



Pradeep Dalal, *Yellow Mansur*, 2019

Temporary Island

June 26–August 3, 2019

Opening Reception: Wednesday, June 26, 2019 5–8 PM, with artist-led walk-through from 5–6 PM.

Organized by the 2019 *SHIFT* residents, with curatorial fellow Frank Prescia.

Artists: Pradeep Dalal, Matthew de Leon, Alicia Ehni, Nung-Hsin Hu, Patrick Rowe, Maya Valladares, Annette Wehrhahn

EFA Project Space, 323 W. 39th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10018

www.projectspace-efanyc.org

projectspace@efanyc.org

(212) 563-5855 ext 229

Gallery Hours: Wednesday–Saturday, 12–6 P.M.

EFA Project Space presents *Temporary Island*, an exhibition that brings together new works produced during the 2018/19 *SHIFT* Residency. Over the course of the past year, seven artists came together to form a “temporary island” of support—a self-imposed shipwreck on remote land; an organized resistance to survive New York City’s grind; and a floating collaboration on the fringes of busy schedules and the daily demands of over-programmed lives.

Each year, the *SHIFT* Residency addresses the unique work-life challenges facing a niche of artists who work over 35 hours per week in support of other artists (as arts administrators, curators, educators, and advocates). Many *SHIFT* residents and alumni are caregivers outside of work, members of the so-called “sandwich generation,” who must balance additional demands on their creative lives. Through *SHIFT*, they have taken the year to reorient and restructure their lives toward their creative practices. *Temporary Island*, a collaboratively organized show developed and produced by the residents, features new work by **Pradeep Dalal, Matthew de Leon, Alicia Ehni, Nung-Hsin Hu, Patrick Rowe, Maya Valladares, Annette Wehrhahn.**

Pradeep Dalal draws on Mughal paintings of nature to illuminate his birthplace, Mumbai, through an expanded photographic practice. For Dalal, the cosmic coincidence of hailing from a place that was originally comprised of seven islands, a recent visit to the seven concentric wall enclosures in the ancient city of Sirangam, and his participation in a residency with seven artists informed his new work.

The figure of the island has a symbolic and practical function in **Matthew de Leon’s** work. His parents emigrated to New York via Puerto Rico and the Philippines, settling for a time on Governors Island in New York Harbor, where de Leon was born. For *Temporary Island*, de Leon presents an installation including wearable drawings and soft sculptures—a rewriting of his family’s history on his own terms.

Alicia Ehni’s project explores personal and collective narratives around *Paracas*, a Pre-Columbian desert site in her home country, Peru. Merging history, myths, science and recent discussions with a Peruvian archeologist on pre-Columbian discoveries, Ehni’s installation playfully blends projected images, sculpture, and collage to comment on the way findings are interpreted, highlighting the need for environmental preservation.

Family relations also resonate in **Nung-Hsin Hu’s** mixed-media installation. 16mm film projections of the Taiwanese sunset & Arctic sunlight, Risograph prints on her family photographs and mushrooms with printed words,

whispering in the gallery corners, create a cyclical view of time and an archive of the ephemeral.

Patrick Rowe has fabricated a large-scale paper arch with a triptych key to reflect on his longtime and ever-evolving public art practice. The layered work references photographs of spaces in New York City where his public participatory art projects have taken place, along with a key that translates elements of his public practice into the context of the gallery.

Maya Valladares invokes her role as a caretaker, arts worker, and artist into her sewn organza piece, making use of abstracted color and form to represent the overwhelming tasks that fill her calendar, spinning quotidian stress into beauty.

Annette Wehrhahn's abstracted series of paintings stem from her desire to experience the body from the inside, as a vessel that experiences life. By drawing inspiration from early cave drawings and Italian *ex votos*, she has created a quilt-like portrait of humans visiting these spaces, their devotion, supplication, and belief.

SHIFT Residency was launched in August 2010 to provide studio space and peer support for practicing artists who also work as administrators at cultural institutions. The program has expanded to include curators, educators, and preparators, providing these artists who occupy support roles in their day jobs with a unique environment to focus on and immerse themselves in their own art practices. This year, seven residents were selected based on their outstanding contributions to the art community, plus their potential for artistic growth in a collaborative studio environment. The artworks and accompanying programming presented in *Temporary Island* was developed, workshopped, and made by the artists over the course of their residency year. For more information on SHIFT, see projectspace-efanyc.org/about-shift.

Support for the development of Alicia Ebni's work provided by The Puffin Foundation.

Related Events

Wednesday, June 26, 2019, 5–8 PM

Opening reception, with an artist-led walkthrough at 5 PM

Wednesday, July 24, 6-8 PM

Caregiver Advocacy Roundtable with Alicia Ehni, Juliana Driever, Natalia Nakazawa, and Maya Valladares

Sunday, August 3, 2019, 2–4 PM

Closing reception with exhibition publication release

About the Artists:

Pradeep Dalal is Mumbai-born artist based in New York. His solo show was recently at Sala Diaz in San Antonio. His work has been exhibited at Callicoon Fine Arts, Higher Pictures, International Center of Photography, Murray Guy, New York Public Library, Orchard, ps122, and sepiaEYE in New York, the Miami-Dade County Library, Aljira in Newark, Tart Gallery in San Francisco and the Fine Arts Gallery at San Francisco State University, Franklin Street Works in Stamford, Blackpearl Gallery and the Sumner School Museum in Washington, DC, and internationally at Galerie Duboys in Paris, Galeria Arroyo de la Plata in Mexico, Chatterjee and Lal in Mumbai, Vadhera Gallery in New Delhi and Galleria de Arte in Havana, among others. His photographs were included in *TAKE on Art*, *BOMB*, *Grey Room*, *Blind Spot*, *Cabinet*, and *Rethinking Marxism*. His artist book "Bhopal, MP" was excerpted in the book "Chandigarh is in India," and his essay "A Bifocal Frame of Reference" was published in "Western Artists and India." He is the co-chair of the Photography MFA at Bard College and directs the Andy Warhol Foundation's Arts Writers Grant Program. He holds an MFA from ICP/Bard College and a MArch from MIT.

Matthew de Leon aka Untitled Queen is a visual artist, drag queen, and graphic designer living and working in Brooklyn, NY. He creates elaborate, colorful handmade DIY costumes and sculptural body props that are used in intensely emotional and narrative performances. Through these means he twists and explores themes of vulnerability, gender, race, and self-empowerment. He was born in 1984 on Governors Island, New York. He is the recipient of the Brooklyn Nightlife Award for Drag Queen of the Year 2015. He has shown in group exhibitions at the University of Connecticut, Mixed Greens Gallery, The Kitchen, Boston Center for the Arts, Honey Ramka, and the Bureau of General Services-Queer Division, among others.

Alicia Ehni is a multidisciplinary artist who uses pure geometry and pre-Columbian iconography to address territory concerns in shifting landscapes. Her art practice draws from personal and collective experiences of living in the Peruvian desert. Ehni explores sculptural forms through combining distinct and often mutually exclusive cultural references, like superstition, Pre-Columbian iconography and architecture. Using the poetic qualities of different materials, she creates multiple series of works. Ehni was born in Lima, Peru, studied art at Universidad Católica, Perú and Pratt Institute. Her solo exhibitions include *Distant Coordinates ICPNA-Perú* (2016), *Reflexions in Stone*, *Galería Lucía de la Puente*, Perú (2015) and *Turning Stone*, *Frederico Seve Gallery/Latincollector*, NY (2013). Ehni is Program Officer at New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA), GIA Support for Individual Artist committee member and a fellow of NALAC 2018 Leadership Institute.

Nung-Hsin Hu is a Taiwanese born NYC-based artist and an arts administrator. She currently works at the Queens Museum, primarily in managing the Studio Programs. As an interdisciplinary artist, Hu's practice interweaves video, performance, sculpture and installation. She intends to reveal the invisible status, articulate the unconsciousness, and perform the vulnerability through her practice. Hu has exhibited both in the U.S. and abroad, and has received various grants including, the Jerome Foundation Travel and Study Grant, the New Work Grant from the Queens Council on the Arts, the Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning-Van Lier Fellowship, and the National Culture and Arts Foundation of Taiwan- International Exchange Grant. She has also participated in international residencies at Casa das Caldeiras in São Paulo, the Treasure Hills Artist Village in Taipei, the Lichtenberg Studios in Berlin, the Arctic Circle Residency Program in Svalbard, and SÍM residency in Reykjavik.

Patrick Rowe is an interdisciplinary artist, educator and arts administrator. Through long-term community-based projects, Patrick co-creates spaces for collaboration, active participation, and the exchange of cultural knowledge. In 2013 Patrick started Mobile Print Power (MPP), a multigenerational printmaking collective based out of Immigrant Movement International in Corona, Queens. MPP uses silkscreen printmaking and collaborative design in public space to engage communities and explore social and cultural situations. Since 2013 MPP has created over 30 public projects, published six books, and exhibited at museums and galleries including Interference Archive, Maine College of Art and Queens Museum. Patrick is currently Director of Education at The Bronx Museum of the Arts where he oversees a wide range of school, teen and family programs. In addition to his work at the museum Patrick is a visiting professor at Pratt Institute where he teaches interdisciplinary graduate courses that focus on the intersection of art, pedagogy and activism.

Maya Valladares is an artist and educator whose work explores the ways collaborative making can sustain human relationships. Situated within an anthropological understanding of textiles as objects that carry and convey embedded information, her artwork engages with themes of labor, exchange, and value systems. Maya was in the museum education field for close to a decade working directly with artists and museum visitors to bring historical collections into dialog with contemporary art. She currently works as an Associate Director of the Parsons Making Center, overseeing the textiles and sewing facilities. She holds a BFA from RISD, and an MA in cultural anthropology from Hunter College. Her daughter Anju, who was a primary collaborator during the Shift Residency, was born in 2014.

Annette Wehrhahn uses her imagination to inventory human fragments that speak to her physical experience; eyes, breasts, feet, hands, a uterus and a foot ensconced in high heels. The unexpected arrangement of these familiar parts can be comical and surreal but also speak to the awkwardness of these fleshy forms we find ourselves in. Her work has been exhibited internationally in Copenhagen, Denmark and Milan, Italy, and recently in Luxembourg at Ceysson & Bénétière Gallery. She has been in numerous exhibitions across the United States, recently at Safe Gallery in Brooklyn, NY and has work currently on view in Dallas, Texas at Horton Gallery. She is the program coordinator in the MFA Art Writing Department at the School of Visual Arts where she also teaches in the Visual and Critical Studies Department. In 2010 she co-founded the artist-run space, Soloway Gallery, and has continued to curate exhibitions and act as a gallery director ever since. She received a BFA in

Printmaking from the Rhode Island School of Design and an MFA in Painting from Bard College. Annette Wehrhahn is based in Brooklyn NY.

For press inquiries, contact Dylan Gauthier, Program Director, at dylan@efanyc.org or 212-563-5855x230.

EFA Project Space, launched in September 2008 as a program of The Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts, is a collaborative, cross-disciplinary arts venue founded on the belief that art is directly connected to the individuals who produce it, the communities that arise because of it, and to everyday life; and that by providing an arena for exploring these connections, we empower artists to forge new partnerships and encourage the expansion of ideas.

The Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts is a 501(c)(3) public charity, dedicated to providing artists across all disciplines with space, tools and a cooperative forum for the development of individual practice. We are a catalyst for cultural growth, stimulating new interactions between artists, creative communities, and the public.

EFA Project Space is supported in part by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council with additional funding for SHIFT provided by the National Endowment for the Arts.



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A Program of The Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts
323 West 39th Street, New York City, 10018
212-563-5855 x 244 | projectspace@efanyc.org
www.efanyc.org