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Bhojan

Paintings by Sarasvathy TK

On View at Foley Gallery, Manhattan, June 9th - June 12, 2022

Opening Reception: June 9, 6:00-8:00pm | Panel Discussion: June 11, 4pm

Gallery Hours: Fri, 11am-6pm; Sat, 11am-6pm; Sun, noon-4pm



Papad (2021), Oil on linen

NEW YORK, NY—Sarasvathy TK is pleased to announce her first solo exhibition of paintings at the Foley Gallery in Manhattan. *Bhojan*, an exhibition of twelve paintings of Indian food depicted in a hyperreal style, will be on view from June 9th to June 12th at the Lower East Side location of the Foley Gallery. **South Asian Womxn’s Creative Collective (SAWCC)** is collaborating with **Sarasvathy TK** on public programming that will provide a deeper context into the foods of the Indian Subcontinent.

Bhojan, defined as “meal” in Hindi, presents intricate depictions of a panoply of Indian foods that may be served as an elaborate meal on a special occasion or presented to an honored guest. Starting with a meticulously rendered *Mango Lassi* as an aperitif, moving into several main courses and ending with *Jalebis* for dessert, the paintings are true to life in their colors, textures, and vividly captured details. Food, especially in the diaspora, is so inextricably linked to culture and heritage that it is almost a cliché. Sarasvathy takes that cliché and blows it up to super-human size to provide us with fresh reminders of how truly delectable the food is while alluding to its diverse histories and migration patterns with her research.

This exhibition will be Sarasvathy's first solo exhibition in Manhattan. The curator of the exhibition, Shilpi Chandra states, "Besides the pure artistic skill on display in these highly realistic paintings, Sarasvathy opens up a new avenue of exploration for the neo-photorealist movement. Paintings of Indian food are not usually seen in NY art galleries and I am happy that we can change that." Sarasvathy has won many prizes for her work including the Award for Merit at the American Women Artist's 2020 Spring Exhibition. She has exhibited nationally and internationally at many museums, galleries, and art festivals such as the Monmouth Museum in NJ and the Affordable Art Fair in Singapore. Sarasvathy says, "I use strong images of food to recreate on canvas the associations that come with it—memories of Mother cooking for you, favorite dishes, the first tastes of a new cuisine, or a joyous evening with friends. With *Bhojan*, my first solo exhibition, I am embarking on my journey into the world of art."

The rich history of South Asian cuisine has influenced the culinary landscape around the globe. Naan, chutney, and chai are now mainstream staples. However, are we past the hegemony of chicken tikka masala as the standard bearer of South Asian cuisine? In conjunction with the exhibition, SAWCC will host a panel discussion on **Sat, June 11th at 4pm** with **Chitra Agrawal**, co-founder of Brooklyn Delhi; **Barkha Cardoz**, managing member of the Cardoz legacy; **Sarasvathy TK**, artist; and **Zainab Shah**, contributor to *NYT Food*, *Bon Appetit*, and *Saveur*, as they share their personal food journeys and the impact and influence of the diaspora on their creative practices. Moderated by **India Witkin**, creator and host of the podcast *Eating America with India*, the panel will further discuss such themes as nostalgia, shared experiences, and the evolving role of traditional food practices within the diaspora in defining the South Asian culinary perspective.

About Sarasvathy TK

Sarasvathy TK paints hyper-realistic still lifes that infuse the European still life tradition with new global flavors. Starting each piece in her New Jersey kitchen, she prepares recipes from her native India and beyond. Then in her studio, she renders each dish in oil on canvas, from the distinctive puff of the chola bhature to the glistening oil fritter, onion pakora. Each mouthwatering painting becomes a vessel for the artist to honor her ancestral traditions, channeling the influence of British and American pop with a brash energy that is very much contemporary.

Drawing on her background in computer science, Sarasvathy creates her eye-tricking works with a process that involves cooking, plating and lighting—followed by hundreds of photographs and sketches, where each component requires extensive detailing and exactitude. Each canvas invites intimate engagement, stimulating the senses and sparking personal reflections on how dishes travel across generations and oceans.





About SAWCC

The South Asian Womxn's Creative Collective (SAWCC) is a nonprofit arts organization dedicated to the advancement, visibility, and development of emerging and established South Asian womxn artists and creative professionals by providing a physical and virtual space to profile their creative and intellectual work across disciplines. SAWCC has served South Asian womxn since 1997 and has earned a reputation for showcasing

cutting-edge work that deals intelligently with issues of gender and cultural representation. Our public programs present the creative work of South Asian womxn in multiple disciplines through salons, talks, workshops, readings, screenings, performances, and exhibitions. SAWCC connects womxn of South Asian descent with links to various communities and encourages their growth as artists by providing a platform to exchange ideas and feedback on their creative work and network with other South Asian womxn artists, educators, community workers, and professionals. Members include those who identify as South Asian women, femmes, queer, trans, nonbinary, and gender nonconforming people.



Jalebi (2021), Oil on Linen



Dosa and Sambar (2019), Oil on Linen



Mango Lassi (2020), Oil on Linen

Events

Opening Reception: Bhojan

Thursday, June 9th, 6:00-8:00 pm

Meet the artist, the curator and members of SAWCC's Board at the opening reception for *Bhojan* on Thursday, June 9, 2022 from 6:00-8:00 pm at Foley Gallery, 59 Orchard St, NY, NY. Wine and light refreshments will be served. This event is free and open to the public. RSVPs are requested but not required at sarasvathytk@hotmail.com.

Panel Discussion: I Dream of Chili, Coriander, and Cardamom: South Asian Food in the Diaspora

Saturday, June 11th, 4:00 pm

Attend a panel discussion on the histories of Indian food with Chitra Agrawal, co-founder of Brooklyn Delhi; Barkha Cardoz, managing member of Cardoz legacy; Sarasvathy TK, artist; Zainab Shah, contributor to *NYT Food*, *Bon Appetit*, and *Saveur*; and moderated by India Witkin, creator and host of the podcast *Eating America with India*. The event will take place on Saturday, June 11th at 4 pm at Foley Gallery, 59 Orchard St, NY, NY. Wine reception with the panelists will follow the discussion. Free and open to all. [More info and RSVP link here](#).

These programs are supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council.

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