



Chair Procession

# Mapping memories in 3D, negotiating the once familiar

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**A**rtist Sumakshi Singh has lived in several countries in the last 30 years. But every year she returns to her grandfather's home in New Delhi, the place that holds so many of her precious childhood memories. After he passed away, Singh continued to pay visits to the house. "It felt uncanny being in that house without my grandfather. It

was filled with a lifetime of carefully collected objects. Each object in the room had a story I was familiar with. They had been there as long as I could remember, pretty much frozen in time. But without a reference, I had to renegotiate my relationship with these once familiar objects. I could barely understand which was more real, the actual space or the memory associated with it," recalls Singh.

The experience inspired the artist to map the illusion of her grandfather's room by drawing on the top of pre-existing objects in her studio, in dry pastels. She then used a projector that turned these drawings into three dimensional objects. So, when a viewer walk into this room (installation) they find themselves staring at drawings of varied geometric dimensions. But under the projector, these drawing break into strange 3D

shapes. The viewers feel like they are walking through solid objects like sofa, table, trash cans, jars, etc. Exposed bits of the floor, walls, shelves and columns also appear creating a space within the space.

The illusion gets more complex as you catch your distorted image on a TV screen placed in the same room. It slows down your body and movements get exaggerated compelling viewers to re-familiarise themselves with

their own bodies and the illusion of objects around them. "It's a disconcerting feeling when you watch yourself walking through what seemed like a concrete object. But it also makes you question what you actually own in life? Or what exactly do we mean when we call a space 'ours', though they outlives us? What is permanent and unchanging?" Singh aims to transform sterile urban spaces through art.