

Pushpamala N:

Biography :

- <http://www.naturemorte.com/artists/pushpamala-n/reviews/http://www.walshgallery.com/ravinder-reddy-bio/>

Country : India

1. **Dates :** Born 1956 Bangalore, India
2. **Lives and works :** Lives and Work in Bangalore and New Delhi
3. **Education:** 1985 M.A. Sculpture, MS University, Baroda
1982 B.A. Sculpture, MS University, Baroda
1977 B.A. Economics, English and Psychology, Bangalore University

Medium and Technique :

Pushpamala N, among the new grain of contemporary artists in India, has carved a niche for herself in the international as well as local art circles. Beginning her career as a sculptor, she has transitioned her works within the medium of photo-performance. Pushpamala's work engages with postcolonial theory and feminist historical gaze. Her work also extends to experimental short films, live performance and sculptural tableau, bringing in movement, text and sound to her structured compositions.

Solo Exhibitions

2013

"Avega- The Passion (Abduction) "- Galerie Zurcher, Paris

2012

"Avega- The Passion"- Chemould Prescott Road, Mumbai

"The Return of the Phantom Lady (Sinful City)" - Nature Morte, The Oberoi Gurgaon

"Avega- The Passion"- Nature Morte, New Delhi

2010

"Motherland"- performance with Mamta Sagar, Samuha Artist Collective, Bangalore

2009

"Paris Autumn"- Chemould Prescott Road, Mumbai

2008

"Paris Autumn"- Bose Pacia Gallery, New York

"Paris Autumn"- Nature Morte, New Delhi

"Streetside Theatre"- Media Wave Festival, Gyor

Paris Autumn and Rashtriy Kheer – Film screening, Tarahan-e-Azad Gallery, Tehran, Iran

2007

"Streetside Theatre"- Bharat Rang Mahotsav, National School of Drama, New Delhi

"Streetside Theatre"- Salzburg Festival, Austria

Paris Autumn and Rashtriy Kheer Film Screening, Gallery Sumukha, Bangalore

Paris Autumn and Rashtriy Kheer Film Screening, Gallery Chemould, Bangalore

2006

"Pushpamala N"- Espace Croise, Roubaix, France

"Paris Autumn"- Galerie Zurcher, Paris

"Native Women of South India: Manners and Customs"- Bose Pacia, New York

Pushpamala N, photo- performance work, Nature Morte and Bose Pacia, Milan, Italy

2005

"Native Women of South India: Manners and Customs"- Nature Morte, New Delhi

2004

"Native Women of South India: Manners and Customs"- Sumukha Gallery, Bangalore
Gallery Chemould, Mumbai
Seagull Arts and Media Centre, Kolkata

"Indian Lady"- Bose Pacia, New York

2003

"Pushpamala N"- Walsh Gallery, Chicago
"The Anguished Heart"- British Council, New Delhi

Phantom Lady and Sunhere Sapne, Walsh Gallery, Chicago, USA

The Anguished Heart, photo-performance work, Nature Morte and Gallery Chemould, at British Council, Delhi

2002

"Golden Dreams"- Gallery Sumukha, Bangalore

2001

"Golden Dreams"- Chemould Prescott Road, Mumbai

1998

"Phantom Lady or Kismet: a photo romance"- Chemould Prescott Road, Mumbai

1994

"Excavations"- Chemould Prescott Road, Mumbai

1983

"Pushpamala N"- Venkatappa Art Gallery, Bangalore

Group Exhibitions

2013

"Backflip: Feminism and Humour Contemporary Art"- Margaret Lawrence Gallery, Melbourne
"Poses and Views"- Nature Morte, Berlin

2012

"Ideally Indian: Types and Stereotypes in Indian Portrait Photography"- Kontor Projects,
Copenhagen

"Project Cinema City: Research Art & Documentary Practices"- National Gallery of Modern Art,
Mumbai, New Delhi, and Bangalore

"The Subjective Object"- Grassi Museum, Germany

"India- Lado a Lado"- SESC Belezinho, , CCBB, Brasilia, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

2011

"Paris, Mumbai, New Delhi" - Centre Pompidou, Paris

"Samtidigt i Indien" – Helsinki City Art Museum, Helsinki

"Dolls"- Gallery Sumukha, Bangalore

Rob Dean Art, London

"Against all Odds"- Lalit Kala Akademy, New Delhi

"Equator # 1 Shadow Lines: Indonesia Meets India", Biennale Jogja XI 2011, Jogja National Museum, Indonesia

2010

"Changing Skin"- The Fine Art Company, Mumbai

"SAMTIDIGT"- Kulturhuset, Stockholm

"IP Detournement"- project Tania Bruguera, Voir and Revoir, Centre Pompidou, Paris

"The Empire Strikes Back: Indian Art Today"- Saatchi Gallery, London

"Where Three Dreams Cross"- Whitechapel Gallery, London; Winterthur Fotomuseum, Switzerland

"Cinema City"- Majlis, Berlinale, Forum Expanded, Germany

"Canal Mediateca"- Caixaforum, Barcelona

"The Trickster"- Gyeonggi Museum of Modern Art, Korea

"Go See India project"- by Gothenberg, Sweden

"Anxieties of the Periphery"- Gallery OED, Cochin

"The New Order Beauty"- Palette Art Gallery, New Delhi

"Does Size Matter III"- Latitude 28, New Delhi

"Looking Glass: The Existence of Difference"- Religare Arts Initiative, New Delhi

"Spiral Jetty"- Nature Morte, New Delhi

"A Tribute to the Lens"- MF Husain Gallery, Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi

Reframing Reality: Gimpes into the Lowave video archive, Museum of Contemporary Art, Roskilde

2009

"Republic of Illusions"- Gallery Krinzinger, Vienna

"Failed Plot"- Korean International Art Fair, Seoul

"After Color curated by AMANI OLU"- Bose Pacia, New York

"Chalo! India: A New Era of Indian Art, Essel Museum of Contemporary Art, Vienna, Austria

Lo Real Maravilloso: Marvellous Reality, Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi

Yo y el otro. Retratos en la fotografia India Contemporanea/ Sala Norte, ARTIUM, Centro Museo

Vasco de Arte, Vitoria-Gasteiz

India 3:New Delhi, Republic Of Illusions, Galerie Krinzinger, Vienna

Group Show, Galerie Zurcher, New York, New York City, NY

...in the seeds of time – NGMA, New Delhi; NGMA Bangalore

Calendar Art, Red Earth, New Delhi

Re-Frame – 7 experimental films from India , Lowave/ Centre Pompidou, Paris France

Indi- Dialogue, Gabbaron Museum, Valladolid, Spain

Marvellous Reality, Gallery Espace, New Delhi

Art against Terrorism – Emami Chisel Art Gallery, Kolkata

Vistaar II, Design show, Seven Arts, New Delhi

Opening show, Zurcher Studio, New York USA

The Self and the Other: Portraiture in Contemporary Indian Photography, La Virreina

Centre de la Image, Barcelona and Artium, Vitoria, Spain

Grand Finale of Video Wednesdays, Gallery Espace, New Delhi

Transient Poise, Bodhi Art Gallery, Mumbai

Changing Skin, The Fine Art Company, Mumbai

The Other Story, Lakeeren, Mumbai

“Signposts of the Times...”- National Gallery of Modern Art, Bangalore

2008

Where In The World, Devi Art Foundation, Gurgaon

Chalo! India: A New era In Indian Art, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo

Expanding Horizons, Bodhi Art Mumbai, Mumbai

Still Moving Image, Devi Art Foundation, Gurgaon

Singapore International Photography Festival

Destination Asia: Conversation Part I, Elementa, Dubai

My India, Video et Apres, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France

Performing Identities: Pushpamala N, Coco Fusco and Albert Chong, IDEA, Colorado College, USA

Expanding Horizons, Bodhi Art travelling show, Maharashtra (2008-2009)

Modern India: Art and Culture in the Indian Sub-Continent 1857-2007, Institut Valencia d'Modern, Spain

New Narratives - Zimmerli Art Museum, New Jersey, USA

My Life is my Message – La Casa Encendida, Madrid, Spain

Shifting Terrains, Altered Realities- Empire Art and The Shrine Gallery in New Delhi/

SingaporeVideo Wednesdays@ Gallery Espace, New Delhi

2007

“A Journey of Discovery”, Fotofluss, Vienna, Austria

Post Object, Doris McCarthy Gallery, University of Toronto, Canada

4th Sguardi Altrove Women's Film Festival, Milan, Italy

Reflections: Women Imaging Realities, IAWRT Third Asian Film Festival, Delhi

Private/ Corporate IV, DaimlerChrysler Contemporary, Berlin, Germany

Destination Asia, Almaty, Kazhakstan

Indian Photography, Galleria Carla Sozzani, Milan, Italy

Public Places/ Private Spaces: Contemporary Photography and Video Art in India, The Newark Museum, USA

New Narratives: Contemporary Art from India, Chicago Cultural Centre, USA

Tiger by the Tail- Women Artists of India Transforming Culture, Brandeis University, USA

House Of Mirrors, Grosvenor Vadehra Gallery, London, UK

Here, There and Now, Gallery Souflower, Bangkok, Thailand

New Wave/ New Delhi, Marella Gallery, Milan, Italy

Prospects – Contemporary Art from India, Rome Film Festival, Italy

Bangalore International Film Festival

Edge of Desire, Asia Society, NGMA Delhi and Mumbai

“Making History Our Own” - SAHMAT, New Delhi

“After Images” - Faculty Fine Arts, MS University, Baroda

“Face East” - Wiedel Fine Art, London

“Move on Asia” - Gallery Loop, Seoul

2006

Jitish Kallat, Pushpamala N, & Justin Ponmany” - Nature Morte & Bose

Pacia at Otto Zoo, Milan

India Express, Helsinki City Art Museum, Finland

India of the Senses, Louis Vuitton Galleries, Paris, France

Bombay Maximum City, Lille 3000, Lille, France

Another Asia I-Through the Asian Eyes, Noorderlicht Photofestival 2006, Netherlands

Indian Video Art: Between Myth and History, part of Cinema Prayoga: Indian Experimental Film and Video 1913-2006, Tate Modern, London, UK

Edge of Desire, Berkeley Art Museum, California, USA

Changing Skin, Gallery SKE, Bangalore

Fiction @ Love, Shanghai, China

2005

I, Me, Myself – Kashi Art Gallery, Cochin

Are We Like This Only- Vadehra Gallery, Delhi

Indian Summer, ENSBA, Paris, France

Edge of Desire, Asia Society, New York, Museo Tamayo & MARCO, Monterrey Mexico

Yokohama Triennale, Open Circle, Japan

Kovideo, 1st Durban Video festival, Durban, South Africa

Museo Tamayo, Mexico City MARCO, Monterrey, Mexico

2004

Edge of Desire, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth, Australia

Iconography in Transient Times, Gallery Sumukha, Delhi

2003

DiVerge, 40 Years of Chemould, NGMA, Mumbai

Heat - a Picture Show, Bose Pacia New York, USA

City Park, Projects Art Centre, Dublin, Ireland

World Social Forum, Mumbai

2002

New Indian Art: Home, Street, Shrine, Bazaar, Museum, Manchester City Galleries, UK

Ways of Resisting, SAHMAT, New Delhi

2001

Century City, Tate Modern, London, UK

Secular Practice: Recent Art from India, Montreal and Vancouver, Canada

Moving Ideas, Montreal and Vancouver, Canada

1999

Art from India, Patricia Correia Gallery, Los Angeles Biennale, USA

1998

The Presence of the Past, NCPA, Mumbai

1997

Telling Tales, Bath Festival Trust, traveling show, 4 cities, UK

Telling Times, British Council, Delhi

1996

Shilpayan: Contemporary Indian Sculpture, National Gallery of Modern Art, Delhi

The New South, London, UK

Fire and Life, Asia Link Art Project, Mumbai and Perth, Australia

1995

'Timeless Art', Times of India (V.T.Station, Mumbai); 100 Years of NGMA, National Gallery of Modern Art, Delhi

Recent Trends in Contemporary Indian Art, Vadehra Art Gallery, Delhi

Sculpture 95, Gallery Espace, Delhi
Postcards for Gandhi, SAHMAT, in 6 Indian cities
Africus, First Johannesburg Biennale, South Africa

1994

Still Life, Sakshi Gallery, Mumbai

1992

A Nest for Sparrow, Mumbai
2nd International Women's Festival, Bangkok, Thailand

1990-91

Pushpamala N and Alex Mathew, CMC Gallery, New Delhi
At Chemould Gallery, Mumbai and Venkatappa Art Gallery, Bangalore

1989

Timeless Art – Times of India, VT Station, Mumbai
Artists' Alert, SAHMAT, New Delhi

1987

The Sculpted Image - Bombay Arts Festival, Mumbai

1986

VI Triennale-India, New Delhi

1985

Pushpamala N., Atul Dodiya and Akkitham Vasudevan - Gallery 7, Mumbai
Seven Young Sculptors, Kasauli Art Centre, New Delhi

1983-84

National Exhibitions

AWARDS:

1998 Karnataka Shilpa Kala Akademi Award.

1988 Silver Jubilee Award, Karnataka Lalit Kala Akademi.

1986 Gold Medal, VI Triennale, India and Karnataka Rajyothsava Award.

1984 National Award.

Grants/Residencies/Workshops

2006 The Rockefeller Foundation artist residency, Bellagio Study Center, Italy.

2005 Artist's Camp, Pachmarhi.

French Embassy SCAC artist residency, Paris.

2002 Majlis Cultural Fellowship.

Khoj International Residency, Delhi.

2000 Indian Foundation for the Arts, Arts Collaboration Grant.

Open Circle International workshop, Mumbai, India

1999 Curated and organized an exhibition of large public site- specific works, Sthala Puranagalu [Place Legends], Bangalore.

1998 Khoj International Workshop, Modinagar.

1995-97 Senior Fellowship, Indian Ministry of Human Resource Development

1992-93 Charles Wallace Trust (India) Fellowship residency St. Martin's School of Art, London.

1985 Artist's Camp, Bharat Bhavan, Bhopal.

1986 the gold medal at the Sixth New Delhi Triennale

1984 National Award

1978-85 Karnataka Lalit Kala Akademi Art Scholarship.

1975-77 Bangalore University English Scholarship.

SEE MORE:

1. Review: <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/05/07/arts/art-in-review-pushpamala-n.html>
2. Review: http://prod-images.exhibit-e.com/www_naturemorte_com/5c4bbc84.pdf
3. Work: http://www.artnowpakistan.com/profile_detail.php?id=285#.UcguM_n7Brs
4. Review: <http://www.a-n.co.uk/interface/reviews/single/68474>
5. Interview: <http://mulledink.blogspot.in/2012/04/art-pushpamala-n-photography-as.html>

6. Review: http://prod-images.exhibit-e.com/www_bosepacia_com/3057893e.pdf
7. Art Works Close Up: http://prod-images.exhibit-e.com/www_naturemorte_com/PLATFORM_ESSAY.pdf
8. Art Works Close Up: http://www.portrait.gov.au/site/exhibition_subsite_beyondtheself_artist.php?artistID=15
9. Art Works Close Up: <http://littledesignbook.in/2011/07/image-of-the-week-pushpamala-n/>
10. Review: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-features/tp-metroplus/layered-world/article3288780.ece>
11. Review: <http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9D05EEDF123AF934A25753C1A96E9C8B63>
12. Review: http://archive.tehelka.com/story_main52.asp?filename=hub280412Art.asp
13. Review: <http://www.artslant.com/ind/articles/show/11781>
14. Review: <http://www.mutualart.com/OpenExternalArticle/Hullabaloo-in-the-Indian-Art-World/22507EF735DD0CD1>
15. Overview: http://www.theartstrust.com/Magazine_article.aspx?articleid=186
16. Overview: <http://www.dnaindia.com/analysis/1762808/column-all-in-one-sita-kaikeyi-and-surpanakha>
17. Overview: <http://www.timeoutbengaluru.net/search%3Fkeyword%3Dpushpamala-n>
18. Review: <http://www.hindu.com/thehindu/mp/2002/12/16/stories/2002121601140100.htm>
19. Blog (Interview): <http://muledink.blogspot.in/2012/04/art-pushpamala-n-photography-as.html>
20. Overview: <http://www.timeoutbengaluru.net/art/features/physical-policy>
21. Review: <http://www.timeoutbengaluru.net/art/features/dark-city>
22. Review: <http://www.timeoutdelhi.net/art/features/epic-proportions>
23. Overview: <http://artdaily.com/news/58797/Chemould-Prescott-Road-presents-a-solo-exhibition-of-new-works-by-Pushpamala-N-#.Udvm6fmkwzw>
24. In Conversation: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/indiahome/indianews/article-2139300/Phantom-Lady-draws-Ramayana.html>
25. Press Release: <http://www.thegundgallery.org/2012/04/pushpamala-n-2/>
26. Blog (Review) : <http://jugaadoo.blogspot.in/2008/04/spirit-photography-pushpamala-ns-paris.html>
27. Reviews: <http://www.tribuneindia.com/2013/20130221/ttlife1.htm>
28. Review: <http://www.actuart.org/article-expo-photographie-contemporaine-pushpamala-n-avega-the-passion-116113270.html>
29. Review: <http://www.nyartbeat.com/event/2008/3B78>
30. Overview: <http://m.indianexpress.com/news/lives-of-others/1077848/>
31. Overview: <http://completementzinzin.hautetfort.com/archive/2013/03/19/pushpamala-n-photographe-indienne.html>
32. Review: http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2009-11-05/people/28095054_1_deepanjana-pal-contemporary-indian-art-artists

33. Overview: <http://www.mid-day.com/lifestyle/2012/nov/091112-Women-with-epic-proportions.htm>
34. Blog (Overview) : <http://thisishowitshouldbe.blogspot.in/2006/11/exhibit-49-native-women-of-south-india.html>
35. Review: <http://www.paris-art.com/marche-art/Paris%20Autumn/Paris%20Autumn/3370.html>
36. Blog (Review) http://blog.lib.umn.edu/peza0001/arts1001wednesdays/2008/12/india_public_places_private_sp.html
37. Overview: <http://www.mustekala.info/node/2161>
38. Overview: <http://www.yale.edu/wake/fall03/bangalore.html>

Text:

Pushpamala N

Pushpamala N. was born in 1956 in Bangalore. Her early training was in sculpture, but as her practice progressed she brought an early enthusiasm for narrative figuration into her photographic work.

Pushpamala's photographic works are usually created as series, some the artist refers to as projects, others as 'photo-romances'. Pushpamala uses her own body to perform different roles in these series, which draw from the imagery of popular culture, mythology and historical references from India and elsewhere, using humour, wit and a sharp critical gaze to look at contemporary society.

Pushpamala's performative photography and videos sometimes function as a kind of installation, where the exhibit may resemble a film or theatre museum or even a movie theatre. She conceives, researches, scripts and designs the mise-en-scenes, working with photographers or photo studios to produce the work where her friends may play supporting roles, or offer their places as locations, which also function as hidden 'jokes'. She has also made experimental short films that play with film genres. Pushpamala has exhibited internationally and her work is held in many major institutional and private collections. She lives and works in Bangalore and New Delhi, India.

Abduction/Apaharana

In the 'Wilderness' chapter of the Indian epic Ramayana, Sita, the pinnacle of feminine virtue, yields briefly to temptation and is abducted by Ravana. Pushpamala seizes this moment and elaborates on it, playing the role of Rama's demure wife swept away by the demon. High action unfolds in meticulously designed tableaux, recalling the proscenium-framed settings of late nineteenth and

twentieth-century Parsi and Kannada theatres. Mist, symbolising dreams and illusions in theatre and film, engulfs the actors. Against faintly visible Arcadian landscapes and golden architecture, Ravana and Sita take on the melodramatic poses of comic-book characters such as Chandamama and Amar Chitra Katha.

One of the most striking differences between this series and Pushpamala's prior photo-performances is the large size of the photographs (approx. 1 x 1.5 metres). They recall history paintings, and the use of ornate gold frames brings to mind mythological scenes occupying ceilings and overdoors in Baroque and Rococo interiors. And yet, while the genre reference transports the scenarios to a remote story-land, the images also reflect the artist's body as if in a life-size mirror and thereby address us somatically.

A photograph in which the remote and the familiar combine recalls Michel Foucault's twofold response to a mirror image. On the one hand, in a mirror we see ourselves where we are, in fact, not, 'in an unreal, virtual space that opens up behind the surface'. On the other hand, the mirror is also a 'counter-site', where the real and the familiar are 'represented, contested, inverted'.¹ Pushpamala's *The Pond* exemplifies the mirror's double bind. The only detail establishing the 'utopian' virtuality of the mirror image is a faint reflection of the artist's hand placed at the lower-right edge of the pool. Everything else in the photograph puzzles. It is hard to work out the camera placement: while the upright reflection of Ravana and Sita suggests the location of the camera behind the actors, the perspectival distortion of the pool suggests that the image is taken from a position opposite the figures, making the upright reflection in fact an upside-down photograph. The (real) lily pads further contribute to the disorientation, hovering like dull, flat shadows in contrast to the two luminous faces and the glitter of Ravana's garment on the glassy surface of the pool. The inversions establish the mirror image as a separate, tangible 'counter-site', to which Pushpamala adds one more incongruity. In contrast to the common knowledge of Sita's vulnerability at abduction, familiar from Valmiki's classic narration of the epic, Ravana and Sita exist together here in a space of reverie.

A.K. Ramanujan describes the epic as a 'pool' into which one 'dips ... and brings out a unique crystallisation, a new text with a unique texture and a fresh context'.² In Pushpamala's photographic crystallisation, abduction becomes a state of prolonged suspension with unexpected results. When picked up or dragged by the demon, the artist's body recalls prints by the nineteenth-century artist Raja Ravi Vama, whose compositions in turn reflect Western history paintings. We are also reminded of other 'Abductions' from Greco-Roman myths, memorialised in art since the early modern period, from Titian's *Abduction of Europa*, to renditions of the abduction of the Sabine women by Poussin, Delacroix and Picasso. Other aspects of the body – its internal glow produced by studio lighting, its poses of surrender and facial expressions more forlorn than fearful – hint at the iconography of the odalisque, the subject of Orientalist paintings and literature, embodying the magic and mystery of distant lands in the context of early-modern, global, cultural encounters. In one image the body arches limply towards the picture frame, as in Henry Fuseli's *Nightmare*, combining desire and terror into what can be called a little death (*petit mort*). Sita's moment of crisis thus becomes intervisually dense and ambiguously erotic.

http://www.portrait.gov.au/site/exhibition_subsite_beyondtheself_artist.php?artistID=15

Videos

In Conversation-http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x4GtD_pgXK4

Work-<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=isjY0do2VNE>

Lecture-<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZ-BpU6XSk4>

Lecture-<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U8B2RH1FUU8>

In Conversation-<http://www.guardian.co.uk/artanddesign/video/2011/mar/11/delhi-artists-pushpamala-n-video>

Panel Discussion-http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k5_l8N6pZHo

Interview-<http://vimeo.com/41148294>

Interview-

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sNvAqktHL_I&list=SP1BDD77241FDB225E&index=1

Work- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwAgv7Nab2k>

Bibliography :