

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"This Place, That Place..."
Presented by Mezze at the
Kumble Theater Gallery,
Long Island University
April 1st- through April 30th, 2009
Opening Reception: April 8th, 6-8pm
Mon.-Fri. 9am-9pm, Sat.-Sun., 10am-5pm
Directions: 2,3,4,5 to Nevins/ B, M, Q, R to
DeKalb/ A,C, G to Hoyt Schermerhorn



Mezze is proud to present "This Place, That Place...", a multi-media installation by Kiran Chandra and Nidhi Jalan. "This Place, That Place" opens April 1st at the Kumble Theater Gallery at Long Island University's downtown Brooklyn campus and will run through April 30th. The opening reception will be held on Wednesday, April 8th from 6pm – 8pm.

In "This Place, That Place..." Chandra and Jalan address the myriad meanings of place in the postmodern world. Using simple parentheses as visual interventions, Chandra explores the interplay between the meanings of words like "t(here)", and their existence on a visual level, in paintings and vinyl works adhered to the glass walls of the gallery. A duality between the "here" and "there" exists between the literal meanings of words and new meanings that can be created within or projected onto language. Chandra's video piece, "Re-member" made as a commentary on the events of 9/11, deals with text, language and the intervention of image into word via the use of the parenthesis. In "Words From Here and There", which will be screened at the opening reception, Chandra addresses the idea of movement and migration through images shot between the streets of North Kolkota and the area under the Brooklyn Bridge.

In her installation of ceramic anthropomorphic sculptures, Jalan contemplates the difference between the conscious mind's understanding of place, as a literal, geographic space, versus that of the unconscious mind in which there are no boundaries between the actual and fantasy. The two realms morph into and out of each other in an endless cycle of birth and rebirth. Are we ever able to leave or transcend our "places", our cultural, biological, intellectual "spaces"? Placed in an incomplete circular formation around the floor of the gallery, her half-human, half-animal creatures entice viewers to cross over spatial boundaries and their sense of "place".

Kiran Chandra was born in Kolkota, and has studied in New Delhi and Boston. Her work has been included in numerous group exhibitions in the U.S., India, and Europe. She

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was one of six artists chosen for the Women's Edge Award, a special program through which art works are selected and awarded to Members of Congress in Washington, D.C. Her works are held at the Boston Public Library and in private collections internationally. In 2009 Chandra will teach visual arts at Abu Dhabi Women's College and Dubai Women's College in the United Arab Emirates. Chandra currently divides her time between Kolkota and Brooklyn.

Nidhi Jalan has studied in Kolkota, New York, and Boston, and has shown at the Bodhi Art Gallery in Mumbai, at the Islip Museum of Art and Hunter College galleries in New York, and will be showing in London's Rossi and Rossi Gallery later in 2009. Her works were included in the publication "Working with Clay" by Susan and Jan Peterson (2009). Jalan currently holds a residency at Hunter College and will be a resident at the European Ceramic Work Centre, Hertogenbosch, Netherlands, later this year. She divides her time between Kolkota and Brooklyn.

Mezze was established in 2007 as a platform for contemporary Middle Eastern and Asian artists to exhibit their works primarily in New York City but also beyond. Mezze is committed to promoting the curation, collection and exhibiting of contemporary Middle Eastern and Asian art worldwide.