

GALLERY
WENDI NORRIS

PRESS RELEASE

Gallery Wendi Norris is pleased to present

Three Fates | Ambreen Butt, Chitra Ganesh, Eva Schlegel

January 13 - January 30, 2022

Fort Mason Pier 2

2 Marina Blvd, San Francisco, CA, 94123

Exhibition Hours: Thursday - Sunday, 12 - 6pm or by appointment



Chitra Ganesh, *Multiverse Dreaming: Urgency*, 2020,
Lightjet print on archival paper, 66 ¼ x 45 x inches
(168.3 cm x 114.3)

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San Francisco, CA. Gallery Wendi Norris is pleased to present *Three Fates*, featuring works by artists Ambreen Butt, Chitra Ganesh, and Eva Schlegel at Fort Mason Center Pier 2 in San Francisco. *Three Fates* will be the seventh exhibition in the gallery's innovative offsite exhibition model.

In ancient cultures across the globe, Fate was understood as a cosmic force that existed beyond the control of human activity. For the Greeks, it was personified by three women so powerful that even the Olympian deities were subject to their decisions. Clotho (from whose name the English word "cloth" is derived) would spin the thread of an individual's life. Lachesis would measure and allot it; finally Atropos—the inflexible one, the oldest of the three—would cut it, thus determining the moment of death.

As we reflect on the past year and prepare to enter a new one, beset by global powers so vast (political, medical, economic, climatological) as to feel impersonal in their reach, Gallery Wendi Norris presents the work of three artists whose diverse experience and work examine, reflect, and reckon with the vexing problems and delightful possibilities that Fate provides. *Three Fates* is an opportunity to reconsider in the present moment the primeval concept of Fate, as well as the role it may (or may not) play in our individual and collective lives.



Ambreen Butt, *I am my lost diamond 2*, Resin casted digits on plexiglass, 9 x 12 ft (274.32 x 365.76 cm)

Imbuing the sacred tradition of miniature painting with contemporary concerns and practices that involve sewing, cutting, weaving, and etching, Ambreen Butt (Pakistan, b. 1969, Dallas-based) gathers memories, experiences, and accounts of lives passed into her works on paper and installations. *Three Fates* includes new collages from her *Say My Name* series. Created as a means to explore the relationship between power and vulnerability and to pay homage to innocent lives lost, each artwork incorporates the name and age of a single Afghan or Pakistani child or woman killed in U.S. drone strikes. Butt stains paper in tea, then separately and repeatedly writes or prints out the person's name, shreds it into pieces, and arranges and glues the

shredded fragments to her tea-stained paper in dense, swirling patterns. This process, undertaken

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with repetitive and transformational urgency, reconsiders the ripping, tearing action of a drone strike in order to elevate the names of its victims into shapes of exquisite grace and enduring strength. *Three Fates* also includes *I am my lost diamond 2*, a 9' x 12' floor-based installation of resin-cast digits on plexiglass that was inspired by a friend's story of narrowly escaping a suicide bombing in a bazaar near Lahore.

Elaborating with humor and conviction a mythological multiverse of her own invention, Chitra Ganesh (New York, b. 1975, Brooklyn-based) meditates on themes of reflection and regeneration in times of uncertainty. Her practice considers the power of collective dreams, collective consciousness, and universally held archetypes that are both primordial and future-facing. *Three Fates* features *Multiverse Dreaming*, a new suite of twelve digital prints that were recently on view at the Bronx Museum's *Born in Flames: Feminist Futures*, as well as *The Scorpion Gesture*, a series of five animated videos commissioned by the Rubin Museum New York that include accompanying sound scores by Chitra Ganesh. *The Scorpion Gesture* will screen daily in Pier 2's Grey Box, which was specifically designed for film and video productions. All five videos use the figures of Padmasambhava, known as the Second Buddha, and Maitreya, the Future Buddha, as points of departure. The animation works build on Ganesh's long-standing investigation of mythology, iconographies, and pictorial traditions across geography and time to explore alternative narratives and possible futures.



Eva Schlegel's (Austria, b. 1960, Vienna-based) installations explore cosmic and human time. They imagine a defiance of the body's physical limitations and revolve around the viewers' movements in time and space. Her photographic portraits represent intimate transitions between a subject's presence and absence, captured by Schlegel's practice of removing or blurring details and deliberately shooting images out-of-focus. *Three Fates* will include a sculpture nearly nine feet in diameter, suspended from Pier 2's two-story ceiling, composed of nine circular mirror elements joined to each other.

With the ethereal vision and unflinching courage of these artists as a guide, *Three Fates* invites viewers to look with equanimity and wonder at the implacable forces that spin, measure, and bring our life and time to its ultimate conclusion.

Eva Schlegel, *Untitled (295a)*, 2020, Lambda print, 47.2 x 39.4 in (120 x 100cm)

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About the Artists

Ambreen Butt (b. 1969 Lahore, Pakistan; lives Southlake, Texas) received her BFA in traditional Indian and Persian miniature painting from the National College of Arts in Lahore, Pakistan. She earned her MFA in painting in 1997 from the Massachusetts College of Art and Design in Boston. Butt's work has been featured in solo exhibitions at institutions including the Dallas Contemporary, TX; Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA; Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston, MA; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, DC; Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, MA; among others.

Chitra Ganesh (New York, b. 1975, lives in Brooklyn, New York) 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, the Joan Mitchell Foundation Award for Painters and Sculptors, and is the 2017-2018 recipient of the distinguished Hodder Fellowship from the Lewis Center for the Arts at Princeton University. Ganesh's work is represented in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Whitney Museum of American Art; The Brooklyn Museum; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; San Jose Museum of Art; The Art Institute of Chicago; The Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts; The Ford Foundation; the Devi Art Foundation; Kiran Nadar Museum; the Saatchi Collection; Burger Collection; Deutsche Bank, among others. Her work has been featured in publications, including The New York Times, Artforum, Hyperallergic, ArtNews, ArtNet News, Vogue India, Elle India, Harper's Bazaar India, San Francisco Chronicle, Art Asia Pacific, among others. Ganesh graduated from Brown University with a BA in Comparative Literature and Art-Semiotics; she earned her MFA from Columbia University.

Since 1995, **Eva Schlegel** (Austria, b. 1960, lives in Vienna) has completed numerous public art projects in Austria and abroad and is collected by over 40 major institutions including the Albertina Collection, Vienna, Austria, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL, Museum of Modern Art, Vienna, Austria, Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, FL, Ferdinandeum, Innsbruck, Austria, New York Public Library, New York, NY, TEUTLOFF PHOTO + VIDEO COLLECTION, Bielefeld, Germany and Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Schlegel's work has been the subject of numerous solo and group exhibitions throughout the world including at the Austrian Pavilion, Venice Biennale, in cooperation with Coop Himmelb(l)au, Venice, Italy; Sydney Biennale, Australia; the New Museum of Contemporary Art, New

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York, NY; Kochi-Muziris Biennale, Kochi, India; Holbaek Art Festival, Holbaek, Denmark; Museum of Natural History, Vienna, Austria; Höhenrausch 16, OK Centrum, Linz, Austria; Galerie 422, Gmunden, Austria; Winterpalais, Vienna, Austria; Photobiennale, Ekaterina Foundation, Multimedia Art Museum Moscow, Russia; Salz Festival, Salzburg, Austria; Museum for Applied Arts, Vienna, Austria; China International Gallery Exhibition, Beijing, China; Galerie CUC, Berlin, Germany; Museum Ostwall, Dortmund, Germany; Mak Center for Art and Architecture, Los Angeles, CA; and at the Galerie im Taxispalais, Innsbruck, Austria.

About Gallery Wendi Norris

From its global headquarters in San Francisco, Gallery Wendi Norris represents Modern and Contemporary artists working in a variety of media around the world. The gallery specializes in re-contextualizing the work of Modern artists while providing connections to contemporary art, artists, and culture. Active on both the local and international stages, Gallery Wendi Norris mounts exhibitions where they are most relevant, and also works with individual collectors and museums in both the primary and secondary markets. Founded with an emphasis on scholarship and education, the gallery produces highly researched exhibitions and catalogs, sponsors artist talks, hosts visiting academics, and engages in public art projects.