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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SAN LUIS OBISPO MUSEUM OF ART TO PRESENT *THE SECRET PLACE*, A SOLO EXHIBITION BY SIJI KRISHNAN

Wednesday, October 1, 2025 (San Luis Obispo, CA) - The San Luis Obispo Museum of Art is pleased to announce *The Secret Place*, a solo exhibition by artist Siji Krishnan. On view in the Museum's Gray Wing October 11, 2025 – February 22, 2026, this is the artist's U.S. Museum debut.

Siji Krishnan's paintings invite viewers into a world where memory, myth, and daily life intertwine. Working primarily on delicate rice paper, she builds up translucent layers of watercolor and oil to reveal figures, landscapes, and hidden details. Her images often feel dreamlike—ponds shimmering with light, grasses bending in the rain, or figures dissolving into their surroundings—suggesting the ways that identity, home, and belonging are shaped by both what we see and what lies beneath the surface.

The exhibition *The Secret Place* brings together recent works from Krishnan's Los Angeles debut at Michael Kohn Gallery, alongside five new large paintings created in her studio in Kerala, India. In these new works, Krishnan replaces her more figurative elements with water, plants, and sky. The natural world of her home—backwaters, monsoon rains, and village ponds—becomes a central motif, a site of both refuge and transformation. Themes of fertility and motherhood, community, and renewal flow through her practice, informed by her experiences of raising a child and the shifting boundaries between self and environment.

Krishnan's art asks us to look slowly and closely. Small details emerge—an animal, a flower petal, a shadow of a figure—like secrets discovered over time. Both intimate and expansive, her paintings transcend cultural and geographic boundaries, embodying the Upanishadic (ancient Indian sacred philosophical texts) philosophy *vasudhaiva kutumbakam*: "the world is one family."

Emma Saperstein, Chief Curator at the San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, says:

"Siji Krishnan's paintings invite us into an intimate world where memory, myth, and daily life overlap. Her delicate layering of pigment and paper creates figures that feel both familiar and otherworldly—reminders of the fragile yet profound connections we carry within us."

We are honored to share her work with our community, and to create space for audiences to reflect on belonging, resilience, and the stories that shape us."

This exhibition is presented by the Lindsay Harn Group, Christie's International Real Estate Sereno and the Every Page Foundation.

The Secret Place, October 11, 2025 – February 22, 2026

Member preview and artist walk-through: October 10, 5-8pm, artist walk through 5:30-6:00pm

About Siji Krishnan:

Siji Krishnan (b.1983) was born in Kerala, India and is currently based in Kochi, India. She received her MFA from Sarojini Naidu School of Fine Arts, Hyderabad, and a BFA from Raja Ravi Varma College at the University of Kerala. In 2019, Krishnan was an artist-in-residence at Koganecho Art Center in Yokohama, Kanagawa, Japan. Her work has been collected by numerous public institutions throughout the world including the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia; Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX; Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, MN; and the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, New Delhi, India, among others. Most recently, Krishnan has exhibited work in the National Gallery of Victoria Triennial, the Moscow Biennale of International Contemporary Art, and the Kochi-Muziris Biennale, as well as solo exhibitions at Galerie Mirchandani + Steinruecke in Mumbai. In 2024, Krishnan opened her first solo exhibition at Michael Kohn Gallery in Los Angeles, CA.

About the San Luis Obispo Museum of Art

The San Luis Obispo Museum of Art (SLOMA) is an innovative and accessible museum located on California's Central Coast. The museum presents an outstanding exhibitions program that features artists from California and around the world, as well as an ongoing series of dynamic events that engage visitors of all ages. SLOMA is located in downtown San Luis Obispo on the west end of Mission Plaza, at the heart of the city's cultural corridor. A destination for art lovers, and those just beginning to experience art alike, the museum provides a welcoming space and offers free admission to all. More information can be found at www.sloma.org.

Images and attribution



J.M.W. Turner, 'Rain, Steam, and Great Railway Bridge', 1844, oil on canvas, 101 x 146 cm.



J.M.W. Turner, 'Rain, Steam, and Great Railway Bridge', 1844, oil on canvas, 101 x 146 cm.

photo courtesy of Michael Kohn Gallery