



News Release

Subodh Gupta: *When Soak Becomes Spill*

Part of the V&A India Festival

23 October 2015 – 31 January 2016

www.vam.ac.uk/subodhgupta | [#vamIndiaFestival](https://twitter.com/vamIndiaFestival)

The V&A has unveiled *When Soak Becomes Spill*, a major new installation by leading Indian contemporary artist Subodh Gupta. The work, created especially for the V&A as part of the India Festival, features a stainless steel bucket standing six metres high and overflowing with hundreds of pots, pans, containers and cooking implements. The vast sculpture is on display on Exhibition Road, outside the Museum.

Gupta is known for his large scale public sculptures, work in stainless steel and transformation of everyday objects, particularly kitchenware and vessels, into installations. *When Soak Becomes Spill* features these everyday objects spilling from the brim of the huge bucket. Such utensils are used by millions of Indian families to eat their meals, and were part of the artist's childhood and local surroundings. Gupta's work often reflects his Indian heritage whilst exploring universal themes such as consumerism, the environment and the common man.

In *When Soak Becomes Spill* the pots and pans flow like water from the bucket, alluding to the importance of the world's natural resources and their wastage by contemporary society. The bright and shiny utensils appear covetable, representing the temptation of new commodities and growth of consumer society. As these stainless steel pots are empty they also suggest the poverty of that society.

Subodh Gupta was born in 1964 in Patna, Bihar. He is now based in New Delhi and is widely considered to be one of India's most successful contemporary artists. His work encompasses sculpture, installation, painting, photography, performance and video. The artist rose to international prominence in 2007 following the display of a large bronze installation of antique utensils, *Gandhi's Three Monkeys*, at Art Basel and a giant skull formed from tiffin pots, *Very Hungry God*, at the Venice Biennale. His works have been exhibited in Paris, New York, Shanghai, Beijing, Sao Paulo, Seoul, Tokyo and many other cities across the world. In January 2014 a major retrospective of his work was held at the National Gallery of Modern Art in Delhi.

Martin Roth, director of the V&A, says: "*It is really exciting that one of Subodh Gupta's public sculptures will be displayed on London's streets. When Soak Becomes Spill is one of the highlights of*

the V&A's India Festival, and I am delighted that the work of leading contemporary artists is now being exhibited on Exhibition Road".

-ENDS-

Notes to Editors

- The installation is accompanied by a film available to view at www.vam.ac.uk/subodhgupta
- *When Soak Becomes Spill* is FREE to view outside the V&A, on Exhibition Road
- A solo exhibition of Subodh Gupta's work is at Hauser & Wirth Somerset, 12 February - 2 May 2016

V&A India Festival

This autumn the Victoria and Albert Museum presents the India Festival; a series of exhibitions, displays, events and digital initiatives that explores the rich and varied culture of South Asia, both past and present. The India Festival marks the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Museum's Nehru Gallery, which displays some of the most important objects from the V&A's South Asian art collection produced between the 16th and 19th centuries. The major exhibitions as part of this festival include *The Fabric of India* (3 October 2015 – 10 January 2016) and *Bejewelled Treasures: The Al Thani Collection* (21 November 2015 – 28 March 2016).

To find out more vam.ac.uk/indiafestival

For further PRESS information about the exhibition, please contact Lucy Hawes in the V&A press office on 020 7942 2500 or email l.hawes@vam.ac.uk (not for publication).

A selection of high resolution images is available to download from pressimages.vam.ac.uk



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