

For Immediate Release

SOME PORTRAITS

Pablo Bartholomew

Richard Bartholomew

Madan Mahatta

Sadanand Menon

Ram Rahman

Ketaki Sheth

Sooni Taraporevala

Curated by Devika Daulet-Singh

In collaboration with PHOTOINK

Preview: March 9, 2017

On view until April 22, 2017

Chemould Prescott, Mumbai is pleased to present a group exhibition of black & white photographs, ***Some Portraits*** curated by Devika Daulet Singh in collaboration with PHOTOINK. Drawn from the archives of Pablo Bartholomew, Richard Bartholomew, Madan Mahatta, Ram Rahman, Sadanand Menon, Ketaki Sheth and Sooni Taraporevala, this exhibition, spanning over forty years, is an evocative mosaic of portraits of painters, writers, poets, architects, dancers, designers and photographers — most of whom have passed away. What makes this series of portraits distinctive and novel is the profound interest the photographers felt for their subjects as none of the portraits were commissioned. ***Some Portraits*** is as much about remembrance and celebration as it is about that blurred space between life and art — artists photographing other artists.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

PABLO BARTHOLOMEW

Pablo Bartholomew (b.1955, Delhi, India) is a self-taught documentary photographer. World Press Photo awarded him the first prize in 1975 for his series on morphine addicts. In 1984 he won the World Press Photo 'Picture of the Year' award for his iconic image of the Bhopal gas tragedy. As a photojournalist he has documented societies in conflict and transition for over 30 years and has been widely published in international magazines.

Pablo Bartholomew's photographs have been exhibited at several international

photography festivals: Chobimela, Dhaka, Bangladesh (2006), Angkor Photo Festival, Siem Reap, Cambodia (2006), Nooderlicht Photo Festival, Netherlands (2006, 2007), Month of Photography, Tokyo, Japan (2007) and Les Rencontres d'Arles, Arles, France (2007). Select group exhibitions include: *Private Spaces Public Spaces* at Newark Museum, USA (2007), *Where Three Dreams Cross*, Whitechapel Gallery, London (2010) and Fotomuseum Winterthur, Winterthur, Switzerland (2010). His publications include *Outside In*, 2008, (Bodhi Art) and *The Calcutta Diaries*, 2012 (*Art Heritage Gallery*). He lives in New Delhi.

RICHARD BARTHOLOMEW

Richard Bartholomew (1926–1985) was born in Tavoy, Burma. He fled his homeland as a teenager during the Japanese occupation and made India his home in 1942 like many refugees of that time. He finished his schooling and received a Bachelor's (1948) and Master's degree in English (1950) from St. Stephen's College, Delhi. He married Rati Batra, a theatre personality and fathered two sons, Pablo and Robin Bartholomew.

Richard Bartholomew pursued a career not only as an art critic but also as a writer, poet, painter and curator. He was a pioneering art critic in that he was one of the first who initiated a serious dialogue with the painters of his time, fostering a sense of community within the artists and communicating their ideals to the larger public who were not necessarily receptive or convinced of the daring, artistic exploration of India's Progressive Art Movement. Seen in retrospect, his sophisticated body of work during the formative years of modern Indian art offers contemporary readers a rare, intimate glimpse into the beginnings of Modernism in India.

His major literary works include articles on Indian and Tibetan art, contemporary Indian art and the Indian experience, as well as poems, monographs, short stories, a co-authored book on M.F. Husain, published in 1971 by Harry Abrams, New York, and a monograph on Krishna Reddy in 1974 by Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi.

Richard Bartholomew's posthumous publications include *The Art Critic*, 2012 (BART Publishing) and *A Critic's Eye*, 2009 (Chatterjee & Lal, PHOTOINK and Sepia International). His photographs have been exhibited widely in India and abroad.

MADAN MAHATTA

Madan Mahatta (1933-2014) was born in Srinagar, Kashmir, India. The Mahatta studios have a distinguished history as the most well-known family-run studios in North India. Madan went to England to study photography in the early 1950s and

joined the family's Delhi studio upon returning to India in 1954 and introduced negative-positive colour printing for the first time in India. A prolific photographer, Madan worked across all genres of photography.

Madan Mahatta's architectural photographs from the late 1950s to the late 1980s were exhibited for the first time at Photoink in 2012 in an exhibition titled, *Delhi Modern: The Architectural Photographs of Madan Mahatta*. His photographs are a remarkable record of the building of New Delhi at the height of Nehruvian modernism. Madan worked closely with two generations of India's most well known architects including Achyut Kanvinde, Ajoy Choudhury, Charles Correa, Habib Rahman, Joseph Allen Stein, Jasbir Sawhney, J. K. Chowdhury, Kuldip Singh, Raj Rewal, Ram Sharma, Ranjit Sabhiki and designers Mini Boga and Riten Mozumdar. His photographs of their works are an equal part of the legacy of a great period in Indian modernism.

SADANAND MENON

Sadanand Menon (b. 1950, Thrissur, Kerala, India) is an Indian arts editor, cultural journalism teacher, photographer, and stage lights designer and a prolific speaker at seminars on politics, ecology and the arts. He is currently Adjunct Faculty, Asian College of Journalism, Chennai, and at IIT, Madras.

Sadanand is member, Apex Advisory Committee, National Museum, Delhi; Advisory Committee, National Gallery of Modern Art, Bengaluru; Advisory Council, Lalit Kala Akademi, Delhi; Governing Council, Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla; and Managing Trustee, SPACES, an arts foundation, Chennai.

A close associate of legendary choreographer Chandralekha, he is deeply involved with issues concerning contemporary Indian dance. He also curated a retrospective exhibition examining fifty years of Dashrath Patel's work in painting, ceramics, photography and design for NGMA, Delhi and Mumbai.

RAM RAHMAN

Ram Rahman (b. 1955, India), is a photographer based in Delhi, The son of architect Habib Rahman, he grew up watching modern New Delhi being built. He earned degrees from MIT and Yale in physics, architecture, photography and design, and has been a professional architectural photographer for over thirty years. Ram has lectured on the history of contemporary Indian photography, as well as curated many exhibitions. His last one-person exhibition in Delhi was Bioscope in 2008.

KETAKI SHETH

Ketaki Sheth (b.1957, Bombay, India) was committed to black and white photography, chemistry, and gelatin silver prints until 2014 when dwindling analogue supplies forced her transition to digital photography and colour. She won the Sanskriti Award for Indian Photography in 1992, and in 2006 the Higashikawa Award in Japan, for best foreign photographer. In 2008, she was honoured with an individual show (*Bombay Mix*) at Fête du Livre in Aix-en-Provence. In 2015 the National Portrait Gallery, London, exhibited a selection of her photographs of the Sidis titled, *On Belonging: Photographs of Indians of African Descent*. Besides India, her photographs have been exhibited in Australia, France, Japan, Spain, Switzerland and the UK.

Ketaki Sheth's first book *Twinspotting: Photographs of Patel Twins in Britain & India* (Dewi Lewis Publishing) was published in 1999 to critical acclaim. Selected images from this book were exhibited in *Century City* at the Tate Modern, London, in 2001.

Her second book, a culmination of 14 years of work, *Bombay Mix: Street Photographs* (Dewi Lewis Publishing, Stockport and Sepia International, New York) was launched in 2007. Her street photographs have been exhibited in Aix-en-Provence, Bombay, Delhi, New York and Tokyo. Her most recent publication, *A Certain Grace - The Sidi: Indians of African Descent* (PHOTOINK) was published in conjunction with her solo exhibition at the National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi in 2013.

SOONI TARAPOREVALA

Sooni Taraporevala (b. 1957, Bombay, India) is a photographer, screenwriter and filmmaker who is best known for her screenplays of *Mississippi Masala*, *The Namesake*, the Oscar-nominated *Salaam Bombay* and the national award winning film, *Little Zizou*.

In 2000 and 2004 Sooni Taraporevala authored and published a book of her photographs, *Parsis: The Zoroastrians of India; A Photographic Journey* to critical and popular acclaim. Her major solo exhibitions include *Through a Lens, By a Mirror: The Parsis (1977-2013)*, National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi, 2013 and *Parsis*, Chemould Prescott Road, Mumbai, 2013. She has won numerous national and international awards for her screenplays and film. She was awarded the Padma Shri by the Government of India in 2014.