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Nalini

Arpita Shah

17 January to 28 March 2020

Spanning India, East Africa and the UK, *Nalini* is a personal journey exploring the connected histories of Arpita Shah's mother, her grandmother and herself.

Through forgotten family photographs and heirloom objects alongside contemporary portraits and still lives, Shah reconnects with the past and explores how migration, distance and loss has shaped her heritage. The artist was born in India, grew up in Saudi Arabia and Ireland, and now lives in Scotland.

The exhibition is titled after Shah's grandmother, Nalini, a name that comes from the ancient Sanskrit word meaning 'lotus'. Floral motifs are a recurrent feature in Shah's work and this iconic plant symbolises purity, femininity and fertility in Hindu culture.

Arpita Shah says, "*Nalini* explores the intimacy, distance and tensions between the generations of women in my family. I hope that viewers, whatever their background

and wherever they come from, will find parallels with their own family story.”

To find out more, pick up an exhibition guide, browse our reading area or watch the *Meet the Artist* film in the foyer opposite the Welcome Desk. You can also come along to Arpita Shah’s Artist Talk on Saturday 22 February, 1.00pm to 2.00pm. Free event, donations welcome, booking advised at the Welcome Desk.

A Street Level Photoworks touring exhibition supported by Creative Scotland and Hope Scott Trust.

Arpita Shah (b. 1983, Ahmedabad, India) is a photographic artist based in Edinburgh, Scotland. She works between photography and film, exploring the fields where culture 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); Autograph APB in London (2018) and Street Level Photoworks in Glasgow (2019). She is the recipient of the 2019 Light Work + Autograph ABP Artist-in-Residence programme in Syracuse NY and her work is held at the National Galleries of Scotland.

www.arpitashah.com



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