

PRESS RELEASE – for immediate release

Usurp Art Gallery & Studios proudly presents

"Chila Burman's Royal Academy Summer Exhibition"



Usurp Art Gallery & Studios

<http://www.usurp.org.uk>

Bold, challenging, undaunted and unapologetic in her feminism and politics, Chila Burman strides into Usurp with her tongue in cheek retrospective that entices us to scrutinise a recession saturated contemporary Britain.

Launch Event with live music

Friday 13th Aug 6.30pm to 10pm

Usurp Art Gallery & Studios, 140 Vaughan Road, London HA1 4EB

Exhibition continues until Sunday 31st October 2010

Gallery open Thursday to Sunday 2pm to 8pm Free admission

"Chila Burman's Royal Academy Summer Exhibition" - this exuberant show fetes the idea of the 'wild woman' who thinks and acts aesthetically, practically and theoretically. Glitter and bindis collide with print, paint, photographic and mixed media in Chila's explorations of the constructions of classed, gendered, sexualised and 'raced' subjectivities, personal memories and the physicality and pleasures of visual materials.

Taking the concepts of *arte povera* and recycled materials one feminist step further, Chila uses as her 'worthless' materials, the pretty 'girly' detritus that many would consider cheap kitsch and unworthy of serious contemplation. Chila inverts the formal properties of her chosen materials, twisting repetition and patterns, exploding formulaic ideas of desire and need.

Much of Chila's work since the mid 1980's emerges from a tradition of graphic political satire, generated from an adversarial position within the gender and identity politics of a post-colonial, class oriented, society. By dwelling on the poetics of visual composition and arrangement - dealing with the complexities of framing, layering and assemblage - an alternative and distinctive formal relationship has emerged in her work. In a maturing of sensibilities shaped through an ongoing engagement with art practice, her current interests invite and engage viewers to experience a new dynamic and intimacy of looking.

The current revival of the 80's in music and fashion culture seems to forget the contribution by UK Black British Artists. Chila Burman was part of a movement that challenged art, politics and academic institutions in their policies, methodology and theories.

Born and brought up in Liverpool by her family and ice-cream man father, Chila now lives and works in London. She was nominated for Asian Woman of the Year Award 2004, Lloyds TSB Asian Jewel Award 2005 and is a graduate of the Slade. Her work has been shown extensively both in the UK and internationally and is in private and public collections worldwide.

Usurp Art Gallery & Studios promoting art and social engagement – not for profit

Notes to Editor: For more information and images for this exhibition or any other aspect of Usurp Art Gallery's programme contact Poulomi Desai: poulomi@usurp.org.uk

Usurp Art Gallery & Studios 140 Vaughan Road, London HA1 4EB
0208 426 6264 / 07956 817038
<http://www.usurp.org.uk>

About Usurp Art Gallery & Studios

Led by Artistic Director Poulomi Desai, Usurp is a not for profit art collective set up in 2003 to develop opportunities for communities to work with artists and activists from diverse backgrounds. Open to experimental ideas in all media, we support artists to collaborate in research and action, and actively encourage a wide range of audiences to participate in the creation of artworks that challenge conformity, prejudice and discrimination.

In 2010, Usurp launched the only contemporary art gallery and studios in the London Borough of Harrow.



Usurp Art Gallery & Studios promoting art and social engagement – not for profit