

Press Release

SHEILA MAKHIJANI

*Take A Listen*

March 13 through June 12, 2021

Talwar Gallery, New York is thrilled to present *Take A Listen*, an exhibition of new paintings and works on paper by Sheila Makhijani. The exhibition will open to the public on 13 March 2021 and will remain on view until 12 June 2021.

*Take A Listen* opens like a portal onto a dense, otherworldly environment. Shafts of indigos, olives, and blood reds flicker across a densely layered oil canvas, like light into the depths of an ocean; subtle, grey-blue lines emerge slowly from beneath a shifting haze of pinking-orange dust. Although the works vary vastly in scale and material—over-life-size canvases alongside intimate, even diminutive pastel drawings on paper—all highlight Makhijani's abiding interest in color, along with her continuous, inquisitive experimentation with materials. In a noticeable departure for Makhijani, the white of the page is nowhere to be found in these recent drawings, disappearing beneath layered washes of dry pastel, or taut, radiating lines that stretch from edge to edge of the paper. The vibrancies of pigment—its operatic bursts, its subtle gradations, its harmonizing hums—are given full play here, boldly and directly engaged anew in each successive work.

Born of Makhijani's constant, even diaristic creative process—the artist is constantly drawing, beginning again, re-learning *how* to draw—each of the works in the exhibition bears witness to the singularity of a moment. Gathering into itself all the specificities of a one particular point in time, one particular stage in her process—smudges as well as soaring color resonances, precisely-laid lines alongside those that are slightly off-kilter—each work allows the subtle, infinitesimal workings of a consciousness to gain visible form. Keying their hues and angles to the irreplicable tones, moods, and shadows of each fleeting moment, together these works map what had been uncharted territory, unseeable material: the complex contours of the human interior.

Over the course of her over thirty year-long career, Makhijani's wide-ranging practice has been sustained by a ceaseless exploration of the potentialities and boundaries of color on canvas and paper. Her deep, close, unbroken dialogue with her works imbues them with an intensity that is not mitigated by their frequent lively, even mischievous tone. Possessed of their own inimitable energy, they hurtle and tumble along paths of their own making, spinning worlds whose currents and axes intersect briefly, madly, consequentially, with our own.

Sheila Makhijani born in 1962 in New Delhi, where she lives and works, stands distinctly apart in the art landscape in India to her commitment to an oeuvre in its singular pursuit of abstraction. She was awarded her Bachelor and Master of Fine Art degrees from College of Art, New Delhi and later in 1994 she studied in Kanazawa, Japan. Makhijani has steadfastly remained engaged in exploring the limitless possibilities of painting. Makhijani's works have been exhibited worldwide, including at the Seventh Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art (APT) at the Queensland Art Gallery, Australia; The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), NY; Perth Institute of Contemporary Art, Australia; Kunsthal Rotterdam, Netherlands; Gemeentemuseum, Den Haag, Netherlands, and The Kiran Nadar Museum of Art (KNMA), New Delhi, India.