

# HEMA UPADHYAY

The overwhelming visual density and political nature of Indian slums intrigues Hema Upadhyay (b. 1972). Upadhyay's installation *Modernization*, which has been specially configured for the Contemporary Art Center, represents the slum community of Dharavi in Mumbai, India. It is an autonomous community within the city of Mumbai that has its own rules, societal structure, challenges, and beauty. At one time, Dharavi occupied an undesirable piece of marshland outside of the city and was a patchwork of pieced together buildings. As Mumbai began to expand, this once undesirable area became a central part of the city and subsequently, highly contested. This installation recreates an aerial view of this impoverished region on the gallery floor made from the same materials as the makeshift buildings — aluminum sheets, car scrap, enamel paint, plastic sheets, and found objects. The installation is an ocean of complimenting and contrasting colors and textures, a beautiful patchwork that seems far removed from the reality of daily life in Dharavi. This exhibition displays the microcosm of the slum while contrasting it with the urbanization of an ever-growing Mumbai.

Hema Upadhyay is curated by Raphaela Platow and organized by the Contemporary Arts Center.

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