

## IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

### **“Fragments of My Imagination” by Chila Kumari Burman**

**19 November – 23 December 2011**

Venue: Blindspot Gallery (24-26A, Aberdeen Street, Central)

Opening hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 11:00am to 7:00pm

Closed on public holidays



Blindspot Gallery and PARADOX are pleased to present “Fragments of My Imagination” featuring British Indian artist Chila Kumari Burman. Following the exhibition shown in Singapore in September this year, the Hong Kong exhibition will feature a collection of 13 artworks including print and photographic artworks on paper and canvas that are uniquely embellished with gems, rhinestones and crystals, as well as intricate mixed media works composed entirely from bindis and stickers.

One of the few British Asian artists to exhibit internationally, Burman’s story is no ordinary one. Born to Punjabi immigrants who came to Britain to earn a decent living, Burman grew up in the back streets of Bootle in Liverpool. Although her father was a bespoke tailor, he could not find work and became an ice cream man to support his family. Chief influences in Burman’s art remain her family and Indian roots. One often finds images of ice cream, cornets, and lolly ices scattered throughout her beautiful works that seamlessly blend references to popular culture with family photos, Bollywood stars and Hindu gods.

Educated at the famous Slade School of Art, Burman has worked experimentally across print, paint, sculpture, photography and mixed media since the mid 1980’s. Drawing on fine and pop art imagery, she explores Asian femininity, her personal family history, and articulates a critical position within contemporary post-colonial consumption saturated Britain.

In recent works such as *Fortune* and *Perfect Fit*, Burman explores issues of gender and race through the aesthetics of collecting. Playing with the formal properties of dress accessories, lingerie, bindis, bras, flowers, hair- pieces and jewelry, she works with repetition, pattern and allusions to the hyper-feminine, the sexual and the everyday. Encompassing the idea of Arte Povera and recycled materials, Burman



cleverly transforms these “worthless” materials that many consider cheap kitsch into a body of art worthy of serious contemplation.

In a similar fashion, the artist’s *Bindi Girl* series stems from her first use of bindis and unconventional “non-artistic” materials (such as glitter, stickers and ice-cream cones) when she was at Khoj in 1998.

#### **About Chila Kumari Burman**

Burman received her professional Fine Art and Graphic Design training at Leeds Polytechnic and later pursued her Master of Fine Art (Printmaking) at Slade School of Fine Art in London. Burman’s works are globally exhibited

at major galleries and museums and comprise important public collections in the UK and abroad including the Victoria and Albert Museum, Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery, The British Council in London, Arts Council England, Wellcome Trust in the United Kingdom, as well as the Devi Foundation in New Delhi. Burman currently lives and works in London.



#### **About Blindspot Gallery**

Blindspot Gallery is set up to bring contemporary photography, an art form that has entered the blind spot of the Hong Kong art market, to a higher degree of visibility. We feature both established and emerging photographers and artists, mainly from the region but not limited to.

#### **About PARADOX**

PARADOX brings cutting-edge, contemporary Indian art to Singapore. Our objective is to source impeccable artworks and provide access to exceptional artists in India and among the Indian Diaspora community.

# PARADOX

[www.paradoxsingapore.com](http://www.paradoxsingapore.com)

For enquiries and media interviews, please contact Ms. Lesley Kwok at 2517 6238 or by email [info@blindspotgallery.com](mailto:info@blindspotgallery.com).

Image captions:

**Chila Kumari Burman**, *Shivjee Loves Snocreame*, 2011, 2011, Mixed media on pigment print canvas, hand embellished with glitter and gems, 80 x 61 cm

**Chila Kumari Burman**, *Fortune*, 2011, 2011, Mixed media on pigment paper, hand embellished with gems and bindis, 104 x 72 cm

**Chila Kumari Burman**, *Blue Brows*, 2011, 2011, Mixed media on pigment print canvas, hand embellished with bindis and stickers, 86 x 58 cm

(Image courtesy of Blindspot Gallery)