

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Bhupendra Karia and Derry Moore

## Stillness and Shadows | Vintage Photographs of India

EXHIBITION LOCATION:

**ROSSI  
ROSSI**

16 Clifford Street  
London W1S 3RG  
[www.rossirossi.com](http://www.rossirossi.com)

EXHIBITION DATES:

18 January–6 February 2010

RECEPTION:

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PRESS CONTACT:



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[www.sepiaeye.com](http://www.sepiaeye.com)



Bhupendra Karia, *Lamp and Two Umbrellas*, Baroda, 1968



Derry Moore, *Veranda, Falaknuma Palace*, Hyderabad, 1976

sepia EYE and Rossi & Rossi are delighted to present a joint photography exhibition, *Stillness and Shadows*. Featuring vintage black and white photographic prints by Bhupendra Karia and Derry Moore, from the 1960s and 70s, recording a pivotal time in Indian history when the grandeur of the past suddenly collided with the dramatic repositioning of a post-colonial society.

Bhupendra Karia was known as an artist, teacher, and curator. Following his graduation in 1956 from Sir J.J. College of Art in Bombay, where he concentrated on painting, graphics, and history, he studied history and aesthetics at Tokyo University of Fine Arts for three years. It was in Japan that Karia received his photographic education, along with a strong understanding of Ukiyo-e woodblock printmaking and Japanese architecture. He returned to India as a well-versed photographic image-maker. Karia's thoughtful and luminous photographs, created primarily in India and Israel, reflect a distinct approach separate from the traditional photographic trends, such as street photography, that were so popular in India during this period. With a keen interest in the arts of ceramics, mural painting, and the artisans who produced them, Karia spoke of "listening to India with one's eyes." Bhupendra Karia's photographs possess an ethereal yet formally rigorous quality, deeply steeped in both cultural awareness and personal vision.

Derry Moore is best known for his insightful portraits and images of gardens, houses, and architectural interiors. In 1976, Moore traveled to India to photograph its majestic palaces and lavish homes and their inhabitants, elegantly rendering the charms, eccentricities, and fading splendor that, in post-colonial society, already spoke of a bygone world. He refers to the architecture as well as the individuals as possessing a "hybrid quality — having retained an atmosphere of another era." Moore published his work from India in 1997 in *Evening Ragas: A Photographer in India* (John Murray, London). Exploring the light, the space, and the visual contrasts that inform a room and create its essential character is at the core of his vision. His extraordinary images range from portraits to interiors, with landscapes serving as elegant punctuation points. An image of the elongated and sensual curve of a prostitute's bared back lends a personal and near voyeuristic look into his travels. Joseph Holtzman, the founding editor of *Nest*, said, regarding Moore's illumination of the intricate interplay of columns and stairs in the Wankaner Palace in Gujarat, "[he] captures the very air and space of a room, like a magician."

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

### Bhupendra Karia (1936-1994)



Bhupendra Karia, *Pots and Sari on Porch, Babra, 1967*

Born in Babra, India, Bhupendra Karia attended Bombay's Sir J.J. College of Art, graduating in Fine Art with a concentration in painting, graphics and history. From 1957-1960, Karia continued his graduate studies at Tokyo University of Fine Arts. His studies included printmaking, graphics, structure and paper conservation. During this time he began his photographic career, and returned to India as a freelance photographer. In 1966 he became a visiting lecturer in design and photography with the Department of Architecture at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles. He continued his professorial pursuits at the University of Baroda as the Chairman of the Department of Graphic Arts.

In 1971, Karia met Cornell Capa who later became a mentor and a friend. They worked together in establishing the International Center for Photography (ICP) in New York until 1978. Karia held many positions at ICP including Curator, Director of Special Projects and Associate Director. He published over 15 titles and curated over 45 exhibitions.

Karia established the Center for International Contemporary Arts (CICA) in New York in the 1980's. Throughout the almost ten years of the Centers active program he managed all curatorial, editorial and institutional aspects culminating in a series of catalogues, research reports and exhibitions.

Karia's photographic works have been collected by the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi, Museum of Contemporary Art, Milan, Italy and private collections internationally.

### Derry Moore (1937-present)



Derry Moore, *Servant, Datia, 1980*

Derry Moore was educated at Eton and Cambridge. He studied at Oskar Kokoschka's School of Seeing in Salzburg where he was deeply moved by a book of Atget's photographs and also by *A Night in London*, by photographer Bill Brandt. He later became Brandt's pupil. This association greatly influenced Moore who began his professional career in 1971. In 2005, Moore's insightful portraiture was the focus of a small retrospective at the National Portrait Gallery. He has photographed John Gielgud, Rudolf Nureyev, Alan Bennett and David Bowie, amongst others.

Moore is best known for his architectural and interior photographic work. His photographs have been reproduced in numerous magazines (including *Architectural Digest*, *Men's Vogue* and *Nest*), and he has published over a dozen books, notably *Notting Hill*, *A Gardener's Life*, *Rooms*, *Inside The House of Lords* and most recently, *In House*.

In 1997, Moore published *Evening Ragas*, a hauntingly beautiful study of post-Raj India. In the selection of 100 photographs, he alternates rich, ornate interiors, revealing portraits and calm landscapes that sensitively record the charm, eccentricity and fading splendor of a post-colonial society.

Moore's work is in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York and The National Portrait Gallery, London.

He currently lives in London with his family.