

Subodh Gupta – Everything is Inside

National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi

17 January – 16 March 2014

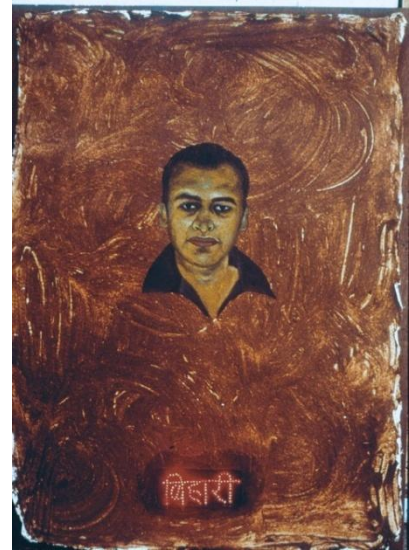
Inauguration on: Thursday 16 January

Curated by Germano Celant

National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi is pleased to announce a solo exhibition of works by Subodh Gupta curated by internationally acknowledged curator Germano Celant entitled 'Everything is Inside'. The exhibition is on view in NGMA, New Delhi from 17 January – 16 March 2014.

Celant says: 'Transforming into sculpture a motorcycle or a bicycle that transports milk or water through roads of a village or a city, or moulding flour into bronze as it is kneaded to make bread, Subodh Gupta pays solemn homage to the latent force that comes from below. He creates a lasting testament, capable of withstanding time. Rendering the ephemerality of life as magical and unchanging, he reintegrates it into the spiritual world of art, the daily duties of cooking, or providing food for the family or community.'

The exhibition is spread across two buildings – the ornate Jaipur House, originally built as the residence of the Maharaja of Jaipur in 1936, and the museum's modern concrete and glass extension constructed in 2009. Celant uses the historical edifice of Jaipur House to focus on Gupta's paintings and small-scale sculptures, made from everyday objects such as the ubiquitous tiffin. In contrast, the modern wing of the museum houses a selection of Gupta's large-scale work, including a site-specific installation the artist is unveiling especially for this exhibition. He will alter the staircase in the centre of the gallery's new wing into a cascading mass of stainless steel culinary utensils, frozen mid-avalanche. The highly reflective, sterile steel surface visually emulates the ironic seduction of a natural disaster.



Gupta is also producing another new work for the exhibition based on his ongoing interest in microcosms of human interactions. Monumental in scale, in a work titled 'All in the Same Boat' (2013), Gupta fills a traditional Kerala fishing boat with well-used utensils and electric fans that are almost like upturned propellers.

Much of Gupta's previous work is also concerned with literal and metaphorical journeys. 'Everything is Inside' features itinerant images such as a luggage trolley carrying two large suitcases; a motorbike laden with milk pails, and an iconic Mumbai taxi cab sinking under the weight of its cargo. Cast in bronze or aluminium, Gupta transforms and gives significance to the commonplace baggage loaded onto each vehicle. Autobiographical works such as 'My Mother and Me' (1997) and 'Bihari' (1999) included in the exhibition make reference to

the artist's affinity to his roots and memories of his childhood environment in rural country.

The exhibition 'Everything is Inside' has come about at the invitation of the National Gallery of Modern Art's Director, Professor Rajeev Lochan says, "Subodh Gupta's monumental installations involving although mundane objects as kitchenware in stainless steel are on many levels imbued with deep undercurrents and essence of Indian culture. The artist has always experimented with his art practices and has successfully elevated local experiences to the global plane even as they are rooted in an indigenous context. For this major solo exhibition organized by NGMA the artist promises to explore fresher concepts while continuing to work in his signature style of monumental scale."