



COLLEGE of
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SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

The Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art Announces *Spandita Malik: Meshes of Resistance* and *Elisa Harkins: Teach Me a Song*, Open April 5-July 20

Charleston, S.C.- The Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art at the College of Charleston School of the Arts presents two new exhibitions, [*Spandita Malik: Meshes of Resistance*](#) and [*Elisa Harkins: Teach Me a Song*](#), to be displayed **April 5 through July 20**.

[Spandita Malik](#) is a New York-based visual artist from India whose work is concerned with the current global socio-political state of affairs, emphasizing women's rights and gendered violence. Malik's exhibition *Meshes of Resistance* will feature work from her ongoing *Jālī* series, featuring photographs of women in India Malik has connected with through self-help centers for domestic and gender-based violence. Malik prints these portraits, created in the women's homes and personal spaces, onto fabric specific to the region. The women then embroider their portraits in any way they choose, taking agency over their ultimate representation and artistically collaborating with Malik. Specializing in process-based photography, Malik's work in expanded documentary and social practice emanates from the idea of decolonizing the eye and aesthetic surrounding documentary photography of India. With work exhibited worldwide, Malik was named 'Ones to Watch 2020' by the [British Journal of Photography](#) and has garnered several awards, including [The 30: New and Emerging Photographers Award](#) in 2022.

[Elisa Harkins](#) is an Oklahoma-based Cherokee/Muscogee Native American artist and composer whose work is concerned with translation, language preservation and Indigenous musicology, using the Cherokee and Mvskoke languages, electronic music, sculpture and the body as her tools. In collaboration with [Crisp-Ellert Art Museum](#) at Flagler College and [The New Gallery](#) at Austin Peay State University, Harkins will display her ongoing project *Teach Me a Song* for the first time in its entirety at the Halsey Institute, a multifaceted work structured on a series of exchanges wherein Harkins invites collaborators to teach her a song. With these song recordings, which may be ceremonial, religious, rock & roll, electronic, etc., Harkins' practice of nation-to-nation sharing and trading music aims to decolonize the traditions of Indigenous musicology. In addition, the Halsey Institute is thrilled to co-present two performances of Harkins's *Wampum DSW JSJJ* with [Spoleto Festival USA](#); purchase tickets [HERE](#). Harkins' work has notably been exhibited at [Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art](#), [documenta 14](#), [Hammer Museum](#), [Heard Museum](#) and [Vancouver Art Gallery](#).

The Halsey Institute will host an opening reception for the two new exhibitions on **Friday, April 5 from 6:30-8:00 p.m.** The event is open to the public and free to members; a \$5 donation is suggested for all not yet-members upon entry. For a more in-depth look into the works, the Halsey will host **free Artist Talk sessions with Malik on April 6 at 2 p.m. and Harkins on June 1 at 2 p.m.**

“We are ecstatic to bring the work of Spandita Malik and Elisa Harkins to Charleston,” says Director & Chief Curator of the Halsey Institute Katie Hirsch. “Each exhibition features a stunning new body of work by these two rising artists. Together, *Meshes of Resistance* and *Teach Me a Song* reflect on structures of power and representation in highly collaborative projects. Malik and Harkins give such joyous respect to the individuals and cultures featured in the work. This results in two exhibitions that are not only visually beautiful but moving and broadening.”

Please see [HERE](#) for images of *Spandita Malik: Meshes of Resistance* and [HERE](#) for *Elisa Harkins: Teach Me a Song*. For more information on upcoming events, including tours and memberships, visit halsey.cofc.edu.

ABOUT THE HALSEY INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART

The Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art at the College of Charleston provides a multidisciplinary laboratory for the production, presentation, interpretation and dissemination of ideas by innovative visual artists from around the world. As a non-collecting museum, we create meaningful interactions between adventurous artists and diverse communities within a context that emphasizes the historical, social and cultural importance of the art of our time.

Location: The Marion and Wayland H. Cato Jr. Center for the Arts, College of Charleston
161 Calhoun Street, 1st Floor (corner of St. Philip & Calhoun Streets), Charleston, SC 29401

Parking: Available at metered spaces on surrounding streets and in the St. Philip and George Street Garages.

Gallery hours: 11 a.m.-4 p.m. on Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m.-7 p.m. on Thursdays. The galleries are closed on Sundays. FREE ADMISSION and OPEN to the public.

Tours: Free guided group tours are offered through the Halsey Institute’s Looking to See program. Email halseyTOURS@cofc.edu for inquiries. Free, staff-led guided tours are available at 2 p.m. every Saturday during exhibitions unless superseded by a program.

Social media accounts: [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#).

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The Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art at the College of Charleston School of the Arts has announced two new exhibitions, [*Spandita Malik: Meshes of Resistance*](#) and [*Elisa Harkins: Teach Me a Song*](#), which will be on view beginning April 5. Please see below for more information, and let me know if you have any questions or need anything further.

Thanks for your consideration,
Sarah Scott