

PRESS RELEASE



PUNASCHA PARRY

curated by

Samit Das

PERNOD RICARD FELLOW 2017

& Sumesh Sharma

**From October 14th to December 23rd
at Villa Vassilieff, Paris**

Opening on Saturday, October 14th: 3 - 4 pm (press preview), 4 - 9 pm (public)



PUNASCHA PARRY

Curator: Samit Das (Pernod Ricard Fellow 2017)

Associate Research Curator: Sumesh Sharma

With: Yogesh Barve, Jean Bhowmagary, Judy Blum Reddy, Hsia-Fei Chang, Samit Das, Zarina Hashmi, M.F. Husain, Prabhakar Kamble & Dyaneshwar Printmakers Collective, Kolhapur, Lila Lakshmanan, Nirode Mazumdar, Tyeb Mehta, Geoffrey Mukasa, Akbar Padamsee, Amol K Patil, Krishna Reddy, Francis Newton Souza, Marc Vaux

At Villa Vassilieff, Paris

In the framework of Samit Das' 2017 Pernod Ricard Fellowship

From October 14th to December 23rd, 2017

Punascha Parry - a title borrowed from the eponymous book by the painter Nirode Mazumdar, which could be translated as « a resonance of Paris » - is an exhibition conceived as a journey, in which archives and images come together to form a narrative, a possible memory .

The history of the colonization of India is long and complex, the archives scattered and incomplete - especially regarding art history. An observation that Samit Das (Pernod Ricard Fellow 2017) makes as an historian and an artist, leading him to propose an original mapping of India. The exhibition examines the visual vocabulary of Indian modern art in an attempt to re-evaluate the idea of modernism through the lives, works and destinies of Indian artists in Paris. Samit Das, revisiting some ignored sections of the artistic and intellectual life of Paris in the twentieth century, combines his works with those of Indian artists who have stayed or lived in Paris and whose trajectories remain ignored or unknown.

Most of the exhibited works have never been shown in Paris; their display is the result of an investigation conducted by Samit Das and Sumesh Sharma (associate research curator) with witnesses of that time, but also their families, friends and fellows artists. It is therefore aesthetic but also political and intimate articulations that the exhibition will show, putting into perspective the constitution of a discourse on the history of art in the context of contemporary Indian nationalism of the years of struggle for independence.

ABOUT SAMIT DAS & SUMESH SHARMA

Samit Das (1970, Jamshedpur, Inde) studied fine arts at the Santiniketan Kala Bhavan before attending a post Experience program at Camberwell College of Arts in London through a British Council Scholarship. As an artist, he specializes in painting, photography, interactive artworks, artists' books as well as in creating multi-sensory environments through art and architectural installations. He also has a deep interest in archiving and documentation, in search of a new visual vocabulary through images and text.

Samit Das has held several solo shows as well as group shows in India and abroad, including the United States, France and the United Kingdom. He was notably part of the Dakar Biennale, Senegal. His most recent solo shows include exhibitions with TARQ and Clark House Initiative in Mumbai and Gallery Espace in New Delhi. He has documented the Tagore house Museum in Kolkata (1999-2001). Samit Das started his research on Santiniketan Architecture during his MFA studies, which resulted in a book titled *Architecture of Santiniketan : Tagore's concepts of space* (Niyogy Books, Delhi). He has curated several history-based

exhibitions like *The Idea of space and Rabindranath Tagore* and *Resonance of Swami Vivekananda and Art of Nandalal Bose*, with support by the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India. His artist's book, *Hotel New Bengal*, was released in 2009 (Onestar Press, France).

In 2011 he has received the BRIC scholarship to visit Italy and in 2016 he was awarded a Research scholarship from ProHelvetia New Delhi to visit the Sitterwerk library and archive in Switzerland. He was awarded the 2017 Pernod Ricard Fellowship to work on modern Indian painters with a connection to Paris.

Sumesh Sharma is an artist, curator & writer. He co-founded the Clark House Initiative, Bombay in 2010 where he presently is the curator. His practice is informed by alternate art histories that often include cultural perspectives informed by socio-economics and politics. Immigrant Culture in the Francophone, Vernacular Equalities of Modernism, Movements of Black Consciousness in Culture are his areas of interest. He co-founded the Clark House Initiative in 2010. He will curate an exhibition at the Showroom, London in 2018 and the Centre George Pompidou in 2017. He was invited curator to the Biennale de Dakar, Dak'Art 2016 and Checkpoint Helsinki in 2015. He has curated exhibitions at the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, Metropolitan Museum, New York, Kadist Art Foundation, Paris, Para Site Hong Kong, Villa Vassilieff, Paris, Stedelijk Museum Bureau, Amsterdam, ISCP New York, Insert 2014, New Delhi among others. He has been a resident at the Latvian Contemporary Art Centre, Riga, Manifesta Online Residency, San Art, Vietnam, Cites des Arts, Paris, and was the ICI fellow for Senegal in 2014 where he researched how the funding mechanisms in culture and institutional support of art institutions utilise the power structures put in place by colonial laws. His artist practice seeks layers through political materiality and art historical & theoretical failures while discussing the visual. His Masters in Research at the Universite Paul Cezanne (2008) was an Inquiry into Artist Careers.

BÉTONSALON - CENTER FOR ART AND RESEARCH & VILLA VASSILIEFF

Bétonsalon - Center for Art and Research offers a space of collective reflection that combines both artistic and academic practices, and questions the production and dissemination of knowledge. We develop our activities in a process-based, collaborative, and discursive manner, following different time spans, in cooperation with various local, national, and international organizations. Exhibitions are enriched by different associated events (workshops, conferences, performances, round table discussions...). We organize seminars and workshops in collaboration with faculty members from the Paris Diderot University. We lead off-site research projects in partnership with other institutions, and offer residency programs for researchers, artists, and curators.

Bétonsalon - Center for Art and Research is a non-profit organization established in Paris in 2003. Since 2007, Bétonsalon has been located on the campus of the Paris Diderot University. In 2016, we launched the Académie Vivante (Living Academy) program, an experimental research laboratory within the Epigenetics and Cell Fate unit (CNRS / Université Paris Diderot) that invites artists in residency. This same year, we launched Villa Vassillieff, our second site of activities, in the former studio of artist Marie Vassilieff, located in the heart of the Montparnasse neighborhood. Until 2013, this location was the Museum of Montparnasse. Villa Vassilieff is a cultural establishment of the City of Paris.

Villa Vassilieff intends to reconnect with the history of its location by inviting artists and researchers to take a contemporary look at the heritage of Montparnasse. Our exhibitions and public programs focus on exploring lesser-known resources and aim at re-writing and diversifying historical art narratives. Among many grant and residency opportunities, we joined forces with our leading sponsor Pernod Ricard to create the Pernod Ricard Fellowship, a residency program inviting four international artists, curators, or researchers every year in the Villa's studio. We collaborate closely with museums and curators to design tailor-made research projects and bring innovative perspectives, as illustrated by the ongoing Marc Vaux program jointly led by Villa Vassilieff and Centre Pompidou's Kandinsky Library.

ABOUT THE PERNOD RICARD FELLOWSHIP

Pernod Ricard, Villa Vassilieff's leading sponsor, has joined forces with Villa Vassilieff to create the Pernod Ricard Fellowship: a grant aimed at supporting four international artists, curators and researchers in residence every year. The Pernod Ricard Fellowship is conceived as a platform for artistic research dedicated to the experimentation of both non-linear models of creation and knowledge distribution between researchers, contemporary artists, cultural institutions, non-profit organizations and the general public.

Selected by an international committee consisting of ten members, the four Pernod Ricard Fellows are invited to spend three months in residency within a refurbished historical studio at the Villa Vassilieff. It is a unique opportunity for these artists and researchers to enhance their vision and to focus on their own work or any other projects.

Reflecting the cosmopolitan identity and convivial atmosphere of the former studio of Marie Vassilieff, the Fellows will enjoy bespoke support from researchers and art professionals, along with access to a rich network of institutions in France and abroad, such as the Centre Pompidou (a longstanding partner of Pernod Ricard and Bétonsalon - Center for Art and Research) and the Fondation d'entreprise Ricard, a partner in the project.

The Pernod Ricard Fellows also benefit from numerous research programs focusing on unexplored resources, developed by Villa Vassilieff in collaboration with museums, public and private archives, as well as universities and art schools. Lastly, the Fellows will enjoy a dynamic events programme at Villa Vassilieff, offering various options for conducting new investigations and collecting multiple narratives of our globalized world.

In 2018, the Artistic Committee of the Pernod Ricard Fellowship is composed of:

Katie Dyer (Curator, Museum of Applied Arts & Sciences, Sydney, Australia), Andrey Egorov (Head of Research Department & Curator, Moscow Museum of Modern Art, Moscow, Russia), Abdellah Karroum (Artistic Director, L'appartement 22, Rabat, Morocco & Director, Mathaf - Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha, Qatar), Victoria Noorthoorn (Director, Museo de Arte Moderno de Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina), Sumesh Sharma (Curator & co-Founder, the Clark House Initiative, Bombay, India), Benjamin Seroussi (Director, Casa do Povo, Sao Paulo, Brazil), Bernard Blistène (Director, National Museum of Modern Art, Paris, France), Colette Barbier (Director, Fondation d'Entreprise Ricard, Paris, France), Mélanie Bouteloup (Director, Bétonsalon - Center for Art and Research & Villa Vassilieff, Paris, France), Virginie Bobin (Head of Programs, Villa Vassilieff, Paris, France)

PARTNERS

Bétonsalon - Center for Art and Research is supported by the City of Paris, the Paris Diderot University - Paris 7, the Île-de-France Regional Board of Cultural Affairs - Ministry of Culture and Communication, the Île-de-France Region and Leroy Merlin - Quai d'Ivry.

The Académie vivante is supported by the Fondation Daniel et Nina Carasso.

Bétonsalon - Center for Art and Research is a member of Tram, réseau art contemporain Paris / Île-de- France and of d.c.a / association française de développement des centres d'art.

Villa Vassilieff receives support from public and private partners first and foremost from the City of Paris, the Île-de-France Region and Pernod Ricard, its lead sponsor. Villa Vassilieff also develops partnerships with the Fondation Nationale des Arts Graphiques et Plastiques, the Société des Auteurs dans les Arts Graphiques et Plastiques, the Collège d'études mondiales of the Fondation Maison des sciences de l'homme, and the Goethe Institut.



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Arrêt Gare Montparnasse
Bus 28, 82, 89, 92, 96,
Arrêt Place du 18 juin 1940 - Rue de l'Arrivée
Bus 89, Arrêt Maine-Vaugirard

FREE ADMISSION

From Tuesday to Saturday
From 11 am to 7 pm

ADVISORY BOARD

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