

From Chamba

START Gallery, Winston-Salem, NC

Cami Burruss, 2015

To understand ourselves, it is first necessary to understand our own personal histories. With an ACC-IAC Fellowship, I studied the traditional art form of Pahari miniature painting under renowned artist and Padma Shri recipient, Vijay Sharma, in Chamba, Himachal Pradesh, India. This experience allowed me to become immersed in and gain a deeper understanding of my maternal familial culture. Through this fellowship I created 9 paintings, compiled a handmade sketchbook, and was able to fully immerse myself in my familial culture. In this exhibition, I hope to explore the role of ancestry and self through the study of Pahari miniature painting.

This body of work consists of twelve paintings of my own, in addition to two paintings and a book written by my *Guru* (teacher). These pieces will be displayed alongside handmade materials, such as paintbrushes, pigment mixtures, and paper media utilized in creating a miniature painting. The audience will be provided with overarching themes through which to interpret the works seen in this exhibition. Panels will provide educational resources describing the materials and painting process of this highly involved artistic practice. Because the majority of these paintings depict Hindu Gods and Goddesses, stories and religious references will accompany the works to provide historical and religious context. Overall, I hope that through these paintings, materials, and process documentation, I can provide the Wake Forest community with a better understanding of a traditional art form from India and highlight its important role in developing a deeper sense of self through exploring familial culture.