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CHITRA GANESH: *PROTEST FANTASIES*
SECOND SOLO EXHIBITION AT GALLERY WENDI NORRIS OPENS SEPTEMBER 10

Opening Reception: Thursday, September 10, 6–8PM at GWN
Discussion with Chitra Ganesh and Wendi Norris: Saturday, September 12, 2–3PM at YBCA



Pussy Riot, 2015

August 14, 2015 – San Francisco, CA – Gallery Wendi Norris is pleased to present *Protest Fantasies*, its second solo exhibition with Brooklyn-based gallery artist Chitra Ganesh, featuring a series of new mixed media works on canvas. The exhibition will open on Thursday, September 10 with a public reception from 6–8PM, and will be on view through October 31.

In *Protest Fantasies*, Chitra Ganesh continues to address issues that are central to her practice, including mythologies, gender and sexuality politics, and the fantastical possibilities of bodies in excess. This new body of work features richly painted canvases that build upon the mixed media works on paper for which the artist is known. Here, Ganesh enhances the vivid hues and color saturation characteristic of her digital collages by integrating sculptural materials in these paintings and drawings, as in her large-scale wall installations. The works, which range from groupings of small works to large individual pieces, feature areas of saturated color overlaid with three-dimensional ephemera, including fake fur, silk flower petals, sequins, plastic snakes, gold chains, broken glass, hair extensions, and peacock feathers, among other materials. The works in *Protest Fantasies* act as poetic meditations on images of protest, aligning them with performative actions in contemporary cultures across the globe.

Ganesh says, “The themes I’m focused on in this new series range from widespread demonstrations against police violence in the United States, to protesting land grabs and mining of ancestral forests, to commemorating garment workers’ rights in South Asia, to honoring the Russian punk activists Pussy Riot. This series explores the connections, aesthetic and political, that these moments of resistance share.”

The works in *Protest Fantasies* weave together the incisive and elegant quality of Ganesh’s line-work with florid brushstrokes and rich hues, recalling elements of Surrealism, German Expressionism, Modernism, and a variety of contemporary visual cultures, while invoking themes drawn from contemporary science-fiction literature. The integration of traditional and established painting practices with the artist’s unique visual iconographies and assemblages produce a complex materiality in these works. Ganesh’s subjects confront the viewer with their gazes, acting as radiant agents of their own present and future, emerging as powerful allegories of politics, performance and fantasy.

On Saturday, September 12 at 2PM, join Chitra Ganesh and Wendi Norris at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco for a conversation about Ganesh’s work in *Protest Fantasies* and in *Radical Presence* at the YBCA. Ganesh will speak about visual intersections between performance and protest as she shares the inspirations and source imagery for her work. The discussion will activate artist Theaster Gates’s *See, Sit, Sup, Sing: Holding Court*, an interactive art piece created from furniture salvaged from a public school on Chicago’s South Side. Much like a classroom, it is designed as an experience for learning that is created by the people assembled in and around it.

ABOUT CHITRA GANESH

Chitra Ganesh was born in Brooklyn, New York, where she currently lives and works. She graduated from Brown University in 1996 with a BA in Comparative Literature and Art Semiotics. In 2001 Ganesh attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, and received her MFA from Columbia University in 2002. Her work as been has been widely exhibited in the United States and internationally at venues including: the Brooklyn Museum of Art, New York; PS1/MoMA, New York; the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; the Asia Society, New York; the Queens Museum of Art, New York; the Baltimore Museum of Art; ZKM Center for Art and Media, Karlsruhe; Fondazione Sandretto re Rebaudengo, Turin; the Saatchi Museum, London; MOCA Shanghai; Göteborgs Konsthall, Gothenburg; the Gwangju Contemporary Arts Centre; the Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston; The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh; Arthotek Kunstverein Göttingen; the Prince of Wales Museum, Mumbai; Instituto Valenciano de Arte Moderno, Valencia; the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco; the Berkeley Art Museum; and the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego. Ganesh is the recipient of numerous fellowships, and awards, including grants from the New York Foundation for the Arts, Printed Matter, and the Art Matters Foundation; the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship in the Creative Arts; the Lower East Side Printshop Special Editions Residency, and the Joan Mitchell Foundation Award for Painters and Sculptors. Ganesh’s work across media seeks to excavate buried narratives typically absent from official canons of history, literature, and art.

ABOUT GALLERY WENDI NORRIS

Gallery Wendi Norris presents both a Contemporary and Modern program that showcases a variety of artists working over many geographic locations and in a wide array of media. The gallery, located in downtown San Francisco, often shows two exhibitions simultaneously in order to encourage a re-contextualization of work by Modern artists while providing connections with the Contemporary. Gallery Wendi Norris is active locally as well as internationally, working with individual collectors and museums alike in both primary and secondary markets. Founded with an emphasis on scholarship and education, the gallery produces researched exhibition catalogues, sponsors artist talks, hosts visiting academics, and engages in local public art projects, among other initiatives. Learn more at gallerywendinorris.com.