

**Forthcoming Publication *Making Their Mark*
Captures Significance and Breadth of Artistic Accomplishment
of More Than 135 Women Artists**

**Book Features Works from the Mission-Driven Shah Garg Collection,
Inviting Readers into the Collection for the First Time**

**Available in May 2023,
Making Their Mark Includes New Scholarship by Curators, Scholars, and Artists**



Photo by Justin Lubliner. Courtesy Gregory R. Miller & Co.

San Francisco—March 23, 2023—For nearly a decade, philanthropist and collector Komal Shah, along with her husband Gaurav Garg, has been championing the achievements of women artists by supporting the acquisition of their work by major institutions, developing a talk series at Stanford University, and establishing an expansive art collection. In May 2023, Shah will continue this effort to illuminate the innovative and risk-taking work of women artists with the publication of *Making Their Mark: Art by Women in the Shah Garg Collection*. Co-edited by curators Mark Godfrey and Katy Siegel, the 432-page book provides the first in-depth look at the collection and offers a wide range of scholarly essays that capture the complexity, significance, and breadth of artistic accomplishment of the featured artists. It is also among the first initiatives of

the [Shah Garg Foundation](#), created to support new projects, programs, and advocacy relating to the work of women artists.

The release of *Making Their Mark* is part of Shah’s vision to increase access to and understanding of works in the collection and their relationship to broader dialogues about the evolution of art. A celebration of the many women who have shaped contemporary art and art history, the book is another important contribution to expanding historical narratives to embrace artists who remain underrepresented. *Making Their Mark* will be published by Gregory R. Miller & Co. and distributed worldwide by Artbook | D.A.P. The book will be available online and in stores on May 2, 2023. It will also serve as the basis for a future traveling exhibition, supported by the Shah Garg Foundation, with more details to be announced later this year.

“Women, like many other marginalized groups, want to be seen as artists first, with their work transcending identity-related labels. The vision for the Shah Garg Collection is to celebrate each artist as an individual with a distinct point of view,” said Shah. “At the same time, it is well-known that gender inequities remain in the study, presentation, and acquisition of works of art. When I began developing the collection, I made a commitment to use my time and resources to make a difference, by highlighting the work of artists who remain under-sung as well as those who have attained the recognition they so greatly deserve. I am grateful

to the artists and contributors who have made the book possible and look forward to continuing the work to bring light to these artists and issues.”

“*Making Their Mark* is an opportunity to engage with the work of a wide range of women artists and to foster conversations about the art and artists that we appreciate and elevate. This is among the first of many initiatives that we plan to develop through the Shah Garg Foundation that will offer new avenues and platforms to explore art history—as it has developed and is being made today—and to bring greater balance to the range of voices that are part of the scholarship and dialogues,” added Garg.

Women are not a monolith; their artistic visions, approaches, and breakthroughs are multiple and multifaceted. As such, *Making Their Mark* includes a spectrum of texts by curators, historians, and artists that offer new scholarship and insights into the range of ideas, themes, relationships, and innovations within and across the practices of the more than 135 featured artists. The book features essays by Godfrey and Siegel as well as Glenn Adamson, Daniel Belasco, Kirsty Bell, Jessica Bell Brown, David J. Getsy, and Gloria Sutton, covering topics including the development of abstraction, the role and importance of craft traditions, artistic experimentations with new technologies, and the impact and engagement of artists with personal and communal identities. *Making Their Mark* also features reflections by fourteen artists on artists in the collection who have inspired them, including Kevin Beasley on Lynda Benglis, Laura Owens on Mary Heilmann, Tschabalala Self on Faith Ringgold, Charles Gaines on Lauren Halsey, and Jaune Quick-to-See Smith and Kay WalkingStick in conversation.

Among the many artists featured in *Making Their Mark* are Pacita Abad, Candida Alvarez, Olga de Amaral, Emma Amos, Firelei Báez, Jennifer Bartlett, Barbara Chase-Riboud, Trude Guermonprez, Jacqueline Humphries, Suzanne Jackson, Maria Lassnig, Simone Leigh, Joan Mitchell, Senga Nengudi, Toyin Ojih Odutula, Calida Rawles, Ilana Savdie, Lorna Simpson, Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, Pat Steir, Lenore Tawney, Toshiko Takaazu, Charline von Heyl, Kay WalkingStick, and Mary Weatherford. Their art spans painting, sculpture, textile, ceramics, works on paper, and mixed-media installations. *Making Their Mark* is richly illustrated and includes engaging accounts of each individual artist, penned by writers Allie Biswas, Hannah Johnston, and Lauren O’Neill-Butler.

“While the past several years have seen growing commitments and certain gains in the presentation and study of works by artists who are also women, people of color, and part of LGBTQ+ communities, there remains considerable work to be done to reach a real sense of parity, and a new vision of contemporary art. Books like *Making Their Mark* belong to the collective work needed to realize this vision of equity,” said Siegel and Godfrey. “*Making Their Mark* captures an incredible spectrum of creative achievement and even just a few minutes with the book offers a powerful understanding of the range and diversity of the artists explored. We hope it will inspire research, writing, and exhibition-making, and help to create a more equitable and inspiring art history.”

Making Their Mark also includes a conversation between Godfrey, Siegel, and Shah about the creation of the Shah Garg Collection. Shah began collecting contemporary art in earnest around 2014, after being struck by works by Jacqueline Humphries and Charline von Heyl as well as those by several other women who were presented in that year’s Whitney Biennial. For several years following, she focused her attention on a group of painters working in New York and Los Angeles, including Amy Sillman, Laura Owens, Charline von Heyl, Mary Heilmann, Mary Weatherford, Lorna Simpson, Firelei Báez, and Dana Schutz, forging strong

friendships with many of them. The personal relationships fostered wider collecting, including works by an earlier generation of painters. Over the past several years, the collection has grown beyond painting to embrace textile works and sculptures, as well as works that disregard the traditional separation of abstraction and figuration. Today, the collection continues to expand, maintaining its mission to illuminate the formal and conceptual achievements of women.

Book Details

Making Their Mark: Art by Women in the Shah Garg Collection

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About the Shah Garg Foundation

The Shah Garg Foundation supports new scholarship on and public engagement with the achievements, contributions, and innovations of women artists. Through a wide range of projects and partnerships with educational institutions, arts organizations, and arts leaders, the Foundation works to bring greater recognition to art by women and to rectify the underrepresentation of women in public collections, exhibitions, and art historical narratives. The Foundation offers strategic financial and programmatic support in service to its vision to achieve parity for women artists within the arts ecosystem.

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For more information, please contact:

Alina Sumajin

Co-founder and Principal

PAVE Communications & Consulting

alina@paveconsult.com / 646-369-2050