

“The Art of Independence:  
Visions of the Past and Future  
in India and Pakistan”  
12–13 October 2017

Organised by Faisal Devji and Mallica Kumbera Landrus (University of Oxford) with Deborah Swallow and Zehra Jumabhoy (The Courtauld Institute of Art, London)

At Midnight on the 15th of August 1947 India and Pakistan achieved their freedom from British Rule. This Conference commemorates the 70th anniversary of that independence. Artists, curators, filmmakers and academics stage a multidisciplinary and multi-media discussion that asks: What futures did the citizens of these new nations envision for themselves? How might we think about the midnight hour, and its many imagined futures, in retrospect?

**Day 1, Dreams and Nightmares:**

Spectacle, Partition and Progress

12 October 2017, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford

**Day 2, Futures Lost and Found:**

Citizenship and Contemporary Art

13 October 2017, Courtauld Institute of Art, London



Sudarshan Shetty, from 'Every Broken Moment, Piece by Piece', 2014

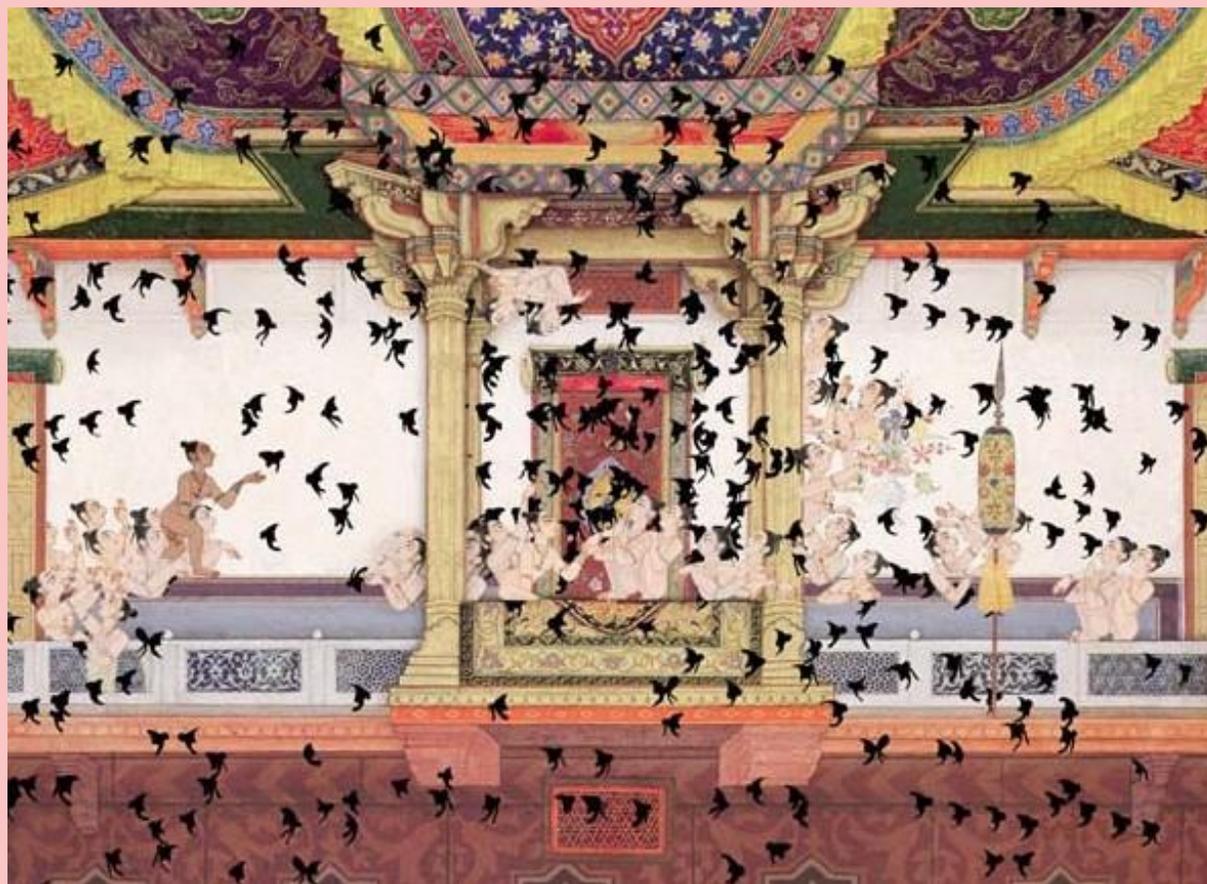
## **Speakers**

Shailendra Bhandare, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford  
Kishwar Desai, Arts and Cultural Heritage Trust, New Delhi  
Meghnad Desai, House of Lords  
Faisal Devji, Oxford  
Rachel Dwyer, SOAS  
Shruti Kapila, Cambridge  
Yasmin Khan, Oxford  
Kajri Jain, Toronto  
Rattanamol Johal, Columbia  
Zehra Jumabhoy, Courtauld Institute of Art, London  
Amar Kanwar, Artist, New Delhi  
Mallica Kumbera Landrus, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford  
Mariah Lookman, London  
Nick Merriman, Manchester Museum  
Maria Misra, Oxford  
Partha Mitter, Sussex  
Hammad Nasar, Curator, London  
Jahnvi Phalkey, KCL  
Christopher Pinney, UCL  
Saleem Arif Quadri, Artist, London  
Sumathi Ramaswamy, Duke  
Vyjayanthi Rao, Terreform New York  
Srirupa Roy, Göttingen  
Abhay Sardesai, Art India Magazine, Mumbai  
Nilima Sheikh, Artist, Baroda  
Sudarshan Shetty, Artist, Mumbai  
Gautham Shiralagi, Oxford  
Salma Siddique, Freie Universität Berlin  
Shahzia Sikander, Artist, New York  
Alexander Sturgis, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford  
Deborah Swallow, Courtauld Institute of Art, London  
Sarah Wilson, Courtauld Institute of Art, London



Nilima Sheikh, Each night put Kashmir in your dreams 2 (detail), canvas scroll painted on both sides in casein tempera, 2003-2010

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Shahzia Sikander SpiNN, 2003, still from a video animation