

**SACHI, Society for Art & Cultural Heritage of India
and Palo Alto Art Center**

are pleased to present



**Thursday, August 31,
7:00 PM**

Palo Alto Art Center
1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto, CA

*Indigo, Salt and Khadi:
Textile Art as an Expression
of National Identity*

by Shelly Jyoti

*Delhi based Artist, Designer,
Poet, and Independent Curator*

The Event is Free and Open to the Public. RSVP recommended, kalpana@sachi.org; Tel. 650-349-1247

Shelly Jyoti's interests span a wide spectrum from literature to fashion.

She has a keen interest in India's material and socio-political history which has inspired her textile work over the past few decades. Jyoti explores the critical relationship between materials and traditional processes used in Ajrakh production to develop a deeper understanding of the critical role that cloth, fiber, natural dyes, and environment play in her Khadi (handspun, handwoven cloth from India) and Ajrakh art scrolls.

Ajrakh is a unique process of block printing found in India's earliest settlements.

It is still practiced in northwest India and Pakistan, particularly in the city of Bhuj, where Jyoti travels to create her work. One of the key dyes used in this technique, indigo, led to an extended series of work exploring the indigo trade. Using traditional natural pigment dyes and printing blocks of both ornate and minimal geometric shapes and patterns, she skillfully combines individual components into a complex whole. Her deceptively simple designs provide a generous space for the luxuriously printed patterns to be fully appreciated.

**Jyoti will discuss select works
from her 100 pieces of textile artworks
grouped as 'Assemblages' from three bodies
of works: *Indigo Narratives (2009-17)*;
Salt: The Great March (2013-15); and
The Khadi March (2016-17).**



Pictured above: The Solidarity 1, 60x53 Inches (Detail)
Ajrakh printing /dyeing /needle work on khadi fabric, 2013

Pictured right: Timeless Silhouettes: Anrakha 1, 33 x 50 Inches
Ajrakh printing/dyeing/needle work on khadi fabric, 2014

Courtesy Shelly Jyoti



'For many artists in urban India, collaborations with artisans living in rural or tribal areas have been an invaluable way to enrich their creative practice.'

~ Kathryn Myers, *Traversing Traditions/India*

Jyoti's passion led work embraces this integrative approach.

Shelly Jyoti is a visual artist, fashion designer, poet and an independent curator whose work references the cultural context of modern Indian history. She trained in fashion design and clothing technology at the National Institute of Fashion Technology, New Delhi, and studied English Literature at Punjab University, Chandigarh. Working with different mediums, her works excavate history and celebrate the subaltern. She collaborates with ninth and tenth generation Ajrakh craftsmen living in Ajrakhpur, Bhuj, Gujarat who migrated from Sindh and Baluchistan in 1600 CE.

Her recent exhibitions include *The Khadi March: Just Five Meters* (2016-17); *Salt: The Great March* (2013-15); *Indigo: New works by Shelly Jyoti & Laura Kina* (2008-2014); *Beyond Mithila: Exploring the Decorative* (2008); *Lyrical Abstraction: A Room of/for Muses* (2007).

Jyoti has exhibited and lectured both nationally and internationally at venues which include the Chicago Cultural Centre and Gandhi Memorial Center, Washington D.C. in the US; Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi; India International Center and India Habitat Center, New Delhi; Dakshinachitra Museum, Chennai; Centre for Contemporary Theory and Welcome Art Gallery, Baroda, The Nehru Center, Mumbai, and the National Gallery of Modern Art, Bangalore.

Jyoti is a guest faculty and a jury member at the National Institute of Fashion Technology, NIFT, New Delhi. Her work resides in corporate and private collections in India and abroad, including the TAPI collection (Textiles & Art of the People of India) in Surat, India, IGNCA (Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts) New Delhi and in the permanent collection of International Lincoln Center for American Studies, Louisiana State University, Shreveport branch.

She lives and works in New Delhi and Gurgaon, India. Prior to her Delhi move she spent 14 years in Vadodara, Gujarat.



The Solidarity 2, 60x53 Inches (Detail)
Ajrak printing/dyeing/needle work on khadi fabric, 2013

The blocks used in these artworks are similar to the textile fragments found and excavated at Fustat, Cairo.

Courtesy Shelly Jyoti



Timeless Silhouettes: *Angrakha 2*, 33 x 50 Inches
Ajrak printing/dyeing/needle work on khadi fabric, 2014

Courtesy Shelly Jyoti