



# GALLERIA CONTINUA

SAN GIMIGNANO BEIJING **LES MOULINS** HABANA

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 Open from Wednesdays to Sundays from noon to 6pm and by appointment.

## SHILPA GUPTA

### *Shadows without Light*

Opening on Sunday, April 30, 2017, as from noon  
 Exhibition from April 30 to September 30, 2017

Galleria Continua is pleased to present in the Moulin de Sainte-Marie garden a collection of works by the Indian artist Shilpa Gupta. Entitled *Shadows without Light*, the eight sculptures are laid out where the old train track used to join up with the factory.

The artwork consists of eight sculptures, developed from Gupta's interactive shadow video projections (2005-07) last shown at the Yakushiji temple in Nara, Japan. Forms known and unknown extend into and fuse within the contours of sculptures, as though submerged or suspended upon them. While we recognize some forms, such as a stack of houses, a floating cloud, a map drawn in the air, there are others that stay veiled. The forms allude to emotions we are aware of, be it, desires, aspirations or fears; and many emotions, that we do not recognize. A world of invisible shadows, which we constantly steer through.

This group of sculptures was made in response to the artist's visit to the Yakushiji temple. After returning to her workshop in Mumbai, Shilpa Gupta gathered together many documents on Buddhism. Amongst the words that most touched her, she often cites the

following passage:

'Walk towards yourself.  
 Again, walk towards yourself.  
 A third time, walk towards yourself.'

Then, looking through her notebooks at sketches of never-realised projects, something struck her when she got to the notes and drawings for the interactive video installations: the sculptures, upright, would be the traces of the shadows from the video projections. With these sculptures, a new interactive proposition between the works and their spectators is introduced. The spectators are invited to photograph themselves from behind the coloured shapes. For Shilpa Gupta, the profusion of personal images, particularly in places of tourism, has reached such a point that sliding into such a movement can be a strong gesture. An inducement to slip behind the conscious and unconscious emotions evoked by the sculptures' shapes.

Spread over a large area of the Moulin de Sainte-Marie site, an old industrial paper works, Shilpa Gupta's sculptures echo the maxim calling for a meditative walk towards oneself. To walk through the vast spaces of what was

once a flourishing factory, buzzing with activity.

Shilpa Gupta was born in 1976 in Bombay (now Mumbai), in India. The extent of her artistic interventions encompasses numerous, diverse domains, including video, sound, photography, sculpture, and performance, questioning fields of research covering the themes of borders, security, identity, religion, and desires.

Her recent exhibitions have included *My East is Your West*, Palazzo Benson, Venice Biennale, 2015; *Between the Idea and Experience*, Havana Biennale, Cuba, 2015; *Shilpa Gupta*, Kunsternes Hus, Oslo, 2014; *24:00:01*, Kunsthalle, Budapest, 2013; *I live under your sky too*, Mumbai, 2013; *Blind Stars Stars Blind*, MACRO, Rome, 2012.