

Press Release

KARTIK SOOD
Elusive Spaces

April 22, 2023 – July 28, 2023

Talwar Gallery, New York is excited to present *Elusive Spaces*, a solo exhibition of recent paintings and collages by Kartik Sood. This will mark the artist's debut exhibition in the United States. The show will open on 22nd of April, 2023 and will be on view until July 28, 2023.

In *Elusive Spaces*, Sood shares works created in the months of stasis during the pandemic as well as more recent works. The barely visible figures amidst the somber greys of their surroundings in *National Isolation* and *Being with oneself*, evoke the pervasive stillness and seclusion that echoed day in and day out for the world. The often-solitary figures, lost in contemplation or searching, are seemingly submerged in wide open haziness. Here Sood almost merges his figures with their environments, not to be obscured, but poised and assured they seem to annex the spaces beyond their being and beyond the seen to a more expansive sphere.

In contrast to the restrained palette of many works, there is a welcomed exuberance of color in the most recent works like *New places*. Emerging from seclusion, here Sood delivers an enthusiastic and colorful return and places the viewer within the complexities and multitudes of human drama around us. Though never anchoring it in a single experience or a linear revelation, Sood carefully choreographs with multiple components in painted collages, opening a dialogue and allowing each to enter and take their part.

With silence, stillness, and a capacity for wonder, Sood's artistic focus revolves around exploring the intricacies of human experience, going beyond the superficial aspects of everyday life to unveil the intangible. Frequently evoking an atmosphere more than conveying an explicit idea, Sood brings to the forefront various elements that operate within every human life, sometimes in opposition to one another, even if they are subconscious - including instinct and reason, belief and perception, intuition, empathy, and elements that could be described as mystical.

Born in Shimla, India in 1986, Kartik Sood obtained his Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts in Painting from the College of Art, New Delhi. He went on to pursue post-graduate work in Painting at the Faculty of Fine Arts, M.S.U, Baroda, where he was awarded the Nasreen Mohamedi Scholarship. Kartik continued to expand his practice through participation in artist residencies, including the Gasworks Residency in London (2014), Pro Helvetica Residency (2014), and IAAB Studios (2014) in Basel, Switzerland and at the NTU Center for Contemporary Art in Singapore (2017). Kartik's work has been showcased at various exhibitions and events, such as the 1st Yinchuan Biennale, as well as through collaborations with organizations such as the Kadist Art Foundation and Khoj. His works are in the collection of The Kiran Nadar Museum of Art (KNMA), New Delhi.

Kartik lives and works between Goa and New Delhi, India.