

BEYOND DISPUTE:

Landscapes of Dissent

2018

संज्ञा

सिद्धा

Beyond Dispute:
Landscapes of Dissent



First Published 2018

SAHMAT

Safdar Hashmi Memorial Trust

36, Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla Lane,

New Delhi-110001

Tel:+91 11 23381276, 23070787

Email-sahmat8@yahoo.com,

Web-www.sahmat.org

Call to Artists

Beyond Dispute : Landscapes of Dissent

It is twenty-five years since a mob of men climbed atop the dome structure of Babri Masjid and brought the whole edifice down. The demolition of the structure tore into the secular fabric of India. Looking at things as they stand in India today, the fateful day of 6th December, 1992 looks like an apt point of departure. Over the years, the violent manifestations have consistently and continuously kept us on a longer continuum of intolerance. The perils to democracy are dangerously real today.

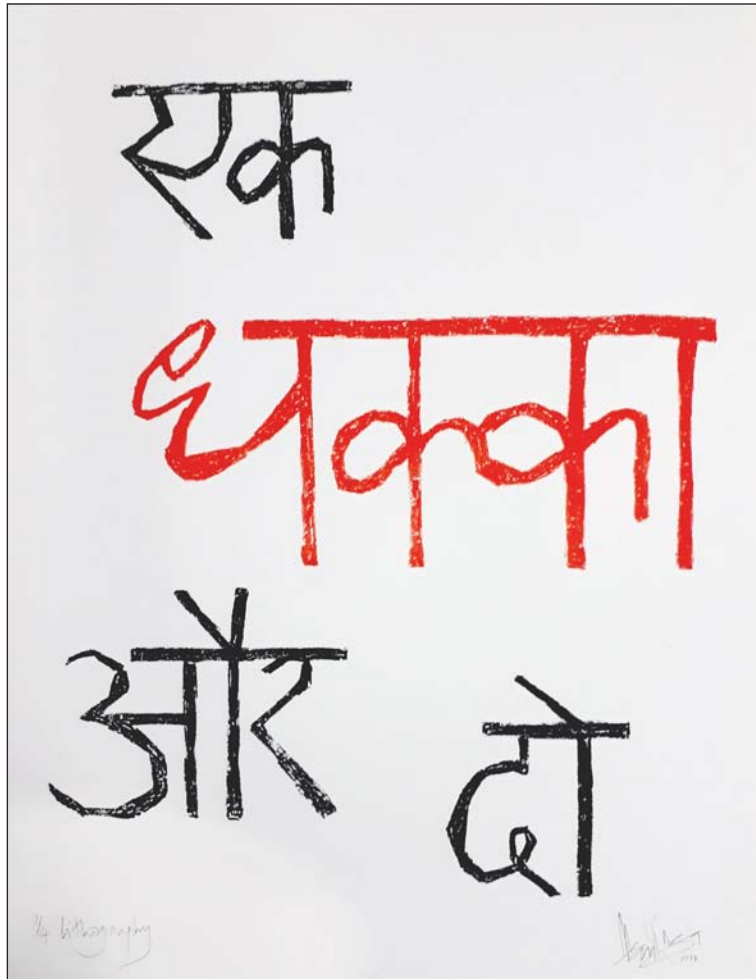
The call, “Beyond Dispute : Landscapes of Dissent” is to consider Babri Masjid demolition not as an episode but rather emblematic of larger attempts to disrupt an accepted, composite heritage in India. Beyond the drowning noises of “Mandir vahi banayenge” lies a more complex history of Buddhist, Jaina, Hindu, Sufi and Muslim cohabitation. It is true, that this cohabitation is not without its vicissitudes and turmoil. But the everyday life in places like Ayodhya are far more complex, its quotidian negotiations far more conciliatory than the ghoulisish slogans of Ram Janmabhoomi Movement could ever let on.

“Beyond Dispute : Landscapes of Dissent” is an attempt to make sense of the landscape of difference, discrimination and exclusion that characterizes India after Babri. Sahmat calls upon artists and friends to come together and reflect on the legacy of Babri Masjid demolition, as we mark the 25th anniversary of this national shame. We ask artists to consider the common ground of practice between art and activism. The call is to provoke an explicit statement on where we fall on the subject of history and nation as

well as to uphold our fundamental right to freedom, dissent and privacy. It requests the artists to indulge in novel forms of civil activism and creative expression in uncertain times. The call is not merely to lament the loss of a structure but the multiple meanings that one can imbue the structure with. What was lost on that fateful day of Ayodhya? What losses were irrevocable? What new mutations manifest from thereon?

We request the artists to undertake the project in a medium of their preference, within the framework of 18 inches by 24 inches. Interested friends and artists are requested to confirm their participation, no later than November 25th, 2017. Once you have confirmed your participation, please ensure that your work reaches Sahmat, 29, Ferozeshah Road, ND-110001 by December 25, 2017 for a show to be mounted on 1st January 2018 on the occasion of the 29th Safdar Hashmi Memorial.

Aban Raza



Untitled

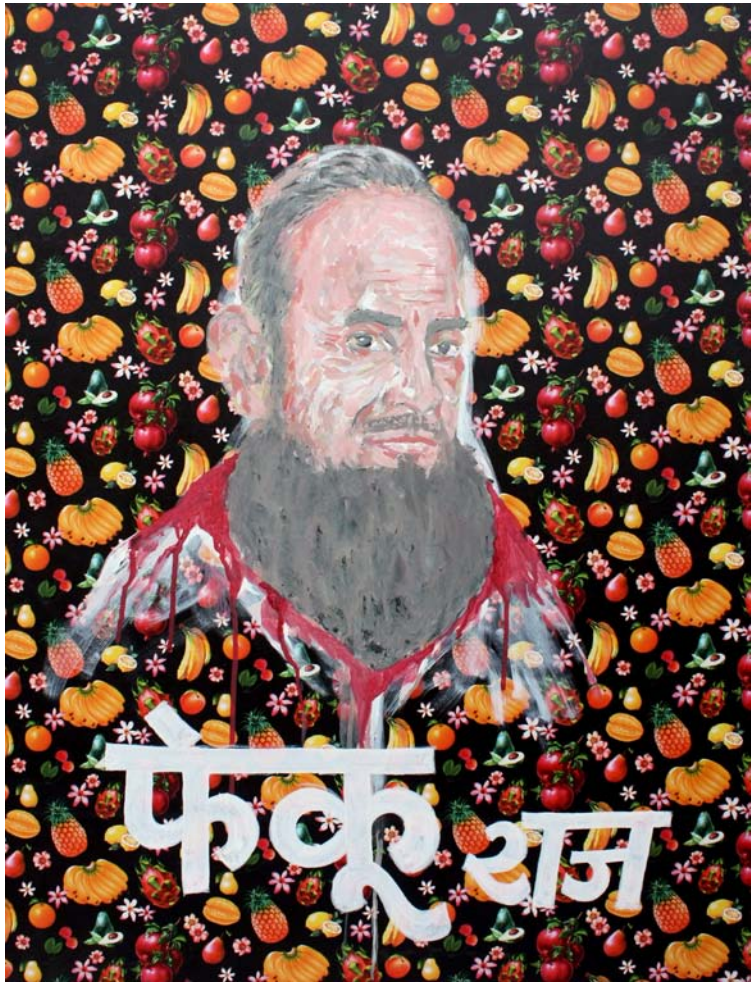
Lithography

Agneya Singh

Monument of Ideals

Walls of ancient sandstone undone
Forever broken in an instant
Betrayed by saffron winds
A legacy of understanding crippled
Like a hapless deck of cards
The loss runs deeper still
For it is a defeat of something greater
On that faithless day in 1992
Our monument of ideals was buried
Beneath the weight of the crashing stones.

Akhlaq Ahmad



Untitled

Acrylic on Rexine

Aman Negi



Archana Hande



Unplugged: 2017

Digital Print

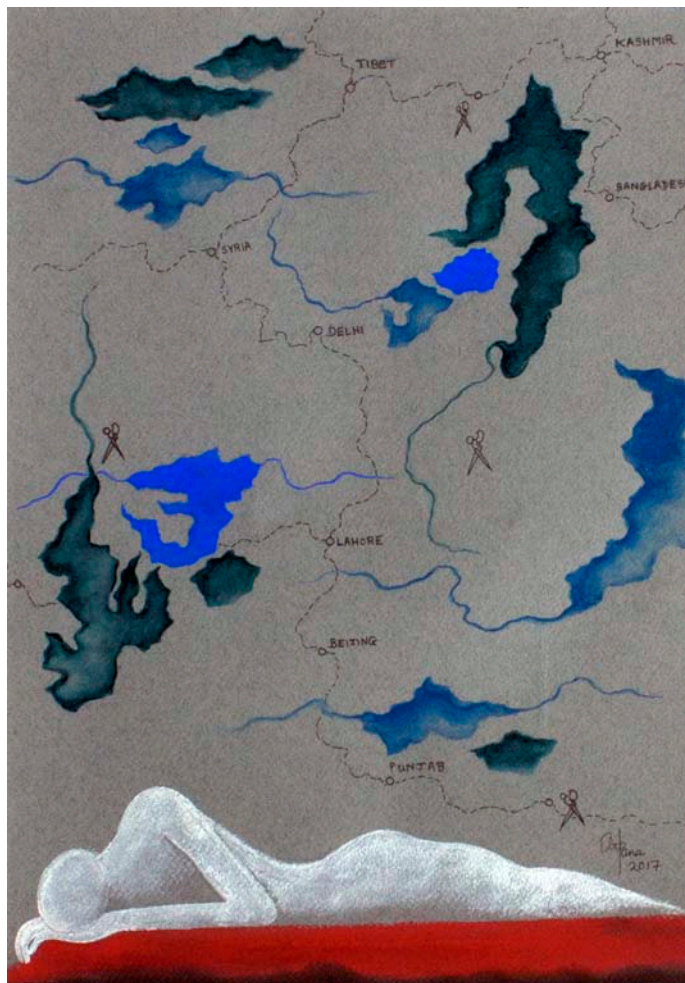
Arka Alam



Cure for the Malady Called Religion

Acrylic on Canvas

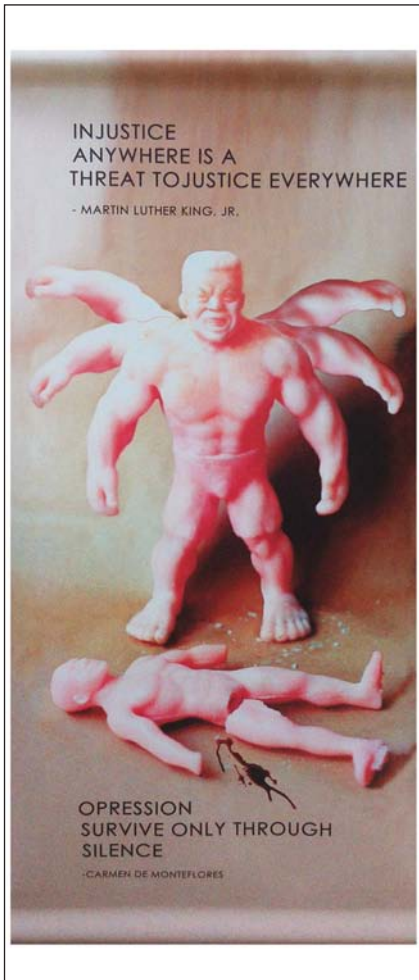
Arpana Caur



Territories

Pastel and Gouache

Arunkumar H.G.



Aryakrishnan Ramakrishnan



When the Saints Go Marching at SMP Palace

Digital Print

Birender Yadav



Jai Shree Ram

Plaster of Paris

Chhering Negi



Thorn in Each Heart

Woodcut and Watercolour on Paper

Divya Singh



Gigi Scaria



Secularism Dismantled

Digital Print

Inder Salim



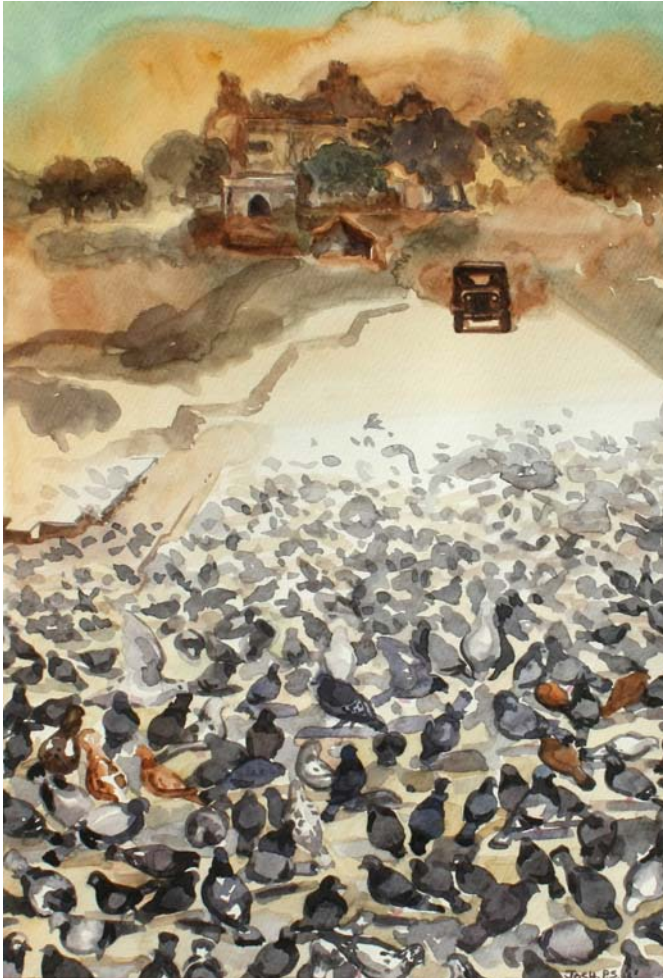
Ita Mehrotra & Yusra Husain



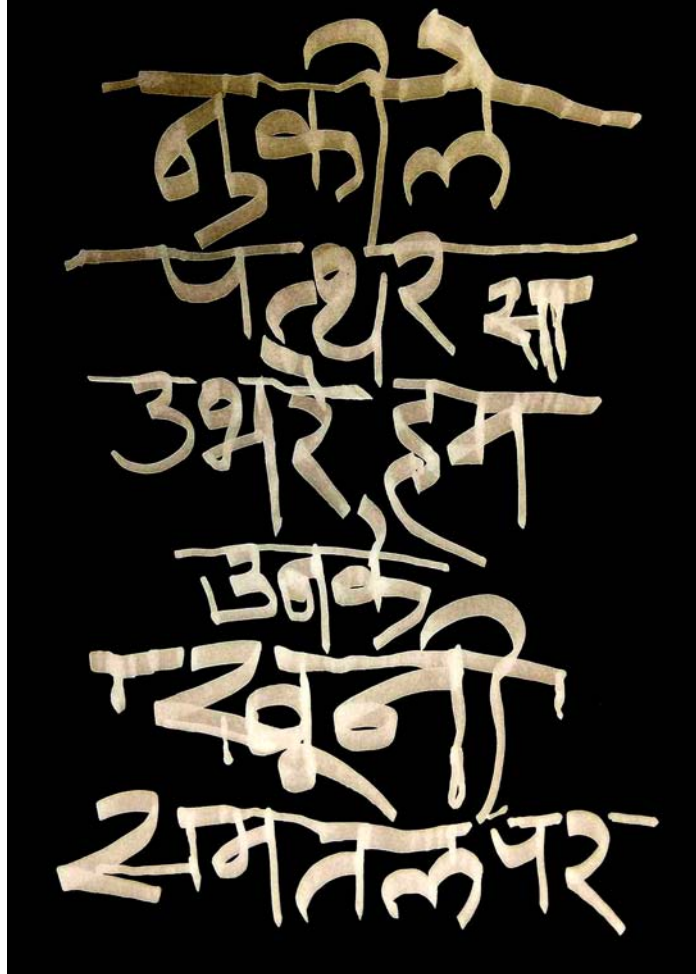
Dust

Digital Print

Josh P.S.



Jyothidas K.V.



Nukile Patthar

Printed Poster

Kanishka Prasad and Vertika Chaturvedi



Spirit of the Domes

Bamboo, Fabric and Metal(MS)

The installation was an attempt to resurrect the spirit of the fallen domes of the Babri Masjid by rematerializing their form. The fabric lightly hovered over the rest of the exhibition and in its rich red color marked a renewed struggle.

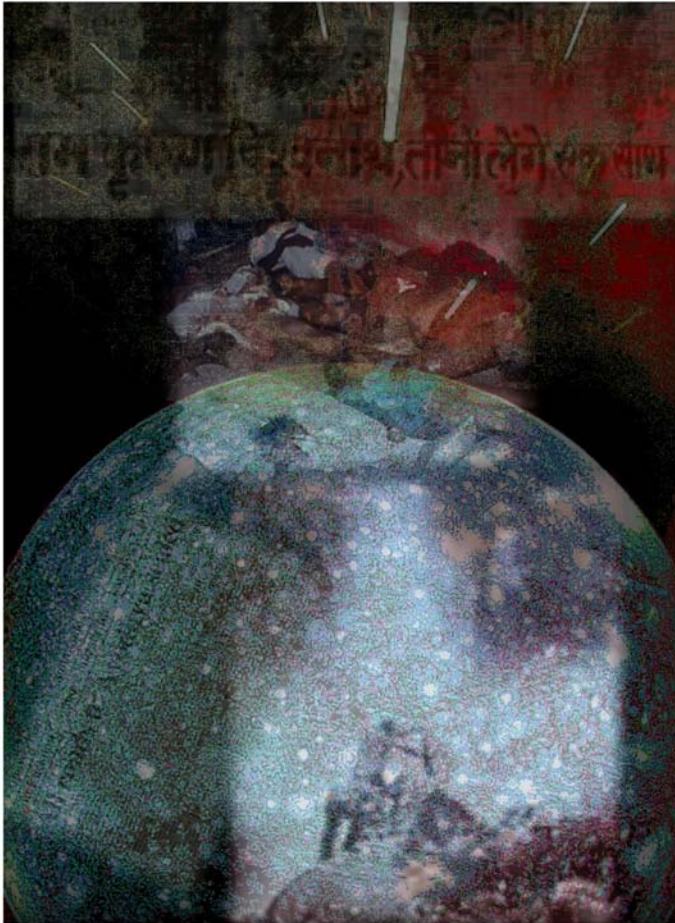
Kathyayini Dash



The Emperor's New Clothes

Watercolour on Cloth, Wood

Kumara Swamy Pashikanti



Pandemonium

Digital Print

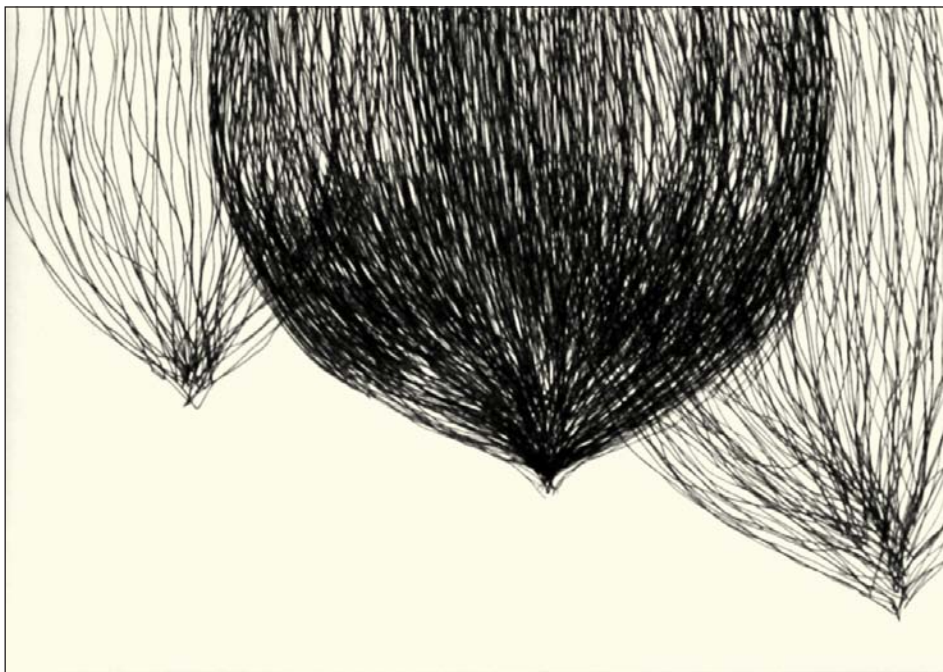
Mahula Ghosh



Time and Turmoil

Watercolour, Nepali Paper on Handmade Paper

Mansi Verma



Untitled

Pen on Paper

Mithu Sen



Unburning Man

Digital Print

Naresh Kumar



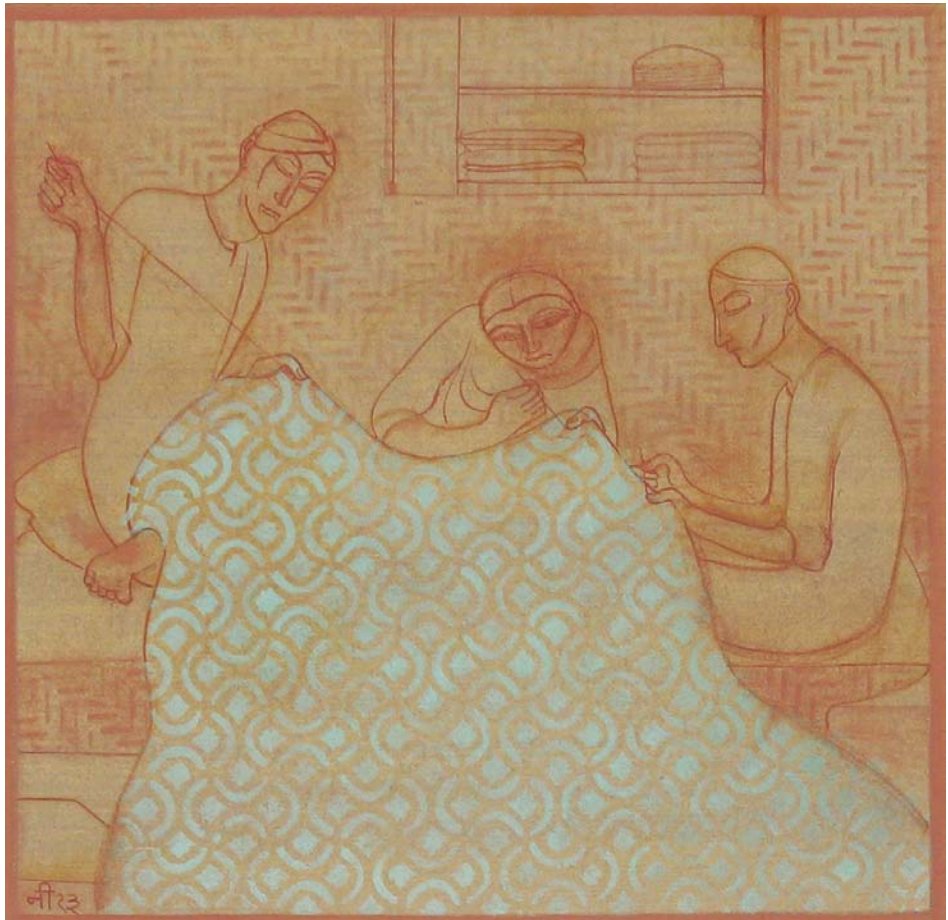
Neha Grewal



She Did Not Exist

Graphite and Plaster on Paper

Nilima Sheikh



Kashidakar

Tempera On Paper

Pablo Bartholomew



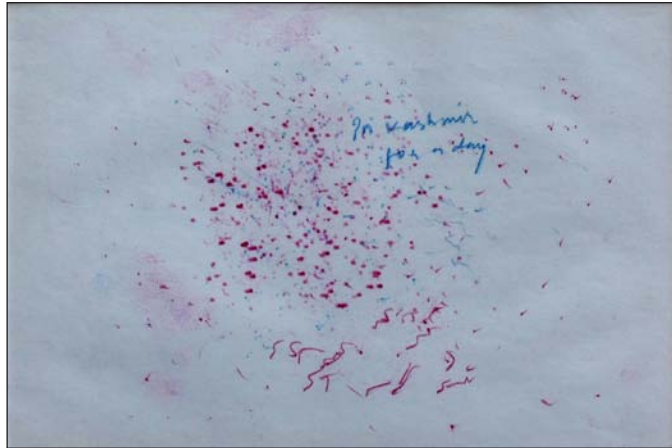
Revisiting Ayodhya

Magazine Scan

Pallavi Gaur



Preeti Singh



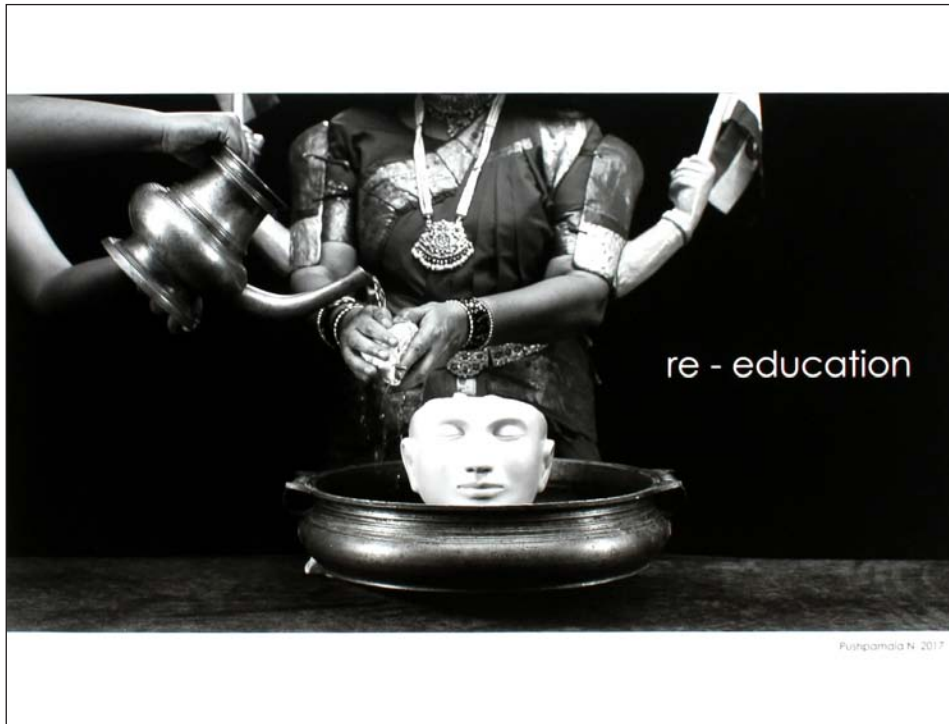
Drawings from Everyday

Carbon on Newsprint paper

Priyanka Jain



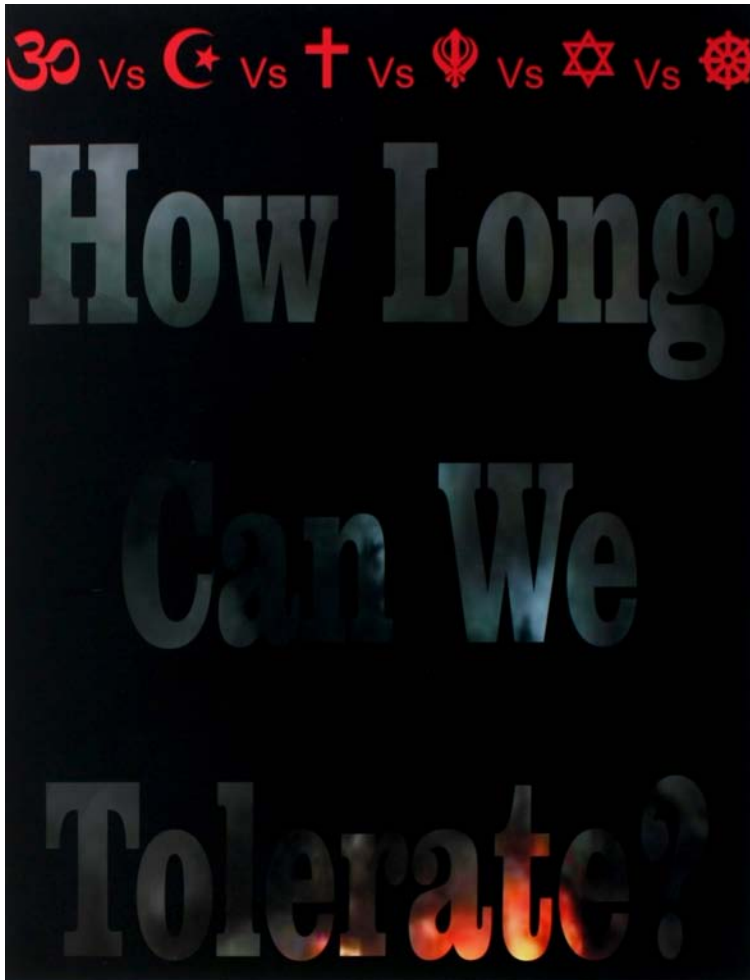
Pushpamala N.



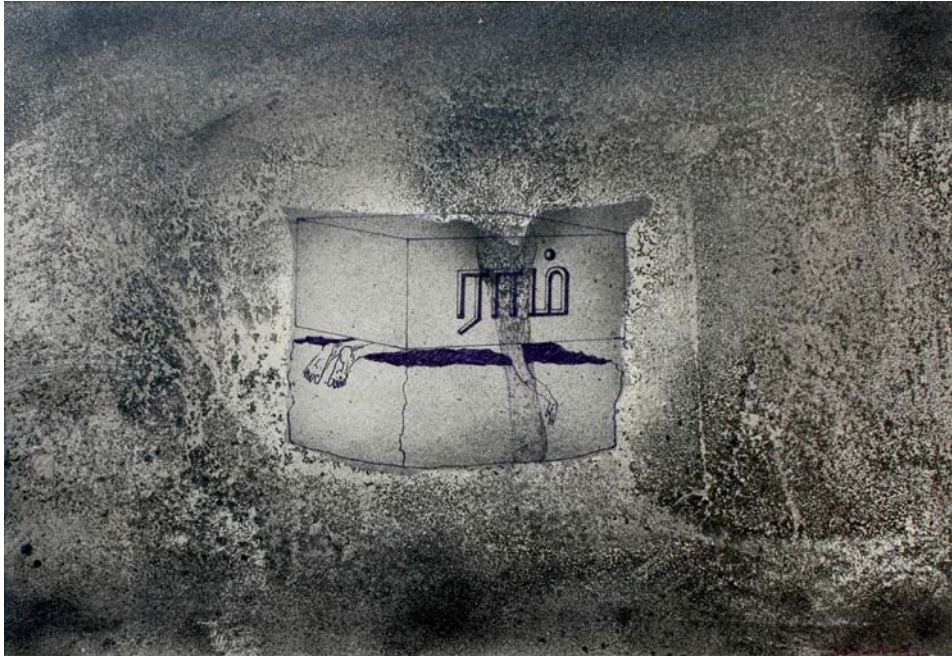
Re-Education

Digital Print

Rahul Aggarwal Shorewala



Ram K. Kumar



Crushed Between the Bricks of Ram

Acrylic and Ink on Paper

Ranbir Kalekar





Ghalib's Letter

Mixed Media

Sajeev Visweswaran



Jackfruit

Linocut

Sanket Jadia



Residual Gaze



Archival Inkjet Print on Canson

Shakuntala Kulkarni



Untitled

Chalk on Board

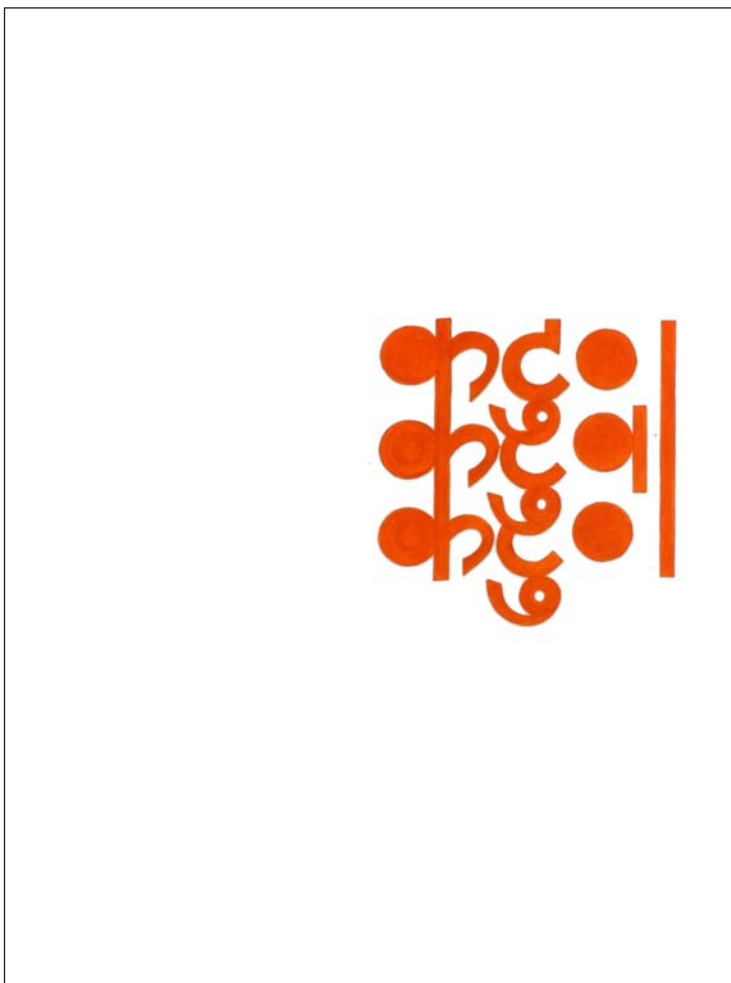
Sonia Khurana



Untitled

Digital Print

Syed Ali Sarwat Jafri



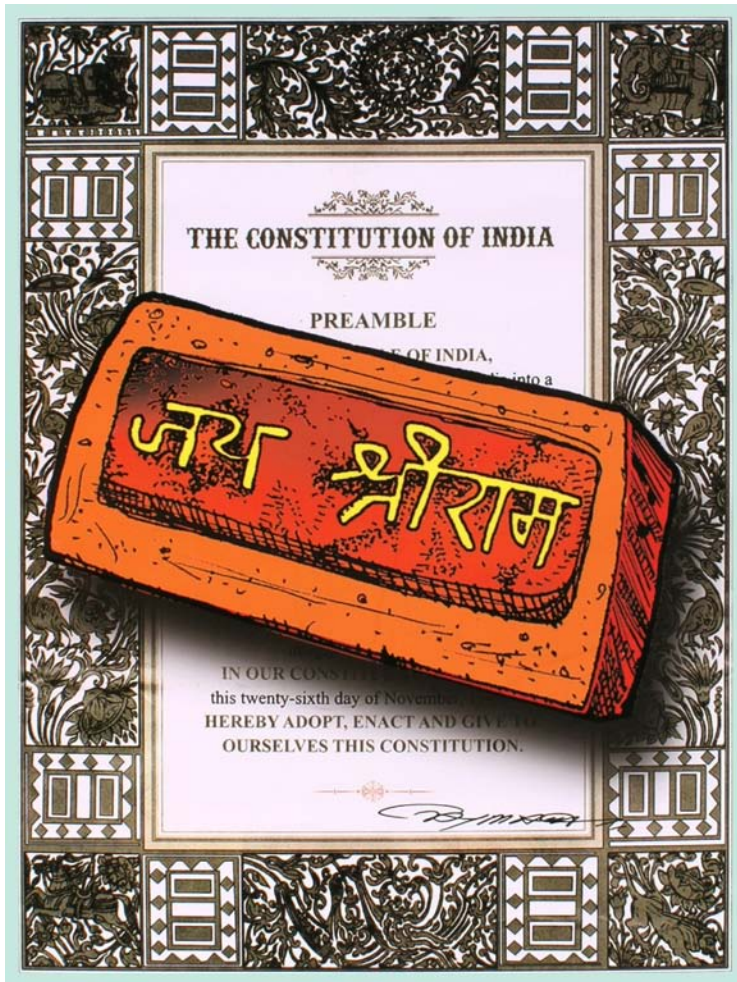
Tanmay Santra



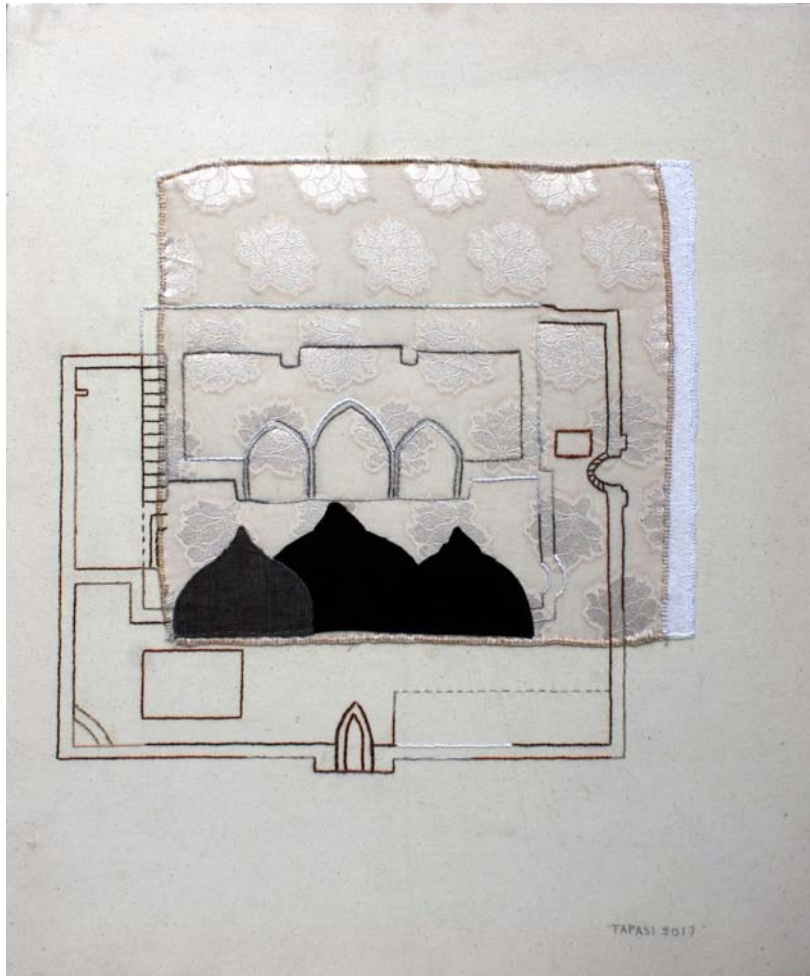
The Fall

Watercolour on Paper

Tanmaya Tyagi



Tapasi Nath



The Memory of Loss

Applique and Stitch on Cloth

Trolley Bus



Valay Singh



*Riot-displaced children at a temporary camp,
Muzaffarnagar, 2013*

Photography

Veer Munshi

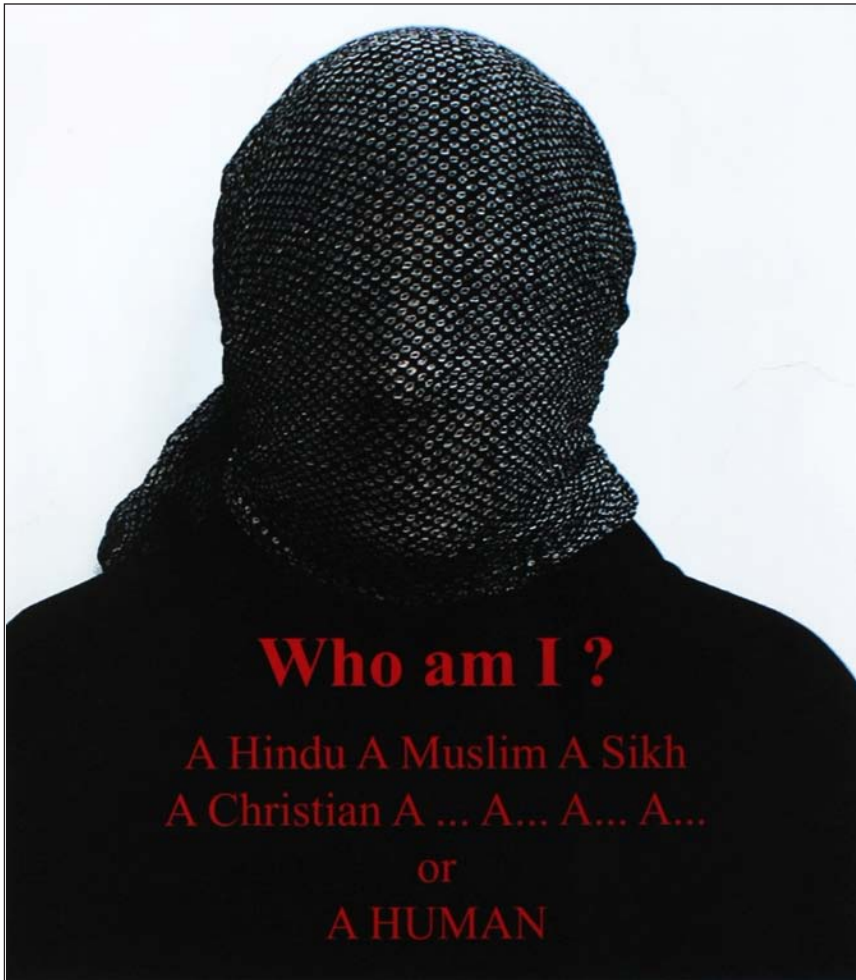


Who Committed The First Sin



Digital Print

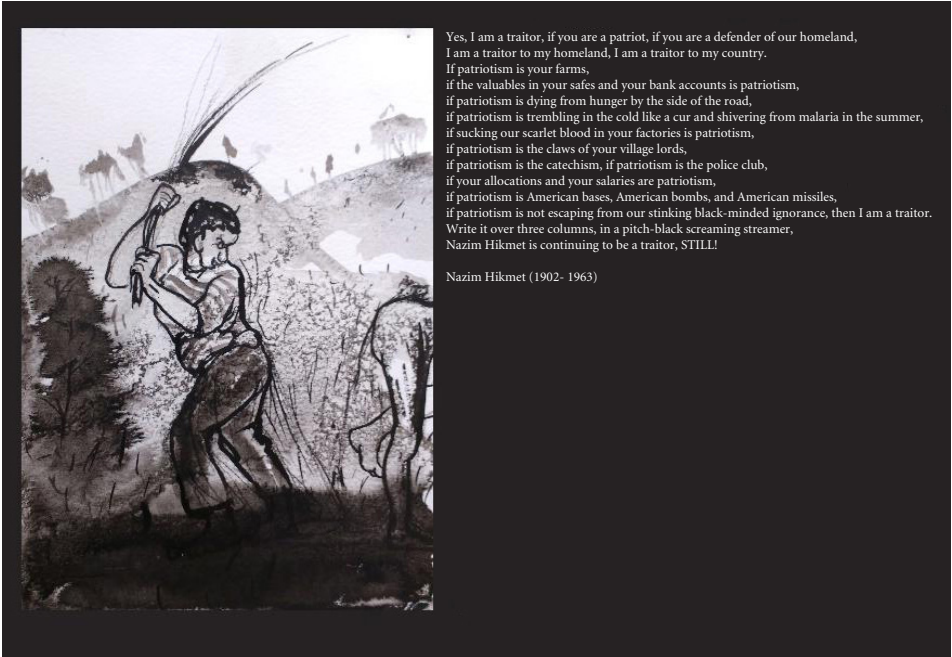
Vibha Galhotra



Who am I ?

Digital Print

Vibin George



Nazim Hikmet's Poem

Ink on Paper

Vivan Sundaram



Wreath

Digital Print

3 Exhibitions Explore Ayodhya, the Babri Masjid Demolition, and the Struggle of Farmers

In the exhibition, 'The Parched Earth', taking forward the idea of struggle and apathy of the farmers, photographer Ram Rahman brings together their portraits, farmers who had come from across the country to protest at Jantar Mantar last year.



Where one wall narrated the history of a city marred by bloodshed, politics and conflict, another wall showcased landscapes of dissent, and the third acquainted us with the faces of struggle. Three exhibitions adorned the walls of the Constitutional Club annexe in Delhi. It was held to mark the 29th Safdar Hashmi Memorial, an annual event, organised by Sahmat, a trust constituted in the memory of the theatre director, on the first day of the new year.

The annual event marks the attack on the group of street theatre activists on January 1, 1989, which claimed Hashmi's life. This year the trust is also commemorating the 25th anniversary of the demolition of Babri Masjid in Ayodhya.

The first exhibition, 'Hum Sab Ayodhya', was curated 25 years ago in Ayodhya and had travelled to 16 cities. Billed as the largest-ever voluntary collaboration of ar-

tistes of different genres, it traces the history and plurality of the ancient city. “Bajrang Dal had attacked the exhibition then and got a part of it banned,” recalls historian Sohail Hashmi, “And we went to court.” The panel in question traced the history of the epic Ramayana in India. The ban was ultimately lifted. The exhibition takes us through the history of the Ayodhya-Faizabad region, its place as a pilgrim site, travellers’ accounts, the significance of the town in various religions, and its architecture. In translation was a 700-year-old ghazal written by Amir Khusrau on the city, where he had spent two years of his life. “A town it is, but what a town, a garden,” he writes.



A month ago, a call was made to artists around India, to explore the violent manifestations that have taken place after the Babri Masjid demolition. Nearly 40 artists, across media responded, and ‘Beyond Disputes: Landscapes of Dissent’ is their interpretation of the event. The curator, 28-year-old, Aban Raza, talked about her lithograph, where she writes the first of the iconic slogan: ‘Ek Dhakka Aur Do, Babri Masjid Tod Do’. “When I speak to people who witnessed the demolition, I feel the resonance even today,” she says. ‘Who am I? A Hindu, A Muslim, A Sikh, A Christian A...A...A...A...or A Human’, asks a poster by Vibha Galhotra, while Rahul Aggarwal Shorewala, in another, asks, ‘How long can we tolerate?’.

In the exhibition, ‘The Parched Earth’, taking forward the idea of struggle and apathy of the farmers, photographer Ram Rahman brings together their portraits, farmers who had come from across the country to protest at Jantar Mantar last year.

The photographs were taken by various students associated with Rahman. Beside this exhibit, was poet-photographer Mahender Singh Bisht's poem, Rosh, where he vents his anger about ignorance of the farmers by the privileged.

The Indian Express, 2 January, 2018

Index

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 7 Aban Raza | 31 Neha Grewal |
| 8 Agneya Singh | 32 Nilima Sheikh |
| 9 Akhlaq Ahmad | 33 Pablo Bartholomew |
| 10 Aman Negi | 34 Pallavi Gaur |
| 11 Archana Hande | 35 Preeti Singh |
| 12 Arka Alam | 36 Priyanka Jain |
| 13 Arpana Caur | 37 Pushpamala N. |
| 14 Arunkumar H.G. | 38 Rahul Aggarwal Shorewala |
| 15 Aryakrishnan Ramakrishnan | 39 Ram K. Kumar |
| 16 Birender Yadav | 40 Ranbir Kalekar |
| 17 Chhering Negi | 41 Saba Hasan |
| 18 Divya Singh | 42 Sajeev Visweswaran |
| 19 Gigi Scaria | 43 Sanket Jadia |
| 20 Inder Salim | 44 Shakuntala Kulkarni |
| 21 Ita Mehrotra & Yusra Husain | 45 Sonia Khurana |
| 22 Josh P. S. | 46 Syed Ali Sarwat Jafri |
| 23 Jyothidas K.V. | 47 Tanmay Santra |
| 24 Kanishka Prasad &
Vertika Chaturvedi | 48 Tanmaya Tyagi |
| 25 Kathyayini Dash | 49 Tapasi Nath |
| 26 Kumara Swamy Pashikanti | 50 Trolley Bus |
| 27 Mahula Ghosh | 51 Valay Singh |
| 28 Mansi Verma | 52 Veer Munshi |
| 29 Mithu Sen | 53 Vibha Galhotra |
| 30 Naresh Kumar | 54 Vibin George |
| | 55 Vivan Sundaram |

SAHMAT



SAHMAT

Safdar Hashmi Memorial Trust

29 Ferozshah Road New Delhi-110001

Tel: +91 11 23381276, 23070787

Email: sahmat8@yahoo.com,

Web: www.sahmat.org

