

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUSTENANCE: Monica Jahan Bose and Anju Chaudhuri

Curator: Dawne Langford

Exhibition dates: September 5-21, 2019

Opening reception: Thursday, September 5, 2019, 6-8 pm

Closing event: Saturday, September 21, 2-4 pm

Location: Carroll Square Gallery, 975 F Street, NW, Washington DC 20004

(Gallery hours, M-F, 8 am - 6 pm)

SUSTENANCE presents the compelling work of Paris-based artist Anju Chaudhuri and DC-based artist Monica Jahan Bose. Chaudhuri's abstract organic images and undulating strokes speak to nature, in balance and disrupted. Bose uses bold lines, symbolic objects, and the iconic sari to refer to the cycle of life and the crisis of climate change.

The artists, both of Bengali origin, met in Paris in 2007 and frequently visited each others studios and exhibitions until Bose left Paris in 2010. They have continued their cross-border and intergenerational friendship for over a decade. Bose learned etching from Chaudhuri, a master printmaker and painter, in a series of private lessons in Paris. They also met in Paris in 2017 and 2019, creating joint works on paper and exhibiting together.

SUSTENANCE speaks to nature, our changing environment, and climate impacts on food, as well the ways in which artists can sustain relationships with one another and nourish each others practices.

This is the first exhibition in DC of the internationally-acclaimed Anju Chaudhuri. The exhibition is supported by a Sister Cities Grant from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities (supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts). The exhibition includes printmaking, painting, drawing, video, and installation.

About the artists and curator:

Anju Chaudhuri: Born in 1941 in Kolkata, India to a family of Bengali intellectuals enamored of tradition, Anju Chaudhuri lives and works in Paris. She grew up in India, nurtured by the Hindu mythology that permeates daily life, and her many journeys between the sea and the mountains. After receiving a diploma in painting in Kolkata, she left at age 18 to study at St Martin's School of Art in London, then continued at

the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris, and then in Amsterdam. Chaudhuri became a master printmaker, learning this art by working side by side with Stanley William Hayter (Atelier 17, Paris). She is renowned internationally for her paintings, prints, drawings, watercolors, and hand-made paper.

She takes her main inspiration from nature and the five elements: air, fire, water, earth, and aether. She has felt increasingly alarmed by the disruption of nature by man and has begun creating works responding to climate change. She has exhibited extensively in France and internationally and received numerous awards and commissions. Her works can be found in the collections of several museums throughout the world, including Ville de Paris, Asia Society (NY), Bronx Museum (NY), Victoria and Albert Museum (London), and National Gallery of Modern Art (New Delhi).

Monica Jahan Bose: Born in Britain, Monica Jahan Bose is a Bangladeshi-American artist and activist whose work spans painting, film, photography, printmaking, performance, and interdisciplinary projects. Her solo projects and performance/installations have been presented at such venues as the Brooklyn Museum, UNESCO, Art Asia Miami, Twelve Gates Gallery, the Bangladesh National Museum, the DUMBO Arts Festival, (e)merge art fair, SELECT Art Fair Miami, the Smithsonian Asia Pacific American Center, and Civilian Art Projects. In 2019, she created the massive public art project WRAPture, covering five buildings with collaborative saris. She has received numerous grants and commissions. She is the creator of STORYTELLING WITH SARIS, a longterm collaborative art and advocacy project with her ancestral village of Katakhal, Bangladesh. She studied art at Wesleyan University and Santiniketan (India) and has a law degree from Columbia Law School. She currently lives and works in Washington DC.

Dawne Langford: Dawne Langford is an independent curator, documentary filmmaker, and artist. After many years working in public media as a broadcast TV editor, she transitioned to producing, working on independent documentaries, currently working on a docu-series for NYC based production company, Moxie Pictures. She founded the curatorial initiative Quota, dedicated to centering traditionally marginalized viewpoints in public discourse around artistic creation and representation. Previous exhibition venues and collaborations include Transformer, SPRING/BREAK, Olly Olly, Washington Project for the Arts, Torpedo Factory, George Mason University, director and curator for the Fundred Reserve OPEN LAB, in collaboration with Mel Chin Studios, and The Smithsonian Asian Pacific Center's Culture Lab series, Crosslines.

Image credit: Anju Chaudhuri, *Trees* (detail), 2016, watercolor, ink, and pastel on rice paper, 88 x 17 inches.

High-resolution images are available upon request. Exhibition hours are M-F from 8 am - 6 pm and by appointment.

Carroll Square Gallery, 975 F Street, NW, Washington DC 20004

Websites:

monicajahanbose.com

<http://www.anju-chaudhuri.com/>

<http://www.quota-art.com/>

Social media:

Monica Jahan Bose Instagram: @storywithsari @mjbose

Dawne Langford Instagram @quotaarts



DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES
50th ANNIVERSARY