

PRESS RELEASE

Experimenter Curators' Hub
28 th, 29th & 30th July 2016

Experimenter is pleased to announce the 6th edition of the Experimenter Curators' Hub 2016, on Thursday, 28th, Friday, 29th & Saturday, 30th July 2016 which will take place at Experimenter, 2/1 Hindustan Road, Kolkata 700029, India.

The Experimenter Curators' Hub is a crucial platform in developing and sustaining discourse on curatorial practice and exhibition making. Each year the hub invites curators to present and discuss their practice in depth with reference to recent exhibitions curated by them. The 6th edition of the Experimenter Curators' Hub will bring together some of the foremost minds in curatorship from all over the world.

About Experimenter:

Experimenter was envisioned and started by Prateek & Priyanka Raja in 2009. Experimenter goes outside the expected imperatives of the art market, highlighting instead experimental and alternative artists from all over the world. With an ambitious and challenging multidisciplinary approach, Experimenter mounts interactive installations, multiple channel work, live projects and political interventions that question the fraught and kinetic era we live in. Housed in a 1930's heritage building in Kolkata India, the space is used by artists for large installations, performances and talks that accompany wall and floor based works.

Experimenter represents and manages the careers of some of the most exciting and celebrated contemporary artists from South Asia and the rest of the world who's practices are exhibited at crucial international exhibitions and museums worldwide. Experimenter participates in major international art fairs in Europe, United States, Middle East and Asia.

Considered to be at the forefront of contemporary art, Experimenter has brought to Kolkata, at times even pioneered exhibitions of critical international acclaim to India. Experimenter was awarded the best contemporary gallery of the year award by Forbes India Art Awards in 2014 and the best gallery of the year award by the India Today Art Awards in 2016. Since its inception, Experimenter's program has constantly challenged the pre-existing norms in the art world garnering critical acclaim and is looked upon as a pacesetter for contemporary practice from the region.

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The participating curators at ECH 2016 are:

Ariana Pradal, Cosmin Costinas, Dayanita Singh, Giorgio Galleani, Marta Smolinska, Maud Page, Naman Ahuja, Natasha Ginwala, Rahaab Allana Susie Lingham and Hans-Ulrich Obrist (via video conference)

The 3-day event will see a coming together of Indian and international curators and the visual arts community, critics, writers, thinkers, artists, collectors, theorists and people interested in contemporary visual art practice. This year the curators' hub broadens its scope by including curators of architecture and design as well as curators of visual art. The Experimenter Curators' Hub, like every year attempts to further the discussion on curatorial practices and discourse.

Experimenter Curators' Hub 2016 is presented in association with Pro Helvetia - The Swiss Arts Council and is supported by the Australia Council for the Arts, Italian Cultural Embassy, Polish Institute & The Park Hotels. Take on Art Magazine is a media partner for the Hub.

Attendance to Experimenter Curators' Hub is free on prior registration only on a first-come first-serve basis until seats are available. Please email admin@experimenter.in to register the date/s on which you would like to attend. Last date to register is Saturday July 23, 2016.

Curator Biographies:

ARIANA PRADAL

Ariana Pradal, trained as an industrial designer, works as a journalist and curator. She writes and works regularly for various magazines and museums in the field of design and architecture. Her articles, books and exhibitions have been printed and presented in Switzerland and abroad.

COSMIN COSTINAS

Cosmin Costinas is the Executive Director-Curator Para/Site Art Space, Hong Kong's leading non-profit organization dedicated to contemporary visual art exhibitions. Costinas was curator at BAK, basis voor actuele kunst, Utrecht, Netherlands and an advisory board member of Patterns/Erste Foundation, Vienna, Austria. Costinas co-curated (with Ekaterina Degot and David Riff) the 1st Ural Industrial Biennial, entitled Shockworkers of the Mobile Image, Ekaterinburg, 2010, and was an editor of documenta 12 Magazines, Kassel/Vienna in 2005–2007.

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DAYANITA SINGH

Dayanita Singh is an artist who uses photography to reflect and expand on the ways in which one relates to photographic images. Her recent work is a series of mobile museums that allow her images to be endlessly edited, sequenced, archived and displayed. Stemming from Singh's interest in the archive, these museums present her photographs as interconnected bodies of work that are replete with both poetic and narrative possibilities.

GIORGIO GALLEANI

Giorgio Galleani is an Italian Architect and PhD in Interior and exhibitions design. He works for the design and art museum, Triennale di Milano, as a collaborator to the realization both temporary exhibitions as well as the various editions of the museum. He is also responsible for the museum's permanent collection of Italian Design and the Italian Design archives. Previously, he worked for several years as a lecturer and researcher in architectural design at the Milan Polytechnic. He has been guest speaker at several universities and design conferences in and outside Italy.

HANS-ULRICH OBRIST

Hans Ulrich Obrist (b. 1968 in Zurich, CH) is Artistic Director of the Serpentine Galleries, London. Prior to this, he was the Curator of the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris. Since his first show "World Soup" (*The Kitchen Show*) in 1991 he has curated more than 300 shows.

In 2011 Obrist received the CCS Bard Award for Curatorial Excellence, and in 2015 he was awarded the International Folkwang Prize for his commitment to the arts. Obrist has lectured internationally at academic and art institutions, and is contributing editor to several magazines and journals.

His recent publications include *Conversations in Mexico*, *Ways of Curating*, *The Age of Earthquakes* with Douglas Coupland and Shumon Basar, and *Lives of The Artists*, *Lives of The Architects*.

MARTA SMOLINSKA

Marta Smolinska is a Polish art historian, art critic and freelance curator. She was assistant professor at Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun until 2014. Smolinska has authored numerous publications including the books *The Pulse of Art* (Poznan 2010), *Young Mehoffer* (Kraków 2004), *Opening the Painting: De(con)struction of universal seeing mechanisms in non-representational easel painting of the 2nd half of the 20th century* (Torun 2012) and several articles. Until 2010, Smolinska was vice-editor-in-chief of *artluk*, a contemporary art magazine.

MAUD PAGE

Maud Page is Deputy Director, Collection and Exhibitions at the Queensland Art Gallery; Gallery of Modern Art in Brisbane. She has been a member of the curatorium for the Gallery's flagship exhibition series, The Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art (APT), since 2002. She has curated key projects within APT including Pacific Reggae in 2009 and Kalpa Vriksha: Contemporary Indigenous and Vernacular Art of India in 2015. She has written and lectured extensively, her key area of research is how Indigenous and vernacular practices intertwine with contemporary art.

NAMAN AHUJA

Naman P. Ahuja is an art historian and curator based in New Delhi. He is Professor of Indian Art and Architecture at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and is also the Editor of Marg, India's leading quarterly magazine and journal on the arts. He has curated several exhibitions, most notably The Body in Indian Art and Thought, and published books, including The Making of the Modern Indian Artist Craftsman: Devi Prasad.

NATASHA GINWALA

Natasha Ginwala is a curator, researcher and writer. She is curator of Contour Biennale 8 and curatorial advisor for documenta 14. Ginwala was a member of the artistic team for 8th Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art (with Juan A Gaitan) and curated The Museum of Rhythm at Taipei Biennial 2012 (with Anselm Flanke). From 2013-15 she led the multi-part curatorial project Landings presented at the Witte de With Centre for Contemporary Art, David Roberts Art Foundation, the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, and other organizations (with Vivian Zihler). Ginwala writes on contemporary art and visual culture in various periodicals and has contributed to numerous publications.

RAHAAB ALLANA

Rahaab Allana is Curator of the Alkazi Foundation for the Arts in New Delhi, and Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society in London. He has curated, edited and contributed to several national and international museums and publications. In 2014, he co-published a book from his own private collection of Cinema stills and ephemera, titled *Filmi Jagat: Shared Universe of Early Hindi Cinema*, exploring a subculture of photography and print media through a found scrapbook. Allana will be the chief Curator of the Fete de la Photo in 2017, a French Embassy festival of photography in 4 cities, to commemorate the birth of the medium 200 years ago by Nicéphore Niepce.

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SUSIE LINGHAM

Dr. Susie Lingham is curator of Singapore Biennale 2017. She has also served as the Director of the Singapore Art Museum. Lingham's work is many-faceted: as a writer-artist, art theorist and art educator, she synthesizes interdisciplinary ideas relating to the nature of mind across different fields, from the humanities to the sciences and works within and across contemporary art theories and practices. Prior to her current appointment, she was an Assistant Professor at the Visual and Performing Arts academic group at the National Institute of Education, Singapore. She has also taught at universities and art colleges in Australia, the United Kingdom, and Singapore.

Experimenter Curators' Hub presentations and ensuing discussions are extensively video-documented and archived as an online, freely-accessible resource and maybe viewed by fellow curators, researchers, scholars, artists and others. To view previous editions of the ECH please visit <http://www.experimenter.in/web/?q=node/49>

Participating curators at previous editions include Jitish Kallat, Doryun Chong, Shanay Jhaveri, Hoor Al Qasimi, Giovanni Carmine, Eugenio Viola, Tasneem Zakaria Mehta, Matt Packer, Aleksandra Kedziorek, Kazuhiko Yoshizaki (all 2015); Ranjit Hoskote, Adam Szymczyk, Grant Watson, Riyas Komu, Shuddhabrata Sengupta, Eungie Joo, Pooja Sood, Magdalena Ziolkowska, Alexander Koch, and Yuko Hasegawa (all 2014) Nancy Adajania, Natasha Ginwala, Sandhini Poddar, Oliver Kielmayer, Che Kyongfa, Daniel Muzyczuk, Kathrin Rhomberg, Girish Sahane, Allessandro Vincentelli (all 2013). Annapurna Garimela, Inke Arns, Abhay Maskara, Aweek Sen, Diana Campbell, Meera Menezes, Patrick Gosatti, Suman Gopinath, Sumesh Sharma, Zasha Colah, Susan Hapgood (all 2012) and Deeksha Nath, Gitanjali Dang, Heidi Fitchner, Maya Kovskaya, Oindrilla Maity Surai, Meenakshi Thirukode, Nadia-Schneider Willen, Arshiya Lokhandwala (all 2011).

Last date for registrations for Experimenter Curators' Hub 2016 is Saturday July 23, 2016 Attendance to Experimenter Curators hub is free on a first-come-first-serve basis until seats are available. For further information and press related enquiries, please write to Vedika Khandelwal on admin@experimenter.in or call on +91.33.2463.0465 / +91.33.4001.2289. Experimenter is open Monday through Saturday between 11 am to 7pm.

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