

# ROHINI DEVASHER

## BIO

Rohini Devasher has trained as a painter and printmaker. Her films, prints, sounds and drawings, map the complexities of time and space; walking the fine line between wonder and the uncanny, foregrounding the 'strangeness' of encountering, observing and recording both environment and experience.

## SOLO SHOWS

2023

### ***One Hundred Thousand Suns***

A four channel film installation that explores the relationships between observation and experience, information, data and truth. *One Hundred Thousand Suns* was commissioned by Data as Culture (DaC) the art programme of the Open Data Institute (ODI).

2018 - 2019

### ***Hopeful Monsters***, Project 88, Mumbai

A speculative journey into different forms of transitional morphology; plant, insect and animal, comprising new videos, prints and drawings. Borrowing a phrase from the sci-fi author Jeff Vandermeer, the show examined what might happen if the natural world existed in a state of constant camouflage.

2016

### ***Speculations from the Field***, Bhau Daji Lad Museum, Mumbai

An exploration of the 'field' both as a series of physical sites – skies, sea forts, observatories, telescopes – but also the Museum, as a site, both of collection and a form of collective perception.

### ***Archaeologies of the Future***, Vis-a-Vis, New Delhi

A collection of experiments and observations, constructed by observing, recording, fictionalizing, and imagining objects and spaces that exist at the interface between remote past and possible future, utopia and dystopia, the human and non-human.

2013

### ***Deep Time***, Project 88, Mumbai & Khoj Studios, Delhi

Deep Time is part of an ongoing project that looks to map common points between astronomy and art practice, through the lens of metaphor.

2011

### ***Permutation***, Nature Morte, Delhi with Project 88, Mumbai

Playing with organic boundaries and imaginary microcosms, *Permutation*, is constructed of distinct yet related motifs or episodes, with each episode exploring the way generative and morphological relationships can be explored via video feedback and recursion.

2009

### ***BREED***, Project 88, Mumbai.

## CONTACT

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## EDUCATION

2003-04

**M.A. Fine Art Printmaking**,  
Winchester School of Art, UK

1997-01

**BFA Painting**  
College of Art, New Delhi

## RESIDENCIES / FELLOWSHIPS

2022

Research Residency, Pro Helvetia

2021-22

*Artist in Residence* at the Open Data Institute (ODI), London

2019

*Five Million Incidents*, 2019-2020 supported by Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan in collaboration with Raqs Media Collective

2018

*The Owners Cabin Residency*, 26 days on board an Oil Tanker from Fiji to Singapore

2016

Spencer Museum of Art, Kansas USA  
*Anthropocene Curriculum*: (HKW) Berlin

2015

*The Undivided Mind* KHOJ Art & Science Residency

2014

Fukuoka Asian Art Museum  
Below Another Sky- Glasgow Print Studio, Scotland

2013

Metal Culture, UK

2012

*Max Planck Institute for The History of Science*, Berlin

2010

SARAI City as Studio, Associate Fellowship Program, CSDS

2007

KHOJ International Arts & Science Residency, Delhi

## CURATORIAL / COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

2021

***Hungry for Time, An invitation to Epistemic Disobedience***: Curated by Raqs Media Collective at the Vienna Academy of Fine Art in collaboration with Pallavi Paul.

### ***Not an Imitation***, Project 88, Mumbai (Splice)

Project 88 launches its virtual gallery and its viewing room on March 11, 2021 with *Not an Imitation*, curated by Rohini Devasher and Pallavi Paul.

2020

### ***The Observatory***, collaboration with Legion Seven, Kaserne, Basel

Divided into three acts (observer, entity and the observatory), this performative essay suggests unlearning ways of seeing as a means to plot new constellations and explore how we observe time and ourselves within the solar system.

2019

***Conjunctions***: a Performative Essay, as part of *Five Million Incidents* 2019-2020 supported by Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan in collaboration with Raqs Media Collective.

## SELECTED GROUP SHOWS

**2022**

*In Search of Common Ground - Critical Zones*,  
Goethe Institut Mumbai with ZKM, Karlsruhe  
*One Hundred Thousand Suns*, Open Data Institute London  
*Shrine Room Projects*, Rubin Museum, New York

**2021**

*Non-Human Assemblages*, Sea Art Festival, Busan Biennale 2021  
*Hungry for Time*, Vienna Academy of Fine Art  
*To The Edge of Time*, Kunst Leuven City Festival.  
*Kinship: Belonging in a World of Relations*, Centre for Humans &  
Nature  
*Museum Without Walls*, British Council, Turkey

**2020**

*Climate Changed*, Nottingham Arts Mela  
*Phytopia*, Bangalore Science Gallery  
*Artist's Respond*, Spencer Museum of Art, Lawrence, USA

**2019**

*Heterotopic Planetarium*, Kaserne Basel  
*Leaving the Echo Chamber*, the 14th Sharjah Biennale  
*Deeper Within its Silence*, Devi Art Foundation, New Delhi

**2018**

*Days Without a Night*, Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan, New  
Delhi  
*In Open Or In Stealth*, Museum of Contemporary Art of  
Barcelona (MACBA), Spain.  
*BIG BOTANY*, Spencer Museum of Art, Lawrence, USA  
*Asymmetrical Objects*, Dr. Bhau Daji Lad City Museum,  
Mumbai

**2017**

*Clouds ⇌ Forests*, the 7th Moscow Biennale

**2016**

*Temporal Turn: Art and Speculation in Contemporary Asia*,  
Spencer Museum of Art, USA  
*Encounters and Each Passing Day*, KNMA, India  
*Colomboscope: TESTING GROUNDS: Art and Digital*  
*Cultures in South Asia and Europe*, Colombo  
*CODE\_n - The Global Innovation Ecosystem*,  
ZKM | Center for Art and Media, Karlsruhe, Germany  
*Artists' Film International*,  
Museum of Art, Architecture and Technology (MAAT), Lisbon  
*New Sensorium - Exit of Failure of Modernism*,  
ZKM | Center for Art and Media, Karlsruhe, Germany  
*Artists' Film International: Rachel Maclean and Rohini*  
*Devasher*, Whitechapel Gallery, London (UK)  
*Observations*,  
Art Science Screenings, Art Science Museum, Singapore  
*The Missing One*,  
curated by Nada Raza, Dhaka Art Summit 2016

**Observing Observation**, A curated night sky observation, at the Sagar School Observatory in collaboration with Amateur Astronomer Ajay Talwar. Part of Five Million Incidents 2019-2020 supported by Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan in collaboration with Raqs Media Collective.

## CURRENT PROJECTS

**2021-2022**

**'The Observatory: Second Site'**

supported by Pro Helvetia Delhi & Khoj Studios

An extension of the collaboration between Devasher and Legion Seven. By transforming the ordinarily immobile observatory into a peripatetic entity, this excursion into cosmological bodies and our relationships to them investigates how questions of time, scale, perception and resolution shift with the virtual interface.

**2022 (ongoing)**

**Cove Park Fully Funded Artist-in-residence programme 2022-23.**

As part of the all woman [City as a Spaceship](#) collective, this 3 week research project at Cove park explored the political, social and ecological aspects of water including the oceans and boundary conditions of sites such as Loch Long where sea water and fresh water exchange. Our focus with this project lies on water being an inhabitable environment for both water creatures and humans.

## RECENT CONFERENCES / SYMPOSIA

**2023**

**Space Science in Context funded by the Royal Astronomical Society.**- A week-long conference that centres equity, access and community building in multidisciplinary space science research.

**2022**

**Open Data Institute Summit Conference**

"What's art got to do with it? Data as a cultural force"

**Global Periphery: Leonardo/Olats,**

a symposium and performance exploring contemporary imaginaries of outer space through examples of artistic creations and of space activities with voices from multiple continents and locations.

**2021**

**Borrowed Light: A Speculative Poetics of Astronomy**

**Theoretical Explorations Module taught by Rohini Devasher with BICAR (Bombay Institute for Critical Analysis and Research)**

Exploring what the reading of categories of observation, the amateur, object and site, as understood within the context of the amateur astronomy community, might open up for how we observe time and ourselves within the solar system.

**Data, Art and Living Systems - V&A, London**

As part of Digital Design Weekend a panel discussion with artists using technology and data to strengthen our connection to the natural world and our understanding of climate change challenges.

**Strange-ing: Between Horror, the Uncanny and Wonder: Warehouse 421**

Part of Future Perfect: Catastrophe and the Contemporary Colloquium. The colloquium is part of Warehouse421 Curatorial Development Exhibition Program, in partnership with (BICAR).