



EXHIBITION PRESS RELEASE

Crossing the Hyphen: Art by Pallavi Sharma

May 31 through July 9, 2014

Opening Reception: June 7, 1:00-3:00 pm

(Berkeley, CA — May 20, 2014) The Addison Street Windows Gallery proudly presents *Crossing the Hyphen: Art by Pallavi Sharma*, an exhibition organized by curator, Demetri Broxton. *Crossing the Hyphen* reinvents recent installations and video art created by Pallavi Sharma. Sharma's work is a subtle conversation in identity politics in America. Herself an Indian-American, Sharma explores how the hyphen serves a dual role: allowing the new immigrant to acknowledge their national origins while also allowing for a reinvented identity within a new country. Her work explores the blurring of national identities which occurs through the process of naturalization and movement. In her piece *Carry-On*, a suitcase lies open filled with grass and grass seeds. The work represents both the immigrant and the cultural heritage an immigrant brings with them—seeds to be planted in a new land. The piece poses the question of whether these seeds will always be exotic and separate, or over time will they become integrated into the larger cultural landscape?

Pallavi Sharma was born and raised in India and immigrated to United States in 1997. She received her BFA and MFA from the Faculty of Fine Arts Baroda, India and received her Ph.D. in Art History from India's National Museum Institute of History of Art and Conservation, New Delhi, India. Pallavi's work has been exhibited widely at venues including the Queens Museum of Art, Exit Art, Art Asia Pacific, and Bishop Museum. At present, she is a board member of Asian American Women Artist Association (AAWAA) and Director of 'Inner Eye Art' an Art Consulting Firm specializing in South Asian Art.

Demetrie Broxton is an independent curator. He was born in Oakland, CA and holds an M.A. in Museum Studies from San Francisco State University. Broxton has been curator with the City of Berkeley since February 2014. His past curatorial projects include *Past Forward* at the Sargent Johnson Gallery and *Decoding Identity* at Museum of the African Diaspora.

Addison Street Windows Gallery

Background:

The Civic Arts Program, housed in the Office of Economic Development, promotes visual arts in the Berkeley community by exhibiting works of various artists. The Addison Street Windows Gallery (a.k.a. the Peter Babcock Memorial Windows) is a visual art exhibition space on the ground floor of the City-owned parking garage. Located in the Downtown Arts District, the

Addison Street Window Gallery is a highly visual symbol of the Civic Arts Program.

Address:

The Addison Street Windows Gallery is located at 2018 Addison Street • Berkeley, CA 94704.

Hours:

Open 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

Web Site:

http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/City_Manager/Civic_Arts/Civic_Arts_Homepage.aspx

Contact:

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