

ATTENTION ART EDITORS

For Immediate Release



SONIA MEHRA CHAWLA

The Embryonic Plants and Otherworlds

10 Chancery Lane Gallery, Central, Hong Kong
26 Feb to 3 April, 2013

Opening Reception with the artist: Feb 26th, 2013 (Tuesday) 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Artist's Talk

Friday February 22nd, 6:30pm
at 10 Chancery Lane Gallery, Central
Indian artist Sonia Mehra Chawla and HK artist Lam Wai Kit
presented by SCAD Hong Kong and
10 Chancery Lane Gallery in celebration of deFINE ART 2013

[12 Oct 2012, Hong Kong] - 10 Chancery Lane Gallery is excited to present the first Hong Kong solo exhibition of female Indian artist Sonia Mehra Chawla, *The Embryonic Plants and Otherworlds*, in which she will exhibit a new series of paintings and videos that explores the passage of nature's cycle and the temporal flow of birth and regeneration.

For philosopher Michel Foucault, 'heterotopias' designates real or imagined spaces of escape/departure, transformation, or revelation. The works explore a world or existence beyond earthly reality: The other realms of existence. The imagery is inspired by macro images of human anatomy and single-celled organisms, which are exquisite in their ornamental morphology, and displaying complex patterns of growth, reproduction, movement and mutability.

For Mehra Chawla, within the simple configurations of the single-celled organisms, the entire mechanics of evolution is revealed. She revisits the ideas of sensuous exuberance with an underlying sense of desire and decay, layers within the cyclical layers of life, forms within forms, worlds within worlds. In this latest series of paintings, the female form has an uncompromising centrality in the work, where the woman's body is at the centre of love, life cycles and decay in a surface populated with hybrids of plant, flower, animal, and polyp. It is within this constellation that organic composites calibrated between ripeness and rotteness exists, blurring the lines between human, animal, plant and object to produce complex emblems of sexuality. Images of beauty and exuberance are infused with a sense of the macabre and both time and space are impregnated with a sense of heightened reality.

Sonia Mehra Chawla (b. 1977, Kolkata, India) received her Bachelors Degree in Painting in 2001, and Masters Degree in Painting in 2004 from College of Art, New Delhi. Mehra Chawla has participated in studio-based projects at Tate Modern London, and in Public Art Projects at Khoj International Artists Organization, New Delhi and ET4U Contemporary Visual Art Projects, Denmark. She was a part of a year-long residency at Atelier 2221 printmaking and Edition studio in 2001-2002.

Chawla is the recipient of several prestigious awards including the National Award for Painting in 2004-2005, Lalit Kala Akademi, National Academy of Art, India, and National Scholarship, Ministry of Culture, India in 2004. Recent collection includes Kunst der Gegenwart, ESSL MUSEUM, (Museum of Contemporary Art), Austria.

The Embryonic Plants and Otherworlds is the first Hong Kong solo exhibition of Mehra Chawla and is her second showing at 10 Chancery Lane Gallery, after the group exhibition *The Second Sex* in 2009.

The artist will be in Hong Kong for the exhibition opening. For press enquiries and to arrange interviews, please contact Géraldine Cosnau on geraldine@10chancerylanegallery.com or +852 2810 0065.

About 10 Chancery Lane Gallery

Since 2001, **10 Chancery Lane Gallery** explores both emerging and historically important movements in art in the Asia Pacific. Working with curators and having a strong curatorial team in house, the gallery aims to bring exhibitions that take time, research and have impact on the arts in the region with an international approach to travel exhibitions. **10 Chancery Lane Gallery** is committed to play a major role in documenting the development of art within the Asia-Pacific region by holding more survey exhibitions by country or theme of both emerging and mid-career artists, talks, forums and publishing books that bring together the individual historical context with the arts development within Asia. The gallery focuses on Asia however keeps its eye on international opportunities from the world bringing the need for international cultural appreciation to Hong Kong.

10 Chancery Lane Gallery presents

SONIA MEHRA CHAWLA

The Embryonic Plants and Otherworlds

Artist'sTalk by Sonia Mehra Chawla and Hong Kong artist Lam Wai Kit
Presented by SCAD Hong Kong and 10 Chancery Lane Gallery in celebration of deFINE ART 2013
22 February 6:30pm

Opening Reception
26 Feb to 3 April, 2013
10 Chancery Lane Gallery, Central, Hong Kong

G/F, 10 Chancery Lane, SoHo, Central, Hong Kong
Opening hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 10am to 6pm
Enquiry: +852 2810 0065