

Manisha AR

Independent Arts
Writer

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Brief Bio

A storyteller and cultural critic, she writes about art, design, film, performance, and new media work. She holds an MA (New Arts Journalism, 2018) from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Published Work

REVIEWS

Performance

[Sajan Mani On The Politics Of Body And Its Implication In Public Spaces](#), Design Pataki, Jul, 2023
Robert Walton “Exhuming Johnny” at the Chicago Cultural Center for Chicago Artist Writers, May, 2019 (*website down at the moment*)
[Immigrant Artists: Living Architecture Breathes New Life into the Histories of Chicago](#) for Newcity, Aug 2018

Art Fairs

[5 Indian Artists Who Made Their Debut at Frieze London](#), Design Pataki, Oct 2025
[7 Must-See Pavilion at the Venice Biennale](#), Design Pataki, Jul 2022
[Art Basel To Be Renamed Paris+ For Its Flagship Event in France This Year](#), Design Pataki, Apr 2022
[Best of Frieze Los Angeles](#), Feb 2022
[The Return of the Art Fair-Art Basel 2021 Report](#), Sep 2021

Visual Art

[Art Confidential: Abhinit Khanna On Playing The Long Game When Collecting](#), Design Pataki, Sept 2025
[Art Confidential: Farah Agarwal On Her 5 Most Recent Acquisitions](#), Design Pataki, Aug 2025
[A Landmark Moment: Marina Tabassum Designs 25th Serpentine Pavilion](#), Design Pataki, Jun 2025
[Nilufar's Grand Debut At Nilaya Anthology Curated By Nina Yashar](#), Design Pataki, Feb 2025
[Jenny Holzer's Show At Guggenheim Revisits The Longest LED Sign From 1989](#), Design Pataki, Sept 2024
[Looking Back at The History of Dissent Through Shilpa Gupta's Solo Show at The Barbican](#), Design Pataki, Nov 2021
[New in Mumbai: Three Galleries You Must Visit](#), Design Pataki, Apr, 2022
[Chicago's First National Indo-American Museum in Lombard](#), Design Pataki, Nov 2021
[Four Must-Visit Art Show This Month](#) for Design Pataki, Sept, 2020
[Take A Journey With Artists Mohini Chandra And Serena Chopra](#) for Design Pataki, Sept, 2020
[Mixed Media and Clear Messaging at the Smart Museum](#) for the South

Side Weekly, July, 2019

[“Also on View” for the Renaissance Society](#), for South Side Weekly Radio, Apr 2019

[On Incarceration, Quilting and Community Building at Homan Square](#), for Sixty Inches from the Center, Oct 2018

[Look, Don't Touch at the Renaissance Society](#) for the South Side Weekly, Mar 2019

[Art and Investigation: Shadi Habib Allah's exhibition at the Renaissance Society](#) for South Side Weekly, Oct 2018

[How to Dig a Hole Outside of Itself](#) for F Newsmagazine, Mar 2019

[Loss, Permanence and Vessels: On Ben Harle](#) for F newsmagazine, Feb 2018

[Tanya Aguiñiga's Crisis of Identity at Volume Gallery](#), for F newsmagazine, Dec 2017

Architecture

[At Nikhil Kamath And Abhijeet Pai's Bangalore Office Cultural Craft Meets Contemporary Design](#), Design Pataki, Mar 2025

[14-Crore Fund Helps Restore Iconic Afghan Memorial Church In Colaba To Its Former Glory](#), Design Pataki, Apr 2024

Film

[Big Laughs and 'The Big Sick' for F Newsmagazine](#), Aug 2017

[Why Chewing Gum Pops](#) for F Newsmagazine, May 2017

[Love is a 'Kedi'](#) for F Newsmagazine, Apr 2017

[Media Matter at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago](#) for F Newsmagazine, Nov 2016

[A Gathering at the Carnival Gift Shop at NGMA Bengaluru](#) for the Caravan, Oct 2015

INTERVIEWS

Books

[On Translation as an Interpretive Art: translator Elizabeth Bryer](#) for the Adroit Journal, Feb 2020

[A conversation with Devi S. Laskar](#) for the Adroit Journal, July, 2019

Q&A

[Member Interview with Colleen Hardison for Spudnik Press](#), Apr 2018

[Member Interview with David Alvarado for Spudnik Press](#), Dec 2017

[At The Crossroads Of Surrealism And Street: Abhay Sehgal Is Redefining Contemporary Indian Art](#), Design Pataki, May 2025

[Making Space For Cultural Identity: A Conversation With Sound Artist Lakshmi Ramgopal](#), Design Pataki, Oct 2020

[Renowned Gallerist Sundaram Tagore On Buying Art In A Virtual Art World](#), Design Pataki Nov 2020

[The Artist Behind Amorphous Stainless Sculptures Making Waves Online. In Conversation With Zheng Lu](#), Design Pataki, August 2025

Profiles

[Chila Kumari Singh Takes Over Tate Britain With 'Remembering A Brave New World'](#), Jan 2021

[1ON1 with Mantis Shrimp Creative](#) for TNL, May 2020
[The Language of Exhibition. David Maljkovi and Karsten Lund](#) for South Side Weekly Radio, Apr 2019
[Profiles of women in law and healthcare](#) for the American Healthcare Leader, Dec 2019- March 2019
[Portraits. Profiles of eleven South Side spaces](#) for South Side Weekly, Apr 2019
[Birds of a Feather: profile of Tracy Curtis-Taylor](#) for the Caravan, Jan 2016

ESSAYS

Available In Print Only

I Love That Painting: Moulin Rouge by Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec French, 1864- 1901, Located in Gallery 242 at the Art Institute. for I Love That Painting, Apr 2018

How to Make it in America– as a Writer: An Explainer, for Critic's Union, May 2019

Culture

LONGFORM

[Learning from Chicago Artist Coalition's Equity Listening Sessions](#) for Sixty Inches from the Center, Aug 2019

Politics

[The deep imprint of American Sign Language in Bengaluru for Caravan Magazine](#), Oct 2019

[A look into Delhi University's administration suggests that it's housing problem may remain unresolved for Caravan Magazine](#), Nov 2015

Recognitions/Affiliation

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

John M. Flaxman Library at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, 2019

Joan Flasch Artists' Book Collection at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, 2017 & 2018

RESIDENCIES, PUBLIC READINGS, TALKS & PANELS

- Guest Workshop on Travel Writing for Travel & Tourism Dept, Mount Carmel College (Autonomous) Bangalore, Mar 2020
- Panelist for Artist Self-Promotion Final Critiques taught by Asha Iman Veal at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Apr 2019
- Reading at Critic's Union release at Pilsen Community Books, May 2019
- Guest critic for Material & Media Art Therapy Final Critiques taught by Leah Gipson at SAIC, Sep 2018
- Guest lecture for Introduction to Audio Production, Loyola University Chicago 2018
- Wax long Reading Sessions 2018

- Read Some Shit at the Robey Café, 2018

Awards

New Arts Journalism Merit Scholarship 2016-2019
 Second-Year Graduate Scholarship for 2017-2018
 Recognized for Student Leadership as a Member of the Press
 (F Newsmagazine) at the Annual Student Leadership at the School of the
 Art Institute of Chicago, April 2018

Independent/Commissioned Projects

'Holding a Mirror to One's Beloved' by [Kushala Vora](#), 2025
The Food Web, a digital series in collaboration with food researcher
[Shivani Unakar](#), 2024
[The Neu Lithium](#), an editorial platform in collaboration with Nicky Ni,
 Jiaqi Zhang, Riesling Dong, *ongoing*
 Remanence// Remnants, a publication in collaboration with [Ziv Ze'ev](#)
[Cohen](#) & [Duncan Bass](#), 2019 on view at 062 Gallery, 2019
 'Invisibly Visible': Poetry Collection, audio experience in collaboration
 with [Farah Salem](#) on view at Site Galleries, 2018
 Alternating Currents, written response to artist work [Anneli Goeller](#)
 on view at Lithium Gallery, 2018