

New Delhi, New Wave



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The recent Bollywood craze in the West might get more exposure, but Contemporary Indian artists aren't far behind. New Delhi/New Wave is the best introduction to date to the work of established and emerging Indian artists--many of whom are dealing with the theme of women in fresh ways. Pushpamala N., for example, makes Cindy Sherman-esque portraits of herself as Indian female icons, from religious leaders to Bollywood actresses, while Anita Dube combines installation, photography, collage and video to explore Hindu iconography and tradition through a Feminist lens. Subodh Gupta, one of the best-known Indian artists on the international scene, uses quotidian objects to explore identity. At last summer's Venice Biennale, Gupta caused a

sensation with "A Very Hungry God" (2006), a 2000-pound skull crafted from shiny silver pots and pans, which he installed on a floating base in the Grand Canal. Shila Gupta, born in 1976, one of the youngest artists surveyed here, represents Delhi's newest wave. She has created a series of interactive works on the web (www.blessed-bandwidth.net) where visitors are invited to choose a religion so that they may receive a blessing. Other artists introduced in this volume are Bala Subramaniam, Sonia Khurana, Thukral & Tagra, Baba Anand, Bharti Kher and Krinaraj Chonat.

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