



Neha Choksi
Sculptor & Installation Artist

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Neha Choksi, 42, divides her time between Mumbai and Los Angeles, and creates works that are immersed in the relationship between time and space. Drawing on eastern philosophy and western existentialism, she describes her work as poetic and existential and absurd and emotionally available. Essentially a sculptor who dabbles in various mediums, her work has been exhibited worldwide, including presentations at the Kochi-Muziris Biennale 2014; the ninth Shanghai Biennale; Whitechapel Gallery, London; Utah Museum of Contemporary Art; Torrance Art Museum, California; John Hansard Gallery, Southampton; and the 10th Venice Architecture Biennale.

Earliest memory associated with art

I guess the earliest would be drawing an apple with a green crayon on the apartment walls when I was two or three. I had an art-filled childhood from drawing to making illustrated books to putting on puppet shows for my friends, but the first transformative art experience that was not something I had made myself was probably quite late, when I was maybe 12 and saw a production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in which the actors were dressed in ordinary street clothes and slept on sleeping bags on stage. The fourth wall dropped.



One of contemporary India's most cerebral, intellectually provocative and sensitive artists, Choksi takes risks, questions deeply and forces herself into vulnerable situations to create powerful images.

Maithili Parekh
Art Consultant



NEHA CHOKSI;
ICEBOAT; PERFORM-
ANCE AND VIDEO

Early influences

Ann Bergren, a classics professor who taught me Greek at University, also taught me to listen to the silences in the text, and I kind of just applied it to life. In general, though, I think my own prior work influences what I do next.

Any memorable anecdotes from the early years?

The earliest public sculpture I made was when I was around ten. I spied some cement lying around and corraled friends one afternoon to make a rough speed bump in the back driveway undetected.

Mediums you find most engaging when it comes to defining your aesthetic?

I don't have an aesthetic; I call myself a sculptor who works in all media.

Five of your favourite artists/artworks

Mark Dion's "The Great Munich Bug Hunt", Bas Jan Ader's entire oeuvre, Wooster Group's "Poor Theater", Chris Burden's "Doomed", Inigo Mangano Ovalle's "Le Baiser/The Kiss", and Giuseppe Penone's "Maritime Alps" series.

Your best work

The one I am working on now, titled "The Sun's Rehearsal," which will be shown at the 20th Biennale of Sydney in 2016.

Top three art fairs to visit

Here are the one's I have enjoyed: Printed Matter's Art Book Fairs in New York and Los Angeles, the Outsider Art Fair in New York, and Frieze Masters in London.

