

PHOSMAG

a magazine focusing on photography

ARTISTS BOOKS EXHIBITIONS CONTACT

SUNIL GUPTA AT SEPIAEYE – NYC

exhibitions

sepiaEYE is pleased to present **OUT AND ABOUT: New York and New Delhi**, a solo exhibition of the work of Sunil Gupta. Two pivotal bodies of photographs, **Christopher Street (1976)** and **Mr. Malhotra's Party (2007-2012)**, will be featured, together with a selection of video work.

Gupta's series of photographs, **Christopher Street**, was realized during the mid-1970s when he spent a year in New York in pursuit of a master's degree in business administration.



© Sunil Gupta, Christopher Street



© Sunil Gupta, Mr. Malhotra's Party

I spent my weekends cruising with my camera, it was the heady days after Stonewall and before AIDS when we were young and busy, creating a public gay space such as hadn't really been seen before. In retrospect these pictures have become both nostalgic and iconic for a very important moment in my personal history.

In the 1980s Gupta worked on a series of constructed documentary color photographs of anonymous gay men in monumental architectural spaces in Delhi, entitled *Exiles*. Then, after a thirty-five year absence, Gupta returned to live in Delhi; the time corresponded with an intense lobbying campaign to change the colonial anti-sodomy law in India. Since the LGBT community is still under fire politically, private parties and the web are the spaces where people meet.

In *Mr. Malhotra's Party*, Gupta visualizes the latest virtual queer space through a series of portraits of people who identify their sexuality as "queer" in some way. As they look directly into the camera they are willing to identify themselves—they become a part of an imaginary party:

There are no gay bars in Delhi but parties do happen and the way they get away with it is to post a notice saying that it's a private party. The place we always went to had a different name every week. One day it was called *Mr Malhotra's Party*. *Malhotra* is a typical name that comes from the Punjabi refugees of the Partition of India in 1948, and like hard working migrant Punjabis everywhere in the world, they built New Delhi.

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about sepiaEYE:

sepiaEYE is dedicated to showing a spectrum of modern and contemporary photography and video work from Asia. Established in September 2009 by Esa Epstein, sepiaEYE will continue to foster artist development through exhibitions, publications, trade fairs, and festivals.

We are honored to represent the Estates of Raghurib Singh and Bhupendra Karia. sepiaEYE is interested in the rediscovery of lesser known artists and significant periods within the history of photography and in the support of emerging artists.

More information:

<http://sepiaeye.com/>