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### ***Quid Pro Quo***

**Exhibition Date: September 13 - October 12, 2018**

**Artists: Taeim Ha, Vandana Jain**

The exhibition ***Quid Pro Quo***, with Korean artist Taeim Ha and New York-based Indian-American artist Vandana Jain, captures the artists' divergence from their traditional cultures in the face of modern society. Taeim Ha's exuberant paintings are expressive, filled with color, and reflect the current mindset of response to westernization and modernization within Korea. Her confident and broad strokes of color across the canvas highlight a new generation that seeks to find their own expression and meaning outside of tradition, at the same time questioning globalization at large. Vandana Jain undertakes nothing less than a critique of global capitalism. Located in New York, the headquarters of world commerce, she draws on her immediate environment of multinationals that consume and thrive in an environment of excess and self-indulgence.

The corporate logo recurs often in Jain's work. In *Logo Alphabet*, 2003-2011, a series of 26 hand-embroidered panels depict a logo for each letter in the English alphabet. By this undertaking, she asserts the global semiotic language as a defining force, one that through its form dictates the content of what can be said and how. By using traditional or labor-intensive image making methods, she offsets the ubiquitous mass-production of the global industry, thereby creating a counter-narrative that comments on the exploitation of labor. Similarly, her series of small cross-stitch embroideries represent various international political and economic groupings, such as the G20. She is interested in examining how these abstracted national symbols come together to visualize larger political and economic bodies, which dominate the international platform. Through these explorations, Jain seeks to unravel the power structures that dictate our present society, and therefore present an opportunity for change and intervention value of work.

Examining Taeim Ha's work, one sees a similar intent but through the language of abstraction. Through the multi-layered colorful works, she creates a time-space warp to represent the world that surrounds her. Taeim Ha's paintings react to the current state of commodification within Korea. Turning to art as a meditation, Ha's work ultimately transforms into deeply color-focused landscapes of her mind, in which

the colors depicted represent her mental state at the time of painting. Her seemingly minimal compositions reveal hours of arduous work of intense contemplation and labor in order to achieve proper color harmony and depth. Unlike the Dansaekhwa school of paintings that literally means 'monochrome painting' in Korean that follows the style of painting that arose during the second half of the 1970s in South Korea, Ha boldly diverges, ushering in a new generation of contemporary Korean artists.

#### Bio Data:

Vandana Jain is a native New Yorker, and an artist and textile designer based in Brooklyn. Her work explores the intersections of pattern and symbol, and spirituality and consumerism through a variety of media including embroidery, sugar and shattered auto glass. Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, and reviewed in Artforum, The New York Times, Art Slant, Mumbai Boss, Kyoorius and Beautiful Decay.

Taeim HA is a Korean painter based in Seoul, South Korea. She earned her Ph.D. of painting from Hong ik University, South Korea. Also, she received her M.F.A. from École des Beaux-Arts, and B.F. A. from Ecole Nationale Supérieure D'art et Design de Dijon. Ha participated in many group exhibitions internationally, and she has a solo show every year. Recently, Ha started a public art project with Gana Art Gallery in South Korea.