



**Palo Gallery Presents Sagarika Sundaram: Source**  
**November 3, 2023 – February 4, 2024**



*Atlas*, hand-dyed wool, silk, bamboo silk, wire, 144.1 x 68.9 x 12.2 in.

**Palo Gallery** presents **Sagarika Sundaram: Source**, the artist's debut solo exhibition in New York City. Presenting monumental wall-based and free-standing felted pieces, the exhibition builds on the artist's investigations into the ancient magic of the textile arts and the potentialities of hand-dyed, raw natural fiber. The exhibition will run from November 3, 2023 – February 4, 2024, and will be accompanied by a full color catalog.

Sundaram's otherworldly works unite a painter's sense of color, a sculptor's perception of space, and a dancer's feeling for movement. The exhibition will feature several multi-layered textile compositions as well as a series of complex, three-dimensional hanging installations that bind together organic and constructed forms. Drawing extensively on natural imagery these works meditate on the impossibility of separating the human from the natural and the interior from the exterior, suggesting the intertwined nature of reality.

The scale of these works, defying dimensions as they climb from floors to walls and into the air, disclose the intense investment of labor that goes into their making, harkening back to the early days when such work was wrought entirely by hand. Deeply rooted in the landscapes that sheep-herders call home, wools and dyes from as far as the Himalayas and as near as the Hudson Valley form the raw materials for the ancient felt-making techniques that drive the construction of these works.

This collision of worlds—between the local and global, the ancient and modern, and the human and natural—speaks to Sundaram’s own heritage, growing up between India and Dubai, and to the harmonious marriage of labor, materials, and form that underlie thousands of years of textile tradition.

### **Notes to Editors**

A full color catalog co-edited by writers and curators Andrew Gardner and Vyjayanthi Rao is being published to coincide with the exhibition. The volume and contributed texts explore different aspects of the artist’s practice working with felted fiber. A wide-ranging conversation between Gardner, Rao, Sundaram and Bahauddin Dagar, a renowned Indian classical musician is also included, touching on the history of abstraction in Indian art, the global history of textiles, and the relationship between visual arts and South Asian aesthetic traditions. Forewords by Palo Gallery founder Paul Henkel and Nature Morte Gallery founder Peter Nagy introduce the book. The catalog is designed by London-based creative director Sthuthi Ramesh, and features photography by New York-based Anita Goes and Kunning Huang.

### **About the Artist**

Sagarika Sundaram (b. 1986, Kolkata, India) creates sculpture, relief works and installation using raw natural fiber and dyes. The work meditates on the impossibility of separating the human from the natural and the interior from the exterior, suggesting the intertwined nature of reality. She is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor at Pratt Institute, and a Senior Fellow at Silver Art Projects in New York City. In 2023, Sundaram exhibited at the AI Held Foundation with River Valley Arts Collective, the Moody Center for the Arts at Rice University, the British Textile Biennial and Chicago Architecture Biennial. In 2024 she will participate in Bronx Calling: The Seventh AIM Biennial at The Bronx Museum of the Arts. Sundaram’s work has been presented at The Armory Show in New York (2022, 2023) and at Frieze London 2023 with Nature Morte Gallery. Sundaram graduated with an MFA in Textiles from Parsons / The New School, NY. She studied at the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad and at MICA in Baltimore. Her work has been reviewed by the New York Times and ARTnews, while her practice has been featured on PBS, Artnet News, and the cover of Fiber Art Now Journal.

### **About Palo Gallery**

Established in 2018 in New York City by third-generation art collector and dealer Paul Henkel, Palo Gallery brings to bear a tradition of art scholarship and patronage, working as a true thought partner with artists to realize their visions and create dynamic presentations. Extensive research by the Palo curatorial team ensures that each exhibition is advised by the art historical canon and contemporary cultural touchpoints. In 2022, Palo Gallery opened its new 3,400-square-foot flagship space designed by Selldorf Architects in the NoHo district of Manhattan as the only dedicated partner showcasing Vica by Annabelle Selldorf. A destination of discovery, Palo Gallery’s multifaceted program ranges from tightly curated, thematic group exhibitions to insightful art historically informed solo exhibitions spanning a breadth of artistic endeavors.

Since its inception, Palo Gallery has sought to incorporate thematic elements into its curatorial practice – whether it be group shows or solo presentations. Early exhibitions marked the gallery’s foray into concept-driven presentations focusing on themes of memory and our most primitive instincts. *Memories Manifest* (2021) saw seven artists working in response to each other and the theme of memory, while *Primordial* (2021) investigated the ways that thoughts, emotions, reactions, and experiences speak to our most primitive instincts. The large-scale *Real Wild* (2022) presented an array of representations and interpretations of iconography from the American Wild West, a setting of which many of us have a collective archetype that the exhibition sought to re-contextualize. Building on the success of these conceptual group exhibitions, Palo has continued navigating contemporary cultural topics via art historical narratives with a number of solo exhibitions. Today, the gallery continues to showcase thematic

presentations that offer Palo Gallery and its artists a unique opportunity to explore pivotal cultural and historical topics at a level that transcends those achieved via a standard solo exhibition.

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