

Sotheby's INSTITUTE OF ART

## ACROSS BORDERS

Opening Reception: Wednesday, October 31, 2018, 6 - 8 pm

Exhibition: October 30 – November 5, 2018

570 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10022

### Press Release

Sotheby's Institute of Art is pleased to present 'Across Borders', a group exhibition curated by **Tenzin D. Lama** and **Aman Bachhawat**, Master of Art Business candidates, class of 2018. The exhibit, on view from October 30 till November 5, 2018, is located in the New York campus on the sixth floor of 570 Lexington Avenue. The exhibition is free and open to the public, Monday–Friday 10 am to 7 pm, and requires preliminary registration.

This exhibition presents a cross cultural study in artistic creation and mapping of the artist diaspora across international borders from the place of their origin in lying different parts of Asia into their adopted residency in the United States. It is a celebration of different cultures and ethnicities where the artists have taken inspiration from their own cultural traditions and paid a homage to their ancestral roots through their multi-disciplinary art forms. Each artist brings forth their own perception of a world which they've left behind. **Bahar Behbahani** revisits the impulse of Persian Gardens in her works, of mixed media on canvas and installation of her archival paper-works which is a concurrent theme in the crux of Iranian artistic traditions. **Mona Saeed Kamal's** practice stems from her ancestral origins that are rooted in the Indian subcontinent and her migratory upbringing- born in Algeria, raised in Canada and currently residing in New York. Her installation of eight hundred hand painted paper boats represents migration and migratory journeys humans have taken since the origins of time. Although born in the United States, **Nitin Mukul** has an innate connection to his ancestral origins in India which is resonant in his oeuvre of works. Alexander Keefe, in his catalog essay for one of Nitin's solo shows titled, 'I woke up somewhere else', notes that "Nitin's restless images pull in and out of focus, sharpening and withdrawing, excavating their way through the sediments of individual and urban history, mapping a migrant's passages across shifting, unpredictable borderlands". Nitin's multi-disciplinary works, on canvas and a video installation in this exhibition encompass his take on migration and his connection with Indian culture.

**Bahar Behbahani**, born in Tehran, Iran in 1973. is a multi-disciplinary artist and received her BA and MA in painting there as well. The artist now lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. Her works most recently featured in her solo exhibition at the Hood Museum of Art at Dartmouth College, titled "Let the Garden Eram Flourish", curated by Ugochukwu-Smooth Nzewi. She also showed at the 7th Moscow Biennale in 2017 and 11th Shanghai Biennale in 2016. Her works also featured in Thomas Erben Gallery, New York; the 18th Biennale of Sydney, Australia; Sharjah Biennial 10, UAE; Queens Museum, New York; The Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, Michigan

**Mona Saeed Kamal** was born in Algeria and grew up in Canada. She received her BFA from Nova Scotia College of Art and Design in Halifax, and MFA from Parsons the New School for Design. Kamal has exhibited both internationally and nationally in Pakistan where her origins lie, with her most recent solo exhibition at VM Art Gallery in Karachi, Pakistan in 2015. She also has exhibited in New Delhi, India, at Gallery Espace and has shown extensively in Canada, including at the Art Gallery of Calgary, the Harbourfront Centre and YYY Artists' Outlet in Toronto. In New York, she has exhibited at Smack Mellon, the Queens Museum of Art, Exit Art and Rush Arts. In 2015, she was a media arts fellow at BRIC Media Arts. Kamal has held residencies at the Banff Centre in Canada and at The Sanskriti Foundation in New Delhi, India.

**Nitin Mukul** was born in Lawrence, MA in 1969 and studied painting at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. His works have been exhibited at Nature Morte Gallery (New Delhi), The Guild Gallery (Mumbai/New York), Aicon Gallery (New York/London), The 2013 Queens Museum Biennial, P.S. 122 (New York), Rush Arts (NYC), Monkeytown (Brooklyn), and most recently Poetic Research Bureau (Los Angeles). His works were included in the India Art Fair in 2011, 2014, 2015, Art Asia Miami 2009, Hong Kong Art Fair 2009, Scope Art Basel 2009, and Art Stage Singapore 2015. He has curated exhibitions at P.S. 122, Aicon Gallery in NYC and Arts Gallery in New Delhi. His work has been reviewed in The New York Times, The New York Press, The Wall Street Journal, Al Jazeera, Time Out, Asian Art News and Art India magazine. He has worked as an assistant for the late American minimalist artist Sol Lewitt and was a former Creative Director at the Indo center of Art & Culture in New York.

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RSVP is mandatory. Please bring photo identification to gain entry to the building.