

RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART

EXHIBITION EXPLORING LANDSCAPE AND IDENTITY CONCLUDES THREE-PART MODERNIST ART FROM INDIA SERIES AT THE RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART

*Radical Terrain Features Landscape Works by Influential Modernist Indian Painters
And Contemporary Artists from Around the Globe,
Including New Commissions by Marc Handelman, Byron Kim, and Hasan Elahi*

New York, NY, -- This November the Rubin Museum of Art will present *Radical Terrain*, the third and final installment of a series devoted to exploring the development of modern art in post-colonial India. The exhibition focuses on how Indian artists used landscape art to document and come to terms with the vastness and diversity of India as a newly sovereign nation following its independence from Britain. Featuring paintings by influential modernist Indian artists such as S.H. Raza and Gieve Patel alongside works by eight contemporary artists from outside the country, *Radical Terrain* will highlight how landscape art has been used to grapple with issues of identity in a global context. Several of the contemporary works are new commissions that respond to the modernist paintings. Among the featured contemporary artists are Lisi Raskin, Marc Handelman, Seher Shah, Janaina Tschäpe, and others. The exhibition will be on view at the Rubin from November 9, 2012 through April 29, 2013.

“*Radical Terrain* demonstrates how artists in the generation following India’s independence utilized, reimagined, and harnessed the idea of landscape in art to help create a new identity for themselves and their country. As we examine new landscape works by contemporary artists of varied backgrounds, we see how those approaches and ideas are still relevant,” said Beth Citron, Assistant Curator at the Rubin Museum. “In showcasing works from different times and places side-by-side, we are better able to draw connections between world cultures, artists, and ideas and create a more holistic and nuanced picture of landscape.”

The Modernist Art from India series began in November, 2011, with *The Body Unbound*, which traced the trajectory of figuration in modernist Indian art from the 1940s to the 1980s and continued this spring with *Approaching Abstraction*, which explored the ways abstraction evolved among prominent Indian artists. *Radical Terrain* will feature figural, abstract, and conceptual landscapes painted in a range of styles that capture diverse social, political, and formal perspectives. Many of the works will bring together the themes explored throughout the exhibition series. Highlights from the exhibition include:

- S.H. Raza’s *Bleu d’ete*, 1963, is a highly abstracted landscape that further explores themes first examined in *Approaching Abstraction*.
- Gieve Patel’s *Battered Man in Landscape*, 1993, brings together non-traditional representations of the figure, as examined in *The Body Unbound*, with a contemporary style landscape view of an Indian beach.
- Bringing the series into the present moment, Marc Handelman, an American painter, will create and paint a large marble wall on which a work by the Indian painter H.A. Gade will be hung.
- Contemporary American artist Byron Kim will create one of his “Sunday Paintings” – color fields overlain with hand-painted text—onsite at the Rubin and hang it alongside four other paintings from the extended series.
- Hasan Elahi, an interdisciplinary media artist, will build on his well-known explorations of landscape-as-surveillance in a video-based work that will survey an area around the museum.

ABOUT THE RUBINMUSEUM:

The Rubin Museum of Art provides an immersive environment for the exploration of art from Himalayan Asia and the culture and their connections to contemporary life and ideas through innovative exhibitions, dynamic programs, and diverse educational opportunities. The only stand-alone institution in the U.S. dedicated to the art of Himalayan Asia, the museum holds one of the world’s most important collections of the paintings and sculptures of Tibet, Nepal, Mongolia, and Bhutan, and provides a bridge between the cultures of the region and other cultures worldwide. In addition to exhibitions, the Rubin’s programming encompasses dialogues, films, performances, and more, offering multiple entry-points for understanding and enjoying the art of the Himalayas. The shop and café at the Rubin are also inspired by the varied cultures of the region, completing the visitors’ experience. For more information, including hours and location, visit www.rmanyc.org.

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