

Susanta Mandal

Artist Statement and Biography

Artist Statement

In my installations quotidian materials and events invite viewers to witness and confront raw reality in interactive environments, where kinetic mechanisms seem playful, but are actually uncanny and ultimately disconcerting constructions.

In this body of work, I have tried to build a sculptural structure from the so-called 'Magic Lantern' which was used during the Victorian Period for entertainment. I have used slides of images from our time, which are projected with the help of a dimmed LED.

Here, my inquisitiveness is to get a purely cinematic engagement, with prolonged visual situation with a single still image. A few images (portraits) of men working as domestic helps in our housing society have been used. They come for a certain period, disappear, new faces come to take those void positions. It's a path made from remembering and erasing, looking back and forth which might hallucinate us with ghostly images, familiar but unfamiliar at the same time.

Artist Biography

Susanta Mandal India

b. 1965, Kolkata, India

Education

1993 M.F.A. (Painting), Banaras Hindu University. Banaras, (U.P).

1990 B.F.A. (Painting), Government College of Arts and Craft, Kolkata.

Solo Show

2011 "How long does it take to complete a circle?" Gallery SKE, Bangalore. India.

2007 "It Doesn't Bite", Gallery SKE, Bangalore. India.

1998 "Assemblages", at Art Heritage, New Delhi, India.

1992 "Recent Works" Academy of Fine Arts, Kolkata.,India.

Group Show

2014 "Making History", Colombo Art Biennale 2014, Colombo.
Layout-7, Location-based collaborative construction by 4 artists and architect,
Colombo Art Biennale 2014, Colombo, supported by CAB and Prohelvetia, New Delhi.

2013 -14 50 Years of Contemporary Art, 'Aesthetic Bind- Phantomata', curated by Geeta Kapur, Chemould Gallery, Mumbai.

2013 Project: Layout-4, Location-based collaborative construction in the show 'Zones of Contact', Proposition on the Museum. Curated by Akansha Rastogi, Deeksha Nath and Vidya Shivdas. Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, Noida, India.
Zones of Contact, with 14 artists and 4 projects, Proposition on the Museum, curated by Akansha Rastogi, Deeksha Nath and Vidya Shivadas. Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, Noida, India.
In Sarai Reader 9, another curatorial project by Ivfeera Ivienezes 'Room for Failure'with 6 artists. Devi Art Foundation, Gurgaon, India.

2012 Layout-2, Location-based collaborative construction by 4 artists and architect, Kochi Biennale Collateral, Kochi, India, supported by Kochi Biennale Committee and Prohelvetia, New Delhi.
Layout, Location based collaborative construction by 4 artists and architect, at M. Pravat's studio, January 2012, Delhi, supported by Prohelvetia, New Delhi.

- 2011 Fragility, curated by Rakhee Balaram, Art Alive gallery, Gurgaon, India.
Hornbill International Public Art Festival, Nagaland, India.
- 2010 Notes on (Dis)Appearance of real, curated by Meena Vari and Arvind Iodaya, presented by Shrine Empire Gallery, New Delhi.
This is Unreal, Experimenter, Kolkata,
- 2009 India Xianzai, 20 Indian artists' show in MOCA, Shanghai, China.
Astonishment of Being, curated by Deeksha Nath, Birla Academy of Arts and culture, Kolkata.
Living Off the Grid, curated by Meera Menezes, Anant Art Gallery, Noida. U.P. India.
India Art Summit, New Delhi
- 2008 - 09 WHERE IN THE WORLD, curated by School of Art and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, at Devi Art Devi Art Foundation, Gurgaon, India.
- 2008 Shanghai Contemporary, Shanghai.
Art Fair, Indigo Blue Art gallery, Singapore.
"Mechanisms of Motion", curated by Marta Jakimowicz at Anant Art Gallery, Noida, India
"Still Moving Images", curated by Deeksha Nath at Devi Art Foundation, Gurgaon, India.
"Off the Beaten Path", South Asian Exhibition, 20 artists from Bangladesh, Nepal, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka; organised by Britto Arts Trust, Bangladesh.

Triennial

- 2008 3rd Nanjing triennial, "Reflective Asia", Nanjing, China.

National Exhibition

- 2006 National Exhibition, Lalit Kala Akademi, Mumbai.
- 2003-04 National Exhibition, Lalit Kala Akademi, Kochi, Kerala.
- 1998 National Exhibition, Lalit Kala Akademi, New delhi.
- 1997 National Exhibition, Lalit Kala Akadmi, Bangalore.

Award and Residency

- 2012 'Politics of Image, Mechanical Contraptions and Art: An Investigation through Contemporary Art ... ' International Artists' Residency, supported by THEERTHA and NAVSAR. Oct – Nov 2012. Pita Kotte, Sri Lanka.
- 2008 BRITTO INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS' WORKSHOP- 2008, January, Bangladesh.

2007 KHOJ INTERNATIONAL, ASSOCIATE RESIDENCY, Oct 07, New Delhi.

2000 Award in Mixed media work from Camlin Art Foundation.
Eastern Region Art Exhibition (Professional Category), Kolkata.

1990 Award in Painting, Indian Society of Oriental Art, kolkata

Collection

- Guggenheim Museum, New York.
- Devi Art Foundation, Gurgaon, India.
- Ebrahim Alkazi's collection, India and many other private collections in India and abroad.