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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 15, 2009

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New Museum Presents Exhibition and Performance by Nikhil Chopra

New York, NY...The New Museum presents an exhibition, performance, and seminar by Nikhil Chopra (b. India, 1974). For **“Yog Raj Chitrakar: Memory Drawing IX,”** his exhibition in the lobby gallery at the New Museum, Chopra, as Yog Raj Chitrakar, will turn the gallery, now a turn-of-the-century tableau vivant for five days (**November 4–8, 2009**). Visitors are encouraged to view the gallery prior to the artist’s intervention, then to return often to witness the evolution of Yog Raj Chitrakar’s character as he explores, documents, and responds to the changing face of New York City. Over the course of the performance, Yog Raj Chitrakar will work in and outside the museum to generate large scale drawings of New York City’s landscape that will cover the lobby gallery walls. **“Yog Raj Chitrakar: Memory Drawing IX”** includes documentation from three previous performances on view through February 7, 2010. Chopra will also lead a Propositions seminar at the New Museum on November 13–14, 2009 (see below for more information).

Nikhil Chopra combines strategies associated with theater, portraiture, landscape drawing, photography, art actions, and installation to chronicle the world through live performance. As the Victorian draughtsman Yog Raj Chitrakar, Chopra haunts bustling market squares, forgotten old buildings, city streets, and museum galleries to make large-scale drawings. Within the performance, daily actions—washing, eating, drinking, sleeping, dressing, shaving, and observing—are transformed into ritualistic spectacle. While an ambiguous past collides with an unstable present, Yog Raj Chitrakar reveals the process of documenting what he sees while exploring self-portraiture, autobiography, history, fantasy, and sexuality.



“Yog Raj Chitrakar: Memory Drawing IX” is curated by Eungie Joo, Keith Haring Director and Curator of Education and Public Programs. This exhibition is presented in conjunction with PERFORMA 09. Costume Design: Loise Braganza.

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Chopra's work has been included in "Indian Highway" at the Serpentine Gallery (2008–09), "Making Worlds" at the 53rd Venice Biennale (2009), and "Marina Abramovic Presents," the Manchester International Festival (2009). He lives and works in Mumbai, India.

A PROPOSITION BY NIKHIL CHOPRA

Friday, Nov. 13, 7:00 PM—Initial proposition and lecture

Saturday, Nov. 14, 12:00 PM—Guest speaker responds, followed by a lunch break

Saturday, Nov. 14, 3:00 PM—Discussion

Propositions is a public forum that explores ideas in development. Inspired by the scientific method of hypothesis, research, and synthesis, each two-day seminar explores a topic of current investigation in an invited speaker's own artistic or intellectual practice. Over the course of a seminar session, these developing ideas are presented to the public, responded to, "researched," and discussed to propel the ideas forward in unique ways. One Friday evening per month, an invited artist or cultural thinker will present an idea in process "the hypothesis" as the seminar topic. This initial presentation introduces the seminar leader's current thinking on a concept or idea as well as unresolved questions that remain. The following day, an "expert" lecture, screening, performance, or activity presents new perspectives or specific knowledge. In the discussion that follows, hypothesis, research, and public dialogue converge in an informal working session in the Museum as Hub space. The directed focus invites extensive engagement with a single idea and includes public participation in the development of new concepts. The first seminar was led by artist Kara Walker in September 2009.

Upcoming seminars in 2010 will be led by Haegue Yang (December 4-5, 2009); Hans Ulrich Obrist (January 16-17, 2010); Ute Meta Bauer (February 19-20, 2010); Rodney McMillian (March 26-27, 2010); Miwon Kwon (April 23-24, 2010); and Matthew Barney (May 21-22, 2010). For more information on Propositions visit newmuseum.org/event_series/propositions.

EXHIBITION SUPPORT

"Yog Raj Chitrakar: Memory Drawing IX" is made possible by the Toby Devan Lewis Emerging Artists Exhibition Fund.

ABOUT THE NEW MUSEUM

Founded in 1977, the New Museum is a leading destination for new art and new ideas. It is Manhattan's only dedicated contemporary art museum and is respected internationally for the adventurousness and global scope of its curatorial program. For more information, visit newmuseum.org.

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