collective. Raqs Media Collective enjoys playing a plurality of roles, often appearing as artists, occasionally as curators, and sometimes as philosophical agent provocateurs. In 2000, Raqs Media Collective co-founded the Sarai initiative at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies in Delhi, and the Sarai Reader Series, which they edited until 2013. The collective received the Multitude Art Prize in 2013.

# experimenter

Exhibitions curated by Raqs Media Collective include 'The Rest of Now' (Manifesta 7, Bolzano, 2008), Sarai Reader 09 (Gurugram, 2012-13), INSERT2014 (New Delhi, 2014) and most recently 'Why Not Ask Again' (Shanghai Biennale 2016-2017).

Their work has been exhibited at Documenta, the Venice, Sao Paulo, Manifesta, Istanbul, Shanghai, Sydney and Taipei Biennales. A retrospective, 'With an Untimely Calendar' was held at the National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi, in 2014-2015. Other solo shows at museums include at the Isabella Gardner Museum (Boston 2012), CA2M (Madrid 2014), MUAC (Mexico City 2015), Tate Exchange (London 2016), Fundacion Proa (Buenos Aires 2015), Laumeier Sculpture Park (St Louis 2016), and the Whitworth Art Gallery (Manchester 2017). Raqs Media Collective's solo Everything Else Is Ordinary is currently on view at K21 Museum, Dusseldorf.

## ÖVÜL Ö. DURMUSOGLU

Övül Ö. Durmuşoğlu is a curator and writer based in Berlin, Istanbul and Graz. After her guest professorship for curatorial theory and praxis in Nuremberg Fine Arts Academy, she is currently one of the curators for Steirischer Herbst Festival in Graz. In Istanbul she acted as the director/curator of YAMA screen between 2015-16. She was curatorial and public program advisor for Gülsün Karamustafa's retrospective 'Chronographia' at Hamburger Bahnhof, Museum für Gegenwart (Berlin).

Among recent exhibitions are 'Brief Flashes Against A World (Languages of the Future), Kunsthal ExtraCity, Antwerp (2017); 'The Finger That Shows The Moon Never Moons', Dan Gunn, Berlin (2017); 'Future Queer', the 20th year anniversary exhibition for Kaos GL, ARK Kultur Istanbul (2016). In the past, she organized/coordinated programs and events as a Goethe Institute fellow at Maybe Education and Public Programs for dOCUMENTA (13). She was the artistic director of the festival Sofia Contemporary 2013, 'Near, Closer, Together: Exercises for a Common Ground' and curated programs for 10th, 13th and 14th Istanbul Biennials.

Durmüşoğlu lectured in institutions such as Central European University (Budapest), Grand Union (Birmingham), Dhaka Art Summit' 16, Tensta Konsthall (Stockholm), Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand (Sao Paulo), 98weeks (Beirut), SAVVY Contemporary (Berlin), Akademie der Bildende Kuenste (Vienna). She has contributed to print and online publications such as Zeit Online, Frieze Online, WdW Review and Art Agenda. She is also among the co-founders of Altyazi Monthly Cinema Magazine in Istanbul.

## ERIN GLEESON

Erin Gleeson is an independent curator, researcher and writer. Based in Phnom Penh since 2002, her work has focused on knowledge and practices in and related to Southeast Asia. Select exhibitions include On Attachments and Unknowns, SA SA BASSAC, Phnom Penh (2017), Enter the Stream at the Turn, Satellite Program 8, Jeu de Paume and CAPC, France (2015-2016); 4th Singapore Biennale (2014).

As part of the Asia Cultural Centre Gwangju initiative Exhibition Histories in Asia, she curated and authored the study Displaying Change and Continuity: Exhibition Histories in Cambodia 1945-1979 (2016). She is a guest speaker most recently at the symposiums Flight from the Empire, House of World Cultures, Berlin (2017), SUNSHOWER: Contemporary Art from Southeast Asia from 1980-Today, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo (2017); and Art in Cambodia: An Historical Inquiry, Museum of Modern Art, NY, for which she was a co-organizer (2013). Gleeson co-founded with Vera Mey, FIELDS, a triennial gathering-residency rooted in Cambodia. She was a curator in residence with Villa Vassilief, Paris (2016), Centre for Contemporary Art Singapore (2015), and received an Artis research

## experimenter

grant, Tel Aviv (2014). She is a member of the Prize Council for the Vera List Prize for Art and Politics, and a Juror and Guest Advisor to Rijksakademie, Amsterdam, and Rijksacadmie-ACC, Gwangju.

From 2011-2018, she was the co-founding director of SA SA BASSAC, a non-profit exhibition space, reading room and resource center in Phnom Penh.

### ADAM SZYMCZYK

Adam Szymczyk is Artistic Director of documenta 14. He was a co-founder of the Foksal Gallery Foundation in Warsaw, at which he worked as Curator from 1997 till 2003, when he assumed his new post as Director at Kunsthalle Basel, Switzerland. In Basel, he organized exhibitions including Micol Assaël: Chizhevsky Lessons (2007); Danh Vo: Where the Lions Are (2009); Moyra Davey: Speaker Receiver (2010); Sung Hwan Kim: Line Wall (2011) and Adriana Lara: S.S.O.R. (2012), Michel Auder: Stories, Myths, Ironies, and Other Songs: Conceived, Directed, Edited, and Produced by M. Auder (2013) and Naeem Mohaiemen: Prisoners of Shothik Itihash (2014).

In 2008 he co-curated with Elena Filipovic the 5th Berlin Biennial for Contemporary Art under the title When Things Cast No Shadow and in 2012 he curated Olinka, or Where Movement Is Created at Museo Tamayo in Mexico City. He is a Member of the Board of the Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw and Member of the Advisory Committee of Kontakt. Art Collection of Erste Group and ERSTE Foundation in Vienna. In 2011, he was recipient of the Walter Hopps Award for Curatorial Achievement at the Menil Foundation in Houston.

### PRASAD SHETTY and RUPALI GUPTA

Prasad Shetty & Rupali Gupta are urbanists based in Mumbai and teach at the School of Environment and Architecture which they co-founded as an experimental academic space for architecture and urbanism. In 2003, they co-founded an urban research network, CRIT.

Rupali and Prasad are architects and specialise in urban design and urban management respectively. Some of their works include Multifarious Nows (an art installation for Manifesta 7, Bolzano - 2007); Studies of Housing Types in Mumbai (for the Urban Age initiative of London School of Economics - 2007), Being Nicely Messy - a proposition for the future of Urban Mobility (for Audi Urban Future Initiatives, Istanbul - 2012); Gurgaon Glossaries - a methodology to read cities (for Sarai 09 Delhi - 2013, Mumbai Art Room and the Sao Paolo Architecture Biennale - 2014); Transactional Objects (an installation for the 56th Venice Art Biennale - 2015), R and R: a library and community centre built in a rehabilitation colony in Mankhurd in collaboration with CAMP and Khanabadhosh (2016), Spatial design for the Shanghai Biennale (2016); Systems and Madness, (an installation at the Seoul Architecture Biennale 2017) When is Space? (curation of an architectural exhibition at Jawahar Kala Kendral, Jaipur - 2018).

### SABIH AHMED

Sabih Ahmed is a Researcher at Asia Art Archive based in New Delhi. He conceptualises and leads research initiatives on modern and contemporary art, has led projects digitising artist archives and creating digital bibliographies of art across multiple languages, and has organised colloquia and seminars around archiving and educational resources. Ahmed has been a Visiting Faculty at School of Culture and Creative Expression, Ambedkar University, Delhi.

## experimenter

His recent writings have been published by Mousse Publications, The Whitworth, and Ocurating. He was a member of the Curatorial Collegiate of the 11th Shanghai Biennale curated by Raqs Media Collective.

### SHUMON BASAR

Shumon Basar is a writer, thinker and cultural critic. He is co-author of *The Age of Earthquakes: A Guide to the Extreme Present* with Douglas Coupland and Hans Ulrich Obrist. His edited books include *Translated By*, *Cities from Zero*, *The World of Madelon Vriesendorp*, *With/Without*, *Did Someone Say Participate?* and *Hans Ulrich Obrist Interviews Volume 2*.

He is Commissioner of the Global Art Forum in Dubai; Editor-at-large of *Tank* magazine and Contributing Editor at *Bidoun* magazine; Director of the *Format* program at the AA School, London; a member of Fondazione Prada's "Thought Council," Milan; and part of Art Jameel's Curatorial Council.

### LÉULI ESHRĀGHI

Léuli Eshrāghi is a visiting curator (with Freja Carmichael, Lana Lopesi, Tarah Hogue and Sarah Biscarra Dilley) at the Institute of Modern Art, just north of Mianjin, in 2018. He is a curator, artist and Monash University PhD candidate visiting Kulin Nation lands and waters. Léuli hails from the Sāmoan villages of Āpia, Leulumoega, Si'umu, Salelologa, and other ancestries.

His work centres on ceremonial-political practices, language renewal, and Indigenous futures. Residencies include *Sovereign Words* (Office of Contemporary Art Norway with Artspace Sydney at the Dhaka Art Summit), *Para Site* Hong Kong, Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, and University of British Columbia - Okanagan. He serves on the board of the Aboriginal Curatorial Collective (Canada), editorial advisory committee for *un Magazine*, and the Pacific advisory group to Melbourne Museum.

### BONAVENTURE SOH BEJENG NDIKUNG

Bonaventure Soh Bejeng Ndikung, PhD is an independent art curator and biotechnologist. He is founder and artistic director of *SAVVY Contemporary* Berlin and editor-in-chief of *SAVVY Journal* for critical texts on contemporary African art. He is currently guest professor in curatorial studies at the Städelschule in Frankfurt.

He was curator-at-large for Adam Szymczyk's *documenta 14*, and is a guest curator of the 2018 *Dak'Art Biennale* in Senegal. Recent curatorial projects include: *Azin Feizabadi*, *Once Upon A Time*, *Once Upon No Time*, *Galerie Wedding*, 2018; *That, Around Which the Universe Revolves: On Rhythmanalysis of Memory*, *Times*, *Bodies in Space*, *SAVVY Contemporary*, *Hebbel am Ufer*, *Kampragel*.

Selected lectureships and talks at Reykjavik Museum of Art, 2018; *Cités des Arts*, Paris, 2018; *Tensta Konsthall* Stockholm, 2017; *Bergen Assembly*, 2017; *University of the Arts London*, 2017; *Gwangju Biennale*, 2016; *Pluriversale*, *Akademie der Kunste der Welt*, Köln, 2016.

### KAVITA SINGH

Kavita Singh is Professor of Art History and is currently the Dean of the School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, where she teaches courses on the history of Indian painting, on curating, and on the history and politics of museums. She has published essays on issues of colonial history, repatriation, secularism and religiosity, fraught national identities, and the



# experimenter

memorialization of difficult histories as they relate to museums in South Asia and beyond. She has also published essays and monographs on Mughal painting.

Her books include the edited and co-edited volumes *New Insights into Sikh Art* (Marg, 2003), *Influx: Contemporary Art in Asia* (Sage, 2013), *No Touching, No Spitting, No Praying: The Museum in South Asia* (co-edited with Saloni Mathur, Routledge, 2014), and *Museum Storage and Meaning: Tales from the Crypt* (co-edited with Mirjam Brusius, Routledge 2017). Monographs include *Museums, Heritage, Culture: Into the Conflict Zone* (Amsterdam University of the Arts, 2015) and *Real Birds in Imagined Gardens: Mughal Painting Between Persia and Europe* (Getty Research Institute, 2016).

She has curated exhibitions at the San Diego Museum of Art, the Devi Art Foundation, Jawaharlal Nehru University, and the National Museum of India.

presented by



in partnership with



supported by



hospitality partner



media partner

