

SCOTTISH PAINTER OLIVIA FRASER MAKES HER NEW YORK DEBUT AT SUNDARAM TAGORE GALLERY CHELSEA

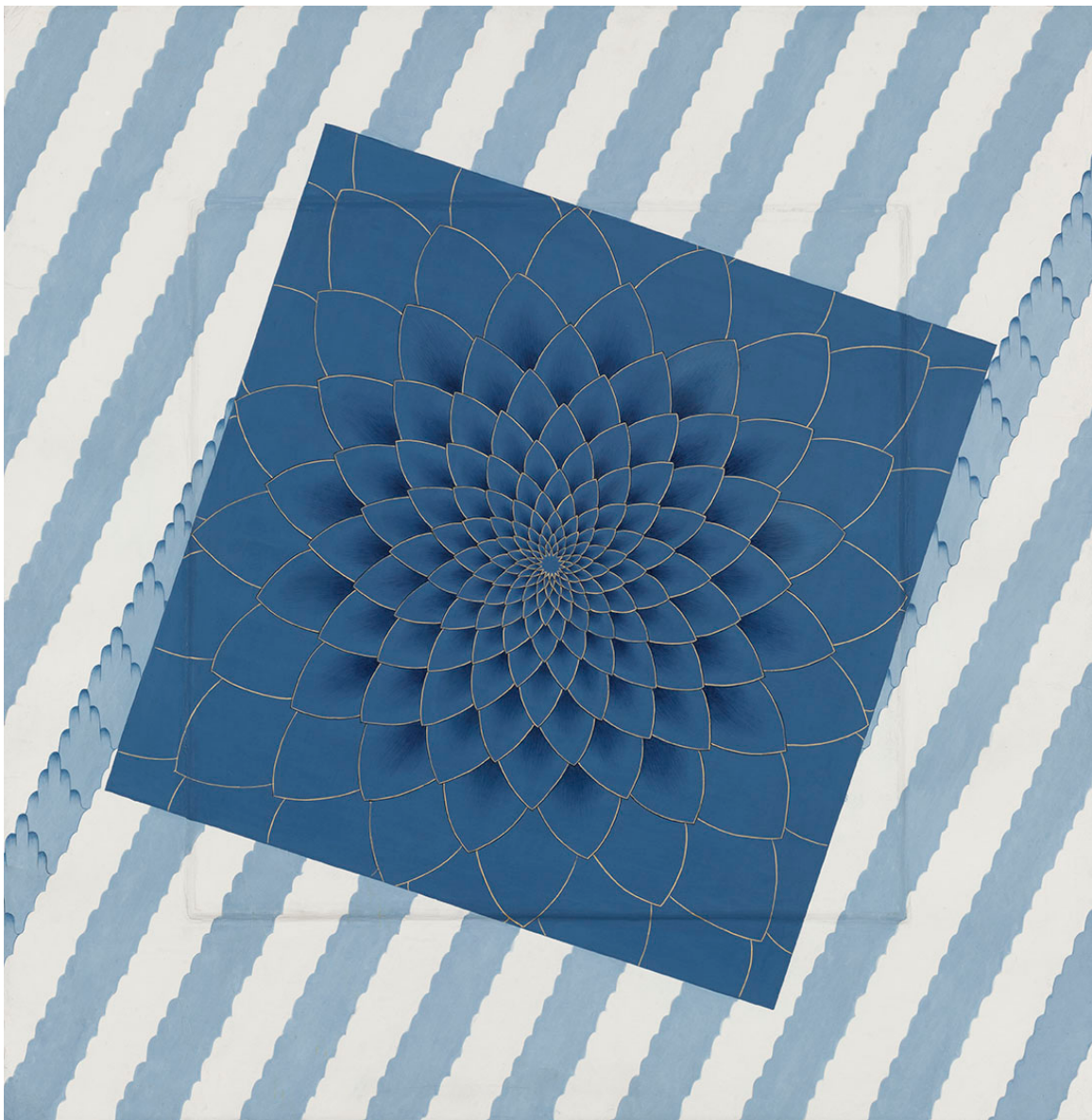
Exhibition title: *Olivia Fraser: The Sacred Garden*

Exhibition dates: April 7 to 30, 2016

Opening reception with the artist: Thursday, April 7, 6 to 8 pm

Venue: Sundaram Tagore Chelsea, 547 West 27th Street, New York, NY 10001

Contact us: 212-677-4520 or press@sundaramtagore.com



Blue Himalaya, 2015, stone pigment and Arabic gum on handmade Sanganer paper, 26 x 26 inches/66 x 66 cm

NEW YORK, March 4, 2016—Delhi-based Scottish artist Olivia Fraser presents new work for her debut solo exhibition at Sundaram Tagore Gallery in Chelsea. Fraser, who was born in London and raised in the Highlands of Scotland, has lived and worked in India since 1989. Deeply interested in the techniques and vocabulary of traditional Indian miniatures, she combines mineral and plant pigments and handmade paper with forms and ideas inspired by modern Western art.

The thirty paintings Fraser is presenting in *The Sacred Garden* are rooted in her fascination with and practice of yoga and the ways in which yogic meditation involves visualizations of the garden, particularly the *sahasrara* or thousand-petaled lotus, which serves as a visual aid in reaching enlightenment. The title of the show alludes to a concept central to the artist's practice: "The garden, an enclosed and cultivated area of landscape that's formalized and acted upon, is fundamental to my work," she says. "I take the vocabulary of landscape—trees, flowers, rivers, mountains and sky—and I deconstruct and reduce them to their essence."

Greatly influenced by early nineteenth-century Jodpuri painting, Fraser's intricate, gem-colored works are infused with historical iconography and archetypal language. As with *Blue Himalaya*, the majority of her compositions are enclosed in a square format, which is similar to the mandala—a symbolic geometric form that denotes a sacred space. Additionally, as with *Awakening*, where seven hands run vertically and horizontally forming a grid-like pattern, Fraser often groups her subject matter in numbers of spiritual significance, drawing deeply on India's artistic and cultural history.



Awakening, 2012, stone pigment, Arabic gum, gold leaf on homemade Sanganer paper, 66 x 66 inches/168 x 168 cm

Working in the manner of Indian miniature masters, Fraser sources most of her materials from Jaipur, including traditional *wasli* paper made with jute from Nepal and pigments hand-ground from stone, plants and earth, which she binds using Arabic gum. Her squirrel-bristle brushes that end in a singular curved hair allow for careful rendering of the most delicate spirals and lines.

Olivia Fraser's work is included in public and private collections in Australia, France, India, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates, the United States, the United Kingdom and in the Museum of Sacred Art, Septon, Belgium. Her work has been shown in solo exhibitions in India, China and the United Kingdom. Her work was most recently included in *Forms of Devotion: The Spiritual in Indian Art* at Lalit Kala Galleries, Rabindra Bhavan, in New Delhi, and in *Frontiers Reimagined*, a Collateral Event of the 56th Venice Biennale (www.frontiersreimagined.org).

About Sundaram Tagore Gallery

Established in New York City in 2000, Sundaram Tagore Gallery is devoted to examining the exchange of ideas between Western and non-Western cultures. With spaces in New York City (Chelsea and Madison Avenue), Singapore and Hong Kong, we focus on mounting exhibitions and hosting not-for-profit events that encourage spiritual, social and aesthetic dialogues. With alliances across the globe, our interest in cross-cultural exchange extends beyond the visual arts into many other disciplines, including poetry, literature, performance art, film and music.

For more information about Olivia Fraser's work, email press@sundaramtagore.com or call 212-677-4520.

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