



California Museum of Photography
Sweeney Art Gallery
Culver Center of the Arts
University of California, Riverside

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

California Museum of Photography at UCR ARTSblock presents

Archana Vikram

The Unwelcome

March 25–June 24, 2017

The California Museum of Photography presents *FLASH: Archana Vikram*, featuring *Smothered* (2016), a new photograph by the Bangalore-based artist from her series “The Unwelcome” (2014–16). The project responds to the lingering, though illegal, practice of female infanticide in India. The deliberate killing of girl infants results in imbalanced populations, and also reinforces a patriarchal preference for the economic and cultural value of male children. Composing still life arrangements that allude to methods of infanticide, Vikram’s photographs picture crushed, water-submerged, and burned flowers.

Art historian Kelly Filreis guest authors an original essay to accompany the exhibition.

Archana Vikram (born in 1971 in Mumbai, India) is a fine art and architectural photographer based in Bangalore, India. In 2012 her work was featured in a solo exhibition entitled *Sounds of Silence* at Alliance française de Bangalore, and has been included in exhibitions at the Soulcatcher Studio, Santa Fe; Fotoloft Gallery, Moscow; and as part of the 2016 International Biennial of Fine Art and Documentary Photography, Berlin, among elsewhere. She won a Moscow Foto Award in the Abstract category, 2015; received honorable mention from the International Photography Awards, 2015; and was a finalist for Photolucida’s Critical Mass award, 2014, among other professional distinctions. Vikram studied at the Spéos Paris École de Photographie in 2013, earned her Master of Management Studies degree in Marketing at the K. J. Somaiya Institute of Management Studies and Research, Mumbai, in 1994, and earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Microbiology at Ruia College, Mumbai, in 1992. *Flash: Archana Vikram* is the first solo museum presentation of her work.

Kelly Filreis is a scholar of modern and contemporary art, specializing in the manifold histories and theories of sculpture since 1960. She was the Spring 2016 Curatorial Intern at the CMP, and currently holds the position of 2016–17 McDermott Graduate Intern for Contemporary Art at the Dallas Museum of Art. During the summers of 2011 and 2012, she co-organized the “Art of This: One Nighter Series,” two-month long programs of exhibitions, film screenings, and performances held in vacant storefronts in Minneapolis. She earned her MA in the History of Art at UCR in 2016, writing on the role of photography and site in Lynda Benglis’s 1971 poured polyurethane installations, and her BFA at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design in 2011.

Flash! contemporary art series features single works made within the last year. The series is organized by Joanna Szupinska-Myers, CMP Curator of Exhibitions, at the California Museum of Photography at UCR ARTSblock. *FLASH: Archana Vikram* is the fifteenth exhibition in the series.

VISITOR INFORMATION AND PRESS INQUIRIES

UCR ARTSblock is located at 3824 & 3834 Main Steet, Riverside, CA 92501, and encompasses three venues: the California Museum of Photography, Culver Center of the Arts, and Sweeney Art Gallery. ARTSblock is open Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 5pm. Admission is \$3, and includes entry to all three venues. Galleries are open late 6–9pm and admission is free during First Thursday ArtWalks, which take place on the first Thursday of every month. Film screenings are held on Fridays and Saturdays in the Culver Theater.

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