

Chitra Ganesh (American, b.1975)

LEFT TO RIGHT, FROM TOP

***Fortuneteller, Away From The Watcher, City Inside Her, and Intimacy Of The Void,* from the portfolio *Architects of the Future*, 2014**

Portfolio of four screenprint and woodblock prints on Saunders Waterford 425gsm paper, 4/25
Fine Art Endowment Purchase

LUG 2021 1004 A-D

Architects of the Future is a four-part series of prints, each depicting a scene in Chitra Ganesh's science-fiction, fantasy-like story breaking the boundaries of what we would call myth versus reality. Ganesh combines imagery inspired by Indian and American comics with Buddhist and Hindu iconography, creating a world where femininity and queerness align with ethereal powers. The references to space and the stars reflect the possible future referenced in the piece's title, emphasizing the figures as the architects as well as explorers, commanders, writers, goddesses, and magicians of this world; like space, the figures have infinite possibilities within them. —**Rei Ukon '21**

Chitra Ganesh's, *Architects of the Future* explores "narrative representations of femininity, sexuality, and power" through a four-print comic story. Ganesh is known for her drawing-based practice influenced by the stories and symbols of Hindu, Greek, and Buddhist beliefs. *Architects of the Future* uses a retro science fiction style to explore the idea of individuals' interactions with their surroundings through fluid human forms. Each print emphasizes, highlights, and expands female features, connecting their strength and power to an imagined world. *Architects of the Future* ties together the past, present, and future importance of women's narratives and their influence on the world. —**Lena Weisman '22**

EXCERPTS FROM ACQUISITION PROPOSALS

Architects of the Future belongs with works by other artists in the LUAG collection such as Belkis Ayón. Ayón was a Cuban artist and lithographer whose works involve the stories of Abakuá, an all-male secret society of Afro-Cuban origin, and the myth of Sikan. Her work surrounding the secret society and the sacrifice of Sikan due to her accidental exposure to the society's secrets is Ayón's interpretation and telling of a mythical story. —**Rei Ukon '21**

Ganesh looked at the intersections between comparative literature and art throughout her undergraduate and graduate careers. Leading to the development of a unique artistic style evident within *Architects of the Future*, Ganesh's style is a drawing-based practice connecting influences of "surrealism, expressionism, Hindu and Buddhist iconography, and South-Asian pictorial forms... with contemporary languages of mass-mediated visual languages of comics, science fiction, news photography, and illustration." The combined processes of woodblock and screenprint add depth and complexity to each panel of the comic through vibrant colors and intricate details. —**Lena Weisman '22**