

Gigi Scaria :

Bibliography: <http://www.gigiscaria.in/index.html>

Country: India

1. **Dates:** 1973, Kothanalloor, Kerala, India
2. **Lives and works:** The Artist lives and works in New Delhi
3. **Education:** Studied B.F.A Painting , at the College of Fine Arts, Thiruvananthapuram, 1995 and M.F.A Painting at Jamia Milia University , Delhi, 1998
4. **Medium of Work:** Trained as a painter but he explores various media like video, photography, installations, sculptures and paintings. The use of urban architectural spaces and geometrical patterns are highly prevalent in all his works. Reflective of his own experiences of moving from Thiruvanthapuram to Delhi, he often portrays the city as a site of various conflicts of modernity, marginalization, urban diaspora, etc. He is also involved with welfare projects via art and experiments through activism within through his own works for social and political causes.

Solo Exhibitions:

2013 "City Unclaimed", Smart Museum of Art University of Chicago

2010

"Open windows Close Boundaries", Dubai art fair, Gallery Chemould, Mumbai

2009

"Amusement Park", Gallery Chemould, Mumbai

"Settlement", Galerie Christain Hosp, Berlin, Germany

2008

"Difficult to Imagine, Easy to Construct", Art Asia, Miami

"Site under Construction", Video Space, Budapest, Hungary

"New Perspectives from India, Seoul/Delhi", recent photographs and video, H Cube Gallery, Seoul, South Korea

"Triviality of Everyday Existence", recent photographs and video, The National Art Studio, Changdong, Seoul, South Korea

Palette Art Gallery, Delhi, India

2007

"Absence of an architect", video installations, photographs and paintings, Palette Art Gallery, New Delhi

2005

"Where are the Amerindians?" Inter America Space, CCA7, Trinidad

2001

"Exhibition of recent works, Art Inc., Shahpurjat, New Delhi

Group Exhibitions:

2013

“Freedom to March: Rediscovering Gandhi through Dandi”, Ojas Art, New Delhi

2011

“Everyone agrees: it’s about to explode”, India Pavillion at 54th Venice Biennale

“Tolstoy Farm: Archive of Utopia”, Lalit Kala Academy, New Delhi

“Open Invitation 1 and 2”, 3rd Singapore Biennale, Singapore Art Museum

“Freedom to March: Rediscovering Gandhi through Dandi”, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi

“Constructed Realities”, The Guild, Mumbai, India

2010

“Freedom to March: Rediscovering Gandhi through Dandi”, Lalit Kala Academy, New Delhi

FIAC Art fair, Paris, France

“Finding India: Art for the new century”, Museum of Contemporary Art, Taipei

“Samtidigt”– Helsinki City Art Museum, Finland, and Kulturhuset, Stockholm, Sweden

“Emerging Asian Artists” curated by Yongwoo Lee which is a part of the special exhibition at Art Gwangju 2010 at the KimDaeJung Convention centre.

“Video Art India”, curated by Luissa Ortinez, Fundacio la Caixa, Barcelona, Spain

“The Black Cube”, Video art festival curated by Johny M L., the international documentary film Festival at Trivandrum, Kerala

“

“Who Has Seen Gandhi?” presented by Tangerine Art Space at Raj Bhavan; KynKyny Art Gallery and Tangerine Art Space, Bangalore, India

“Indian (Sub) Way”, Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi (preview)

(Exhibition) Grosvenor Vadehra, London, UK

“Invisible Cities”, Aicon Gallery, New York, USA

“Snow”, the Palette Art Gallery, New Delhi in collaboration with Tao Art Gallery, Mumbai, India

“By George”, presented by Cherry Art Foundation at Alliance Francaise de Delhi, New Delhi, India

“The Way We Are”, Mon Art Gallerie, Kolkata, India

“Volta Art Fair”, New York, Video Space, Budapest, Hungary

“VIDEO Silvasa art gallery, DN&H, curated by Johny M L

2009

“Marvelous Reality”, Gallery Espace (Rabindra Bhavan) New Delhi, curated by Sunil Mehra

“If I were a saint..” Curated by Johny M L, at Travencore Palace, Shrine Art Gallery, New Delhi

“Lost in the urban maze” ,Palette Gallery ,New Delhi

“A new Vanguard, at Guild New York and Saffron Art, New York.

“Expressions at Tihar”, Ojas Art, Matighar, IGCA New Delhi

“In Focus”, Contemporary Indian Photography, Crimson art Gallery: The art resource, Bangalore

“Poetic Documentary”, Aicon Gallery, London

“India Art Summit”, Pragatimaidan, New Delhi

“ARCO Art Fair”, Madrid

“RELATIVE VISA”, Curated by Bose Krishnamachari, Bodhi Art Mumbai

“BAPU” Curated by Gayatri Sinha, Saffron Art, Mumbai

2008

“Who knew? Mr. Gandhi “, Aicon Gallery, London

“Video Zone-4”, The 4th International video art Biennial, Tel Aviv, Israel

“VIDEOMIX.INDIA.” La Casa Encendida, Madrid, Spain

Popular Reality, The stainless, New Delhi.

INDIAVATA (India + Avatar)

Contemporary artists from India.

Gallery SUN Contemporary, Seoul, Korea

Young Contemporary Indian Artists, 1x1 Gallery, Dubai.

**Walk on line, Avanthay Contemporary, Zurich, Switzerland
curated by Ranjita Chaney**

**CLICK! Contemporary photography in India, curated
by Sunil Gupta and Radhika Singh, Vadehra art gallery, Delhi.**

2007

Re-visioning Materiality, Gallery Espace, New Delhi.

City Cite Site, Anant Art Gallery, New Delhi.

Rasa Manthan: The Thematic Art Installations, New Delhi.

**Sign2007, video and documentary film festival,
Trivandrum, Kerala.**

Frieze Art fair, Khoj pavilion, London.

**Here There Now, Contemporary art from India
Soulflower Gallery, Bangkok.**

Public Places/Private Spaces:

Contemporary Photography and Video Art In India,

Curated by Gayatri Sinha, The Newark Museum, New Jersey, U S A

**After Shock Conflict, Violence and Resolution
in Cotemporary Art, a group show supported by Sainsbury Centre
in collaboration with Matthew Shaul and the UH Galleries in
England, curated by Yasmin Zahir**

**Indian photo and Media Art: a journey of Discovery Exhibition
Vienna, Austria.**

**Horn Please: Narratives in contemporary Indian Art
Kunstmuseum Bern, Switzerland.**

Reading Paint, Gallery Souflower, Bangkok, Thailand.

Dreaming Childhood, at Leap years, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi.

**Making History Our Own, Organized by SAHMAT
AIFACS gallery, New Delhi.**

Young & Free, at Intercontinental, Nehru place, New Delhi.

World Social Forum, Nairobi.

2006

ROCK, Curated by Himanshu Desai at Kitab Mehal, Mumbai.

**Rencontres Internationales Paris/Berlin 2006,
a film and video festival in Paris and Berlin.**

Paper flute, curated by Johny M.L at Gallery Espace New Delhi.

**Impossible India, at Frankfurt Kunstverein. Curated by
Nina Montmann supported by Goethe-Institute, Germany.**

**Ghost in the machine and other stories
(Video, interactive media and sound)
at Apeejay Media Gallery, Delhi, Curated by Pooja Sood.**

**REAL 2006, organized by Matters of art .com at
Visual Art gallery, Habitat Center, New Delhi**

Dilli Dur Ast, a lens based workshop in the walled city of Delhi.

**Art for Prabhat, Artists paint on paper
made by mentally handicapped Students,
Visual Art Gallery, Habitat Center, New Delhi.**

Infinite-Us, Planet art Gallery, Gurgaon, Haryana.

Art in Cinema, Habitat center, New Delhi.

2005

Eternal Recurrence Return, Shangrila Hotel, New Delhi.

Double – Enders, Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai.

Self x Social Self stranger parent resource worker School of Arts and Aesthetics Gallery, New Delhi curated by Geeta Kapur.

Are we like this only? at Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi, curated by Vidya Shivdas, Organized by Vadehra Gallery, New Delhi.

Ko video, Durban festival.

2004

Journeys, Visual Arts Gallery, Habitat Centre, New Delhi

Median, an exhibition of paintings & sculptures, Epiques Gallery, Green park, New Delhi.

Between Rivers, C-28 West End, New Delhi.

Making of India, organized by SAHAMAT at Rabindrabhavan, New Delhi.

2003

Crossing Generations Diverge, National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai, Curated by Geeta Kapur and Chaitanya Sambrani.

Indians + Cowboys, Gallery 4A, Asian-Australia Arts Center, Sydney Australia, Curated by Ruth Watson.

Arting Jerusalem, an art project at Jerusalem, Israel.

Shisha, an exhibition of Indian and French artists at Sanskriti Pratistan, Qutab Institutional Area, New Delhi. Latter traveled to France.

Invasions, an exhibition of creative posters at Palm Court Gallery, Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

2002

Photographica, at Cittadellarte, Biella, Italy

Circo Fragile, a story telling event at Pavia University Italy.

2001

Unidee in Progress, Pistoletto Foundation, Biella, Italy

Millennium Vision, Arushi Art Gallery, Delhi.

Small but significant, a group show, Arpana Fine Arts, Delhi.

Art for Prabhat, Arpana Fine Arts, Delhi

...and Buddha smiled again,

Organized by Master's Guild, Indian

National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage, New Delhi.

1998

KHOJ Box art Inc.

Shahpurjat, Delhi

1996

Kalamela, Balbhavan, New Delhi.

1995

Group shows 95, an exhibition of Painting and Graphics, at Thiruvananthapuram Fine Arts Gallery.

1994

Annual Exhibition conducted by Kerala Lalitkala Academy.

Text

Deploying humour and images of India's rapid urbanization, Scaria's work creates futuristic environments that reinterpret our relationship with modern progress. He constructs imaginary architectures, unfamiliar landscapes, and humorous film scenarios where people are often trapped inside, or excluded from, built structures such as apartment buildings or lifts....

Scaria's experience of moving from his village in the southern state of Kerala to the sprawling national capital made clear to him the alienation commonly experienced by migrants. His videos are informed by the constant flux and change of 'great' cities and the effect this has on newly arrived as well as long-established residents.

For Scaria, 'Notions of politics, identity, nationalism, industrialization, modernism, lifestyle, crime, madness, spirituality and anything and everything that human beings have been proud to assert as their own are constantly produced and consumed

by the city. Indulging in the core of urban life made the urbanite think of him/herself as a romantic outsider of the system s/he deeply inhaled'.

<http://www.aii.unimelb.edu.au/news/gigi-scaria-prisms-perception-potter>

Tolstoy Farm, outside Johannesburg in South Africa is today part of a brick making company. A hundred years ago it was the site of Gandhi's first invocation of peaceful resistance. Tolstoy Farm included in its founding three principle strains - Tolstoy's ideas of resistance which had powerfully influenced Gandhi, the 'gift' of Tolstoy Farm by a South African architect Herman Kallenback --to be used as a commune, and Gandhi's own initiative and ideas. During Gandhi's stay in South Africa for 21 years, Tolstoy Farm became the site of his cultural and educational experiments, anticipating in the process the founding principles of Sabarmati Ashram.

A hundred years later, from our vantage point, Tolstoy Farm presents the model of a particular world view, of economies and power equations. It was a training ground for Gandhi and some decades later, it served as an inspiration for the African National Congress: Nelson Mandela has written extensively on Tolstoy Farm as a locus that inspired his own resistance. As a chapter of national history, it also represents India's global influence outside the dominant tropes of the early 20th century, of the power exerted by the west or pan Asia.

Tolstoy Farm is also a utopia, one that Gandhi constructed and which served as a template for at least two nations to fulfill their historic destiny. As an ideal community, it anticipated a post colonial society, a model for 'the good life' as identified by one man.

<http://www.sevenartlimited.com/exbdetail-1037-.html>

Aicon Gallery New York is delighted to present INVISIBLE CITIES, a group exhibition featuring selected work from a host of international artists. This exhibition takes its inspirational cue from legendary writer Italo Calvino's novella "Invisible Cities", substituting India for Calvino's Venice. The Invisible Cities exhibition explores the conceptual aspect of motherland, from within and without.

Calvino's "Invisible Cities" imagines a number of fictional encounters between Marco Polo and Kublai Khan, at the Mongol ruler's court. Polo is expected to offer field reports on the cities within Khan's vast empire as the latter attempts to work out why his empire is crumbling. Polo, who cannot speak the court's language, only expresses himself by "drawing objects from his baggage - drums, salt fish, necklaces or warhogs' teeth - pointing to them with gestures...". Gradually he replaces these with words in order to describe the cities. The stories fill the book describing cities in various categories
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http://www.aicongallery.com/exhibitions/2010-06-24_invisible-cities/pressrelease/

Press Release

INVISIBLE CITIES

Featuring Devang Anglay, Jayashree Chakravarty, Dilip Chobisa, Pooja Iranna, Damon Kowarsky, M. Pravat, Gigi Scaria, Sanjay Sundaran and Mahreen Zuberi.

Aicon Gallery New York: 24 June - 24 July 2010

Opening Reception: Thursday 24 June, 6:00pm - 9:00pm

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Rather than population statistics, historical events and important buildings, Calvino suggests that origins, memory, projection, fiction and desire all play constitutive roles in the ways in which one imagines a city. "The city," describes exhibiting artist Damon Kowarsky, "(is) something built out of the collective works and dreams of all (its) inhabitants." Throughout the book, words both fail Polo, and also fail to satisfy Khan. Calvino suggests that words block the unmediated perception of the world - the more Polo says, the more obtuse he becomes.

This exhibition starts off by asking: how do artists think about India - a nation often described as being beyond simple definition, always open to the Orientalist gaze of travelers such as Marco Polo? Can one only see cities through one's own cultural origins? Can one only describe cities partially or through metaphor? How do artists subvert the closure of travel guides' inert descriptions? How might the city, and in particular the city outside the West, be imagined and described without falling into the traps of convention? Might drawings or objects ("drums, salt fish, necklaces...") be a better starting point?

See More:

Artist's Website: <http://www.gigiscaria.in/biography.html>

Press Release : http://www.aicongallery.com/exhibitions/2008-01-30_who-knew-mr-gandhi/pressrelease/

http://www.shrineempiregallery.com/press_release.php?id=20

<http://www.aaa-a.org/2010/08/16/invisible-cities/>

Review: <http://www.apglobal.org/Artist/Show/4329>

<http://artexpoindia.blogspot.in/2012/10/gigi-scarias-artistic-agenda.html>

<http://www.saffronart.com/fixed/ItemDetails.aspx?iid=26830&a=Gigi%20%20Scaria&pt=2&eid=3329>

<http://www.artnewsnviews.com/view-article.php?article=video-art-of-india-gigi-scaria-and-his-videos&iid=6&articleid=46>

<http://www.cherryartfoundation.com/exhibition.php?name=Gigi%20Scaria>

http://artindiamag.com/quarter03_03_10/profiles_Johny03_03_10.html

<http://www.thehindu.com/features/magazine/a-space-for-art/article4396709.ece>

<http://www.thehindu.com/features/magazine/a-space-for-art/article4396709.ece>

<http://www.timeoutdelhi.net/around-town/features/life-metro>

<http://www.sunday-guardian.com/artbeat/art-from-the-ordinaries-of-life>

<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/salt-of-the-earth/1099005/>

<http://johnyml.blogspot.in/2011/06/54th-venice-biennale-gigi-scarias.html>

http://www.eurartproject.com/artists/gigi_scaria/

<http://www.crayoncapital.com/artist/gigi-scaria>

<http://artradarjournal.com/2013/05/13/incredible-india-artist-gigi-scaria-video-bite-the-guardian/>

<http://www.missmalini.com/tag/gigi-scaria/>

http://www.artspace.com/gigi_scaria

<http://www.gallerysoulflower.com/ARN-79-Gigi-Scaria.aspx>

<http://www.aaa.org.hk/Collection/Details/22568>

<http://www.caravanmagazine.in/showcase/art-chennai>

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-features/tp-metroplus/man-in-venice/article1713506.ece>

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-features/tp-metroplus/man-in-venice/article1713506.ece>

<http://epaper.timesofindia.com/Default/Layout/Includes/CREST/ArtWin.asp?From=Archive&Source=Page&Skin=CREST&BaseHref=TCRM%2F2010%2F08%2F14&GZ=T&ViewMode=HTML&EntityId=Ar02500&AppName=1>

<http://mattersofart.net/leadstroy-details.aspx?mpgid=2&pgid=2&lid=9>

<http://mattersofart.blogspot.in/2009/04/christian-hosp-gallery-opening.html>

<http://sathyanandmohan.blogspot.in/2009/09/gigi-scaria-archaeology-of-urban-life.html>

<http://au.artshub.com/au/whats-on/victoria/exhibitions/jitish-kallat-and-gigi-scaria-melbourne-festival-135263>

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.in/life/2011/01/28/stories/2011012850100300.htm>

Videos

Interview: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/artanddesign/video/2011/mar/07/artists-delhi-gigi-scaria-video>

Work: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nCPg5JmiGSY>

<http://www.gallerychemould.com/artists-videos/gigi-home/amusment-park.html>

<http://vimeo.com/26966999>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AoFzcSbMXZw>

<http://vimeo.com/26171374>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X0txJYWTajY>

Interview: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D0AIY8iqw1A>

<http://www.frequency.com/video/gigi-scaria-city-unclaimed/90089621>

<http://mailer.ibnlive.com/videos/70925/photographer-gigi-not-happy-with-state-of-photography-in-india.html>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HwJnMFayPbU>

<http://www.thewallartmag.com/eachVideo/166.html>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ggU-nij8_cQ

Awards and Scholarships

2012 Macgeorge Fellowship, Ian Potter Museum, Melbourne, Australia, 2012

2007-08 National Art Studio, National Museum of Art

2007 Asian Art Fellowship, Museum of Contemporary Art, Korea

2005 Sanskriti Award in Visual Arts

2005 CCA7, (Caribbean Contemporary Arts), Trinidad and Tobago

2004 Residency at Khoj International, New Delhi

2003 Inlaks Scholarship in Visual Arts

2002 Ministry of Human Resources and Development, scholarship for Visual Arts