

Artist Biography

Born in Bangalore, 1956, Pushpamala N has been called “the most entertaining artist-iconoclast of contemporary Indian art”. In her sharp and witty work as a photo- and video-performance artist, sculptor, writer, curator and provocateur, and in her collaborations with writers, theatre directors and filmmakers, she seeks to subvert the dominant cultural and intellectual discourse. She is known for her strongly feminist work and for her rejection of authenticity and embracing of multiple realities. As one of the pioneers of conceptual art in India and a leading figure in the feminist experiments in subject, material and language, her inventive work in sculpture, conceptual photography, video and performance have had a deep influence on art practice in India.

Starting off her career as a sculptor, Pushpamala began using photography and video in the mid -1990s, creating tableaux and photo-romances in which she casts herself in various roles. Interested in history and the idea of cultural memory, she cites a wide range of references in her series of masquerades where she simultaneously inhabits and questions familiar frames from art history, photography, film, theatre and popular culture, thereby placing herself as the artist at the centre of social and political inquiry.

Pushpamala N lives and works in Bangalore after having lived for periods in different Indian cities. She exhibits widely in India and internationally, and speaks often at seminars and conferences.

Contact

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Representation

Chemould Prescott Road, Mumbai
Nature Morte Delhi

Education

1974-1977	Bachelor of Arts in Economics, English and Psychology, Bangalore University
1977-1982	Bachelor of Arts in Sculpture, M S University, Baroda
1983-1985	Master of Arts in Sculpture, M S University, Baroda

Solo Exhibitions

2015	<i>The Arrival of Vasco da Gama</i> , O.P.E.N., Singapore International Festival of the Arts (SIFA), curated by Ong Keng Sen, Singapore
2014	<i>Avega~ The Passion</i> , Gallery Sumukha, Bangalore
2013	<i>Avega~ The Passion : Abduction and Seduction</i> , Galerie Zurcher, Paris France
2012	<i>The Return of the Phantom Lady (Sinful City)</i> , Nature Morte, Oberoi Gurgaon <i>Avega~The Passion</i> –Nature Morte New Delhi <i>Avega~The Passion</i> – Chemould Prescott Road, Mumbai <i>Pushpamala N: The Ethnographic Series 2000-2004</i> , Gund Gallery, Kenyon University, Gambier, Ohio USA
2009	<i>Paris Autumn</i> –Chemould Prescott Road, Mumbai
2008	<i>Paris Autumn</i> Bose Pacia Gallery, New York, USA <i>Paris Autumn</i> – Nature Morte, Delhi <i>Streetside Theatre</i> – outdoor photo installation on bridge, Media Wave Festival, Gyor, Hungary

- 2007 *Streetside Theatre*, Bharat Rang Mahotsav 2007, National School of Drama, Delhi
Streetside Theatre, outdoor photo installation on bridge, scene- Salzburg Festival, Austria
- 2006 *Pushpamala N*, Nature Morte and Bose Pacia, Spazio Piazzasempione, Milan, Italy
Pushpamala N, Espace Croise, Roubaix, France
Paris Autumn, Galerie Zurcher, Paris, France
Native Women of South India: Manners and Customs, Bose Pacia Gallery, New York, USA
- 2005 *Native Women of South India: Manners and Customs*, Nature Morte, New Delhi
- 2004 *Native Women of South India: Manners and Customs*, Sumukha Gallery, Bangalore, Gallery Chemould, Mumbai & Seagull Arts and Media Centre, Kolkata
Indian Lady, photo and video performance work, Bose Pacia, New York, USA
- 2003 *Pushpamala N*, Walsh Gallery, Chicago, USA
The Anguished Heart, photo-performance work, Nature Morte and Gallery Chemould, at British Council, Delhi
- 2002 *Golden Dreams*, Gallery Sumukha, Bangalore
- 2001 *Golden Dreams*, photo- performance work, Gallery Chemould, Mumbai
- 1998 *Phantom Lady or Kismet*, a photo- romance, Gallery Chemould, Mumbai and at the Artist's Studio, Bangalore
- 1994 *Excavations*, sculpture/ installation, Gallery Chemould, Mumbai
- 1983 *Pushpamala N*, sculptures and woodcuts, Venkatappa Art Gallery, Bangalore.

Biennales/ Triennales

- 2014 *Kochi- Muziris Biennale*, curated by Jitish Kallat, Kochi
Prospect 3, curated by Franklin Sirmans, New Orleans USA
- 2011 *Biennale Jogja XI, Indonesia and India Meeting*, curated by Suman Gopinath, Jogjakarta, Indonesia
- 2005 *Yokohama Triennale*, Open Circle, Japan
- 1999 *Los Angeles Biennale*, Patricia Correa Gallery curated by Rasna Bhushan, Los Angeles, USA
- 1995 *First Africus Biennale- Art from India*, curated by Geeta Kapoor, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1986 *VI Triennale Delhi*, New Delhi

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2015 *Looking In/Looking Out: Contemporary Indian Photography from the Gaur Collection*, Stephen D. Paine Gallery, Massachusetts College Of Art And Design, Boston USA
Postdate, curated by Jodi Throckmorton, San Hose Museum of Art California and Ulrich Museum of Art Kansas, USA
In Order to Join, curated by Swapnaa Tamhane and Susanne Titz, Max Mueller Bhavan and CSMVS Mumbai
- 2014 *Sparsha: Hindu Ritual and Contemporary Indian Art*, Kunstmuseum Bochum, Germany
City Dwellers, Seattle Art Museum, USA
The Body in Indian Art, curated by Naman Ahuja, National Museum Delhi
- 2013 *Foreign Exchange*, curated by Clementine Deliss, Weltenkulturen Museum, Frankfurt, Germany
The Body in Indian Art, curated by Naman Ahuja, Festival of India, Palais des Beaux Arts in Brussels, Belgium
In Order to Join, curated by Swapnaa Tamhane and Susanne Titz, Museum Abteiberg, Germany
Asia Serendipity, curated by Fumio Nanjo, Sala de exposiciones San Benito, Valladolid, Spain
HETERO Q.B, National Museum of Contemporary Art: Museu du Chiado, Lisbon, Portugal
Histoires Paralleles- Payes Meles (Parallel Stories: Mixed Countries)- curated by Alain Buffard, Natural History Museum Nimes, France
Move on Art- Video Art from Asia, ZKM Karlsruhe, Germany
Art and Activism in India, Smart Museum of Art, Chicago
Mythopoetic- Women Artists from India and Australia- Griffith University Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia

- Backflip: Feminism and Humour in Contemporary Art*, curated by Laura Castagnini, Margaret Lawrence Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
Aesthetic Bind: Citizen Artist, curated by Geeta Kapur, Chemould 50, Chemould Prescott Road Mumbai
Aesthetic Bind: Phantomata, curated by Geeta Kapur, Chemould 50, Chemould Prescott Road Mumbai
Delhi Photo Festival 2013
Forms of Activism, SAHMAT, curated by Vivan Sundaram, Lalit Kala Akademi, Delhi
- 2012 *Scenes of Selves, Occasions for Ruses*, curated by Jordan Strom, Surrey Art Gallery, Canada
Beyond the self: Contemporary portraiture from Asia, curated by Christine Clark, The Anne & Gordon Samstag Museum of Art, Adelaide, Australia
Harcourt Studio: 75 Years of History, Museo de Art Contemporaneo, Santiago de Chile, Chile
The Subjective Object – (Re) Appropriating Anthropological Images Grassi Ethnography Museum, Leipzig, Germany
The Sahmat Collective: Art and Activism in India since 1989, Curated by Ram Rahman and Jessica Moss, Smart Museum, Chicago and travelling
Diver|Cities : Asian Contemporary Art, curated by Bhavna Kakar, The Arts House, Singapore
Project Cinema City, curated by Madhushree Dutta and Archana Hande, NGMA Mumbai, NGMA Delhi and NGMA Bangalore
To Let the World In: Narrative and Beyond in Contemporary Indian Art, curated by Chaitanya Sambrani, Art Chennai, Lalit Kala Akademi, Chennai
- 2011 *Paris-Delhi-Bombay*, curated by Fabrice Bousteau and Sophie Duplaix, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France
Samtidigt (Concurrent), Tennis Palace, Helsinki, Finland
India Side by Side, curated by Tereza de Arruda, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Brazil
The Matter Within: New Contemporary Art of India, curated by Betti-Sue Hertz, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, YBCA, San Francisco, USA
Beyond the Self, curated by Christine Clark, National Portrait Gallery, Canberra, Adelaide, Darwin, Melbourne, Australia
Homespun, curated by Girish Shahane for Devi Art Foundation, Gurgaon
Against All Odds, curated by Arshiya Lokhandwala for Lalit Kala Akademi, Delhi
Back to School, curated by Veer Munshi and Ranjit Hoskote for Palette Art Gallery New Delhi
Dolls, curated by Marta Jacimovicz for Gallery Sumukha, Bangalore and Chennai, and Rob Dean Art, London UK
Square Eyes: Video work from India and South East of England, CAZ., curated by Sharmila Samant and Janet McEwan, Clark House Initiative Mumbai
- 2010 *Samtidigt (Concurrent)*- Kulturhuset, Stockholm, Sweden
IP Detournement – project Tania Bruguera, Voir/Revoir, Centre Pompidou, Paris France
The Empire Strikes Back, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK
Where Three Dreams Cross, curated by Sunil Gupta, Whitechapel Gallery, London UK and Fotomuseum Winterthur, Switzerland
Project Cinema City, Berlinale 2010, Forum Expanded, Berlin, Germany
The Trickster, curated by Victoria Lynn, Gyeonggi Museum of Modern Art, Korea
Go See India, curated by Amit Mukhopadhyay- Gothenberg, Sweden
- 2009 *Chalo! India: A New Era of Indian Art*, National Museum of Contemporary Art, Seoul, Korea; ESSL Museum, Vienna Austria
Indi- Dialogue, Gabbaron Museum, Valladolid, Spain
The Self and the Other: Portraiture in Contemporary Indian Photography, curated by Devika Daulet Singh, La Virreina Centre de la Image, Barcelona and Artium, Vitoria, Spain
Reframe, screening at Museet for Samtidskunst, Roskilde, Denmark
...in the seeds of time – NGMA, New Delhi; NGMA Bangalore
Signposts of the Times... from the collection of NGMA – NGMA Bengaluru
Marvellous Reality, curated by Sunil Mehra, Gallery Espace, New Delhi
- 2008 *Chalo! India*, curator Akiko Miki, Mori Museum, Tokyo, Japan
Singapore International Photography Festival
Destination Asia: Conversation Part I, curated by Sharmila Samant, Elementa, Dubai
Performing Identities: Pushpamala N, Coco Fusco and Albert Chong, IDEA, Colorado College, USA
India Moderna, curated by Juan Guardiola, IVAM Museum, Valencia, Spain
New Narratives - Zimmerli Art Museum, New Jersey, USA
My Life is my Message, curated by D^a Cristina Albornoz, La Casa Encendida,

- Madrid, Spain
Still Moving Image, curated by Deeksha Nath, Devi Art Foundation, Gurgaon
Where in the World, curated by JNU SAA, Devi Art Foundation, Gurgaon
- 2007
Horn Please, curated by Suman Gopinath, Kunstmuseum Bern, Switzerland
Face East, Contemporary Asian Portraiture, Wedel Fine Art, London UK
Indian Photo and Media Art, A Journey of Discovery, FotoFluss, Vienna, Austria
Post Object, with Kim Sooja, Michael Joo, Samina Mansuri and Ravinder Reddy, curated by Deepali Dewan, Doris McCarthy Gallery, Toronto, Canada
Private/ Corporate IV, DaimlerChrysler Contemporary, Berlin, Germany
Destination Asia, curated by Sharmila Samant, Almaty, Kazakhstan
Indian Photography: Four Voices, Galleria Carla Sozzani, Milan, Italy
Public Places/ Private Spaces: Contemporary Photography and Video Art in India, curated by Gayatri Sinha and The Newark Museum, USA
New Narratives: Contemporary Art from India, Chicago Cultural Centre, USA
Tiger by the Tail- Women Artists of India Transforming Culture, Brandeis University, USA
House Of Mirrors, curated by Deeksha Nath, Grosvenor Vadehra Gallery, London, UK
Here, There and Now, Gallery Soulflower, Bangkok, Thailand
New India/ New Wave curated by Jerome Neutres, Marella Gallery, Milan, Italy
Prospects, curated by Deepak Ananth – Contemporary Art from India, Rome Film Festival, Italy
Edge of Desire, curated by Chaitanya Sambrani, Asia Society, NGMA New Delhi and Mumbai
Making History Our Own, SAHMAT, New Delhi
After Images, curated by Ranjit Contractor, Baroda
- 2006
India Express, Helsinki City Art Museum, Finland
India in all its Senses, Louis Vuitton Galleries, Paris, France
Bombay Maximum City, Lille 3000, Lille, France
Edge of Desire, curated by Chaitanya Sambrani, Berkeley Art Museum, California, USA
- 2005
Indian Summer, curated by Deepak Ananth, ENSBA, Paris, France
Edge of Desire, Asia Society, New York, Museo Tamayo & MARCO, Monterrey, Mexico
Fiction@Love, curated by Victoria Lu, Shanghai, China, and Singapore
- Film Festivals**
- 2014
First Xi'an Silk Road International Film Festival China, section curated by Ashish Rajadhyaksha, travelling show China
India & Art during Independence: Creation of a National Identity, NGMA Bangalore
Video Art, curated by Gayatri Sinha, Bhau Daji Lad Museum, Mumbai
- 2013
Ikono On Air Festival Berlin- Ikono TV Ltd, 30 countries
Cinema Prayog, curated by Kanchi Mehta, Sunaparanta Goa Centre for the Arts, Panaji Goa
- 2012
Art Film Festival curated by Vinod Bharadwaj, National Gallery of Modern Art NGMA, Delhi
- 2011-12
You Don't Belong: Pasts and Futures of Indian Cinema, Indian independent film season curated by Ashish Rajadhyaksha for West Heavens Project, China traveling show, Hong Kong
Asian Hot Shots Festival, Movimiento, Berlin, Germany
Found in Translation. Visualizing (Post) Colonialism, Video exhibit curated by Viviana Gravano, Giulia Grechi, MAXXI Museum, Rome, Italy.
Move on Asia- The End of Video Art, LOOP, LaBoral, Gijon, and Casa Asia, Barcelona, Spain
- 2011
Videoart India- curated by Luisa Ortinez, Caixaforum Palma, CaixaForum Tarragona, Spain
- 2010
Videoart India- Canal Mediateca, Caixaforum Barcelona, Spain
Reframing Reality: Glimpses into the Lowave video archive, Museum of Contemporary Art, Roskilde Denmark
Videoart India- Canal Mediateca, Caixaforum Barcelona, Spain
- 2009
Extravagant India, Cinema Peniche, Paris, France
Re-Frame- 7 experimental films from India - Lowave/ Centre Pompidou, Paris

France

- 2008 *Asian Hotshots Film Festival*, Berlin, Germany
My India, Video et Apres, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France
- 2007 *4th Sguardi Altrove Women's Film Festival*, Milan, Italy
Reflections: Women Imaging Realities, IAWRT Third Asian Film Festival, Delhi
Bangalore International Film Festival
Move on Asia, Gallery Loop, Seoul, South Korea
- 2006 *Cinematexas 11*, Austin, USA
E-M Arts- Independent Film Show 6th Edition, Fondazione Morra, Naples Italy
Cinema of Prayoga: Curated by Karen Mirza and Brad Butler from no.w.here., Tate Modern, London, UK
- 2005 *India Contemporanea*, SESC Pinheiros, Sao Paolo, Brazil
Kovideo, 1st Durban Video Festival, South Africa
Reflections: Women Imaging Realities, IAWRT Third Asian Women's Film Festival, Delhi
- 2004 *Cinematexas 9*, Austin, USA
0110 International British-India Digital Film Festival, British Council Delhi travelling show
SAIFF, South Asian International Film Festival, New York, US
- 1998 Film Appreciation Course, National Film Archive, Pune
- 1990-95 Researched Kannada Theatre and Film History for the Encyclopaedia of Indian Cinema [ed Ashish Rajadhyaksha/ Paul Willemen] Oxford University Press, London/ New Delhi, 1995
- 1988 Worked on the production and performed the role of the River Goddess Rewa in *Khayal Gatha*, film by Kumar Shahani
- 1988 Made sculpture model for *Father, Son and Holy War*, documentary by Anand Patwardhan

Live Performance Festivals/ Theatre

- 2015 *Theertha Performance Platform*, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 2014 *Illicit Bodies*, curated by Suresh Kumar G for Nirankusha Fearless Speak Festival, Alternative Law Forum, Bangalore
- 2012 *Khajilive 2012*, Blue Frog, Delhi
- 1999 Stage and Costume design for *Gunde Gowdana Charitre*, Kannada adaptation of Ibsen's 'Peer Gynt' by S. Raghunandana directed by Rustom Bharucha, for Rangayana, Mysore, 1999
- 1973 Acted in *Sthree Bandaya* (Kannada adaptation of Aristophane's Lysistrata) directed by P. Lankesh c. 1973

Awards

- 2009 Centre Pompidou artist residency at Recollet, Paris, France
- 2006 Rockefeller Foundation artist residency at Bellagio Study Centre, Italy
- 2005 French Embassy SCAC artist residency in Paris, France
- 2002 Open Circle International Residency Mumbai
- 2001 Khoj International Residency, New Delhi
- 1996-97 Fire and Life, Asia Link Australia-India residency in Mumbai and Perth
- 1992-93 Charles Wallace Trust [India] residency in London, UK
- 1986 Gold Medal for Sculpture, VI Triennale Delhi
- 1986 Karnataka Rajyothsava Award
- 1984 National Award
- 1977-85 Karnataka Lalit Kala Academi Scholarship

Public Collections:

Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi
National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi
Devi Art Foundation, New Delhi

Kiran Nadar Museum, New Delhi
Manchester City Art Galleries, UK
Cartwright Hall Art Gallery, Bradford, UK
Saatchi and Saatchi, London UK
Centre Pompidou, Paris, France
Royal Ontario Museum, ROM, Toronto, Canada
Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia
National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, Australia
Art Gallery of New South Wales, AGNSW, Sydney, Australia
Harvard University Art Museum, USA
Arthur M Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian, Washington DC, USA
Shoes or no Shoes Museum, Belgium