

# Climate Mandalas In A Burning World: Portals of Transformation

New works by Neha Misra नेहा मिश्रा On view July 12 through August 16, 2025

**Opening reception Saturday, July 12, 2025, 5–7pm** 1353 U St NW, Washington, DC 20009



Neha Misra नेहा मिश्रा, Surya Parikrama: Circumambulating The Sun. 2025.

Washington, DC: Hamiltonian Artists is pleased to present *Climate Mandalas In A Burning World: Portals of Transformation.* On the heels of 2024, the hottest year on planetary record, Neha Misra नेहा मिश्रा centers collective ways of being and belonging as the portals of transformation that today's age of climate change demands. Engaging sacred geometry rooted in the spiritual ecological traditions of Misra's ancestral India, this presentation of new works contemplates the circle, or "Mandala" in Sanskrit, as an invitation to heal and to be made whole.

Grounded by an ambient soundscape produced in collaboration with Tvameva and Priya Parrotta, Misra's immersive array of painted tapestries includes two interrelated bodies of work. Misra's *Elementary Mandala Portals* render Ayurveda's "Panchabhutas;" earth, water, fire, air, and ether—reimagined as spirit. Using playful symbolism that highlights the intersections between planet and people, each painted mandala serves as a meditation on these elements as fundamental to all matter and key to regenerative climate solutions. Created using upcycled fabric from the artist's intergenerational, transcontinental circle of weavers, mothers, sisters, and aunts, sarees take on new life, meaning, and monumental scale as hanging tapestries.

In alignment, the *Climate Solutions Mandalas* on view were created through a mix of relational and conversational processes with five local, regional, and international organizations whose work Misra locates within circles of inspiration, community, and climate solidarity: Temperance Alley Garden (U Street Corridor, DC), Green Dharma, The North Carolina Climate Justice Collective, Remote Energy, and Women & Allies in Climate. The collaborative mandalas reflect varied approaches to building climate solutions and systems of care.



To offer further context, Neha Misra shares the following:

"As my kin across South Asia continue to battle extreme heat, and news of a potent heat dome building over North America poses an imminent threat to my migratory home, I hope to offer *Portals of Transformation* as both a living contemplation and call to action—to Mother Earth, her beings and each other. In ever deepening circles of inner and outer transformation, the exhibition's visual vocabulary serves as an invitation to remember that in the face of a burning world, the portal is us."

The opening reception will feature musical invocations by Tvameva, Temperance Alley Garden, and a poetry reading by Misra. **An artist-led exhibition tour will be held on Saturday, July 26, 3–5pm; link to register <u>here</u>.** Additional programming to be announced. Visit Hamiltonian Artists' <u>website</u> and follow <u>@hamiltonian\_artists</u> on Instagram for more information about corresponding public programs.

#### **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Neha Misra नेहा मिश्रा (b. 1980; New Delhi, India) is an award-winning eco-folk artist, poet, and climate justice advocate. Misra is guided by her lineage as a first-generation, multilingual immigrant who calls a solar-powered community in the D.C. metro region her adopted home. Working across mediums of paper, textile, land, and poetics, Misra's interdisciplinary practice embodies the transformative power of art to build bridges between private, collective, and planetary healing and justice.



Photo by Leland Hasty.

Misra is a featured artist in *Homeland* | *Hostland*—the 9th edition of the Arts in Foggy Bottom Outdoor Sculpture Biennial. She is the recipient of Nootana's "Preranadayi/Inspiration Giver" Distinguished Creative Leadership Award (2024), the North Carolina Climate Justice Collective's TapRoot Arts Residency (2024), and is a co-recipient of the Washington Project for the Arts Wherewithal Grant (2023). In 2022, Misra participated in the Public Voices Fellowship on the Climate Crisis—an initiative presented by the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication and The OpEd Project. Misra has been honored as a Presidential Leadership Scholar and as a Regenerative Artivist by the Design Science Studio—a partnership of the Buckminster Fuller Institute and habRitual for leading planet-conscious artists.

As a 2023–2025 Hamiltonian Artists Fellow, Misra has been building relationships of solidarity between climate action and arts ecosystems.



## **ABOUT HAMILTONIAN ARTISTS**

Hamiltonian Artists' mission is to nurture community and increase access to space, opportunity, and resources for emerging artists, through impactful programs and exhibitions. The organization reaffirms and expands upon its originating vision as an incubator for the professional development of emerging visual artists, serving as a hub for Washington, DC's, creative economy and a vibrant center for contemporary art in the DC area. With its unique investment in emerging artists, Hamiltonian Artists provides resources to aid their development in important business skills, professional experiences, and visibility to support and sustain their art career.

Through the fellowship program, exhibitions, studios, artist talks, public events, membership program for art collectors at all levels, and so much more, the organization contributes to the vitality of the area's arts scene by deepening the appreciation for contemporary art and culture throughout Washington, DC, and beyond.

## **HOW TO VISIT**

Location: Hamiltonian Artists, 1353 U Street NW, Washington, DC 20009 Hours: Thursday–Saturday, 11am–6pm For more information visit <u>hamiltonianartists.org</u>.

### CONTACT

For press inquiries and additional info, contact Anisa Olufemi, director of programs and curator anisa@hamiltonianartists.org.

Images available here.