

# Sheelasha Rajbhandari

## Artist Statement and Biography

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### Artist Statement

Bagmati River is considered the source of Kathmandu valley's civilization. For centuries it has been embracing deep social, religious, economical and cultural values in Nepal. Today, the sacred river is challenged with critical ecological and environmental issues.

For this installation, me and my team traced Bagmati from Baghdwar in the Shivapuri Hills to Chobar, the edge of the Kathmandu valley, and collected objects found in the water. They then cast these found objects in individual transparent cubes. What they found ranged from broken plastic toys to alcohol bottles to junk food wrappers to hair to coal from cremation fires. Each object had a history of its own and reflected Kathmandu's attitude, lifestyle, government policy and ever increasing human desires.

Water pollution and environmental issues sounds like an enormous phenomenon but it is an ongoing change that each of us are involved through our actions.

## Artist Biography

### **Sheelasha Rajbhandari** **Nepal**

b.1988

### **Education and Achievements**

Masters in Fine Arts, Second year, Tribhuvan University.

Bachelor in Fine Arts, Kathmandu University Center for Art and Design.

Fellowship grant from National Art Academy, 2012.

- Thakur Prasad Mainali Award, Kathmandu University Center for Art & Design, 2012
- 1<sup>st</sup> prize for sculpture in National art competition, organized by National Art Academy, 2011
- 3<sup>rd</sup> prize for painting in open art competition organized by Alfresco Magazine, 2008
- 1<sup>st</sup> prize for sculpture in open art competition organized by Juddha Kala, 2004
- 1<sup>st</sup> prize for painting in National student art competition, 2003

### **Solo Exhibition**

- *In-Between Uncommon Factors*, solo exhibition of sculptures at Nepal Art Council, Nepal, 2010

### **Art Residency**

- *Images Festival, Occupy Utopia 2013*, (CKU) The Center for culture and Development, Denmark
- *(SAUFEST) South Asian Universities Youth Festival* at Chandigarh, India, 2009
- *Iwamatsu Gakko*, Fujicity, Japan, 2000

### **Working Experience**

- Co-Founder of the contemporary art space *Artree Nepal*.
- *Instructor of Sculpture at Lalit Kala Fine Arts Campus, Tribhuvan University, Nepal.*

- *Trainer, Child Centered Teaching learning skill development at Child Nepal.*
- Set Designer of the play *Court Martial*.
- Art Director in the movie *Fitkiri* .Director Anup Baral ,Under the production of Mega Entertainment PVT.LTD, 2013.
- Art Director in the movie *Maun*.Director Suraj Bhusal, Under the production of Quark Films, 2013.
- Art Director in the movie *Dhanda* . Director Sudharshan Thapa; under the production of Friday Films, 2012.
- Assistant director, short movie *Dhulo*, 2012.
- First Assistant with art crew of the movie *Kathmandu Mirror in the sky*, Director Iciar Bollain; under the production of Es.Docu, Spain, 2011.

## Experience

- Created an installation "*Synthetic Flow* " for *Climate +Change* exhibition organized by ICIMOD, 2014
- Created an installation "*The Truth of a Sacred River*" for *Climate +Change* exhibition organized by ICIMOD, 2013
- Participated in *Ncell Kala Jatra*, organized by KCAC, 2013
- Participated in second *Kathmandu International Art Festival (KIAF)*, 2012
- Group exhibition, *No Title, No Theme , Just Art*, at Ting, 2012
- Participated in the *National Art Competition*, organized by National Art Academy, 2012
- Group exhibition at, *The Art Center Highland Park, Chicago, America*, 2012
- Participated in *Park Art Festival* at Park Art gallery, Pulchok, 2012
- Assistant Director in the short movie *Dhulo*, 2012
- *From Portrait to Self Portrait*, a project by Antonio Nodar, collaboration with 314 Nepali artists exhibited at K.C.A.C. (Kathmandu Contemporary Arts Centre) and Patan Museum, Kathmandu, 2012

- *Artist in the City*, an art project on Urbanization and Urban culture, organized by Interactive Mapping and Archiving Project (IMAP) and Social Science Baha, 2011
- *Future of History*, a collaborative art project, supported by Art Network Asia (ANA), with exhibition at Park art gallery, 2011
- *14<sup>th</sup> Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh*, at Bangladesh Shiplakala Academy, Bangladesh, 2010
- Print workshop and exhibition at Shrijana Fine Art College, organized by Lasana, 2010
- Interactive art workshop, *Open Studio* at Shaile, 2010
- *Root Periscope*, a group exhibition at Sattova art gallery, Nepal, 2010
- *Varsha* women art exhibition organized by Nepal Academy of Fine Arts, 2010
- A group ceramic exhibition at *Siddhartha Art Gallery*, Nepal, 2009
- A workshop in collaboration with traditional South Asian artists at Nepal Art Council and exhibition at NAFA, Nepal, organized by *Bindu*, 2008
- Sculpture exhibition at Alliance Francaise on the occasion of *Francophonie Week*, Nepal, 2008
- *Ned-Nep* workshop (3 weeks) and exhibition *In-between* at Nepal Art Council, 2008
- *Interplay*, an exhibition by 6 young artists at Nepal Art Council, Nepal, 2007
- National sculpture exhibition organized by *Arambha* contemporary group, Nepal 2007
- Art tour and workshop at Kolkata, India organized by *Altamira School of Visual Arts*, 2006
- *Uttistha*, a 10 days art workshop organized by Sutra, Nepal, 2005
- *Sketching the Inspiration* drawing workshop organized by Sutra, Nepal, 2005
- *National Art Exhibition*, NAFA, Nepal, 2005
- *Human Dust*, an exhibition of sculptures and paintings, Gallery 9, Nepal, 2005
- *Women's Art Workshop* at NAFA, organized by Artists' Society of Nepal, 2005