

The Collectors

Komal Shah & Gaurav Garg



An ARTnews Top 200 Collector, Shah has been an important player in museum philanthropy, serving as a member of the accessions committee at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and the North American acquisitions committee at Tate Modern in London. She was appointed as a trustee of SFMOMA in May 2018 and a trustee of the Tate Americas Foundation in spring 2018.

Avid collectors since 2008, the collection is entirely focused on women artists or artists of color. Works by four women abstract painters—Amy Sillman, Charline Von Heyl, Jacqueline Humphries, and Laura Owens—form the “crux” of her collection, in which works by Joan Mitchell, Mark Bradford, Charles Gaines and Sam Gilliam also figure prominently.

In 2019, Shah and her husband Gaurav Garg acquired an untitled painting by Mitchell from 1992 (the year of the artist’s death). Shah is a “die-hard fan” of the market-making Abstract-Expressionist whose auction record was set in May 2018, when *Blueberry* (1969) sold for \$16.6 million at Christie’s New York.

As an art activist, she has also created a series of talks, called “Artists on the Future,” at Stanford University that focuses on the intersection of art and sociopolitical issues and have included two-person conversations between artist Lorna Simpson and Ford Foundation president Darren Walker and curator Kimberly Drew and artist Lynda Benglis.