

GAURI GUPTA

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ARTIST STATEMENT

My practice is about matter and memory, reality and abstraction, centring the photographic image as a device to explore the subjectivity central to the human experience of life. This conceptual framework allows me to understand space, time, and people independently and as parts of a larger whole. By interpreting the interactions between elements and contextualizing my own subjectivity in relation to them, I give form to *Jivanam: Life in the City*. A cartographic assemblage of India's urban intimacy; revealing the life of the city and life in the city.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

March 2024 *Winner*, The New York Times "Where We Are" Photo Essay Contest (~0.16%)
June 2023 *Finalist*, Canon Young Champion of the Year
May 2022 *Winner*, The New York Times Student Profile Contest (~0.5%)
2023 Conferred with the *Angel of Mumbai* title, issued by Free Press Journal

EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 Solo Exhibition, *Jaipur Art Week*, Jaipur, Rajasthan
- Featured as the youngest artist at Jaipur Art Week, a leading public art festival exploring contemporary art
 - Exhibited 15 works from *Jivanam*, integrating tactile, Braille, and touch-based elements to make visual art accessible to the visually impaired
 - Recognised by [The Statesman](#) for redefining the intersections of art and accessibility
- 2023 Solo Exhibition, *Jehangir Art Gallery*, Mumbai, Maharashtra
- First high school artist to exhibit at Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai's premier public art institution, drawing over 35,000 visitors during the week-long show
 - Sold 11 pieces (40 pieces exhibited from *Jivanam*) and initiated a policy reform enabling future student exhibitions at the gallery
 - Featured in the [Mid-Day newspaper](#)
- 2023 Group Exhibition, *DOCUMENTA XVI*, Saffron Art Gallery, Mumbai, Maharashtra
- 2022 Group Exhibition, *City for All?* (Indo-French Public Art Project), India and Lyon, France
- Selected by the Municipality of Lyon for decade-long public display at the Hôtel de Ville, Paris
 - Exhibited 10 works photographic works from *Jivanam* exploring gendered experiences of urban space; showcased in 6 cities across India and France

PUBLICATIONS

Gauri Gupta, "I Am Free: Hip-Hop and the Power of Resistance in Dharavi," *The New York Times*, March 27, 2025.

- [Documented](#) how youth in Mumbai's largest informal settlement use hip-hop as a language of cultural agency, resistance, and identity formation.

Gauri Gupta, "Street Market Sweets," *The New York Times*, May 31, 2022.

- [Profiled](#) the struggles of intergenerational labour and lived realities of traditional street vendors in Delhi's busiest market, during the 2020 pandemic.

"Zikr (Lyrics): The Bustling Brocades of Bombay." *Project Noon*, September 11, 2024.

- Contributor: Gauri Gupta. Provided research and visual-literary insights for a poetic reflection on Bombay's Islamic heritage, urban rhythms, theology, and interfaith cosmopolitanism, authored by Dr. Ankur Barua, Senior Lecturer, University of Cambridge.

RELATED EXPERIENCES

- 2025 *Field Research and Documentation*, Kumbh Mela Hindu Religious Pilgrimage, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh
- Documented the sonic/spiritual landscape of the Kumbh Mela through 50+ interviews and field recordings with saints and pilgrims
 - Developed Sounds of Kumbh, an immersive and participatory audio archive featuring contributions from 15 pilgrims recording their own soundscapes of faith through Vedic chants, songs etc.

2024-Present *Research Intern*, The City Palace, Jaipur, Rajasthan

- Reorganised Arms and Armoury Gallery to enhance visitor experience
- Worked under curator and conservator Anjali Jain to conduct non-invasive pigment analysis on Devi Mahatmya manuscripts (40 folios) using crystallographic techniques, microscopy, multispectral imaging, reflectance spectroscopy, and X-ray fluorescence (XRF)
- Traced provenances of South Asian colorants and evidencing indigenous colorant systems that challenge Eurocentric narratives of pigment exchange

2021-Present *Project Manager*, Art Ki Pathshala, Mumbai, India

- Building social emotional learning competencies through arts education in 50 low-income government schools, distributed 5,000 art kits, boosted attendance by 46%; trained 50 facilitators; conducted workshops for 45 children with incarcerated mothers
- Partnered with Project Kalakar to integrate performing arts and filmmaking programs for first-generation learners in Jaipur, supporting a 20-day residency under international mentors and national showcases at the Rajasthan International Centre and Udaipur
- Currently curating our [1st virtual exhibition](#)

2022-Present *Community and Oral Historian*, The People's Collectives, India

- Curated India's 1st Virtual Untouchability Museum featuring 56 caste-violence artefacts to document lived realities/atrocities including pots, pans, broomsticks etc.

8th November, 2024 *Participant*, Columbia University Symposium, Redacted Poetry Session, Online

- Organised an online redacted poetry workshop between Columbia Symposium Fellows and 20 Neerja Modi School students exploring redacted poetry as a form of found text art
- Worked to redact sections from Dante's Inferno to create entirely new poems