

Gravity Model

Nour Bishouty

Karishma D'Souza

Kate Newby

Jagdeep Raina

Kaveri Raina

Christine Howard Sandoval

Sindhu Thirumalaisamy

Saul Hernandez-Vargas

January 27 - March 2, 2024

COOPER COLE is pleased to present, *Gravity Model*, a group exhibition featuring artworks by the following artists: Nour Bishouty, Karishma D'Souza, Kate Newby, Jagdeep Raina, Kaveri Raina, Christine Howard Sandoval, Sindhu Thirumalaisamy, and Saul Hernandez-Vargas. This exhibition was conceptualized over a series of conversations between Simon Cole and Jagdeep Raina and will run from January 27 - March 2, 2024 in Cooper Cole's east location.

Gravity Model acts as a platform to unravel the complexities of transition, capturing the essence of change and evolution in our lives. Through the lens of each artist, movement is not just a physical consideration but a manifestation of emotional and psychological shifts. The exploration of the landscape goes beyond the mere visual representation, delving into the emotional connection between individuals and their surroundings. Feelings and memories become tangible entities, with each artwork imbued with nostalgia and experience that illustrate a story of human emotion and recollection. *Gravity Model* is an opportunity to step into a world where the complexities of being human are laid bare, provoking contemplation and inviting connection through shared experiences.

For press and sales inquiries please contact the gallery:

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The following poem is composed by Jagdeep Raina and accompanies the exhibit:

Solace

Walking barefoot, hair plaited with leaves from Assan trees,
She arrives bearing fruit, flowers, and
rose tea, placing it on the marble
floor- a gift for the woman
named Miracle Lady.
Miracle Lady! She cries, Tell me
how to find solace, find peace.

The lady takes her hands- unfurls a
long cloth stained with charcoal and dried crusty hoove
prints of a bull that drapes her body-
placing her slender blue fingers over
her head, her fingers combing through her
ink black plaited hair, her body calms.

The cloth is dripping with movement that reminds her
of the blue waves
that smile, greets her with open arms-
tell hers to follow
the cloth towards the sea.
The bull-with his silver horns-
stands, waiting for her to touch
his shimmering skin
that flickers in the light
of the waves, the water feels still.

And in this solace
the bull leaves her, eating up the cloth-
as everything she once knew
falls apart.

Nour Bishouty is an interdisciplinary artist working across media including video, sculpture, works on paper, digital images, and writing.

Her work engages with histories and narratives of place and poses questions around dissonance, opacity, legibility, and the generative possibilities of misunderstanding. Bishouty's work has been exhibited in Canada and internationally including at La biennale de Québec (forthcoming), Quebec City; Gallery 44 Centre for Contemporary Photography, Toronto; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Toronto; Access Gallery, Vancouver, Canada; Darat Al Funun, Amman, Jordan; Casa Arabe, Madrid, Spain; the Mosaic Rooms, London, UK; and the Beirut Art Centre, Beirut, Lebanon. Her artist book 1 —130: Selected works Ghassan Bishouty b. 1941 Safad, Palestine — d. 2004 Amman, Jordan, edited by Jacob Korczynski, was co-published in 2020 by Art Metropole in Toronto and Motto Books in Berlin. Bishouty lives and works in Toronto, Canada.

Karishma D'Souza (b. 1983, Mumbai, India) is a visual artist who makes detailed and meticulous artworks, which are carefully composed, trying to reflect the whole in a part and to fit the universe on a sheet of paper or a canvas. The paintings are inhabited with personal memories, transformed into signs and symbols, "layering objects with meaning". These elements are at times thoughtfully repeated, as if to be fully recorded on both canvas and consciousness.

She received her BFA in Painting from Goa University in 2004 and Master of Visual Arts in Graphic arts – Printmaking from M.S. University of Baroda in 2006, and awarded the Gold medal. D'Souza's work has been exhibited internationally including at Xippas Galerie, Paris, France; Dorsk Gallery, New York, USA; Silberkuppe, Berlin, Germany; Baronian-Xippas Galerie, Bruxelles, Belgium; Atelier Concorde, Lisboa, Portugal; Fundação Oriente, Goa; Kalakriti Art Gallery, Hyderabad; Ashvita Gallery, Chennai, India; Dapiran Art Project Space, Utrecht; University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam; and Central Museum (CBK), Drenthe, The Netherlands. D'Souza is also represented in the permanent collections of the CNAP, Paris, France; Chadha Art Collection (KRC), the Netherlands; Urecht Central Museum, the Netherlands; and Rijksakademie Van Beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam, the Netherlands. D'Souza lives and works in Goa, India and Lisboa, Portugal.

Kate Newby (b. 1979, Auckland, Aotearoa New Zealand) creates site-responsive works that are inserted directly into exhibition spaces and surrounding areas. Newby creates handmade, crudely constructed sculptural interventions that simultaneously connect and contrast their environments. Drawing out both the physical and poetic qualities of materials (usually materials such as concrete, textiles, glass, and ceramics), her work explores whether situational context can be just as informative as materiality and content. Underpinning Newby's process is a performative ethos: she investigates the way material interventions made in response to a site's particular temporal, physical, and geographical conditions can be a means of transformation and intervention.

Kate Newby received her Doctorate of Fine Art in 2015 from the Elam School of Fine Arts at the University of Auckland. Recent institutional exhibitions include Palais de Tokyo, Paris; Museum of New Zealand, Adam Art Gallery Te Pataka Toi, Wellington; Mori Art Museum, Tokyo; The Institut d'Art Contemporain, Villeurbanne; Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna; 21st Biennale of Sydney; Sculpture Center, New York; Blaffer Art Museum, Houston. In 2012, she won the Walters Prize, New Zealand's largest contemporary art prize, and in 2019 Newby was awarded a Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters & Sculptors Grant. Kate has undertaken residencies at The Chinati Foundation, Artpace, Fogo Island,

and the International Studio & Curatorial Program ISCP. Newby currently lives and works in Wilson County, USA.

Jagdeep Raina (b. 1991, Guelph, Ontario, Canada) has an interdisciplinary practice that spans textile, drawing, writing, ceramics, 35mm film and video animation, Jagdeep Raina utilizes the archive in order to explore historical memory. His multi-media practice seeks to identify the residue left behind by the human touch, and its restorative potential.

Raina is currently a Fellow at the Core Program, Museum of Fine Arts Houston, and was previously a Paul Mellon Fellow at Yale University, a recipient of the 2020 Sobey Art Award, and a resident at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. He received his BFA from Western University in 2013, his MFA from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2016. He has exhibited internationally at the Galerie Anne Barrault, Paris; Todd Madigan Art Gallery at California State University, Bakersfield; Libby Leshgold Gallery, Emily Carr University, Vancouver; Blaffer Art Museum, Houston; Jhaveri Contemporary, Mumbai; Museum of Contemporary Art; Textile Museum, Toronto; Soft Opening, London; (Midway Contemporary, Minneapolis; Art Gallery of Guelph, Guelph; Cooper Cole, Toronto; Art Gallery of Alberta, Edmonton; Rubin Museum of Art, New York; RISD Museum of Art, Providence; Humber Galleries, Toronto; Provincetown Art Association and Museum, Provincetown; Camden Arts Centre, London (2016); and Modern Fuel Artist Run Centre, Kingston, amongst others. His works can be found in the permanent collections of Musée des Beaux-Arts de Montréal, Rhode Island School of Design Museum, Yale Center for British Art, Carleton University Art Gallery, Art Gallery of Guelph. Raina lives and works in Houston, USA.

Kaveri Raina (b. 1990, New Delhi, India) is a contemporary artist working with abstract compositions, derived from reoccurring forms that she creates while drawing, emerge as triumphant and monumental. Guided by her material choices and formal subjects, Kaveri Raina establishes parameters for moments of confluence and resistance throughout her practice. She received her BFA in Painting and Drawing | Studio Concentration: Photography at Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore, USA in 2011, an MFA in Painting and Drawing at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago in Chicago, USA in 2016, and a degree from Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, in Skowhegan, USA in 2017.

Raina's work has been exhibited internationally including at PATRON Gallery, Sullivan Galleries; Mana Contemporary; Chicago; Lighthouse Works; Chapter NY; Hales Gallery; Rata Projects; New York; Deli Gallery, Art Helix Gallery; Brooklyn; Twelve Gates Arts, Philadelphia; Abattoir Gallery, Cleveland; Flatland Gallery, Houston; USA; and Annarumma Gallery, Naples, Italy. She attended artist residencies internationally including Paint School, Shandaken Projects, New York; Triangle Arts Association, Dumbo; ACRE, Stueben; Lighthouse Works Fellowship, Fishers Island; Chicago Artists Coalition, BOLT Residency, Chicago; Ox-Bow Fall Residency, Full Funding, Saugatuck, USA; Greater Columbus Arts Council, Artist Exchange Fellowship, Dresden, Germany; and Arpana Caur Art Studios, New Delhi, India. She is represented by PATRON Gallery in Chicago, USA. Raina lives and works in Brooklyn, USA.

Christine Howard Sandoval (b. 1975, Anaheim, California, USA) is a multidisciplinary artist who questions the boundaries of representation, access, and habitation, where what is held in the land and what is held within state sponsored archives negotiate shared spaces of meaning.

Howard Sandoval's work has exhibited nationally and internationally including: The Museum of Contemporary Art, University of São Paulo, Brazil; The Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada; Designtransfer, Universität der Künste Berlin, Berlin, Germany; El Museo Del Barrio, New York; Oregon Contemporary, Portland; The Museum of Capitalism, Oakland; and Socrates Sculpture Park, Queens, USA. Howard Sandoval's work has been the subject of solo museum exhibitions at the ICA San Diego and Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College, during which time she was the Mellon Artist in Residence at Colorado College. Howard Sandoval has been awarded numerous residencies including: UBC Okanagan, Indigenous Art Intensive program, Kelowna, Canada; ICA San Diego, Encinitas; Santa Fe Art Institute, Santa Fe; Triangle Arts Association, New York, USA. Howard Sandoval is also represented in the permanent collections of the Hammer Museum, the private research collection of Indigenous art at Forge Projects (NY), the San Jose Museum of Art (CA), and is represented by parrasch heijnen (LA). She is an Assistant Professor of Interdisciplinary Praxis in the Audain Faculty of Art at Emily Carr University in Vancouver, Canada and an enrolled member of the Chalon Nation in Bakersfield, California. Howard Sandoval lives and works in Vancouver, Canada.

Sindhu Thirumalaisamy (b.1990, India) received a professional diploma in Digital Video Production from the Srishti School of Art, Design and Technology in Bangalore, India, in 2012 and an MFA in Visual Arts from the University of California, San Diego, USA, in 2018. She is an alumni of the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture (2019) and the Whitney Independent Study Program (2020).

Thirumalaisamy's films, installations, and compositions engage everyday spaces and civic infrastructures—such as hospitals, parks, streets, kitchens, temples, mosques, lakes and roadsides—as sites of collective resistance and care. Her 2019 film, 'The Lake and The Lake,' premiered at the Montreal International Documentary Festival (RIDM), won the jury award for Best Documentary at the 2020 Ann Arbor Film Festival, and was nominated for awards at BlackStar Film Festival and Open City Documentary Festival. Thirumalaisamy is the recipient of awards and fellowships including the MacDowell Fellowship, the NYSCA/ NYFA Fellowship in Film/Video, and the Museum of Fine Arts Houston's Core Fellowship. Thirumalaisamy lives and works in Houston, USA.

Saul Hernandez-Vargas (b. 1982, Oaxaca, México) is an interdisciplinary artist, whose work invokes the specters haunting the cracks and fissures of the Nation- State's narratives. Hernandez-Vargas holds an MA in Visual Arts from the University of California, San Diego and an Interdisciplinary PhD from the University of Houston. Currently he is a Core Fellow at the Museum of Fine Arts of Houston.

Hernandez-Vargas' work has been recently exhibited and performed in Houston Climate Justice Museum, the Contemporary Art Museum of Houston, the Blaffer Art Museum (Houston) and the Lawndale Art Center (Houston). He was also an artist in residence at the Center for Imagination in the Borderlands (Arizona State University), and the Dust Program (Marfa). His work has been discussed in *The Tyranny of Common Sense* by Irmgard Emmelhainz (Sunny Press, 2021). In 2020, he developed Afilada Radio and co-curated *No hay lengua humana que* a series of radio interventions for independent radio projects in Mexico. His first book, *Te preparé humo*, was published in 2019 (UNAM, Mexico). He co-founded the publishing project *Surt*. Hernandez-Vargas lives and works in Houston, USA.