

PRESS RELEASE: Art Inspired by Dark Matter by Local Artist, Sardul Gill

The cosmos, unpredictability of nature and spirituality are a few of the starting points integral to Nottingham-based artist, Sardul Gill, in his new exhibition *Dark Matter* launching at New Art Exchange (NAE) this September. Large-scale monochrome abstract paintings are a result of natural instincts and chance encounters with subject matter and materials, thereby producing extraordinary visions of nature in all its chaos and complexity.

Since travelling from rural India to Nairobi, Kenya, Sardul Gill made Nottingham his home in the 1970's where he has remained a key figure in the local art community. While lecturing Art & Design at South Nottingham College he continued to learn a lot about his own art practice through imaginative interaction with his students. During this period he also obtained an MA in Fine Art at Nottingham Trent Polytechnic. He supported the development of the Black Arts Movement through his work at Art Exchange, NAE's predecessor, and in 2012 Gill won the *New Art Exchange Award* at the Nottingham Castle Open, which inspired the exhibition of newly created work. Exhibition Curator, Armindokht Shooshtari, describes the significance of displaying Gill's work at New Art Exchange.

It is an honour to have worked with Sardul Gill on his new solo exhibition Dark Matter. The exhibition intends to encapsulate Gill's core interests developed over more than thirty years of practice as an artist/lecturer and highlights his ability to engage as well as experiment with a wide variety of tools and media, resulting in a very diverse body of work.

Sardul Gill's solo-exhibition at New Art Exchange presents a series of paintings, prints and a floor installation in a monochrome palette, reflecting his fascination with dark matter and workings of nature. The artist explains:

These black and white paintings go beyond Earth to the cosmic landscape where there are no horizon lines, just events taking place. Although I take some starting point from reality here and beyond, my intention is always to move it towards abstraction without losing the essence of its conceptual base.

For Gill, the act of creating art is a process of experimentation and discovery. Instead of specialist supplies, the artist favours unconventional tools and materials: printing rollers, palate knives, sticks, bitumastic adhesive, inks, solvents and found objects. Accidents, coincidences and intuition guide

the creative process, without the loss of control over the eventual outcome. The power of gravity controls the random pattern of drips, and artworks left in the open air possess nature's unplanned marks. Like natural evolution or endlessly re-evaluated scientific theories, Gill's artworks are in a constant state of being reworked and continuously changing.

Gill regards the process of artistic creation as a form of inner self-discovery beyond the physical reality of the work, an interest which Gill believes was influenced by his Indian upbringing and the Romanticism of British landscape art.

Event Details

What: Sardul Gill: Dark Matter

When: Tuesday 17 September – Sunday 2 November

Where: New Art Exchange, Gregory Boulevard, Nottingham, NG7 6BE

Launch event: Tuesday 16 September

4.45pm – 5.30pm: Q&A with Sardul Gill

5.30pm – 8pm: Exhibition launch serving complimentary refreshments (?)

Notes to Editor:

For more information or to organise interviews please contact Communications and Marketing Officer, Laura-Jade Klée, on 0115 924 8630.

Images are available by following the Dropbox link...

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/myt0rzzmru1at67/AACO_NXqLhwP6J3J6MnnQDVwa?dl=0

About New Art Exchange

New Art Exchange is a contemporary art gallery committed to stimulating new perspectives on the value of diversity within art and society. A RIBA award winning building, New Art Exchange is the largest space in the UK outside of London dedicated to culturally diverse contemporary visual arts, and is rooted in the community with a strong history of working with minority communities.

NAE presents major international exhibitions, launching the British Art Show in 2010, and every season presents work from the highest quality, world-renowned artists. NAE partners locally, nationally and internationally, connecting audiences and artists from all over the world with new and innovative collaborations and opportunities.

NAE's mission is to raise the impact, profile and development of culturally diverse contemporary visual arts and artists in a global context by:

- Nurturing and promoting creative talent locally and world-wide
- Creating thriving creative businesses
- Engaging minority ethnic communities as audiences and patrons of art