Notes from the Desert: Photographs by Gauri Gill

On view September 17, 2016-February 12, 2017, Freer|Sackler

Press Tour: Carol Huh, curator Gauri Gill, artist Media only:

Erick Hoffman, hoffmane@si.edu, 202-633-0447 Megan Krefting, kreftingm@si.edu, 202.633.0271

Media website: asia.si.edu/press

Since the late 1990s, Gauri Gill (born 1970) has been photographing marginalized communities in western Rajasthan, India. Often revisiting her extensive archive of negatives, collectively titled Notes from the Desert, Gill selects images and arranges them into different series focusing on a particular individual or idea. This exhibition showcases nearly sixty of her prints, including three powerful portraits from Balika Mela, named for a village fair for girls.

A striking portrait of Izmat, a key figure in Gill's work in this remote desert region, anchors the selection of works on view. For more than a decade, Gill has visited and corresponded with Izmat and her two daughters. Her older daughter, Jannat, died at twenty-three. The daily life of these women inspired another series of fifty-two photographs and letters, one for each week of the year, and serves as a poignant memorial of Jannat's short life. Collectively, the works convey the sense of intimacy and trust that are integral to Gill's practice as a photographer.

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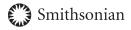
"Izmat," from the series *Notes from the Desert* Gauri Gill (India, born 1970) 1999-2010, printed 2014. Gelatin silver print. Arthur M. Sackler Gallery S2014.16



Raami, from, *Balika Mela* series Gauri Gill (India, born 1970) 2003-2010, printed 2013. Archival Pigment Print Arthur M. Sackler Gallery S2013.7

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Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery





THE SMITHSONIAN'S MUSEUMS OF ASIAN ART



Untitled (10), from the series, *Jannat*Gauri Gill (India, born 1970)
1999-2007, printed 2016
Courtesy of the artist and Thomas Erban Gallery, New York
ELS2016.13.1-44



Untitled (30), from the series, *Jannat*Gauri Gill (India, born 1970)
1999-2007, printed 2016
Courtesy of the artist and Thomas Erban Gallery, New York
ELS2016.13.1-44