

STREET LEVEL PHOTOWORKS

ARPITA SHAH: *NALINI*

09 FEBRUARY - 07 APRIL

Arpita Shah's *Nalini* is an ongoing photographic series that focuses on her mother, her grandmother and herself. It explores the ancestral intimacies across space and time, and how their histories, memories and bodies are intertwined.

"My grandmother was born in India but grew up in Africa for 12 years before moving back to India. My mother and I were also born in India and have lived in multiple other countries before settling in the U.K. Although I visit my grandmother every couple of years in India, I have realised how little I really know about what she was like as a young woman, her memories, experiences and what her relationships were like with her own mother and her daughter."

Developed across India, Kenya and UK, *Nalini* is a personal journey for Arpita, which has allowed her to reconnect with the past through her maternal lineage. The process includes discoveries of old forgotten family photographs, shared and individual memories of objects, places, and family stories. The portraiture process itself also physically connects Arpita to her mother and grandmother allowing her to visually explore how connected their lives really are.

Arpita Shah (b. 1983, Ahmedabad, India) is an artist based in Edinburgh, Scotland. She works between photography and film, exploring the fields where culture, heritage and identity meet. She graduated from Napier University in Edinburgh in 2006. Her work has been exhibited internationally, including at the Detroit Center of Contemporary Photography (2013); Tramway in Glasgow (2014); Focus Festival in Mumbai, India (2015); Chobi Mela IX in Dhaka, Bangladesh (2017); and Autograph APB in London (2018). She is the recipient of the 2019 Light Work + Autograph ABP Artist-in-Residence programme which she will undertake in September 2019 to develop her series *Nalini* into a photobook.

Arpita undertook a residency at Street Level in 2011/12 from which she produced the series 'Nymphaeaceae', premiered in 2012, and the series 'Dear Green Place' shown recently on The Travelling Gallery (2018) and as part of an exchange with Photofusion, London in February 2019; her series 'Portrait of Home' a Festival 2014 commission was shown at Trongate 103 and as part of Street Level's 'Commonwealth Family Album' in public sites during the Commonwealth Games in 2014, then touring to a number of community venues in Glasgow.

Nalini has been made possible with support from Creative Scotland and Hope Scott Trust.



www.streetlevelphotoworks.org
www.photo-networks.scot

