

## **Shweta Bist**

### **Artist Statement**

Inspired by personal narratives, my photographic work explores the psychological experience of mothering. I stage pictures to attribute value to motherwork and to oppose the consideration of home as an economically non-productive realm. My practice is rooted in values of care and honoring the feminine.

Memories, dreams and suppressed emotions guide my creative enquiry. While fulfilling my two daughters' needs for protection and nurturance, I contemplate my past experiences of disempowerment as a young girl and my current role as a mother in a capitalist society. I am inspired by the ever-evolving dynamic between us, how their needs influence mine, and how stories of my past and the social milieu of our present affect our experiences.

Color conveys emotion, and symbolisms from nature, popular iconography, and art history represent ideas and attributes in my compositions. Ultimately, I endeavor to create images that urge the viewer to consider the complexities of the maternal experience in its ambivalent entirety, and contribute to a narrative about the lives of women and their children, as told from their perspectives.