The creativity, conceptualization, and discovery inherent to both art and science place them surprisingly close on the continuum of efforts to make sense of the world and our place in it — and the elements common to art and science present opportunities for them to complement and enhance one another. Broad Institute's Artist-in-Residence Program allows leading scientists and forward-thinking artists to work, communicate, and learn together to benefit both science and art, spurring the creative thinking that drives innovation.

Broad Institute's celebration of its fifteenth anniversary prompts us to reflect on past and current artists-in-residence and their approaches to the connection between science and their art. Works by the current Broad Institute artist-in-residence and alumni are featured, giving the artists an opportunity to share how their time at the Broad Institute influenced the work they produced during and since their residencies.

BROAD INSTITUTE

Celebrating Art and Science at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard

November 18, 2019 – February 7, 2020

Gallery talk and reception January 14, 2020

Curated by Deborah Davidson and Shannon Humphreys

Participating Artists:

Daniel Kohn
Gupi Ranganathan
Maskull Lasserre
Naoe Suzuki
Lucy Kim

GUPI RANGANATHAN

trans-form: a study for liminal meanderings

Detail from a site and time specific wall drawing for the Trustman Gallery Anteroom Project Space

2019

Two types of turmeric powder (manjal), sacred ash (vibhuthi), slaked lime and tape, graphite, charcoal, water, isopropyl alcohol, hydrogen peroxide, and acrylic paint markers

Dimensions variable

BIO

2009–2011

Born and raised in India, Gupi Ranganathan earned degrees in engineering and management before moving to the United States in 1995. Her artistic work maps memories in order to make sense of experiences.

Ranganathan has exhibited and shared her work focusing on the intersection of art and science in galleries and forums in the US, China, and India. Her work is represented in public and private collections. In 2017, she collaborated with the Stanley Center for Psychiatric Research to design an installation for their tenth anniversary, and in 2018 she was commissioned to install a site-specific work, ***Cultured Interactions: Evolving Landscape*** (Stanley Building, 9th floor).

Ranganathan studied art at Simmons College and received her MFA in painting and printmaking from the Massachusetts College of Art and Design in 2008. She currently works and lives in Wayland, Massachusetts.

guhapriyaranganathan.com

ARTIST STATEMENT

I walked into the Broad Institute with no expectations beyond an opportunity to chat about the intersection of art and science. These chats with the Broad community evolved into an artist residency that enabled me to work with scientists on multiple research projects.

"Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going?" Paul Gauguin famously asked, and I sought to explore these questions with my art. At the Broad Institute, I started seeing my own work through new eyes, asking new questions and exploring possibilities beyond what is this?, and where is this going? to what if? and maybe.

My studio practice evolved into one where I continuously learn and constantly move between art and science. My work shifted to focus on evolving structures and patterns and became more investigative, conceptual, and abstract. I started incorporating wood burning, sculpture and video into my drawing, painting, and printmaking to create mixed media work. More recently, my work has started to focus on collaborating to create and design site-specific and time-specific projects that include installations and wall drawings.

To research Paul Gauguin's existential questions with new eyes has meant seeing them also as an evolution both biological and sociological. Working with Broadies over the last ten years on different projects has enabled me to see myself as part of a much larger continuum. The continuous interactions and collaborations, our combined dreams and visions have revealed our patterns and our particularities. For me, tracking our memories reminds us of what it means to be human, and how we choose to evolve — and brings together our different ways of thinking as part of a larger whole. I think of humans as pathways, coming together relating to each other, and forming an ever-evolving, complex web of memories that will inform later generations.