

Beyond Sight

NIRMALA DUTT SHANMUGHALINGAM

Timely in its focus and presentation *Beyond Sight* is a retrospective of respected Malaysian artist Nirmala Dutt Shanmughalingam. Spanning a career of nearly 50 years and situated within her home-studio, the exhibition showcases work from the artist's diverse and sophisticated oeuvre in both style and subject matter. Although Nirmala is well known for her profound connection with humanity and universal dilemmas of human suffering in her iconic social commentary work, she also commands a sophisticated gift for colour and draftsmanship.

Her abstract expressionist paintings, drawings and experiments reveal her breadth and strength of vision as an artist who is constantly evolving and challenging her perception of her work and the world around her. Guests to the exhibition will also be able to experience her celebrated Tsunami series dedicated to the 2004 natural disaster that devastated Southeast Asia and Sri Lanka in this rare and intimate viewing. *Beyond Sight* finally presents her most recent and never-before-seen series of paintings that meditate on profound and personal questions of faith and reason as the artist approaches the senior years of her practice and life.

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NIRMALA DUTT SHANMUGHALINGAM

July 2010



SOCIAL COMMENTARY
main hall



TSUNAMI
back room aka. blue room



LIBRARY / ARCHIVE
mezzanine floor library



NEW PAINTINGS
mezzanine floor TV room



ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONISM
mezzanine floor back room

Nirmala Dutt Shanmughalingam (b. 1941) might aptly be called the conscience of our times. She has been an unsung pioneer in more ways than one, not simply as an early woman artist, but in her approach, making installations using photography, found materials and text from the early 70s, apart from painting. From her first works on environmental destruction and poor living conditions in slums in our own backyard through epic paintings on world disasters and war atrocities, Nirmala has remained perhaps our most socially-committed artist. While her work is always deeply emotional, often painful, her artistic integrity is crucial in her push for clarity and impact, so that she is always finding new forms in her art-making.

For more information about Nirmala's works, please contact

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