

# The Odd One

## Flights of Fancy



To Keep Things Whole. Sakshi Gupta. 2023.

Pigeons wander aimlessly around the white cube as larger gas welded structures in scrap metal, rummaged concrete and stoneware comment on the chaotic mindscape we consistently fail to organise. Sakshi Gupta's first solo show 'If the Seas Catch Fire' at Experimenter in Colaba is on from September 14 to October 26, 2023. The title is a line from one of the artists favorite poems 'Dive for Dreams' by E.E. Cummings and was written in 1952.



Spaces of Being. Sakshi Gupta. 2023.

The largest and most iconic piece of the show is the chicken coup overfilled with birds. Wings, beaks and bodies melt together to form avian animals both recognisable and imagined or even perhaps mythic. Their taxidermy like state making us question whether they are dead or alive. The front facing side is made up of four components that create a gate like facade that can be opened and closed using interlocking levers on each side. The front of the piece representative of the mask we show to the world while our thoughts behind it are both chaotic and impossible to organize.



To Keep Things Whole. Sakshi Gupta. 2023.

A feathery rug, pigeons alone or in groups with parts of concrete and parts of palm trees also populate the landscape. They are made from scrap metal and fused together with melted brass flux and iron that is salvaged from junkyards. "Animals especially birds are poised between melancholy and a sense of freedom. Birds are free to spread their wings and take off but at the same time are perched," says Gupta which to her is a rendition of this paradox that our minds contain. Living beings are ultimately tethered to the physical realm and our minds live between a similar tension, that of imagination and the limitations of the physical reality of time and space.