

SheelaGowda

Biography

- <http://www.heartmus.com/sheela-gowda-3367.aspx>

- 1. Country:** India
- 2. Dates:** Born in 1957, Bhadravti, Karnataka, India
- 3. Lives and Work:** Artist Lives and Works in Bangalore, India
- 4. Education:** 1974-1979 - Diploma in Painting, Ken School of Art, Bangalore

1979 - One year non-collegiate study under Prof. K.G. Subramanyan,
M.S.University, Baroda

1980-1982 - Bachelor of Arts, Bangalore University

1982 - Post-Diploma in Painting, Vishwabharati University, Santiniketan

1984-1986 - M.A. in Painting, Royal College of Art, London

1986 - Residency for three months at Cite Internationale des Arts, Paris

Solo Exhibitions

2013 Open Eye Policy, curated by Annie Fletcher, Van Abbemuseum, Netherlands

2011 Suboverseer, Ambarish TV, Highcourt, Battery, Naatikothambari and others,
GALLERYYSKE, Bangalore

Therein and Besides, curated by Grant Watson, Iniva, Rivington Place, London

2010 Postulates of Contiguity, curated by Marta Kusma, Office For Contemporary Art (OCA),
Norway

Behold, curated by Katie Dyer, NAS Gallery, Sydney

2008 Touching Base, Museum Gouda, Gouda

Crime Fiction, GALLERYYSKE, Bangalore

2006 Bose Pacia Gallery, New York

2004 On earth and in heaven, GALLERYYSKE, Bangalore

1993 Venkatappa Art Gallery, Bangalore

Gallery Chemould, Bombay

1989 Yelwala, Mysore

Gallery 7, Bombay

1987 Venkatappa Art Gallery, Bangalore

Group Exhibitions

2013 Difficult Loves, KiranNadar Museum of Art, New Delhi

2012 Kochi Muziris Biennale, Kochi

Garden of learning, curated by Roger Buerger, Busan Biennale, South Korea

India Today, Arken Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark

Indian Highway, Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing

2011 Indian Highway, MAXXI - National Museum of XXI Century Arts, Rome

Paris-Delhi-Bombay, Centre Pompidou, Paris

Indian Highway, The Museed'ArtContemporain, Lyon

Unbound, curated by Jenny Pinto, an exhibition of book sculpture, Bangalore

Singapore Biennale, Singapore

2010 Indian Highway, Herning Museum of Contemporary Art, Herning (group)

Orientation, Trajectories in Indian art, curated by Deepak Ananth, Foundation de 11 Lijnen, Oudenburg, Belgium

2009 Thesaloniki Biennale, Curators: Gabriela Salgado, Bisi Silva, SyragoTsiara, The state Museum of Contemporary Art-Costakis Collection and the Contemporary Art Center of Thessaloniki

Textiles: Art and Social Fabric, MuHKA, Antwerp

Provisions, Sharjah Biennial, Curated by Isabel Carlos, TarekAbou El Fetouth

Venice Arsenale, Curated by Daniel Birnbaum

Where in the world, Devi Art Foundation, New Delhi

2008-09 India Moderna, curated by Juan Guardiola, IVAM Museum, Valencia, Spain

Indian Highway, curated by Hans Ulrich Obrist, Julia Peyton Jones and Gunaar B Kvaran, Serpentine Gallery, London

2008 Santhal Family, Curated by Grant Watson in collaboration with AnshumanDasguptaand SumanGopinath at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Antwerp. (Cat.)

Reflections of Contemporary India, curated by Luisa Ortinez, La Casa Encendida, Madrid, Spain

Fire Walkers: Contemporary Artists from India and South Asia, organized in collaboration with South Asian Women's Creative Collective (SAWACC) and curated by the Stux Gallery, Stefan Stux Gallery, New York.

Y2007 Horn Please, curated by Bernard Fibicher along with SumanGopinath, Kunstmuseum, Bern (Cat.)

Documenta 12 (artistic director, Roger M. Buergel, curated by Ruth Noack), Kassel

Lyon Biennale (artistic director, Thierry Raspail, overall curation: Stephanie Moisdon and Hans Ulrich Obrist, artist curation by SumanGopinath), 2007, France

2006 Play/Lila: Contemporary Miniatures and New Art from South Asia, curated by HaemaSivanesan, Melbourne 2006

with Love, curated by GALLERYYSKE and Tilton Gallery, at Miami Design District

2005 World Information City – Bangalore, curated by Ayisha Abraham, Institute of New Culture Technologies, Vienna/Alternative Law Forum, Bangalore

Indian Summer - Contemporary Art from India, Paris, France, curated by Deepak Ananth, Paris

2004 Cabin Baggage, project by Open Circle at the World Social Forum in Bombay.

Subtlety-Minimally, curated by Marta Jakimowicz, New Delhi

Contemporary Art from India, Thomas Erben Gallery, New York

Iconography in Transient Times, curated by Marta Jakimowicz, New Delhi

2003 U.S.A. Traveled to Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo per l'Arte, Turin, Italy; Contemporary Art Museum, Houston, Texas; MuseoRufino

Sites of Recurrence I, curated by Tamara Maelmestrom and ElisabetHaglund, DakshinaChitra, Chennai

Sites of Recurrence II, Boras Museum, Sweden

How Latitudes become Form, curated by PhillippeVergne with Douglas Fogle and OlukemiDesanmi, The Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, USA.

Tamayo, Mexico City

City Park at Project, curated by Grant Watson, SumanGopinath, at Project, Dublin

Khoj 2003, International Workshop, Bangalore

2002 Moving Ideas - Secular practice, recent art from India; curated by Peter White

Gallery La Centrale, Montreal, Canada; Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver

2001 Art and Nature, Site-specific work executed at Bangalore, organized by the Goethe Institute

2000 Drawing Space, inIVA, curated by Grant Watson, SumanGopinath, Beaconsfield Gallery, London, Angel Row Gallery, Nottingham

1999 Tales of Six Cities Lakeeren Gallery, Bombay

Peep-Peep Bangalore, curated by Stephan Bohnenberger, Jayamahar Palace, Bangalore

1998 Private Mythology, Contemporary Art from India, curated by Akira Tatehata, The Japan Foundation, Tokyo

1997 Telling Tales, 5 women artists from India, curated by RasnaBhushan, Jane Connarty, Victoria Gallery, Bath

Telling Times, British Council, New Delhi

1996 Traditions/Tensions, 27 South Asian Artists, curated by ApinanPoshyananda, Asia Society/Queens Museum, New York

Traveled to Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth

1995 Art and Nature, International workshop and exhibition organized by Goethe Institute, Buddha Jayanti Park, New Delhi

Africus, South African Biennale, Johannesburg

Material-Immaterial, Bangalore, organized by the Goethe Institute

1994 Tangente, Schaffhausen, Switzerland

1989 Timeless Art, Victoria Terminus, Mumbai

1988 BharathBhavan Biennale, Bhopal

1987 Two Artists Show at Gallery 7, Bombay

1984 National Exhibition, New Delhi

1981,82,85 State Lalith Kala Academy annual exhibitions

1977-1983 Annual Shows with the art group Samyojitha, Bangalore

Awards and Recognitions

- 2012 Shortlisted for Artes Mundi 5, Cardiff
- 1998 Sothebys Price for Contemporary Indian Art
- G.S.Shenoy Award
- 1994-1996 Senior Fellowship, Government of India
- 1985 Karnataka Lalith Kala Academy Award
- 1984-1986 Inlaks Foundation Scholarship for Post graduate studies at the RCA, London
- 1979-1982 Karnataka Lalith Kala Academy scholarship for higher studies

Bibliography

2007 Trevor Smith, 'Potentially Subversive - Interview with SheelaGowda', Metropolis M - 2007, Issue No. 6: India Stories

SheelaGowda - Artist Monograph (with texts by Aisha Abraham, Trevor Smith and AbhishekHazra), Steidl& Partners (in association with Bose Pacia).

Grant Watson et al, Santhal Family - Positions Around an Indian Sculpture, curated by Grant Watson with AnshumanDasgupta and SumanGopinath at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Antwerp. Exhibition catalogue, published by MuKHA and Bodhi Art, India.

Roger M. Beurgel, 'Die Documenta 12 Setzt auf die Migration der Form' (Documenta 12 emphasizes the Migration of Form), Frankfurter AllgemeineZeitung, 21 April.

Bernard Fibicher, SumanGopinath and Parul Dave Mukherjee, Horn Please - Narratives in Contemporary Indian Art, Kunstmuseum, exhibition catalogue, Bern

2006 AbhishekHazra, Art and Deal magazine

2005 Marta Jakimowicz, Subtlety-Minimally, exhibition catalogue, New Delhi

Marta Jakimowicz, Iconography in Transient Times, exhibition catalogue, New Delhi

Deepak Ananth, Indian Summer, Contemporary Art from India, curated by Deepak Ananth, exhibition catalogue, Paris

GeetaKapur: 'Art and Social Change Contemporary Art in Asia and the Pacific', edited by Caroline Turner. Published by Pandanus Books.

2004 RasnaBhushan: On Earth And In Heaven, exhibition catalogue, GALLERY SKE, Bangalore

Marta Jakimowicz: Art India Magazine

2003 Elisabeth Haglund: Dakshina Chitra, exhibition catalogue, Chennai (Workshop by Madras Craft Foundation and Boras Art Museum, Sweden)

Douglas Fogle: How Latitudes Become Forms, exhibition catalogue, Walker Art Centre, Minneapolis

2001 Geeti Sen: Art in Nature, exhibition catalogue, German Festival in India, MMB 2002 ERDE (p. 257-60, Seminar: Earth Bonn 2001), edited by Kunst- und Ausstellungshalle der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, published by Wienand Koeln

2000 K.S. Srinivasa Murthy: Peep-Peep Bangalore, curated by Stephan Bohnenberger for MMB, exhibition catalogue, Bangalore, Salon Verlag

Geeta Kapur: 'When was Modernism?' Essays on Contemporary / Cultural Practice in India, Tulika Press, New Delhi

Rycoft, Dan: Drawing Space, exhibition catalogue, Institute of International Visual Arts (inIVA), London

1999 Geeta Kapur: 'Framing/Unframing', Art India Magazine, October

1998 Akira Tatehata and Victoria Lynn: Private Mythology, Contemporary Art from India, exhibition catalogue, The Japan Foundation, Tokyo

1997 Rasna Bhushan and Jane Connarty: Telling Tales, exhibition catalogue, Bath, England

1996 Apinan Poshyananda: Tradition/Tensions, Contemporary Art in Asia, exhibition catalogue, Queens Museum / The Asia Society, New York

Art and Nature Lalit Kala Contemporary 42

International workshop organized by Goethe Institute (MMB)

Victoria Lynn: 'Sensuality and Violence in the art of Sheela Gowda', Art Asia Pacific (Art Quarterly, V. 3, No. 4, Sidney, Australia), October

Art Asia Pacific (Art Quarterly, V. 3, No. 4, Sidney, Australia), October

1995 Geeta Kapur: 'Dispossession', Africus, exhibition catalogue, Johannesburg Biennale

1993 K. S. Srinivasa Murthy: 'Anatomy of Sacrilege', exhibition catalogue, Gallery Chemould, Mumbai

Marta Jakimowicz: 'About things sensual and violent', The India Magazine

See More

Article - Artist of the week 123: SheelaGowda, Skye Sherwin, The Guardian, 2011. [<http://www.guardian.co.uk/artanddesign/2011/jan/26/artist-of-week-sheela-gowda>]

Article – SheelaGowda, Zehra Jumbahoy, Frieze, 2009. [http://www.frieze.com/issue/article/sheela_gowda/]

Article – Material Concern: The art of SheelaGowda, Jessica Morgan, 2013. [<http://artforum.com/inprint/id=40459>]

Article - The Specific Labour of SheelaGowda, Trevor Smith, After All, 2009. [<http://www.afterall.org/journal/issue.22/the.specific.labour.of.sheela.gowda>]

Article – SheelaGowda at Artes Mundi 5, 2012. [<http://www.artesmundi.org/artists/sheela-gowda>]

Article - Analyzing SheelaGowda's art and practice, The Art Trust, 2012. [http://www.theartstrust.com/Magazine_article.aspx?articleid=429]

Article - Home and the world, ZehraJumbahoy, Livemint, 2012. [<http://www.livemint.com/Leisure/nMpEc0Fu0jt3IUvnk568hP/Art--Home-and-the-world.html?facet=print>]

Press Release – Recent Works of SheelaGowda, Asia Art Archive, 2006. [<http://www.aaa.org.hk/WorldEvents/Details/6542>]

Overview - SheelaGowda: Therein & Besides, Rivington Place, 2011. [<http://www.rivingtonplace.org/SheelaGowda>]

Overview - SheelaGowda: Open Eye Policy, Project description, 2013 [http://www.indiawijzer.nl/cultural_agenda/jaar_13/feb_13/info_sheela_gowda.pdf]

Interview - A Conversation with SheelaGowda, Nalini S Malaviya, Art News n Views, 2011. [<http://www.artnewsnviews.com/view-article.php?article=a-conversation-with-sheela-gowda&iid=19&articleid=455>]

Review – Therein and Besides, Time Out London, 2011. [<http://www.timeout.com/london/art/sheela-gowda>]

Overview - Artes Mundi 5 profile: SheelaGowda, Wales Online, 2012. [<http://www.walesonline.co.uk/lifestyle/showbiz/artes-mundi-5-profile-sheela-2016647>]

Review – SheelaGowda: Postulates of Continuity, Office of Contemporary Art, 2010. [<http://www.oca.no/programme/projects/sheela-gowda-postulates-of-contiguity>]

Review - SheelaGowda's deceptively simple show, JaideepSen, Time Out Bangalore, 2011. [<http://www.timeoutbengaluru.net/art/features/pick-shticks>]

Interview – SheelaGowda in conversation with Grant Watson, Art Radar Journal, 2011.

[<http://artradarjournal.com/2011/03/09/collateral-damage-indian-artist-sheela-gowda-burns-installation-in-uk-gallery/>]

Interview - Potentially Subversive - Interview with SheelaGowda, Trevor Smith, Metropolism, 2007.

[<http://metropolism.com/magazine/2007-no6/potentieel-subversief/english>]

Videos

Artist at Work – Van Abbemuseum, 2013. [<http://www.youtube.com/vanabbemuseum?hl=nl&gl=NL>]

Artist Talk – A Blanket and A Sky, Van Abbemuseum, 2013.

[<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kH8pY4h4BYM&list=PLUaidkBIEFdytkNUXat29yxzTcM9wQA5p>]

Artist Talk – People and Figure, Van Abbemuseum, 2013.

[<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WuZLGhF1bAE>]

Artist Talk – Dung, Van Abbemuseum, 2013. [<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2KKFw-nUVew>]

Artist Talk – Sheela Gowda at Walker Art Centre, 2003. [<http://www.walkerart.org/channel/2003/artist-interview-sheela-gowda>]

Artist at Work – Installation of 'Collateral', Rivington Place, 2011.

[<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g2f59G9l5ok>]

Text

SheelaGowda was born in Bhadravati, Karnataka in 1957. Having got a diploma in painting from the Ken School of Art, Bangalore in 1979, she studied briefly at M.S. University, Baroda and did her post-diploma in painting at Vishwabharati, ShantiNiketan (1980-82). Her early oils with pensive girls in nature were influenced by her mentor K.G. Subramanyan, and later ones by NaliniMalani towards a somewhat expressionistic direction depicting a middle class chaos and tensions underplayed by coarse eroticism. Subsequent compositions had eerie and sensual female presence in the organic world permeated by a sense of instinctual cruelty. After her Inlaks scholarship for an M.A. in painting at the Royal College of Art, London (1984- 86) and a stint at the Cite International des Arts, Paris, she taught for a while at CAVA, Mysore and lived in a semi-urban village nearby. She lives periodically in Switzerland, and permanently in Bangalore. The European exposure and the new awareness of Indian reality formed from a woman's view -point resulted in the late'80s in a cycle of large oils on canvas also smaller works, which deal with an oppressive, yet somehow fantastic, even poetic - bodily and emotional -immersion of people in their miserable surroundings, bound with it in their almost blind acts of aggressiveness and camal possession. Especially women are defined and transposed by the load of their work, mental confinement and being accessible to sexual violation. The brushing verges on the gestural, yet shapes objects and figures of people in their partial concreteness as well as very abstracted, merging into a

complex, flexible and permeable unity with the background, simultaneously bringing everything to the surface and creating murky to glowing depths. In order to achieve a complete fusion of her image and material as well as a gesture of local rootedness and solidarity with women who work with it, in 1992 Gowda began to use cow dung along with other substances like kumkum, paper, printed textiles and charred wood. Belonging symbolically and emotionally to daily life and ritual, these materials applied by her both in painterly ways and installation-wise, bear highly charged associations which the artist emphasis subtly bringing out again stands of sensuality and violence which mould the existence of women here, but which she steers to assert them, to probe and protest. Her images range from those of tormented bodies-charred, stretched- to drawing out vital arteries in nature and pointing to their preciousness by gold inlay on cow dung cakes, to marking out the territories of one's life and its passages. These works frequently being virtually abstract, possess yet a feel of the actual and the raw as well as that of the artists' empathy and involvement.

Gowda's solo exhibitions were held at the Venkatappa Art Gallery, Bangalore 1987, Gallery 7, Bombay 1989, Anatomy of Sacrilege, Chemould, Bombay and Bangalore 1993. Her participation's include Karnataka Lalit Kala Akademi exhibitions, Bangalore 1981, '82, '85, national exhibition, LKA, New Delhi 1984, Timeless Art, Bombay 1989, Tangente, Schaffhausen, Switzerland 1994, Africa's, Johannesburg Biennial 1994, Art and Nature, New Delhi, New Delhi, Immaterial - Material, Bangalore 1995, Traditions/Tensions, New York 1996.

[\[http://www.contemporaryindianart.com/sheela_gowda.htm\]](http://www.contemporaryindianart.com/sheela_gowda.htm)