

## PHOTO STUDIO KETAKI SHETH

**Preview** Monday, 10 September 2018

**On view** Until 13 October 2018

**Gallery hours:** Monday - Saturday, 11 am – 7 pm

Closed on Sundays and national holidays

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PHOTOINK is very pleased to announce Ketaki Sheth's solo exhibition and publication of colour photographs, *Photo Studio*. She has been photographing for 35 years and until 2014 was a committed analogue photographer who only used black and white film. *Photo Studio* marks her extraordinary transition to colour and into digital photography for the first time.

Between 2015-2018, Sheth travelled across India and visited over 65 photo studios, most of which were in a shabby state of decline. Photo studios in India have been explored by many photographers and written about extensively. Sheth's approach to the photo studios is anything but conventional as she often ignored the strict conventions of making formal, mannered portraits of people with inscrutable expressions. Instead she used ageing studio lights when available, one handheld camera and lens to exhume tales of past glory and draw one's attention to objects and a cast of characters that surrender gracefully to her gaze.

*Photo Studio* is as much a story about photography in the age of selfies as it is about contemporary life and attachments. Over the years, Sheth has shown remarkable facility as she shifts seamlessly between two distinct ways of making photographs—the posed portrait and street photography. The book design by Iitu Chaudhuri complements Sheth's aesthetic sensibility without conceding to either humour or pathos in the way the book unfolds. Chris Pinney's essay provides the historical and theatrical context to photo studios in India and Sheth's fluid interventions in those spaces.

### ABOUT KETAKI SHETH

Ketaki Sheth's first book, *Twinspotting: Photographs of Patel Twins in Britain & India* (Dewi Lewis Publishing) was published in 1999 to critical acclaim. Selected photographs were exhibited in the exhibition, *Century City* at Tate Modern, London, in 2001. Her second book, a culmination of 14 years of work, *Bombay Mix: Street Photographs* (Dewi Lewis Publishing and Sepia International) was published in 2007. In 2013, her third book, *A Certain Grace: The Sidi, Africans of Indian Descent* was published by Photoink.

Sheth's key solo exhibitions include *On Belonging: Photographs of Indians of African Descent*, National Portrait Gallery, London (2015); *A Certain Grace: The Sidi, Africans of Indian Descent*, National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi (2013); *Twinspotting*, Photoink, New Delhi (2010); *Bombay Mix* at Emile Zola Gallery and at Fête du Livre, Aix-en-Provence (2008) amongst others.

Her photographs reside in major museum and private collections including Fogg Museum, Harvard Art Museums, Massachusetts; Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Modena, Milan; Higashikawa Museum, Hokkaido; Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, New Delhi; Peabody Essex Museum, Massachusetts; Raphael Tous Collection, Madrid; The Alkazi Collection, New York; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai; The Tia Collection, Mumbai, Dubai, London and The University of Arizona, Museum of Art, Arizona. She lives in Mumbai.