

## PRESS RELEASE

### NEW INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP LAUNCHING IN MUMBAI ON 10 NOVEMBER 2018

In November, 10 artists from all over the world will launch **SquareWorks Laboratory (SqW:Lab)**. SqW:Lab is a brand new international creative fellowship that will begin in Mumbai and expand globally throughout 2019. The inaugural 10 fellows are a mix of artists, architects, curators, art writers and creative industry professionals from **India, Japan, Hong Kong, UK, USA and Brazil**.

An 80-year-old art deco apartment in Colaba will play host to the three-month fellowship. Domestic space will be converted into creative space; the creative environment re-thought. SqW:Lab will be an “‘active space’, a hybrid structure that [is] part art school, part community centre and part artistic laboratory”, (Jens Hoffman, *Theatre of Exhibitions*). Following initial workshops and the inaugural exhibition in Mumbai on **10 November 2018**, the SqW:Lab fellows will be co-producing a series of collaborative projects during the next three months which will focus on the themes of Drawing, the Domestic, Place and Process.

This year’s participants will be Sutapa Biswas (artist, UK), Gustavo S Ferro (artist, BR / UK), Katsushi Goto (architect, JPN / IN), Tash Kahn (artist, UK), Sameer Kulavoor (artist, IN), Charlie Levine (curator, UK), John Ros (artist / curator, US), Vishwa Shroff (artist, IN), Thomas Tsang (architect, HK) and Rosanna Van Mierlo (art writer, UK / US).

“I am thrilled to be a founder and participant in SqW:Lab. It is such a unique opportunity to be with nine other creatives, learn from and explore each other’s practices – and re-think my own as a result. As a curator I am incredibly interested in finding the links between artists practices and the spaces they work within – whether that’s their home and studios, or public realms and working site responsively. Curating is, I believe, a kind of storytelling and I am looking forward to working with the SqW:Lab participants to translate their experiences into art and exhibitions.”

**Charlie Levine, Squareworks Laboratory fellow, September 2018**

Images available on request. For further information please contact: [sqwlab@gmail.com](mailto:sqwlab@gmail.com)

The open studio will open on Saturday 10 November 2018 5-8pm  
7 Southlands, Colaba, Mumbai 400005, India

[sqwlab.com](http://sqwlab.com) [twitter/instagram](#) #sqwlab

## NOTES TO EDITOR:

**Sutapa Biswas** was born in India and educated in the UK since the age of four. She is an interdisciplinary, conceptual artist working across a range of media including painting, drawing, film and time based media. With her background in fine art and art history, and frequently inspired by art historical and literary texts, Biswas' works explore 'spatial stories' and the relationships between people and the places they live in. Underpinned by an interest in colonial histories and how this relates to gender, race and class, her art is nuanced by the ways in which oral narratives reveal the human condition and their relationship to our collective histories and to questions of space and time. Biswas is currently a Reader in Fine Art at Manchester Metropolitan University, UK.

**Gustavo S. Ferro** was born in Santos and moved to São Paulo in 2007 to study Visual Arts at Centro Universitário Belas Artes. During his degree he was one of the founders and member of Beco da Arte, an artist run space and collective that organised exhibitions and art events. Between 2012 and 2015 he coordinated Phosphorus, an independent art space in São Paulo, focused in the critique of process and art residencies.

**Katsushi Goto** is an architect/urbanist who is currently researching domesticity in ideal family home and public spaces allied to interior urbanism. He holds MArch from H&U, AA School. He is director of design/research firm Squareworks, Mumbai, partner at apartment co., Ltd. Tokyo, assistant professor Meiji University, Tokyo, and visiting associate professor CEPT University, Ahmedabad.

**Tash Kahn** was a painter for many years, she now works more site-specifically using a space's immediate surrounding area and history as starting points. She is interested in how people engage with art, the conversations it generates and how it makes them feel. Kahn has exhibited both nationally and internationally and is co-founder of the visual-arts project DOLPH, and has helped facilitate 22 exhibitions. DOLPH provides an alternative way for people to engage with contemporary art, as well as being an invaluable learning and networking resource for artists. Kahn is also a freelance editor.

**Sameer Kulavoor's** practice lies at the intersection of graphic design, illustration and art. He has been creating a personal body of work, and self-publishing art books and zines that take a look at characteristic mannerisms and archetypal facets of urban surroundings, design and culture. Kulavoor is the founder of Bombay Duck Designs (established 2008) and co-founder and co-curator of 100%ZINE (since 2011) – a visual arts magazine that discovers and showcases a wide range of visual art talent from India and abroad. He currently lives and works in Mumbai.

**Charlie Levine** is an art director, independent curator, project manager, lecturer and consultant. Levine's curatorial practice centralises on in/visible networks, creating and bringing together communities, working site responsively, postal art, developing opportunities for early career artists and encouraging more diverse creative industry opportunities. Levine formerly founded and directed independent gallery, TROVE, in Birmingham along with critically acclaimed site specific exhibitions *Creative Machines*, *Minimalist Sculpture* at Curzon Street Station and *Thrift Radiates Happiness* at Birmingham's Municipal Bank. She has also curated in London, Manchester, Coventry, New York, Mumbai, Paris, Helsinki and Christchurch.

**John Ros** is an artist, professor, curator and activist. He currently lives and works in New York City and Harrisonburg, Virginia. He obtained an MFA from Brooklyn College, City University of New York, in 2013 and a BFA from the State University of New York at Binghamton in 2000. Ros is an Assistant Professor of Art at James Madison University's School of Art, Design, and Art History, where he also serves as the Director and Chief Curator of the Duke Hall Gallery of Fine Art. In 2015 he founded studioELL, an alternative, transient and hybrid space for higher education in the studio arts, where he is currently the Director and teaches a variety of courses. During the past twenty years, John has worked on more than 70 exhibitions with over 250 artists.

**Vishwa Shroff** started her artist training at The Faculty of Fine Arts, MSU, Baroda in 2002. She continued on to the Birmingham Institute of Art and Design (UK) in 2003. Her career so far has seen five solo exhibitions – 'Drawn Spaces' (2016) and 'Postulating Premises' (2015) at TARQ Gallery, 'One Eye! Two Eyes! Three Eyes!' (2012) at the Acme Project Space, London, 'Memories of a Known Place' (2012), Birmingham (UK) and 'Room: Collaborative Book Show' (2011), Vadodara (India). Besides participating in artist residencies all over the world, Shroff has also been a part of group exhibitions such as 'Again and Yet Again' (2017) at Gallery OED, Cochin, (India), 'Planes of Experience, Zones of Action' (2017) at Goethe Institut-Max Mueller Bhavan, Mumbai, 'Reading Room' (2016) at Saffron Art, New York, 'Reading Room: Leaves, Threads and Traces' (2015), The Winchester Gallery (UK), 'Bartered Collections' (2015) by Cona Projects at the Mumbai Art Room and 'Momento Mori' (2015) at TARQ Gallery. She was the recipient of the UNESCO-Aschberg Bursaries for Artists in 2011.

**Thomas Tsang's** work integrates artistic practice with architecture in installations and exhibitions. His curatorial projects include Cloud of Unknowing: A City with Seven Streets (2014) at Taipei Fine Arts Museum (w/ Roan Ching-yueh), Grand Opening Projects (2013–2016) at Miniature Museum in Beijing, '10 x 100 Exhibition' at PMQ (2017), and recently, 2018 Hong Kong Exhibition at the 16th International Architecture Exhibition. He is recipient of numerous awards, including the coveted Marion O. and Maximilian E. Rome Prize from the American Academy in Rome, Civitella Ranieri Fellowship, and Mellon Artist in Residence at the Wellesley College. His work has exhibited at the UABB (Shenzhen), M+ Museum, MNAC Bucharest, 10th Shanghai Biennale, Shanghai Project and Sandwich Gallery in Bucharest. His current creative research project entitled Sounding Architecture tackles in the area of sound and space exploring the diverse sensibilities in performance genre.

**Rosanna van Mierlo** is an art writer and curator interested in post 1970 visual art, photography and film with a focus on feminist art practice. Her writing often combines essayistic style with fictional elements, in keeping with and expanding the playful, hybrid traditions of ficto-criticism.

**IMAGE:**

Square Works, Colaba, Mumbai  
Image courtesy of Fabien Charuau

