

HAUSER & WIRTH

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Press Release

Subodh Gupta What does the vessel contain, that the river does not

Hauser & Wirth London, Savile Row, North Gallery

18 May – 27 July 2013

Opening: Friday 17 May 6 – 8 pm



**What does the vat contain that is not in the river?
What does the room encompass that is not in the city?
This world is the vat, and the heart the running stream,
this world the room, and the heart the city of wonders.**

**Jalāl ad-Dīn Muhammad Rūmī
Excerpt from 'The Sufi Path of Love'**

Following its critically-acclaimed presentation at the Kochi-Muziris Biennale, Subodh Gupta's sculpture 'What does the vessel contain, that the river does not' will be on view for the first time outside India at Hauser & Wirth's Savile Row gallery. Through his use of found, commonplace objects, the New Delhi-based artist explores cultural dislocation prevalent in an era of shifting powers, as well as personal histories. 'What does the vessel contain, that the river does not' evokes the conflicting feelings of belonging and displacement, movement and stability, and explores the liminal space between these states of being.

Inspired by the work of the 13th century Persian poet, Jalāl ad-Dīn Muhammad Rūmī, 'What does the vessel contain, that the river does not' is a traditional fishing boat from Kerala, India that measures over 20 metres and straddles the entire stretch of the gallery. The boat is filled from bow to stern with chairs, beds, window frames, fishing nets, plastic jars, cans, an old radio, cooking pots and pans, suitcases and a bicycle.

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The ancient Sufi philosophy embedded in Rūmī's poetry speaks eloquently about the idea of the microcosm – the containing of an entire universe within the human soul. With this large-scale work, Gupta too creates a microcosm containing one person's entire existence, bundled together and crammed into a vessel which appears as if it is about to set sail. For the artist, this boat ceases to be just a simple mode of transportation, but has evolved into an extension of the greater paradigm of survival, sustenance and livelihood.

Subodh Gupta was born in 1964 in Khagaul, India and now lives and works in New Delhi. Gupta's works are featured in major international private and institutional collections and he has been the focus of numerous shows worldwide. Recent solo exhibitions include 'Line of Control', Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, New Delhi, India (2012); Sara Hildén Art Museum, Tampere, Finland (2011); 'A glass of water', Hauser & Wirth New York NY (2011); 'Et tu, Duchamp?', KÖR am Kunsthalle Wien project space Karlsplatz, Vienna, Austria (2011); 'Take off your shoes and wash your hands', Tramway, Glasgow, Scotland (2010); and 'Subodh Gupta. Faith Matters', Pinchuk Art Centre, Kiev, Ukraine (2010). 'Spirit Eaters' is currently on view at Kunstmuseum Thun in Switzerland until 28 April 2013. Gupta's works will be included in the group exhibition 'Trade Routes' at Hauser & Wirth's Piccadilly gallery from 3 May to 27 July 2013 and he will present a solo exhibition at CAC Centro de Arte Contemporáneo, Malaga, Spain in July 2013. A major survey show of Gupta's works will open at the National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi, India in January 2014.

Forthcoming exhibitions:

'Trade Routes'
Hauser & Wirth London, Piccadilly
3 May – 27 July 2013

Takesada Matsutani
'A Matrix'
Hauser & Wirth London, Savile Row
18 May – 27 July 2013

Onnasch Collection
20 September – 2 November 2013
Hauser & Wirth London, Piccadilly and Savile Row

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Subodh Gupta
What does the vessel contain, that the river does not
2012
Mixed media
Approx. 21.35 x 3.15 m / 840.5 x 124 in
Installation view, Kochi-Muziris Biennale, Kochi, India,
2013
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