

DOLBY CHADWICK GALLERY

Suhas Bhujbal

Dialogues

April 4–27, 2013

Unlike his previous exhibitions, which focused almost exclusively on architecture, *Dialogues* will present a mixture of paintings featuring both buildings and figures. Bhujbal paints people much in the same way he paints houses, apartment buildings, factories, storefronts, and streets: he repeatedly layers simple, largely rectilinear forms in brilliant colors to achieve representations that are at once highly essentialized and extraordinarily nuanced. Within Bhujbal's matrices of tightly interlocking shapes, glimpses of vibrant undercolors, unhampered drips of paint, windows that obscure views in, and abstracted facial features all work to suggest something more complex and enigmatic.

Although Bhujbal had wanted to return to the figure for some time, he lacked the inspiration to do so until a 2011 trip to Cat Island in the Bahamas. According to Bhujbal, life on Cat Island is quiet, simple, and blissful. The people he encountered spent the majority of their days fishing, preparing the fish, and cooking meals, as documented in *Had A Good Day* (2012). Since there is no television or internet, people tend to gather together on the beach under brightly colored, corrugated metal structures, enjoying each other's company and the cooling breezes that roll in off the ocean. This relaxed, meditative lifestyle reminded Bhujbal of his experience as a kid in India, a country where the culture has by and large become, he observes, fast-moving, less spiritual, consumed by brand names, and plagued by a directionless desire for everything. Just as buildings are replacing buildings across India—as evidenced by modernity's demolition and appropriation of the old in favor of the new that Bhujbal chronicles in a number of paintings—so too are people replacing people. In Cat Island, the artist found something he thought he had irreparably lost.

As few people where Bhujbal stayed on the Island spoke English, very little information was exchanged verbally. But this suited Bhujbal just fine; in fact, his inclination to observe and listen without actively participating is central to his love of buildings. As silent witnesses to history, buildings often harbor astonishingly rich stories. And yet they cannot talk. Despite this, Bhujbal finds that something ineffable is exchanged when he takes the time to pause and absorb a scene: "When I see a building that strikes me, I suddenly stop and find myself standing and staring. Sometimes I feel something is happening. Even though the buildings cannot talk, I feel it is saying something to me." In order to tell their stories, Bhujbal approached the people of Cat Island in a similar way.

Bhujbal emphasizes the power of non-verbal communication in *Hanging Out* and *Hanging Out # 2* (both 2012) by showing two companions enjoying each other's company without engaging in conversation. There is something relaxing and familiar about the scenes, as if one could easily project him- or herself into the paintings. Bhujbal's buildings have a similar calming effect: big and sturdy, they presumably offer shelter, comfort, and respite. They are also easy to anthropomorphize, marked as they are by human characteristics such as age, wisdom, even glory—*A Quiet Town #110*, for instance, is bathed in the warm glow of refracted sunlight. They are safe and reassuring, rooted in history even while in the grip of change.

Suhas Bhujbal was born in Narayangaon, India in 1977. He moved to San Francisco in 2001 to study for his MFA at the Academy of Art University. His work has been exhibited both nationally and internationally, including at the de Saisset Museum, Santa Clara, CA; the Art Museum of Los Gatos, Los Gatos, CA; and the Palm Springs Museum of Art, Palm Springs, CA.

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Suhas Bhujbal

EDUCATION

M.F.A., Academy of Art University, San Francisco, CA, 2005

B.F.A., Advertising (Illustration) Directorate of Art, Maharashtra State, India, 1997

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2013 *Dialogues*, Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2012 Sue Greenwood Fine Art, Laguna Beach, CA
- 2011 *Pune to San Francisco*, Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2009 *Reincarnation*, Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2009 *Faces*, Sue Greenwood Fine Art, Laguna Beach, CA
- 2007 *A Quiet Town*, Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 1999 Pradarshak Art Gallery, Bombay, India

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2011 *LandsCApes: Glimpses of Everyday California*, De Saisset Museum, Santa Clara, CA
- 2012 *Legacy In Continuum: Bay Area Figuration*, Bakersfield Museum of Art, Bakersfield, CA
- 2009 Expressions West 2009, Coos Art Museum, Coos Bay, OR
- 2008 *Painterly Painting: The Next Level*, Art Museum of Los Gatos, Los Gatos, CA
17th Biennial Art auction, The Modern Art Council of the San Francisco, SFMOMA, San Francisco, CA
Annual Juried Competition, Art Museum of Los Gatos, Los Gatos, CA
- 2007 Artists Council 39th National Juried Exhibition, Palm Springs Museum, Palm Springs, CA
- 2007 *Landscapes: Rural and Urban Realities*, Triton Museum of Art, Santa Clara, CA
- 2006 Juried Show, Selection, Mayor's Office at City Hall of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA
- 2005 MFA Show, Academy of University Gallery, San Francisco, CA
20th SoHo-Chelsea International Art Competition, Agora Gallery, New York, NY
- 2004 Art walk, Embarcadero Center, San Francisco, CA
The World Trade Center, Jakarta, Indonesia
- 2002 Summer Show, Go Gallery, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 2000 Birla Academy of Fine Arts, Bombay, India
- 1999 Nehru Center, Bombay, India
Multiple Sclerosis Society of India, Bombay, India
CRY (An Organization for Children), Pune, India
- 1998 Art Recourse Trust, Bombay, India
Contemporary Art, Pune, India
- 1997 Nag Foundation, Pune, India

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AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2007 Best of the Show Award, "Artists Council 39th National Juried Exhibition," Palm Springs Museum, Palm Springs, CA
- 2000 State Exhibition of Contemporary Arts, *Merit Certificate*, Atur Foundation, Pune, India
National Juried Competition, *Merit Certificate*, Lokamanya Tilak All India Art Exhibition, Pune, India
- 2000 42nd National Annual Exhibition, *Selection*, Lalit Kala Akademy (National Academy of Fine Arts), New Delhi, India
- 1999 National Juried Competition, *Merit Certificate*, The Bombay Art Society, Bombay, India
- 1997 Final Year exhibition *Best Illustrator Award*, Abhinav College of Arts, Pune, India
- 1996 National Juried Competition, *Merit Certificate*, The Bombay Art Society, Bombay, India

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2011 Preview, American Art Collector, by Michelle Borgwardt
- 2005-08 Faculty And Alumni Auction, Academy of Art University, San Francisco, CA
- 2009 Forms and Figures, American Art Collector, by Joshua Rose
- 2009 Profile, Rivera Magazine, by Daniella Walsh
- 2009 Coast Magazine, by Roberta Carasso
- 2008 "Painterly Painting: The Next Level" Catalogue essay by Peter Campion, Art Museum of Los Gatos, Los Gatos, CA
- 2004 The World Trade Center, Jakarta, Indonesia (International Juried Show)
- 2000 2nd Western Region Art Competition, Camlin Art Foundation, Bombay, India
- 1999 42nd Annual Exhibition, Lalit Kala Academy, New Delhi, India
- 1999 Exhibition and Competition, The Art Society of India, Bombay, India
- 1996 Exhibition and Competition, The Bombay Art Society, Bombay, India

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

- July 8, 2004 "Sakal" Newspaper Article, Pune, India
- May 25, 2004 "Jakarta Post" Newspaper Article, Jakarta, Indonesia
- May 23, 2004 "Media Indonesia" Newspaper Article, Jakarta, Indonesia
- May 22, 2004 "The Daily Jakarta Shimbun" Newspaper Article, Jakarta, Indonesia
- January 31, 2004 "Indian Express" Newspaper Article, Pune, India
- May 30, 2004 TEMPO International Art journal, Jakarta, Indonesia
- July 27, 2003 "The Argus", Newspaper Article, Fremont, CA, USA
- February 2003 "AAC Perspective", Articles, Academy of Art University, SF, CA
- April 02, 1999 Times of India, News paper, Bombay, India
- March 22, 1999 Times of India, News paper, Pune, India
- April 1-8, 1999 The List, News paper, Bombay, India
- May, 21, 1997 "Mid Day", Newspaper Article, Bombay, India
- August 26, 1997 "Maharashtra Herald", Newspaper Article, Pune, India
- February 19, 1998 "Mid Day", Newspaper Article, Bombay, India
- February 20, 1998 "The Asian Age", Newspaper Article, Bombay, India
- May 21, 1997 "Mid Day", Newspaper Article, Bombay, India
- August 26, 1997 "Maharashtra Herald", Newspaper Article, Pune, India