

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## ***The Emo Show***



Teresa Serrano, *La Piñata*, 2003, Video still

**March 29 – May 11, 2013**

**Opening Reception:** Friday, March 29, 6-8 pm

With vocal performance by Samita Sinha

**Upcoming Events:** *The Emo Show* Curatorial Walk-Through

Friday, April 26, 6:30pm

Comfort Potluck      Friday, May 10, 7:00pm

**EFA Project Space**

323 West 39<sup>th</sup> Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

New York, NY 10018

between 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenues

Gallery Hours: Wed through Sat, 12-6 pm

T. 212-563-5855 x 244

[projectspace@efanyc.org](mailto:projectspace@efanyc.org)

[www.efanyc.org](http://www.efanyc.org)

**Artwork by:** Samira Abbassy, Ibrahim Ahmed III, Firelei Baez, Ruby Chishti, Annabel Daou, Dahlia Elsayed, Chitra Ganesh, Julie Heffernan, Musa Hixson, Emma K. McCagg, Rafael T. Melendez, Dmitry Morozov, Kevork Mourad, Petros Pappalas, Antonia Perez, Wanda Raimundi-Ortiz, Sumayyah Samaha, Larilyn Sanchez, Hiba Schahbaz, Shane Aslan Selzer, Edgar Serrano, Teresa Serrano, Wojtek Ulrich, William Villalongo, Roberto Visani, Richard Oliver Wilson

**Curated by:** Jaishri Abichandani and curatorial team Derrick Adams, Rocío Aranda-Alvarado, Maymanah Farhat, Edwin Ramoran, Jasmine Wahi and Raúl Zamudio

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EFA Project Space announces *The Emo Show*, a dynamic curatorial experiment involving seven NYC based curators of color and twenty-six artists. The exhibition is conceived of and organized by artist and curator Jaishri Abichandani, who invited the participating curators to suspend their political and social biases and choose work solely based on its

personal, emotional impact. Consequently, *The Emo Show* presents a diverse group of emotionally powerful works.

Abichandani borrows ancient Indian aesthetic codes for the organizational framework of the exhibition. Rasa Theory is an ancient Indian philosophy used to classify emotional states elicited by aesthetic experiences. Generally broken down into the following categories: *Love, Valor, Grief, Humor, Wonder, Fear, Revulsion, Anger, Tranquility*; works are created and presented utilizing a coded system where specific colors and symbols represent and evoke these particular feelings within the viewer.

Dividing the EFA Project Space gallery into sections of colors specific to the emotions they represent in the Rasa lexicon, *The Emo Show* promises to be not only emotionally resonant, but to also raise questions regarding traditional curatorial models that tend to ignore the more sentimental, visceral experiences of contemporary art.

Detailed explanation of the individual artists works, and announcement of public programs in connection to the exhibition will be released in the coming weeks. For more information, and images, please contact Michelle Levy, Director, EFA Project Space at [michelle@efanyc.org](mailto:michelle@efanyc.org), 212-563-5855.

### Upcoming Events

#### ***The Emo Show* Curatorial Walk-Through Friday, April 26, 6:30pm**

Join us for a curatorial walk-through and conversation with artists participating in *The Emo Show*, including special guests Jaishri Abichandani, Annabel Daou, Julie Heffernan, Musa Hixson, Rafael Melendez, William Villalongo, Wojtek Ulrich and others who will be present to talk about their work.

#### **Comfort Potluck Friday, May 10, 7:00pm**

EFA Project Space invites you to dine with *The Emo Show* during this closing potluck event. Participating guests are asked to join us all in bringing a dish with which you have an emotional connection. Each dish will be displayed with a card describing its significance. While enjoying the food, guests will have the opportunity for intimate discussion with *The Emo Show* artists and curators about their artwork, the curatorial process, and concepts underlying the exhibition.

### Curators' Bios:

**Jaishri Abichandani**, born in Bombay, India, immigrated to New York City in 1984. She intertwines art and activism in her career, founding the South Asian Women's Creative

Collective in New York and London. She has exhibited her work internationally at various venues including P.S.1/MOMA, the Queens Museum of Art, and Exit Art in New York, the 798 Beijing Biennial and the Guangzhou Triennial in China, India, Spain, and Berlin.

**Derrick Adams** is a multi-disciplinary New York-based artist whose practices deal with Deconstructivist philosophies and the object, color, texture, symbols, and ideology. Exhibition and performances of his have included MoMA PS1 Greater New York 2005, PERFORMA 05, Brooklyn Museum Open House, Boston Center for the Arts 2012, a solo exhibition at Jack Tilton Gallery 2012, and a performance series at the BAM Fisher Theater 2012.

**Rocío Aranda-Alvarado** has worked for the Museo del Barrio as a curator since 2009, helping curate its biennial, *The (S) Files*. In 2012, she was part of the curatorial team for *Caribbean : Crossroads of the World* at the Queens Museum of Art, El Museo del Barrio and The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, 2012-2013.

**Maymanah Farhat** is a New York-based art historian focusing on the Arab world and its diaspora. Her essays have been featured in a number of monographs, exhibition catalogues, e-zines, and journals. Her reviews have appeared in *Monthly Review*, *ArtAsiaPacific* magazine, and *Callaloo: Journal of African Diaspora Arts and Letters*, among others.

**Edwin Ramoran**, born and raised in Palm Springs, California, is an independent curator based in New York, New York. His awards include The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts' Curatorial Fellowship and the apexart Outbound Residency. Ramoran has previously worked at The Bronx Museum, Bronx Council on the Arts, and Aljira Center for Contemporary Art.

**Jasmine Wahi** is a Manhattan based independent curator and the co-founder of Project For Empty Space, a nonprofit arts organization that is dedicated to bringing contemporary art to communities world-wide through the use of abandoned and unusual urban spaces. Ms. Wahi's curatorial practice primarily focuses on addressing social issues through the exhibition and exploration of work by women of color.

**Raúl Zamudio**, born in Tijuana, Mexico, is a New York City-based independent curator and writer, and an alumnus of the Whitney Independent Study Program in Critical Studies. He has curated or co-curated more than 90 exhibitions in the Americas, Asia and Europe and as a writer, more than 200 of his texts have been published in books, catalogs, journals, and magazines.

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**EFA Project Space**, a program of the Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts, was launched in September 2008 with a focus on the investigation of the creative process, aiming to provide dynamic exchanges between artists, cultural workers, and the public. The Project Space presents exhibitions and programs in collaboration with a diverse range of organizations, curators and artists to provide a comprehensive and critical perspective on creative practices. A major aspect of the program's development is ongoing outreach to the myriad individuals and institutions effectively shaping culture today.

**The Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts (EFA)** is a 501 (c) (3) public charity. Through its three core programs, EFA Studios, EFA Project Space and the Robert Blackburn Printmaking Workshop, EFA is dedicated to providing artists across all disciplines with space, tools and a cooperative forum for the development of individual practice. [www.efanyc.org](http://www.efanyc.org)

**EFA Project Space** is supported in part by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in Partnership with the City Council. Private funding for the program has been received from the Lily Auchincloss Foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies, and Foundation for Contemporary Arts.



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