

DRAWING ROOM

Thinking Tantra

24 November 2016 – 19 February 2017

Thinking Tantra is a trans historical exhibition that begins with anonymous Tantric drawings, dating from the second half of the nineteenth century, continues with work made in the 1960s, '70s and '80s by Indian artists and includes work by ten international contemporary artists, presented in roughly chronological order. The exhibition includes Prabhakar Barwe, Tom Chamberlain, Shezad Dawood, Nicola Durvasula, Goutam Ghosh Alexander Gorlizki, Prafulla Mohanti, Jean-Luc Moulène, Badrinath Pandit, Anthony Pearson, Sohan Qadri, Prem Sahib, G.R. Santosh, Richard Tuttle, Acharya Vyakul and Claudia Wieser.

The first group of works includes a range of 'original' Tantra drawings and Yantras. Tantra is a body of beliefs and practices that enables individuals to conjoin with something much larger than themselves— 'nothing short of cosmic forces'; a Yantra is geometrical diagram or object used as a tool in tantric rituals; meanwhile Mantra is a word, or series of words, syllables or sounds believed to have sacred spiritual power.

A small number of works from the so-called 'Neo-Tantra' movement are brought together in the second group. These are artists who either practiced Tantric rituals or customs, were part of the Neo-Tantra movement, or appreciated Tantra as a socially relevant form of self-expression: Prabhakar Barwe, Prafulla Mohanti, Sohan Qadri and G.R. Santosh.

The third 'type' of Tantric drawing shown here is the anomalous 'authored' work by Acharya Vyakul and Badrinath Pandit. Vyakul's works first came to the West's attention when poet Franck André Jamme included them in a selection of works for the 1989 Centre Pompidou exhibition *Magiciens de la Terre*.

The exhibition features work by ten contemporary artists, all of whom know of and readily articulate a relationship with Tantric drawings. *Thinking Tantra* speaks to the impulse Tantric drawings inspire in many artists to explore multiple dimensions, with artworks taking both two and three dimensional forms, and a site specific wall drawing by Claudia Wieser.

The exhibition is a curatorial collaboration between Rebecca Heald, Amrita Jhaveri and Drawing Room, London. A first iteration of the exhibition was at Jhaveri Contemporary, Mumbai, in early 2016. Specialist in Tantra, Jain and ritual art from India, gallerist Joost van den Bergh has helped select the anonymous Tantric drawings and works by Bandrinath Pandit and Acharya Vyakul.

Thinking Tantra Research Papers includes essays by exhibition curator Rebecca Heald, artist Shezad Dawood and art historian Virginia Whiles. £10 or £3 as a download from the Drawing Room website

Thinking Tantra works list and reading lists can be viewed and downloaded for free from our website www.drawingroom.org.uk
#thinkingtantra #drawingroom
Instagram: drawingroom_ldn
Twitter: drawingroomldn

You are invited to create your own drawings with our *Drop-in and Draw* art materials, kindly supported by Cass Art, available at the front desk.

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Anonymous Tantric Drawings

1. *Salagramas*

Ink & gouache on paper
Northern India 18th –
19th century
107 x 81 cm



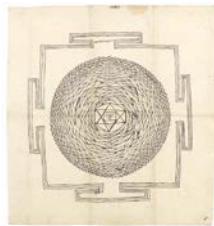
6. *Untitled*, 1993

Unspecified paint on
found paper
Udaipur, Rajasthan,
India
34 x 24.5 cm



2. *Gayatri yantra*

Ink on paper
Rajasthan, India, 19th
century
57 x 54.5 cm



7. *Cosmic egg*

(brahmamda) studies
Gouache on paper
Northern India 18th –
19th century
29 x 15 cm



3. *Cosmic circle*

Nepal, second half 19th
century
Ink & watercolour on
paper
28 x 28 cm



8. *Cosmic egg*

(brahmamda) studies
Gouache on paper
Northern India 18th –
19th century
29 x 15 cm
1-8: courtesy Joost van
den Bergh



4. *Mantra page*

Gouache on paper
North India, 18th–19th
century
48.5 x 43 cm



9. *Cosmic egg*

(brahmamda) study,
c.1960
Pigments on paper
29 x 15 cm
Courtesy Jhaveri
Contemporary
Badrinath Pandit



5. *Untitled*, 1999

Unspecified paint on
found paper
Udaipur, Rajasthan,
India,
33 x 29 cm



10. *Salagramas*, Mid
20th century

Gouache on paper
Each 13.5 x 11.5 cm.
Courtesy Joost van den
Bergh



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Acharya Vyakul

11. *Untitled*, c. 1980s – '90s
Pigment on paper
22 x 18 cm



12. *Untitled*, c. 1980s – '90s
Pigment on paper
24 x 17 cm
11, 12: courtesy Joost van den Bergh



13. *Untitled*, c. 1990s
Pigment on paper
16.5 x 24cm



14. *Untitled*, c. 1980s - '90s
Pigment on paper
16.5 x 24cm
13, 14: courtesy Jhaveri Contemporary



G.R Santosh

15. *Untitled (Pencil II)*
Pencil on paper
60.9 x 43.1 cm



16. *Untitled (Pencil I)*
Pencil on paper
60.9 x 43.1 cm
15, 16: courtesy Aicon Gallery



Prabhakar Barwe

17. *Untitled*, c.1960s
Acid colour on Dupioni silk
84 x 85cm



18. *Untitled*, c.1960s
Acid colour on Dupioni silk
105 x 104 cm
17, 18: courtesy Jhaveri Contemporary

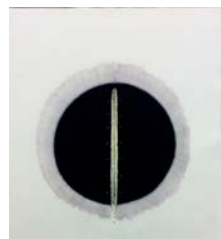


Sohan Qadri

19. *Untitled*, 1987
Ink & dye and silver paint on handmade paper
48.3 x 30.5 cm



20. *Untitled*, 1984
Ink and dye on handmade paper
39.4 x 35.6 cm
19, 20: courtesy DAG Modern



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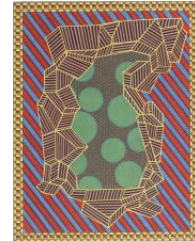
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Prafulla Mohanti

21. *Creation*, 1980
Watercolour, ink and
gouache on hand made
paper
77 x 57 cm
Courtesy the artist

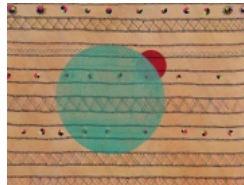


26. *Outside In*, 2016
Pigment on paper
17.25 x 13.25 cm

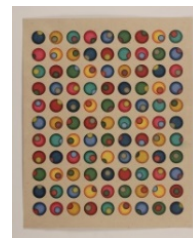


Shezad Dawood

22. *YTR 1*, 2010
Acrylic on vintage textile
125 x 165 cm
Courtesy the artist and
Timothy Taylor



27. *Experiment*, 2014
Pigment on paper
38.1 x 30.5 cm



Alexander Gorlizki

23. *Shrink to Fit*, 2016
Pigment on Paper
33.1 x 20.3 cm



28. *Plump Plop*, 2014
Pigment on paper
45.7 x 25.9 cm



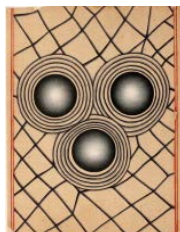
24. *Touching Base*, 2008
Pigment and gold on
paper
32.2 x 19.6 cm



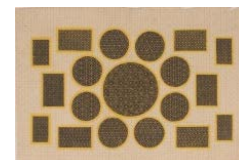
29. *The Kiss*, 2015
Pigment on paper
33 x 22.2 cm



25. *Take It And Leave It*,
2016
Pigment on paper
30.4 x 23.4 cm



30. *Phased In*, 2015
Pigment and gold on
paper
29.2 x 41.9 cm



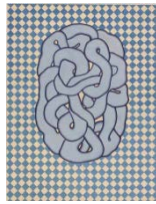
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31. Thinking Aloud,
2016

Pigment on paper
33.5 x 25.9 cm



37. Undercurrent,
2016

Pigment on paper
17.1 x 25.9 cm



32. *Airhead*, 2015

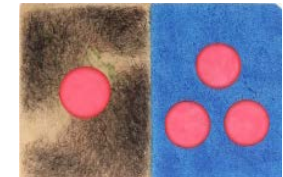
Pigment on paper
31.7 x 21.5 cm



38. Equal measure,
2016

Pigment on paper
22.2 x 32.5 cm

23-38: courtesy
Alexander Gorlizki



33. Long Form, 2016

Pigment on paper
21.6 x 51.4 cm



39. *Untitled (two pink stripes)*, 2014

Watercolour, gouache,
gummed brown
tape on paper
27.2 x 24 cm



34. *Eye is I*, 2016

Pigment on paper
23.4 x 79.2 cm



40. *Untitled (241)*, 2009

Watercolour, ink on
paper
27.4 x 20 cm



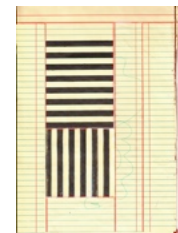
35. *Escapades*, 2015

Pigment on paper
30.4 x 25.4 cm



41. *Untitled (78)*, 2009

Ink, gouache, pencil on
paper and ledger
book cover
33 x 21.2 cm



36. *Plain Speaking*,

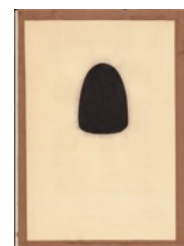
2015

Pigment on paper
33.5 x 43.1 cm



42. *Untitled (black)*,

2009
Ink, pencil, gummed
brown tape on paper
29.3 x 20.5 cm

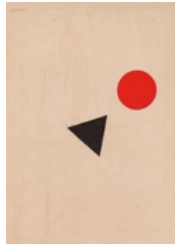


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43. *Untitled (copy tantra)*, 2010
Watercolour, gouache,
ink on paper
31.9 × 23.5 cm



44. *Untitled (dot)*,
2009-2015
Acrylic paint,
fluorescent pen, pencil
on
stone
5 x 8 cm diameter



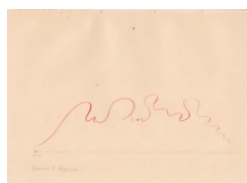
45. *Untitled (black dot)*, 2014
Acrylic paint, ink on
stone
3 x 4.5 cm diameter



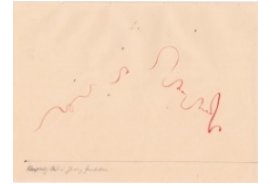
46. *Graphic Notation 2 (flux)*, 2015
Watercolour, pencil on
paper
16.5 × 22.5 cm



47. *Graphic Notation 4 (sruti)*, 2015
Watercolour, pencil on
paper
16.5 × 22.5 cm



48. *Graphic Notation 3 (Rhapsody On - a flimsy foundation)*, 2015
Watercolour, pencil on
paper
16.5 × 22.5 cm



49. *Graphic Notation 1 (Brockley Variation)*, 2015
Watercolour, gouache,
pencil on paper
16.5 × 22.5 cm
39-49: courtesy Nicola
Durvasula & Galerie
Mirchandani +
Steinruecke



Goutam Ghosh

50. *While dancing stay in the circle*, 2015
Gouache on newsprint
glued on cotton textile
113 x 122 cm
Private Collection, UK



Richard Tuttle

51. *Source of Imagery VII*, 1995-2010
Plywood, styrofoam
block
114.3 x 96.5 x 32.4 cm



52. *Source of Imagery VI*, 1995-2010
Paint on plywood,
wooden block
108.9 x 83.8 x 27.3 cm



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53. *Separation (Group 3, Number 4)*, 2015
Styrofoam, wood,
synthetic fibre, acrylic
paint, coloured pencil,
bamboo
58.4 x 50.8 cm



54. *Separation (Group 3, Number 2)*, 2015
Styrofoam, wood,
synthetic fibre, acrylic
paint, coloured pencil,
bamboo
58.4 x 50.8 cm

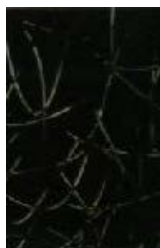


55. *Separation (Group 3, Number 3)*, 2015
Styrofoam, wood, towel,
acrylic paint, bamboo,
wire, synthetic fibre,
58.4 x 50.8 cm
51-55: courtesy Stuart
Shave/Modern Art &
Pace

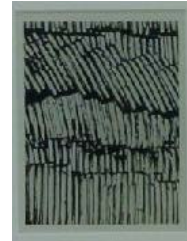


Anthony Pearson

56. *Untitled (Solarization)*, 2012
Framed solarized silver
gelatin photograph
43.1 x 32.2cm



57. *Untitled (Solarization)*, 2010
Framed solarized silver
gelatin print
44.4 x 33.5cm



58. *Untitled (Solarization)*, 2010
Framed solarized silver
gelatin print
44.4 x 33.5cm



59. *Untitled (Solarization)*, 2010
Framed solarized silver
gelatin print
44.4 x 33.5cm



60. *Untitled (Solarization)*, 2012
Framed solarized silver
gelatin photograph
43.1 x 32.2cm
56-60: courtesy the
artist and Shane
Campbell Gallery



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Tom Chamberlain

61. *Turning In*, 2016
Pinpricks in paper
25 x 30.5 cm



62. *Tell Me Later (II)*,
2016
Coloured pencil on
paper
25 x 30.5 cm



63. *Untitled*, 2015
Watercolour on paper
38.2 x 46 cm



64. *Untitled*, 2015
Watercolour on paper
56 x 65.2 cm
61-64: Courtesy the
artist and Aurel
Scheibler



Claudia Wieser

65. *Untitled*, 2015
Colour pencil, gold leaf
on colour paper
33 x 33 cm



66. *Untitled*, 2015
Colour pencil on colour
paper
33 x 33 cm



67. *Untitled*, 2015
Colour pencil, gold leaf
on colour paper
46 x 33 cm



68. *Untitled*, 2015
Colour pencil, gold leaf
on colour paper
46 x 33 cm



69. *Untitled*, 2016
Gold leaf on wall
304.5 x 130 cm



70. *Untitled*, 2015
Colour pencil, gold leaf
on colour paper
46 x 33 cm



71. *Untitled*, 2016
Ink, acrylic paint on
wood
52 x 18 cm



72. *Untitled*, 2016
Ink, acrylic paint on
wood
70 x 12 cm



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73. *Untitled*, 2016
Ink, acrylic paint on
wood
25cm diameter
65-73: courtesy the
artist & Arratia Beer



77. *Athlete VII*, 2016
Gouache on paper
48 x 37 cm



Prem Sahib

75. *Doubles I*, 2016
Gouache on paper
48 x 37 cm



78. *24-7*, 2016
Green neon, digitally
programmed dimmer
64 x 39 x 14 cm
75-78: courtesy the
artist and Southard
Reid

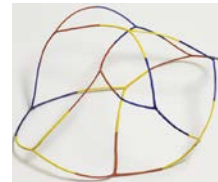


76. *Athlete VIII*, 2016
Gouache on paper
48 x 37 cm



Jean-Luc Moulène

79. *Big Bifur*, 2010
Epoxy resin, cotton
wire
50 x 80 x 80 cm
Private Collection, UK



Some works are available for sale. Please enquire at desk.

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