



राष्ट्रीय आधुनिक
कला संग्रहालय
NATIONAL GALLERY
OF MODERN ART

PRESS RELEASE

A Certain Grace The Sidi: Indians of African Descent (2005 – 2011) Photographs by Ketaki Sheth

**Inauguration ceremony: Monday, 16th September, 2013, 5.00 pm
Venue: Jaipur House, National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi
On view till 3rd November, 2013**

National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi, Ministry of Culture, Government of India is organising a special photography exhibition titled ***A Certain Grace - The Sidi: Indians of African Descent*** (2005 – 2011) by Ketaki Sheth, one of India's leading contemporary photographers. This exhibition is presented by NGMA in collaboration with Photoink. The purpose of this exhibition is to share with our viewers 65 of the finest photographic works by the artist.

The exhibition will be inaugurated by Shri Raghu Rai, eminent photographer on Monday, 16th September, 2013 at 5.00 pm at the NGMA, New Delhi. Mrs. Manju Singh, Chairperson of the Advisory Committee of the NGMA will also grace the occasion with her presence.

Ketaki Sheth's photographs impressively reveal the lives of the Sidi – Indians of African descent, who over the past many centuries migrated to India in successive batches as traders, soldiers but have now culturally adapted the language, cuisines and attires of the land. They have assimilated within the cultural folds of India and any distinction now is only surface as the Sidi consider India as their home.

The artist has assiduously compiled her work over six years travelling extensively through small pockets in the country where the Sidi reside. The photographs reveal the artist's acute sensitivity about a community she engaged with. It is also commendable she made a conscious effort to ensure that the camera does not make her subjects feel awkward; rather they communicate uninhibitedly, almost ignoring the presence of the camera. This rare quality can only be achieved when the relationship between artist and subject is marked by long correspondence—remarkably reflected in Ketaki Sheth's photographs.

Speaking about the exhibition, Prof. Lochan, Director, NGMA says, “These are exciting and aspiring times for practicing photography as art as it allows the subject to be interpreted and understood on many levels. The admirable and inspiring works by Ketaki Sheth truly exploit the dynamism of Photography as a creative medium. I am very happy to have organized this exhibition at NGMA and Acknowledge the support extended by Photoink in the implementation of this exhibition.”

Speaking about her photographs, Ketaki Sheth says, “For six years I travelled through much of Gujarat, Bombay, Goa, Hyderabad and the forests near Manchikere in Karnataka, where the Sidi live. It has been a long journey and my singular reward has been the friends and portraits I made on the way. These portraits bear witness to the quotidian of a community on the margins: the Sidi at home, at work, in celebration, in prayer, at births, deaths and marriages.”

A publication titled *A Certain Grace - The Sidi: Indians of African Descent* is available at NGMA’s Museum Shop. Also available is a small booklet published by NGMA for exhibition viewers.

For more information and high resolution images from both exhibitions, please contact Devika Daulet-Singh

Email – dauletsingh@photoink.net

Mobile – 98118-83740, Tel: 011-2875-5940/41/42

The NGMA opens daily from Tuesday to Sunday, 10 am – 5 pm
(Monday and public holidays closed)