

Janhavi Khemka Portfolio of select works

- Printmaking
- Installation
- Performance Art
- Printmaking + Stop Motion Animation

“चटाई” (Chatai)
Woodcut
72 X 48 in.
2021



Brief Description

Janhavi Khemka is an emerging contemporary artist working across mediums, exploring the relationship between disability and art language. Janhavi, with her congenitally impaired hearing, looks at disability as not a disadvantage but a lens through which one can see, understand and negotiate with the world differently. Each work expresses her unique ways of interacting with the world without acoustic sensation.

Khemka's art practice is characterised by her thoughtful choice of medium to translate her perception. Most of her work is rooted in personal memories and her physic and physical life. She calls her works small dots in the vast map of mind and memory, constituted by the particular use of a medium. The shifting from one medium to another, from printmaking to stop-motion to vibrational installation, is, therefore, understood as an expanse of the sensory map. However, although autobiographical elements are strongly present, her work speaks of her dreams of overcoming the shortcoming, creating a space for spontaneous dialogue between the artist and the audience.



Warning it is time

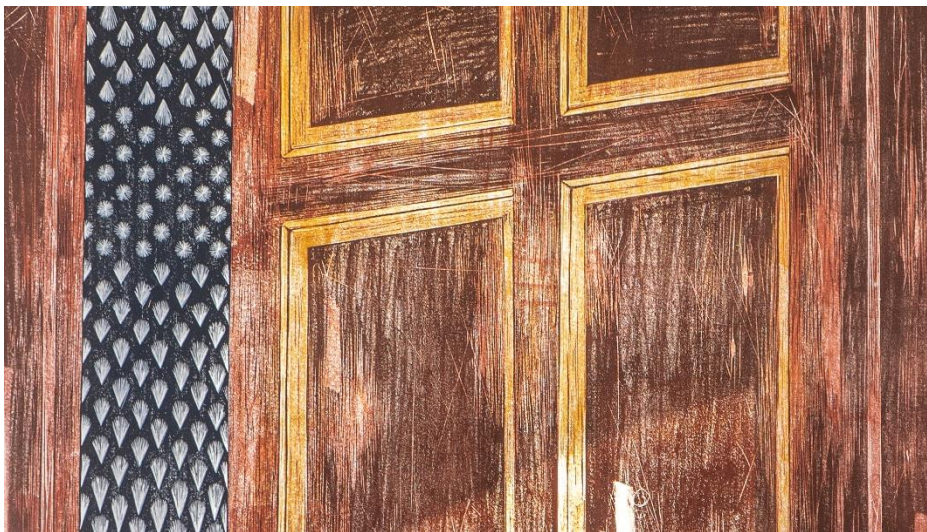
Woodcut print on Rives BFK paper 4 and Okawara paper 2

42 x 88 inches

2023

Chicago

Detail



Printmaking

चटाई (Chatai)

Woodcut

72 X 48 in.

2021

Language has many meanings and purposes in the world of communication. That is why there is so much variation when we talk about the language of art, the language of speech (verbal expression), and in my language of “lip reading”. A spoken word is made of alphabets, many of which have similar kinds of pronunciations. So to lip read and get the exact word and the meaning sometimes becomes a difficult proposition, because the visual expressions of some words appear similar. Example – Ma, Pa, Ba, Bha.



Printmaking

चटाई (Chatai)
Installation view

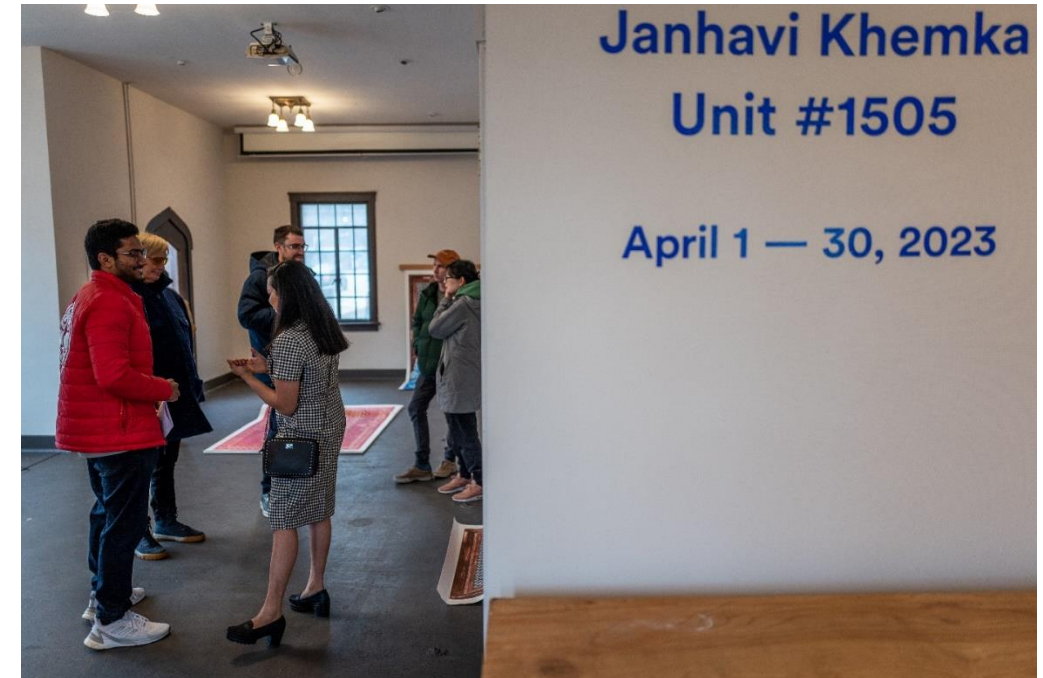
“Since the pandemic, masks have haunted and frustrated my ability to lip-read is cut off. My mother taught me how to lip read in Hindi, and I recall a memory of learning the technique: “We were sitting on the mat and touching our throats to each other for the vibration.”



Installation view from the solo exhibition *Unit #1505*

<https://comfortstationlogansquare.org/april-2023-janhavi-khemka>





Janhavi Khemka
Unit #1505

April 1 — 30, 2023

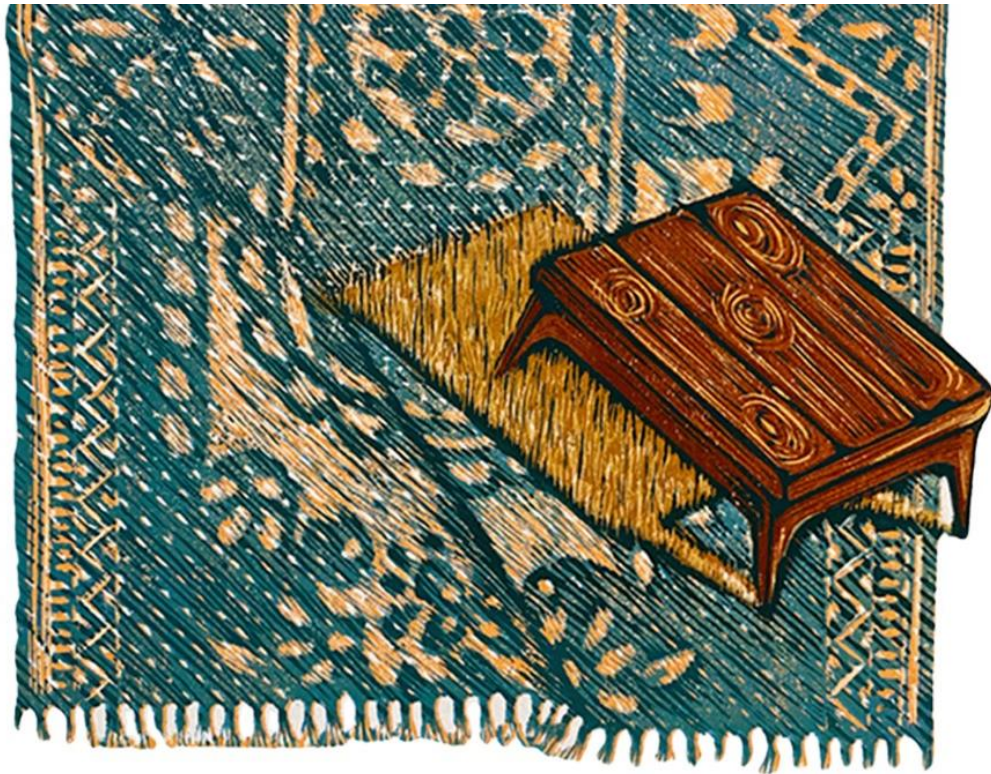
Printmaking

स्मरण (Recollection)

Woodcut

14 x 11 in.

2021



Printmaking

स्मरण (*Recollection*)

Installation



Printmaking

For My Regret Lover

Woodcut

44 x 30 in. (112 x 76 cm.) each

Diptych

2021

Chicago



Printmaking

Sleeping

Woodcut

4 Panels of 96 x 24 in. each (4 series); One small Panel of 11 x 14 in.

4 (each prints)

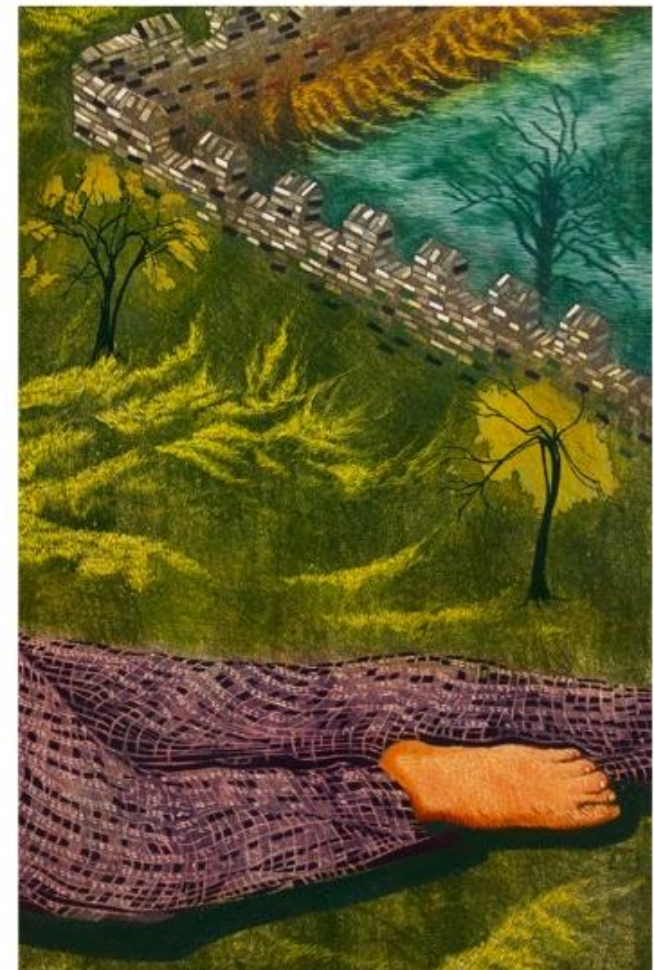
2022



Printmaking

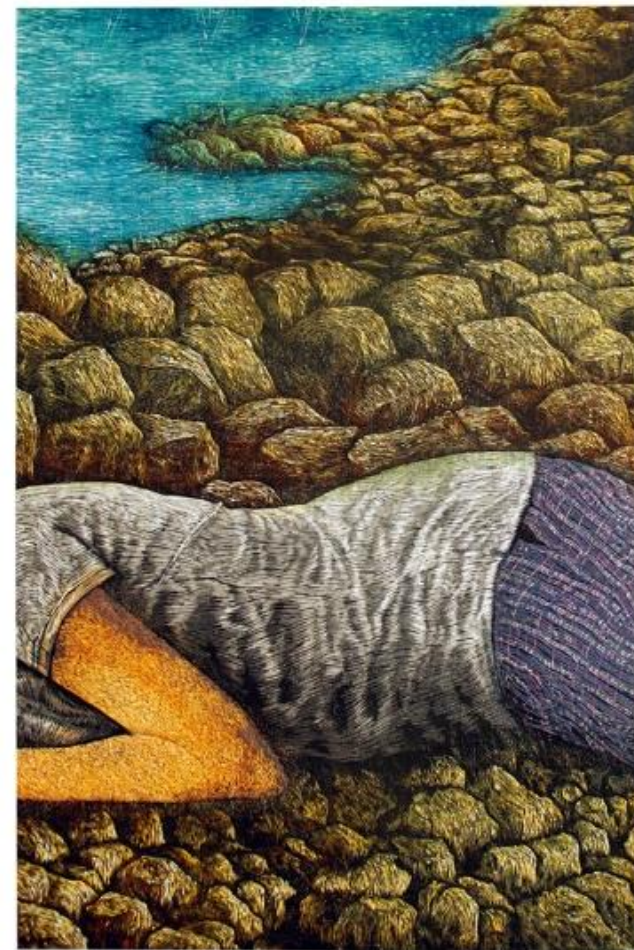
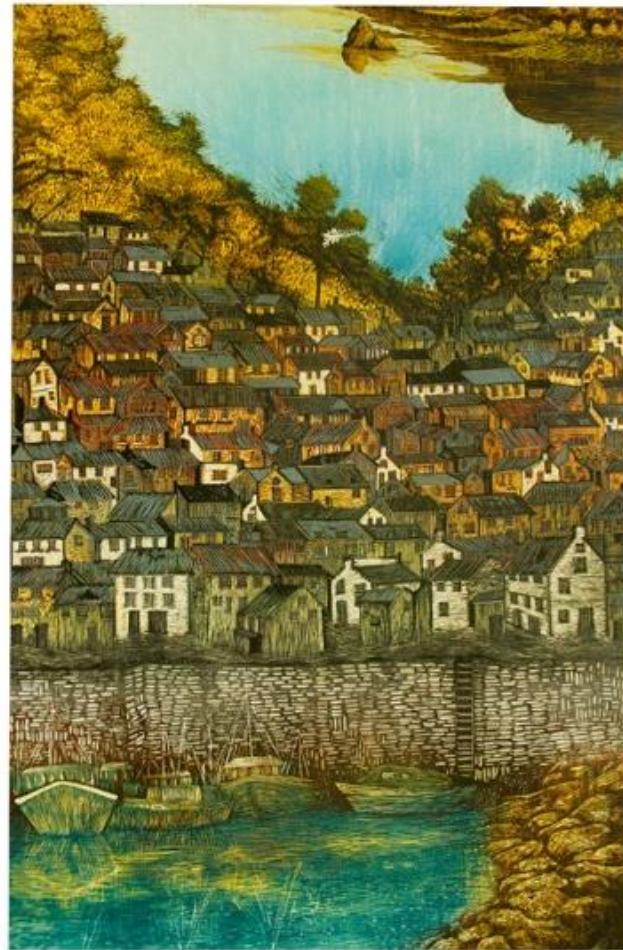
Sleeping
Details

"This work is eight feet by two feet (total size), sixty-eight colour woodcut print created with oil-based inks. This is a reduction print carved on a single Masonite board. For this print, I had to cut the board sixty-eight times to print each colour separately."



Printmaking

Sleeping
Details



Printmaking

Sleeping

Details

"I visited Edinburgh, Anstruther Pittenween, York, and London last year. I used to dream about the memories of the places I visited. The colours, architectures, lifestyle of those places are very different from that of our country. I created a house, hill, church, and fort to represent the distinct cityscape. Even the sounds outside the church like birds flying, thunder, rain and snow, also produce a different atmosphere. I placed a church in the background of my portrait so as to bring the emotion of peace."



Printmaking + Stop Motion Animation

Unheard

Woodcut, Mix media, Stop motion
(dragonframe) and wood piece rubbing
with pencil and graphite
Variable
2021

Video Link:

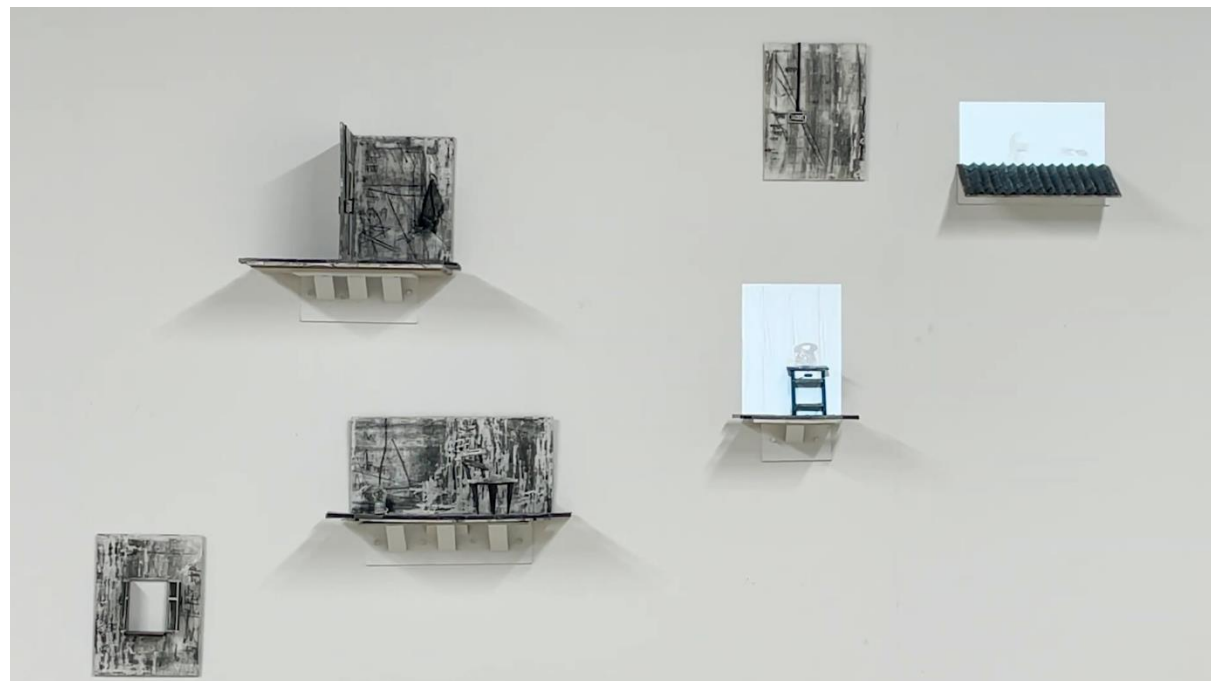
<https://youtu.be/MdDU6UJ2YIA>



Printmaking + Stop Motion Animation

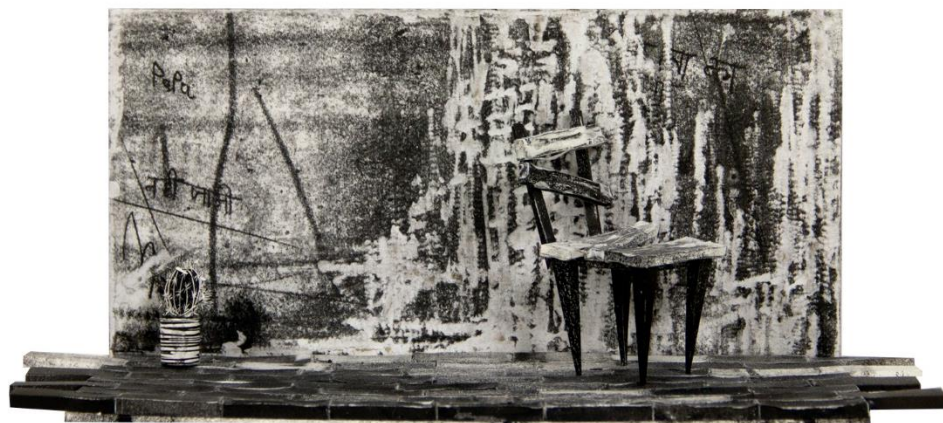
Unheard

Installation view



Unheard

Detail with stop motion



Mixed Media and Animation

Unheard

Detail with stop motion



Unheard

Detail with stop motion



My room as Hell

Multimedia Installation
(Woodcut and Stop-motion
animation)

22 x 33 in.

2021

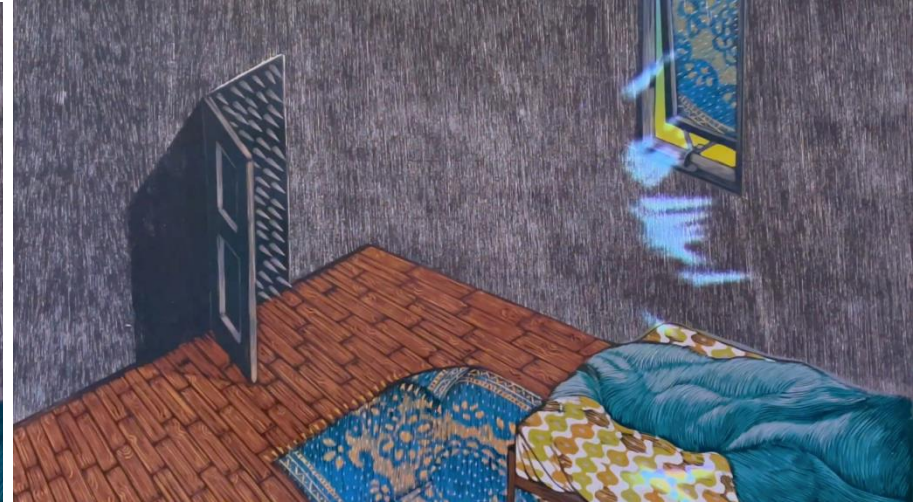
Video Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2fVYbZ-iB4>



My room as Hell

Sequential detail of woodcut with
Stop-motion animation



My room as Hell

Detail of woodcut with animation



Animation with woodcut and
Platform with Vibration

"Sapna"

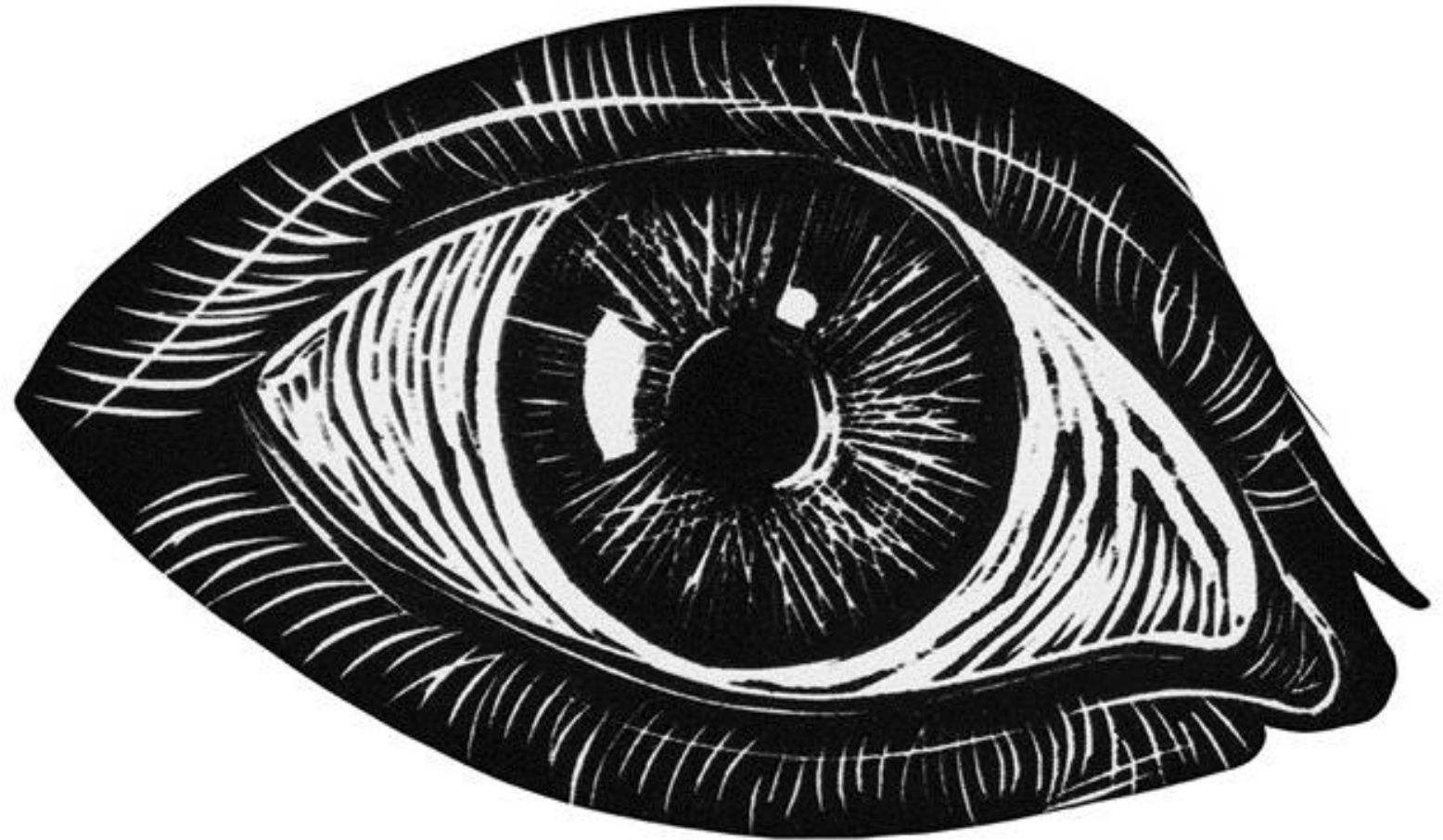
Animation with woodcut and Platform
with Vibration

Variable

2022

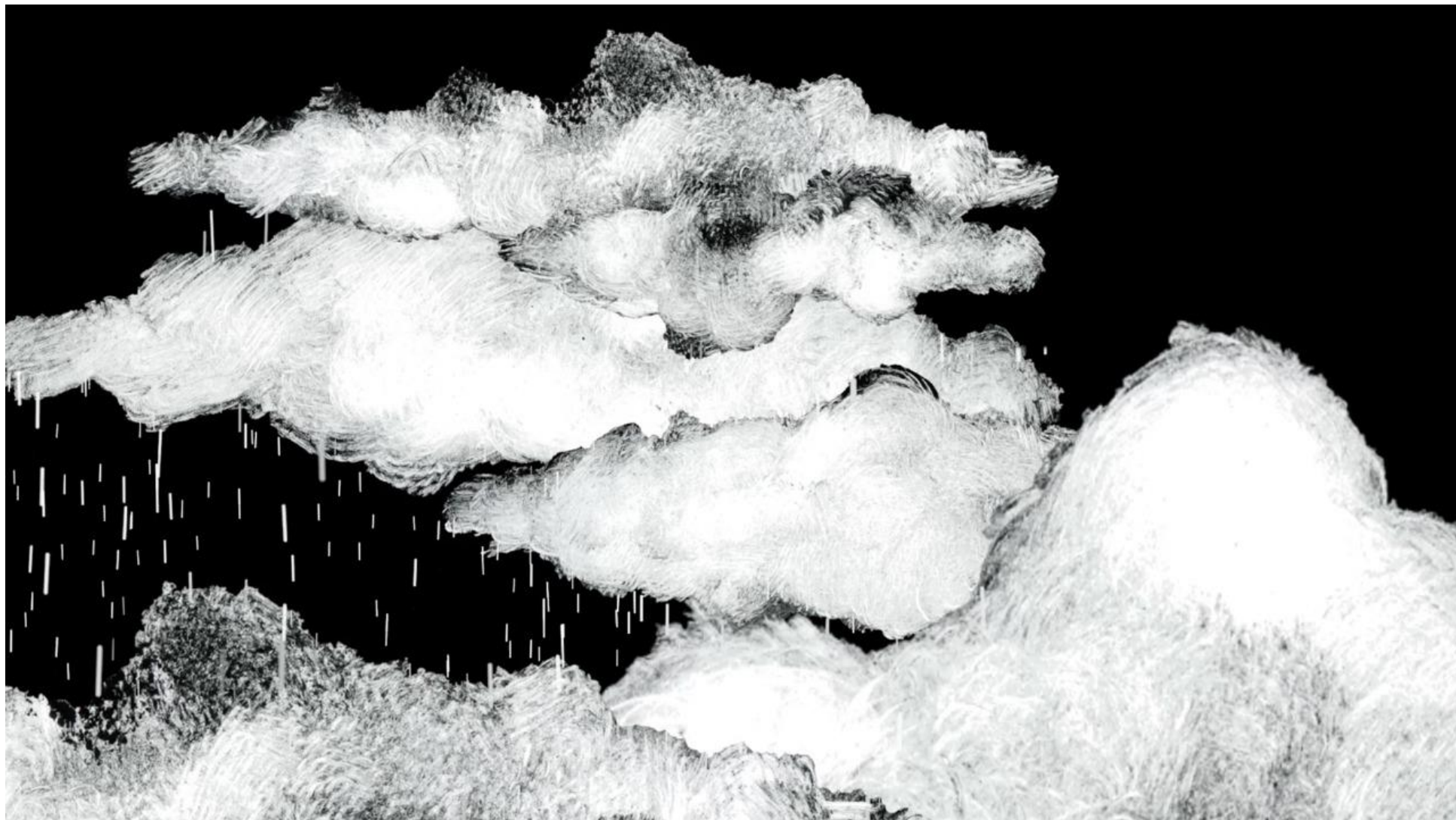
Video Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lx3XtzouXg>



Animation with woodcut and
Platform with Vibration

"Sapna"
Detail



Animation with woodcut and
Platform with Vibration

"Sapna"
Installation Images



Installation with Printmaking
and stop motion animation

Of roots and branches

Multimedia Installation (Woodcut,
Paper and Stop-motion)

Variable

2018

Video links:

1. <https://youtu.be/TCskY1focJs>
2. <https://youtu.be/THU1JK0fEVs>

*"I have recreated my room
through a series of woodcuts that
depict objects of utility and
experiences from my stay in 1
Shanthiroad studio."*



Installation with Printmaking
and stop motion animation

Of roots and branches
Detail



“The personal space is created in monochrome with the texture of forms of my reality as someone who is hard of hearing. So when someone presses the bell, the light blinks and I am aware of people at the door. I constructed this personal space and how I understand and negotiate with things that surround me.”

Installation with Printmaking
and stop motion animation

Of roots and branches
Details



Installation with Printmaking
and stop motion animation

Of roots and branches

Detail



"I also wished to connect with the famous Badam tree and cat of 1 Shanthiroad. I feel trees are a metaphor of how we start out weak and small and then send out deep roots and branch out into the world. The light represents a wanted visitor, or an unwanted one: I can't know until I open the door."



Installation with Printmaking
and stop motion animation

Of roots and branches
Detail



Performance

“Your name please?”

Performance and art and Technology

(Mic, Floor/Short Mic Stand MC,

AMP, DAEX25CT-4 Coin Type 25mm

Exciter 10W 4 Ohm, Lepy LP-2020A

Class-D Hi-Fi Digital

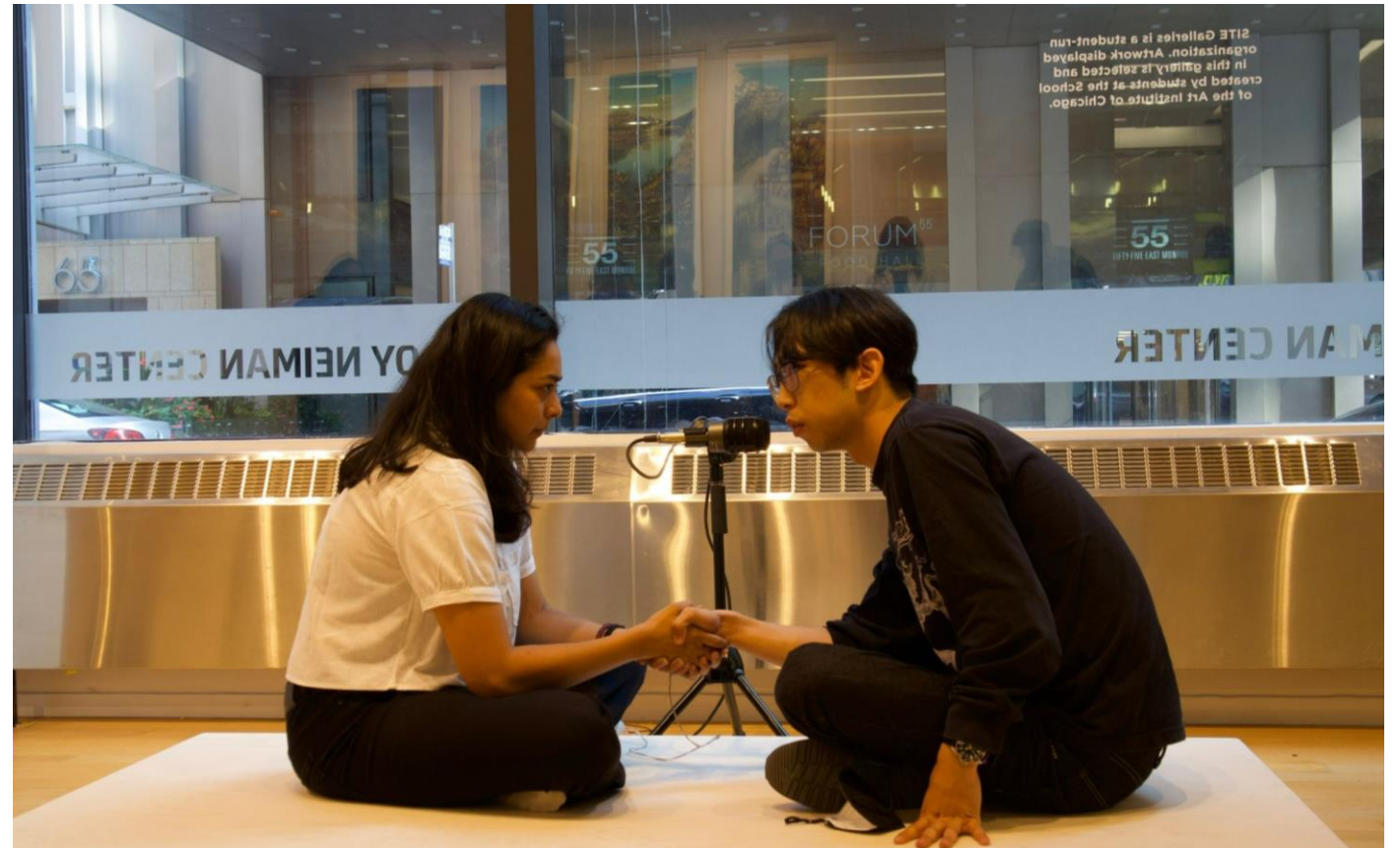
Wood platform 72” X 36”

2021

Video Link:

<https://youtu.be/yYpNioFO8bU>

	Janhavi Khemka UnMute Performance Schedule
9/6	<i>Your name please?</i> PREMIERE Tuesday, September 6 4:30 - 5:30 SITE Sharp Gallery
9/22	<i>Your name please?</i> FINAL PERFORMANCE Thursday, September 22 4:30 - 5:30 SITE Sharp Gallery
	sites.saic.edu/site galleries



Performance

"Your name please?"

Performance images



<https://youtu.be/XUOagvyRfJc>

"Siri is like my world. I would like to talk to Siri and would inform them that " I am deaf, but I am not mute." But they never understand me well, so I must repeat over and over; it combines my seriousness, irritation, and persistence with the idiotic good-naturedness of Siri. It has no resolution."



Printmaking

“चटाई” (Chatai)

“There is practical difficulty at times to understand and follow. For me, lip-reading itself is an art and I take this as a challenge to convert my lack of speech into the language of my art.”



Printmaking

UnMute
Solo exhibition 2022
Chicago USA

UnMute

a solo exhibition
by Janhavi Khemka

August 31 - October 1

SITE Sharp Gallery
37 S. Wabash Ave, Chicago,
Illinois 60603



Installation view



Brief Bio

Born in 1993 in Varanasi, India, Janhavi Khemka is an interdisciplinary artist who studied printmaking at Kala Bhavana, Santiniketan, graduating in 2017. She is presently a student of Studio Art, School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Janhavi, with her congenially impaired hearing, looks at the disability not as a disadvantage but as a lens through which one can see, understand and negotiate with the world in a different way. Each work is an expression of her unique ways of interacting with the world without acoustic sensation. Presently working from Chicago, USA, Khemka has recently had a solo *UnMute* at SITE Sharp Gallery, Chicago, USA, Khemka has been creating live performances that question the meaning of language and how we understand it.

Janhavi has participated in many major exhibitions in India and abroad, including *Open Water: Permeating Territories*, 2023, Chicago; *"Unit #1505"*, Comfort Station, 2023; *FCP Juried Exhibition*, Texas, USA, *Where she comes from*, Curated by Pia Singh, NEIU Fine Arts Gallery, Chicago, USA, *A photographic image as text Part I*, curated by Subhalakshmi Sukla, Jolly Art Adda, Mumbai, India, *Press Forward* at Box 13 Art Space (Texas, 2021); *Embodied Histories: Reconstructing the Present* at Gallery SAIC (Chicago, 2021); *Aroh* at Emami Art (Kolkata, 2021); *Print Exposition* at Rashid Chowdhury Art Gallery (Chittagong, 2017); *The Shape of Things* at Ganges Art Gallery (Kolkata, 2017); and many more. In addition, her work has been featured in *Macrocosm*, the International Print Exchange Program (2018-21) exhibition, several international art festivals, and print biennales.

She has been a part of several art residencies in India, Italy, and Bangladesh. Janhavi is the recipient of the Prafulla Dahanukar Art Foundation Award for Printmaking (2021, 2018) and the *First Printmaking Prize Gate44* (Milan, 2019).

Janhavi Khemka works between Santiniketan, Varanasi, and Chicago, USA.



CV and Personal details

Name: Janhavi Khemka
Date of Birth: 17 March 1993, Varanasi, U.P, India.
Place of current residence: Chicago, IL, USA
Language: Hindi, English

<https://www.janhavikhemka.com/>

Education

B.F.A- Painting Faculty Of Visual Art, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, 2011-2015

M.F.A- Graphics Kala Bhavana, Visva Bharati University, Santiniketan, 2015 – 2017

Studio Art, School Of The Art Institute Of Chicago, 2021
- Present

Select Exhibitions

2023

Unit #1505, Comfort Station, Chicago, 2023

India Art Fair, New Delhi

2022

- ***UnMute***, Solo Exhibition at SITE Sharp Gallery, Chicago USA
- **FCP Juried Exhibition**, Texas, USA
- **Where she comes from**, Curated by Pia Singh, NEIU Fine Arts Gallery, Chicago, USA
- **A photographic image as as text Part I**, curated by Subhalakshmi Sukla, Jolly Art Adda, Mumbai, India,

2021

- **“Press Forward”** A National Student Printmaking Exhibition, Art Space, 6700 Harrisburg Blvd, Houston, Texas.
- **“Embodied Histories: Reconstructing The Present”**, Site Gallery Saic, Chicago
- **“Recollections”** Print Exchange & Exhibition, Curated And Organised By Thong Hoai Tran & Madison Nicole May, Bend Gallery, Chicago
- **“Advanced Artists’** Books Display Case Show 10” Instructor By Myungah Hyon, Joan Flasch Artists’ Book Collection, Sharp Building Saic, Chicago.

2020

- **“Aroh”** Emami Art Open Call Group Exhibition, Curated By Ushmita Sahu, 30th Sep - 30th Oct, Emami Art Gallery, Kolkata
- **”[Dih-Pahr-Cher] Departure”** Group Exhibition Conceptualised By Prasanta Sahu, Ganges Art Gallery, Kolkata,

CV and Personal details

2019

- **“Macrocosm”** Curated By Lina Vincent, International Print Exchange Programme (Ipep), 2018 - 2020, Usa, Argentina, Mexico, Taiwan, Pakistan, Polska, Portugal, Russia, Turkey, Finland, Nepal, Poland, Australia, India.
- **“Emerging Canvas - VI”** An Indo Korean Young Artists , 20 December 2019 To 19 January 2020, Seoul, Korea
- **“Haugesund International Festival Of Artistic Relief Printing”**, 10 May To 4 August, Haugesund Billedgalleri, Norway
- **“Talk Back”** Flux Factory Co-Curated By Lexy Ho-Tai And Moira Williams, 9th May To 2nd June, Long Island City, Queens, New York

2018

- **7th “Ulsan International Woodcut Festival”** South Korea
- **“1st Print Biennale India 2018”** A Selected Exhibition In , Lalit Kala Akademi , New Delhi

2017

- **“Print Exposition”** Artist Rashid Chowdhury Art Gallery, Chittagong, Bangladesh
- **“The Shape Of Things”** Group Exhibition Conceptualised By Ushmita Sahu, Ganges Art Gallery, Kolkata
- I **“De Novo”**, International Group Exhibition Lalit Kala Academy, Lucknow
- **“I Am”** Group Exhibition Of Woman Artists Am Studio, Kolkata

CV and Personal details

2017

- An Selected Exhibition “4th Annual Exhibition”, Emami Chisel Art Gallery, Kolkata 2016
- An Selected Exhibition In “Academy Of Fine Art”, Kolkata
- An Selected Exhibition In “The Bombay Art Society”, Mumbai
- National Art Gallery, Group Exhibition , Shilp Kala Academy,Bangladesh
- Group Exhibition Of Mfa 1st Year, Nandan Art Gallery, Kala Bhavan, Santiniketan
- “P.R.I.N.T” Group Exhibition Of Graphic Art , Academy Of Fine Art,Kolkata
- An Exhibition On “Young Artist In Santiniketan” Ssvad, Santiniketan

2015

- Annual Exhibition, Faculty Of Visual Art, Banaras Hindu University,Varanasi

2014

- Annual Exhibition, Faculty Of Visual Art, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi
- “Diversity” Group Exhibition, Faculty Of Visual Art , Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi
- “Khajuraho” Group Exhibition, Faculty Of Visual Art , Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi

EMAMI ART

KOLKATA, INDIA

Emami Art, Kolkata, is one of India's most significant art galleries and a critical space for cultural production. The gallery focuses on a future-forward, complex, multi-dimensional approach. It is steadfast in advocating for emerging, mid-career and established artists and engaging with contemporary and historical material. The gallery also aims to create dynamic, wide-ranging registers of exhibition-making and viewing.

In addition to hosting exhibitions and participating in national and international events and fairs, Emami Art has diverse parallel programming. Emami Art has launched the **EA Locus in Focus** to provide a voice to local and regional communities through ongoing short and long-term projects. **EA Incubator & Learning** integrates both the physical and virtual interfaces. It helps the arts community free access to regular mentorship programs, workshops, residency opportunities and innovative educational activities that facilitate artistic development, help build collaborative networks and provides a supportive environment for emerging talent. As a centre of excellence, Emami Art identifies as a platform rather than just a facility.

Critical discourses, interactions, documentation and exchange are also essential to our mandate. Under the umbrella of **EA Discourse**, we develop and produce original writing, periodicals and catalogues that focus on artistic, creative and pedagogical materials. As part of our knowledge-making and archiving process, our regular lineup of talks, seminars, panel discussions and conversations with artists, curators and key partners is helping to establish a safe space for critical engagement.

Emami Art has adopted the inclusive, symbiotic framework, where profitability supports sustainable resource regeneration and public service. The gallery is a green building and strictly maintains free access to all policy.

Deeply committed to promoting a regional, national and international agenda through innovative and alternative programming, emphasis on community and socially relevant engagements, institutional partnerships and more via a multi-year vision for the future, Emami Art is a catalyst of change, research, innovation and inclusivity.

