



The
Robert
McLaughlin
Gallery



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Oshawa, Ontario – 18 August, 2015

The Robert McLaughlin Gallery presents *Beyond Measure: Domesticating Distance*

Beyond Measure: Domesticating Distance

Surendra Lawoti, Tazeen Qayyum, Meera Margaret Singh, Asma Sultana, Abdullah M. I. Syed

Curated by Ambereen Siddiqui

5 September, 2015 – 3 January, 2016

Opening: RMG Friday, 11 September, 7-10pm

Symposium: Saturday 12 September, 11am - 3pm

The Robert McLaughlin Gallery (RMG), in collaboration with SAVAC (South Asian Visual Arts Centre) is pleased to present *Beyond Measure: Domesticating Distance* this fall.

The exhibition brings together the works of five contemporary South Asian artists as they examine the voids and brims of living in a diaspora. Tazeen Qayyum, Abdullah M.I. Syed, Asma Sultana, Surendra Lawoti and Meera Margaret Singh critically dissect cultural duality and the resulting hybrid identities. Working with performance and installation, photography and sculpture, writing and sewing and moving image and text, their multidisciplinary practices echo the diversity of their layered experiences.

Emanating from personal narratives, the works carry a deliberate autobiographical significance as each artist dissects the fissures and dislocations caused by distance. Pakistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, England, Australia, Brazil, America, and Canada provide the spaces and intertwining histories for these accounts shaped by movement. The exhibition collocates these works to further understand, as well as complicate, ideas of familiarity and strangeness, nostalgia and paranoia, and community and the individual.

This project is supported with a grant from the OAC through a Culturally Diverse Curatorial Project grant and is curated by Ambereen Siddiqui. Please join us for the opening at RMG Fridays on 11 September from 7-10pm and for a symposium and tour on Saturday 12 September, 11am - 3pm. The artists will be present.

-30-

Media Inquiries:

Sam Mogelonsky, Manager of Marketing & Communications

The Robert McLaughlin Gallery

smogelonsky@rmg.on.ca | 905-576-3000 ext 109

Aliya Pabani, Director of Communications

SAVAC (South Asian Visual Arts Centre)

aliya@savac.net | 416-542-1661



About The Robert McLaughlin Gallery (RMG):

The RMG is a vibrant, engaging public art museum located in Oshawa's civic centre. An external agency of The City of Oshawa, the RMG is the largest gallery in Durham Region, and occupies an inspired 36,000 square foot building designed by noted architect Arthur Erickson.

Featuring a Permanent Collection of over 4,500 works, and five galleries of diverse and changing contemporary and historical exhibitions, The RMG holds an important collection of modern Canadian abstraction and the largest holdings of works by Painters Eleven. The gallery has significant collections of Canadian contemporary art, including public art, and an active acquisitions program. The Thomas Bouckley Collection, which represents archival photographic records of over 3,000 images of Oshawa and the region, provides a vital link in connecting the community with local history.

About SAVAC:

SAVAC (South Asian Visual Arts Centre) is the only non-profit, artist-run centre in Canada dedicated to supporting South Asian artists. For over two decades, SAVAC has increased the visibility of culturally diverse artists by curating and exhibiting their work, providing mentorship, and facilitating professional development.

Focusing on programs that explore issues shaping the experiences of people from the region and its diasporas, SAVAC encourages work that is challenging, experimental, and engaged in critical discussions that offer new perspectives on the contemporary world.

THE ROBERT McLAUGHLIN GALLERY

72 Queen Street, Civic Centre, Oshawa, Ontario L1H 3Z3

905-576-3000 communications@rmg.on.ca | www.rmg.on.ca

Connect with us! twitter.com/theRMG | facebook.com/theRMG | instagram.com/RMG0shawa

Directions: From Toronto, 401 E to Oshawa, exit Simcoe St, North to Bagot St. Turn left at Bagot St, 2 blocks to Gallery.

Gallery Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm; Thursday: 10:00 am - 9:00 pm Saturday & Sunday: 12 noon - 4:00 pm. Admission by donation. Parking available. Accessible location.