

January 22, 2014

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**Manjari Sharma • Darshan**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Emi Ozawa • New Work**

March 8 - April 18, 2014

First Friday Reception: March 7, 2014, 5:00 - 8:00 pm

Richard Levy Gallery is pleased to present **Darshan**, a series of vibrant photographs by Brooklyn based Indian photographer, **Manjari Sharma**. *Darshan* is a Sanskrit word meaning vision or view and is associated with Hindu worship. A Darshan is the experience that invokes an immediate connection between deity and viewer. Manjari Sharma's **Darshan** series is composed of 9 representations of Hindu deities that tells the story of this revelation.

Historically, Hindu deities have been depicted predominantly through sculpture and painting but very rarely photography. Sharma brings contemporary life to these iconic images through her camera lens. Multiple trips to Mumbai and collaboration with a sizable team of local artisans, sculptors and painters were funded by a successful Kickstarter campaign. Lavish sets were constructed, costumes were created, and models were styled to render each of the elaborately staged 9 archetypal representations.

Born and raised in India, Sharma was immersed in her native Hindu culture. In her early 20's, she moved to the U.S. to pursue her interest in photography. Visits to Hindu temples were gradually replaced by sojourns to museums and art galleries with the same fervent dedication. The Darshan series bridges the gap of these two vastly separate worlds.

This monumental project has already captured the attention of The New York Times, NPR, Life Magazine, Wired and countless others. *Darshan* is scheduled for exhibition at the Asia Society Texas Center in Houston in May 2014.

In the project room we are showing new works by Albuquerque based, Japanese artist **Emi Ozawa**. Trained as a woodworker, Ozawa creates mahogany, poplar and maple three dimensional wall sculptures that compositionally shift as seen from different perspectives. Ozawa's keen interest in refined burnished surface treatments, and optical designs combine to create whimsical yet superbly finished works. Emi Ozawa was born in Tokyo and studied fine art in Japan. She received an MFA from the Rhode Island School of Design and currently lives and works in New Mexico.

**Dates: March 7 - April 18, 2014**

**First Friday Gallery Reception: Friday, March 7, 2014, 5:00 - 8:00 pm**

**Gallery Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm**

**Location: 514 Central Avenue SW, Albuquerque, NM 87102**

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