

RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART

***Radical Terrain* Explores the Intersection of Place and Identity
With Landscape Works by Influential Modernist Indian Painters
And Commissions by Global Contemporary Artists**

**Exhibition Includes Works by Marc Handelman, Byron Kim, Hasan Elahi, S.H. Raza,
And Gieve Patel, Among Others**

New York, NY, November 6, 2012 – On November 16th the Rubin Museum of Art will bring together paintings by influential modernist Indian artists, including S.H. Raza and Gieve Patel, with new contemporary works by artists from the United States in *Radical Terrain*, an exhibition that will explore how landscape art is used to define identity in a global context. The third and final installment of a series devoted to exploring the development of modern art in post-colonial India, *Radical Terrain* focuses on how Indian artists used landscape art to document and come to terms with the vastness and diversity of India as a newly sovereign nation following its independence from Britain. Eight contemporary works, including four commissioned by the Rubin, by artists including Lisi Raskin, Marc Handelman, Seher Shah, and Janaina Tschäpe, respond to and expand on the concepts examined in the modernist works.

“*Radical Terrain* demonstrates how artists in the generation following India’s independence utilized, reimagined, and harnessed the idea of landscape in art to help create a new identity for themselves and their country. As we examine new landscape works by contemporary artists of varied backgrounds, we see how those approaches and ideas are still relevant,” said Beth Citron, Assistant Curator at the Rubin Museum. “In showcasing works from different times and places side-by-side, we are better able to draw connections between world cultures, artists, and ideas, and create a more holistic and nuanced picture of landscape.”

The Rubin’s Modernist Art from India series began in November, 2011 with *The Body Unbound*, which traced the trajectory of figuration in modernist Indian art from the 1940s to the 1980s, and continued this spring with *Approaching Abstraction*, which explored the ways abstraction evolved among prominent Indian artists. *Radical Terrain* features figural, abstract, and conceptual landscapes painted in a range of styles that capture the diverse social, political, and formal perspectives of the time. The exhibition will feature eight contemporary works, including four new works commissioned by the Rubin. Many of these works will bring together the themes explored throughout the exhibition series.

Commissioned works include:

- An immersive site-specific installation titled "After the Fall" by **Lisi Raskin**. Evocative of temporary domestic architecture found in urban India, her installation will highlight the contrasts between exterior utilitarian materials (tarps, plywood) and interior comfort (plush rugs, music). Her piece is a direct response to **Sudhir Patwardhan's** "Fall" from 1998, also included in the exhibition, which depicts a satellite suburb of Bombay in transition as it grows into an urban area.

- **Marc Handelman's** newest iteration of his ongoing series "Dimension Stone," in which Handelman continues his practice of exploring and manipulating topographical images. For this piece, Handelman will paint a trompe l'oeil surface that resembles slabs of marble traditionally used in colonial buildings in India. The work will act as a support on which **H. A. Gade's** painting "Civilization" will be hung. Handelman chose to pair his work with this Gade's because of it explores the relationship of marble to empire and ruins.
- A continuation of **Hasan Elahi's** ongoing and well known exploration of surveillance with a video installation that features footage of the interior of a storage building adjacent to the Museum. Elahi will present pre-recorded footage that appears to be real time surveillance, questioning the perception, utility, and "truth" of official surveillance.
- **Meghan Boody's** motion activated "Magic Mountain" which consists of a multi-level crag embedded with building faces and housed within a repurposed nineteenth century clock case. When a viewer approaches the clock case, a sensor sends groups of tiny animal figurines into motion on various levels of the crag.

Each commissioned artist will give an "Artist on Art" talk during the run of the exhibition. More information will be available soon at rmanyc.org.

Radical Terrain will be on view at the Rubin through April 29, 2013.

ABOUT THE RUBINMUSEUM:

The Rubin Museum of Art provides an immersive environment for the exploration of art from Himalayan Asia, and the culture and their connections, to contemporary life and ideas through innovative exhibitions, dynamic programs, and diverse educational opportunities. The only stand-alone institution in the U.S. dedicated to the art of Himalayan Asia, the museum holds one of the world's most important collections of the paintings and sculptures of Tibet, Nepal, Mongolia, and Bhutan, and provides a bridge between the cultures of the region and other cultures worldwide. In addition to exhibitions, the Rubin's programming encompasses dialogues, films, performances, and more, offering multiple entry-points for understanding and enjoying the art of the Himalayas. The shop and café at the Rubin are also inspired by the varied cultures of the region, completing the visitors' experience. For more information, including hours and location, visit www.rmanyc.org.

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