



## **RICHARD TAITTINGER GALLERY PRESENTS A SOLO SHOW BY MANISH NAI ON TILL 28 FEBRUARY, 2021**

RICHARD TAITTINGER GALLERY is pleased to present *FORM AND VOID*, the first New York solo exhibition of works by Mumbai based artist Manish Nai in collaboration with **KAVI GUPTA GALLERY, Chicago.**





*FORM AND VOID* surveys over 5 years of diverse facets of Nai's transdisciplinary practice. This exhibition seeks to explore the formal and conceptual balance between absence and presence. Nai's minimalist aesthetic position finds harmony between form and void, gravity and levity, the highly personal and the truly universal. His materials are distinctly Indian, both past and present, but the forms they take have the abstract logic of geometry. Jute and indigo relate back to the history of India's occupation by the British Empire, cash crops cultivated at the expense of farmers who desperately needed to be producing food to combat famine.



The clothes speak to cultural moments, a grandmother's patterned shawl so reminiscent of one generation in India, a child's t-shirt so clearly speaking to another, bundled together like laundry of multiple generations living together under a common roof.



Stacks of books layered like sedimentary rock form a timeline of cultural production. Mosquito nets ubiquitous throughout the tropics, are found in homes around the world, both for safety and for comfort. Even the act of compression, used in his making, relates to the notion of social, historical, and economic pressures. Despite all these distinct cultural narratives embedded in the work, there is an aspirational, transcendent universality to the work's disciplined minimalism.

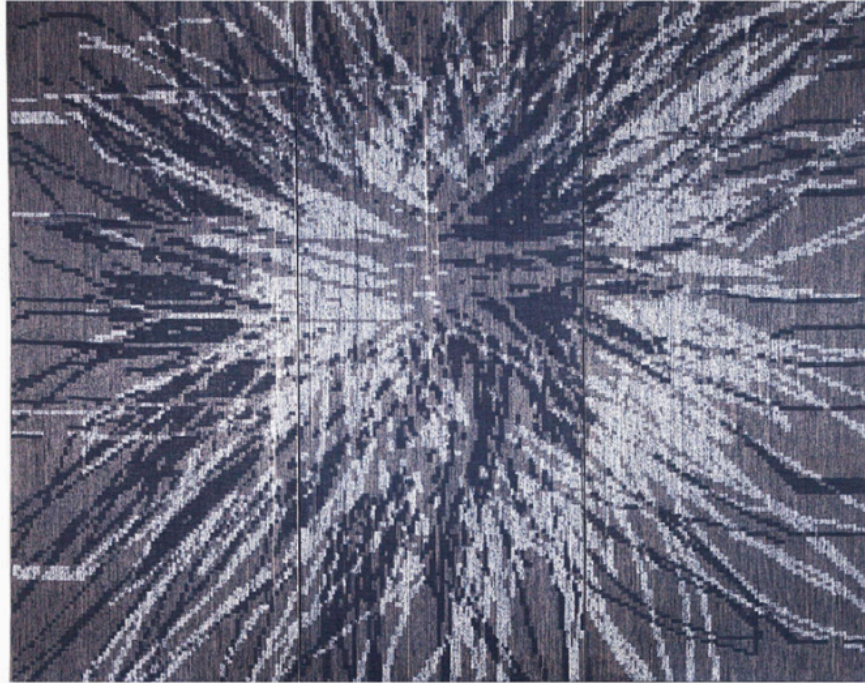


Perfect geometry inspires the boundaries of each work's formation. Point, line, plane, and form interplay their abstract logic with the limitless potential of the organic materials that form them. The artist's gestures' totalities extend beyond the objects to include specific absences around them, negative space implicitly tethered to the positive object. A jute ring highlights an empty space, the total volume described by the piece consisting more of empty space than of the jute itself.



Leaning pillars of compressed fabric cast shadows on the gap they create, delicately balanced as an interstitial between floor and wall. Mosquito nets catch pale stains of paint that mostly passes through them, visually elusive and physically transient.





Every object is riddled with gaps and fissures, and the nature of their installation in space always necessitates some negotiation with the emptiness around it. This emptiness is not just a coincidence, nor a consequence of scale, but an apparatus inborn to the work itself, absence loaded with possibility, void where form can come to have purpose. Composer Claude Debussy famously observed that music is not just the notes, but the silence between them; Nai's work serves as a reminder that sculpture too is not just its own substance, but the shadow it casts, and the space it takes ownership of outside its physical boundaries.

*FORM AND VOID* will be on view at RICHARD TAITTINGER GALLERY, 154 Ludlow Street, from January 16th through February 28th. Works will be available online at [richardtaittinger.com/](http://richardtaittinger.com/)

<https://richardtaittinger.com/>

<http://kavigupta.com/artist/manish-nai/>

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