

first draft



a collaborative project :

in-progress :

: simultaneously :

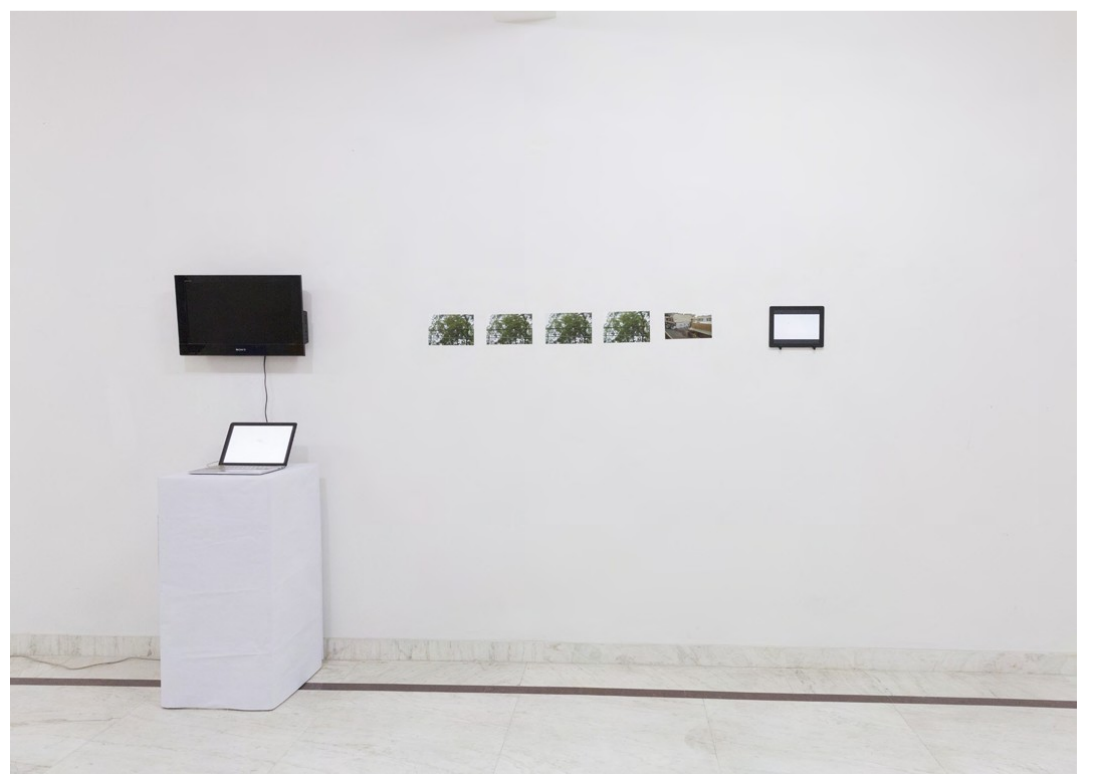
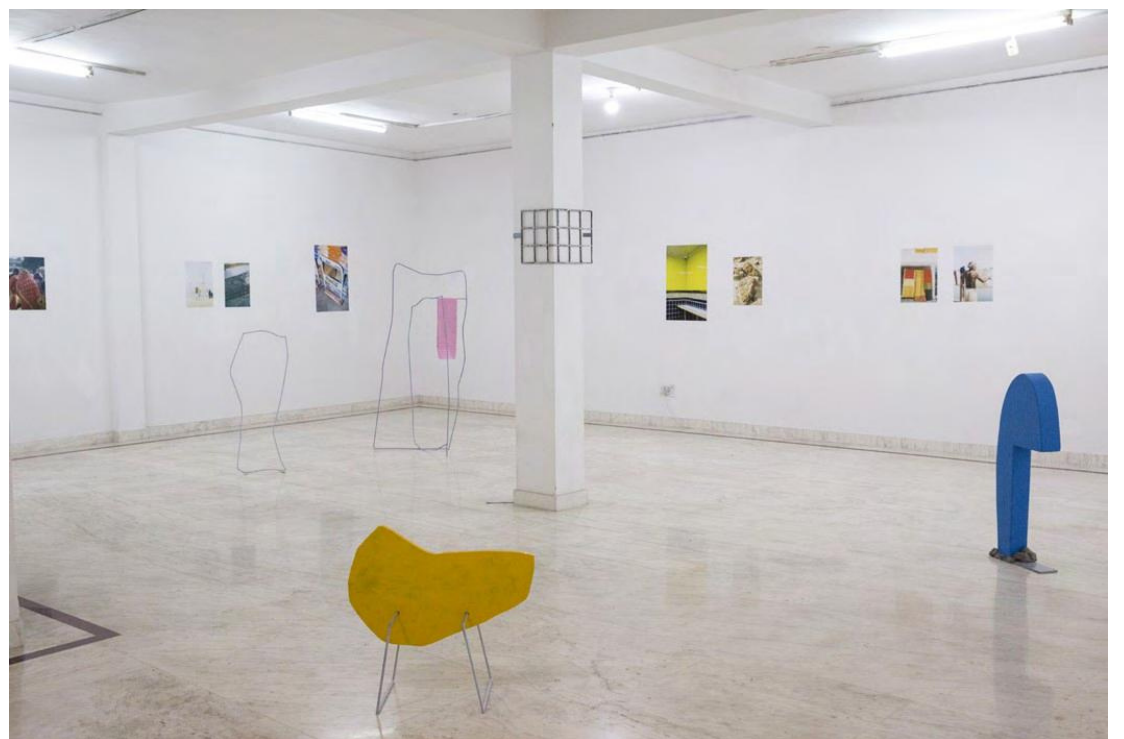
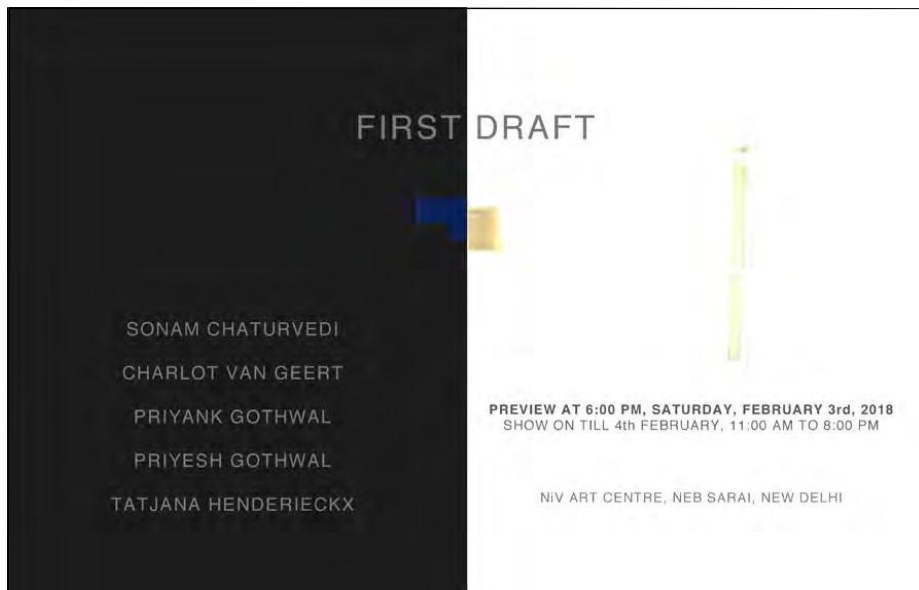
: at-the-onset-of :

: coming-together:

1/pop-up show/ first draft

This collaborative project initiated in 2018 in the first week of February, at NIV Art Gallery, New Delhi, with a group of five artists- Sonam Chaturvedi, Tatjana Henderieckx, Charlot Van Geert, Priyesh Gothwal and Priyank Gothwal (to know more, refer to this [article](#)).

Each artist showed their preliminary drafts that they aim to develop further. This exercise, of showing drafts, gave us the scope to play around and create a space for dialogue, critique and dissemination. The nature of *first draft* is to keep mutating and remain in flux; it retains a porosity which not only absorbs but also sheds its own definitions with every step. What remains is the porosity itself, which comes through a transient temporality of a pop-up, a draft, with the status of being always in-progress.

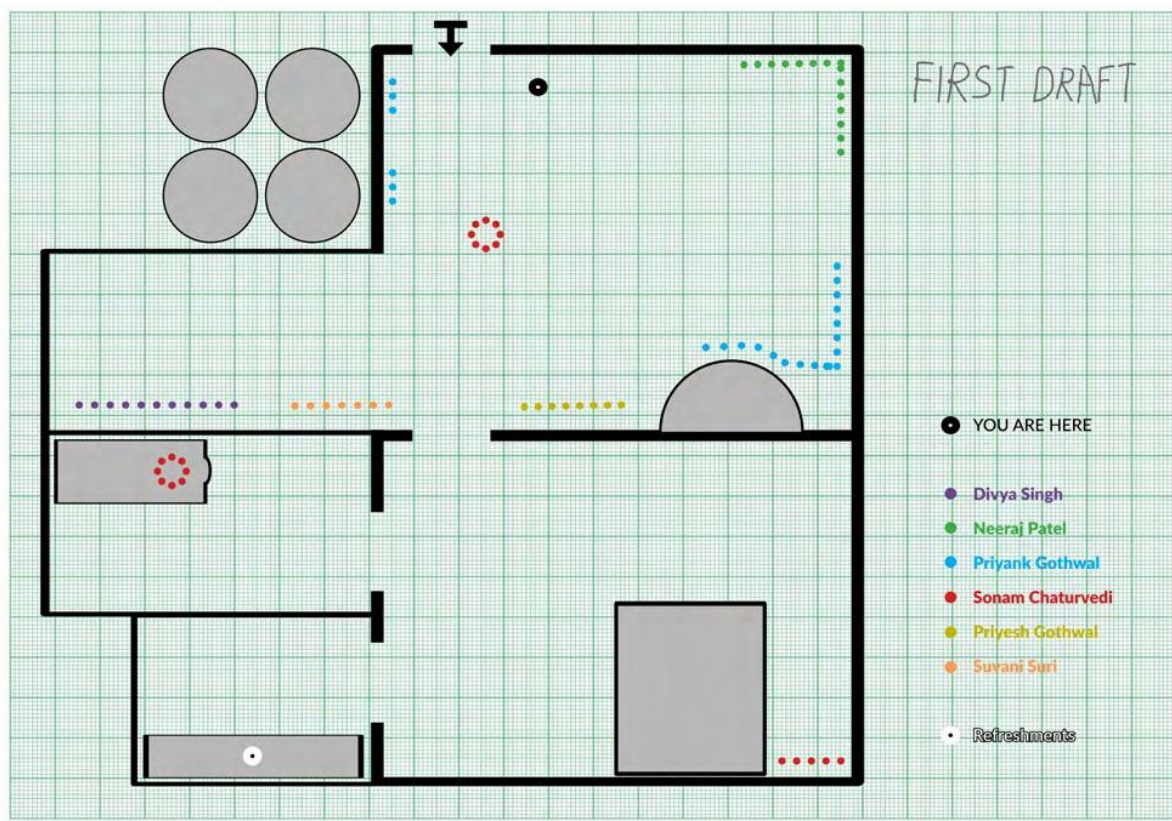


2/pop-up show/ first draft

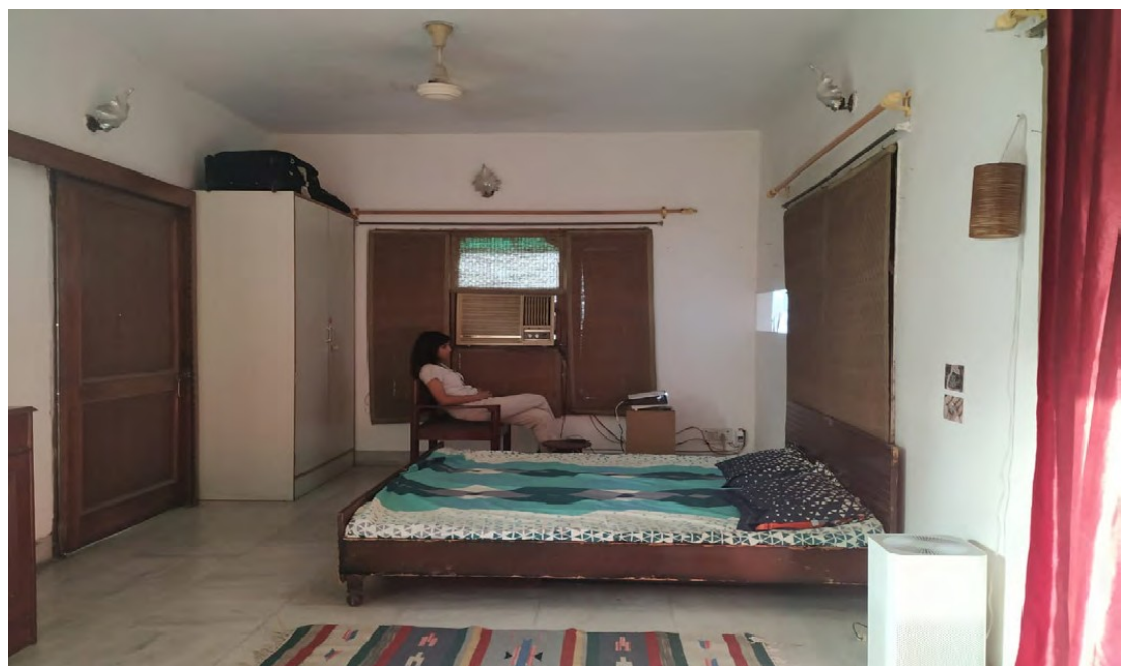
The project's second iteration took place on 13th of July at a residential place (terrace) in Vasantkunj, with Neeraj Patel, Suvani Suri, Priyank Gothwal, Priyesh Gothwal, Divya Singh and Sonam. It followed the same intent as the first one, with a separate group of artists but displaying in a residential space, that created a different dynamic.

13th July 19

Terrace 6464: a residential/non-commercial place at Vasant Kunj, Delhi, India



Floor plan of the terrace 6464 for locating the artworks



first draft•ings --

The initiative has now evolved into a space of gatherings, called *first draft•ings*, where we meet in small groups at informal spaces in New Delhi, India. These gatherings have provided a niche for people from all fields to connect and share, involving performers (dancers, musicians, theatre practitioners etc), researchers, sound/visual-designers, engineers/makers, educators, and others. It offers an offline space to come together, share, eat, drink, chat, play, rest, recuperate and perhaps create (/not) around a pre-decided collective prompt. Can we reimagine/ question/ provoke new forms of art making and its dissemination through these acts of coming together? Is it possible to generate spaces for slow-gatherings, whereby we do not necessarily create, yet reflect over the conversations that sprout into more connections, extensions, and leave/take forward its' residues? During these gatherings, we also attempt to touch upon the questions of intimacy through transmission: as a way to traverse the alternative nature of gatherings through proximity, collaboration, improvisation, slowness, rest, thus partaking in the intimate act(s) of transmission.

The gatherings were around specific prompts including but not limited to -- the actions of storytelling, compassionate listening, walking, watching films, playing games, gifting, sleeping/ snoozing, laughing and more.

w/ Akshay, Anarya, Priyank, Priyesh, Sonam, Sumedha



1/ first draft•ings -- prompt to bring an object to the table and share related stories: a potluck of #things.

17th Oct '21,

Terrace 6464: a residential/non-commercial place at Vasant Kunj, Delhi, India



2/ first draft·ings -- 'about fall'

The second gathering/helloing of first draft·ings formulated around the idea of falling and a clip from *Waking Life* film served as a prompt.

Visitors were invited to bring any signifier/ representation/ story.. anything they would like to share related to this prompt.

13th Nov '21,

Terrace 6464: a residential/non-commercial place at Vasant Kunj, Delhi, India



Saturday evening, 13th Nov '21, at a residential space, New Delhi

3/ first draft·ings --

The participants were invited to bring a short 3-4 mins movie clip that stayed with them.

Saturday evening, 11th Dec '21,
Terrace 6464: a residential/non-commercial place at Vasant Kunj, Delhi, India

Watched movie clips from ›

- Marriage Story (2019) / dir. Noah Baumbach
- Scenes from a Marriage (2021) / dir. Hagai Levi (original by Ingmar Bergman)
- Paterson (2016) / dir. Jim Jarmusch
- The Seen and Unseen (2017) / dir. Kamila Andini
- The Colors of Pomegranates (1969) / dir. Sergei Parajanov
- Minari (2020) / dir. Lee Isaac Chung
- I Lost my Body (2019) / dir. Jérémy Clapin
- Delicatessen (1991) / dir. Marc Caro, Jean-Pierre Jeunet
- Kill your Darlings (2013) / dir. John Krokidas
- Idiot (1991-) / dir. Mani Kaul (adaptation of Fyodor Dostoevsky's novel, The Idiot)
- Pina (2011) documentary / dir. Wim Wenders
- Food (1992), Darkness, Light, Darkness (1989) / dir. Jan Svankmajer



4/ first draft•ings -- listen•share•experience

Participants were invited to come with a short sound piece capturing their sonic spaces of isolation, leading towards a session of compassionate listening.

5th March '22

At a residential space, New delhi.



5/ first draft·ings -- walking/wandering

Participants were invited to walk together from a residential space to Sanjay Van, New Delhi,

We sat together and talked about our experiences memories related to walking.

Sunday evening,
24th April '22
at Sanjay Van, New Delhi



6/ first draft•ings -- session on snoozing Participants were invited to be a co-snoozer

While snoozing our alarms till the morning we came together to talk about night/sleep/ insomnia/dreams/nightmares. We saw surreal films together to keep us doze on and off with the stirring city.

Saturday night
21st May, '22
At a hotel terrace Karol Bagh





7/ first draft·ings
Thursday evening, 12th January '23,
moving between five spaces, Vadodara

8/ first draft•ings -- A gathering with –out-of-line– and Foundation for Indian Contemporary Art prompting diverse 'callscapes' that were shared and discussed amongst the gatherers and callers alike.

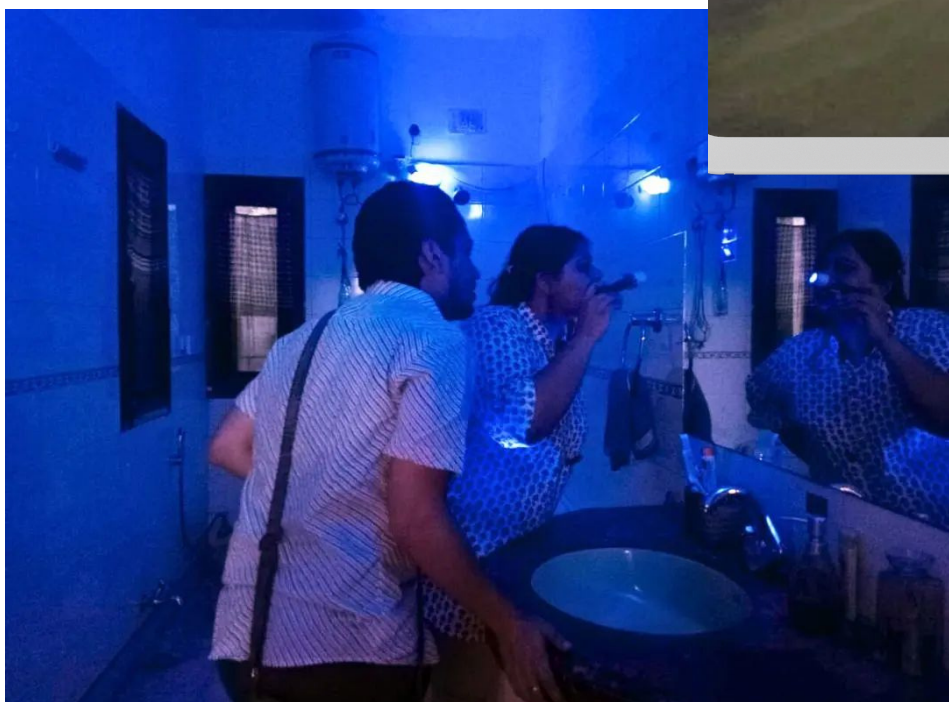
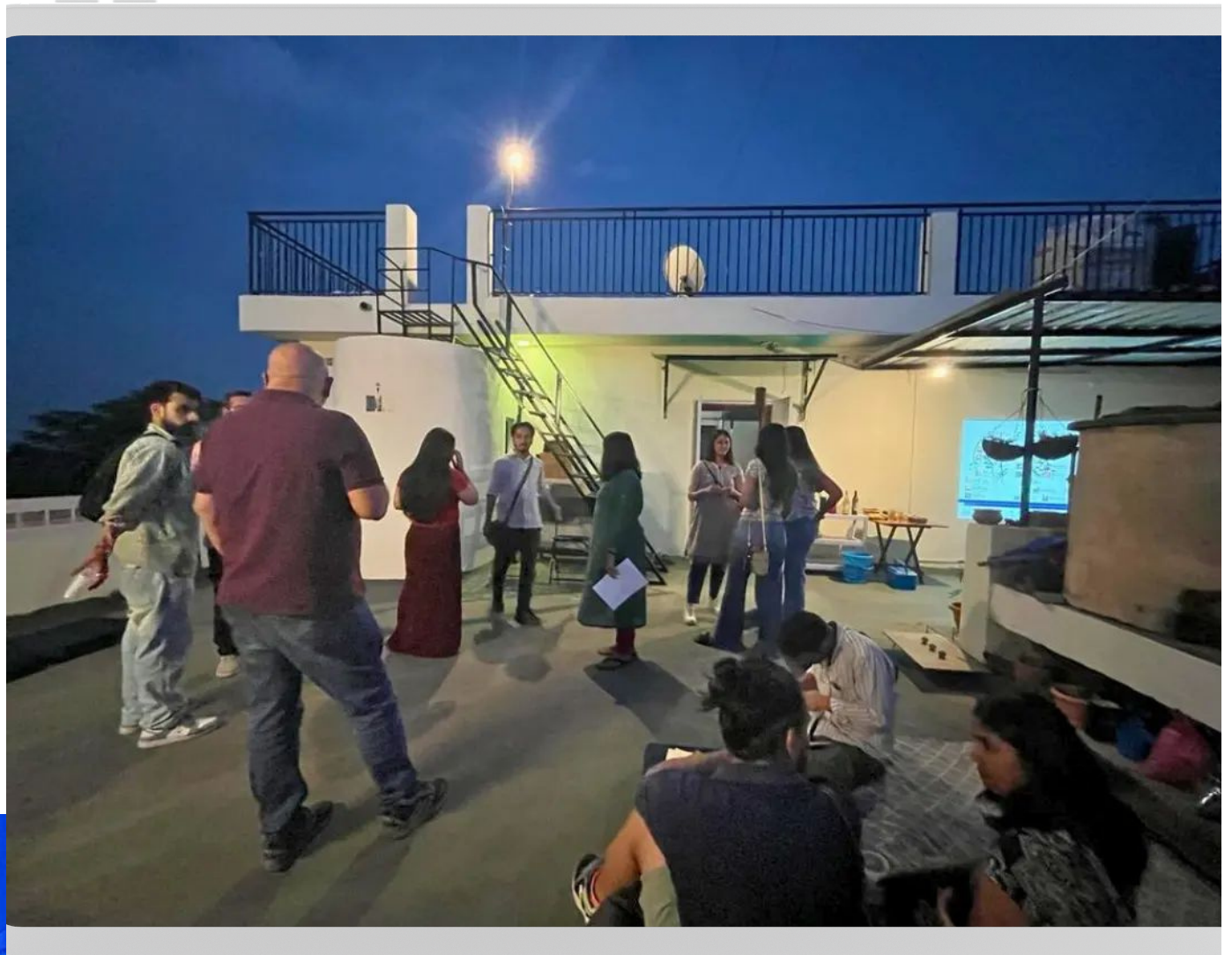
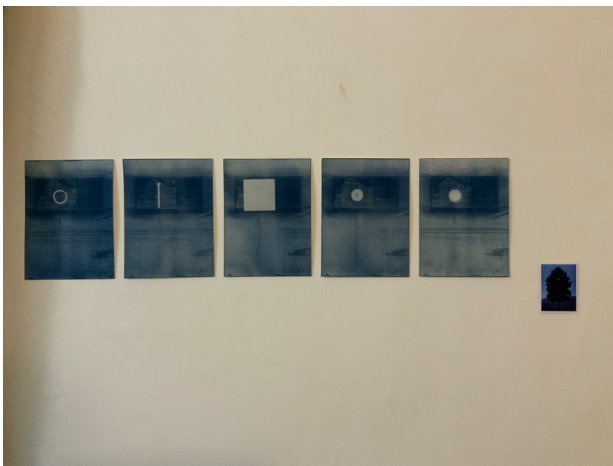
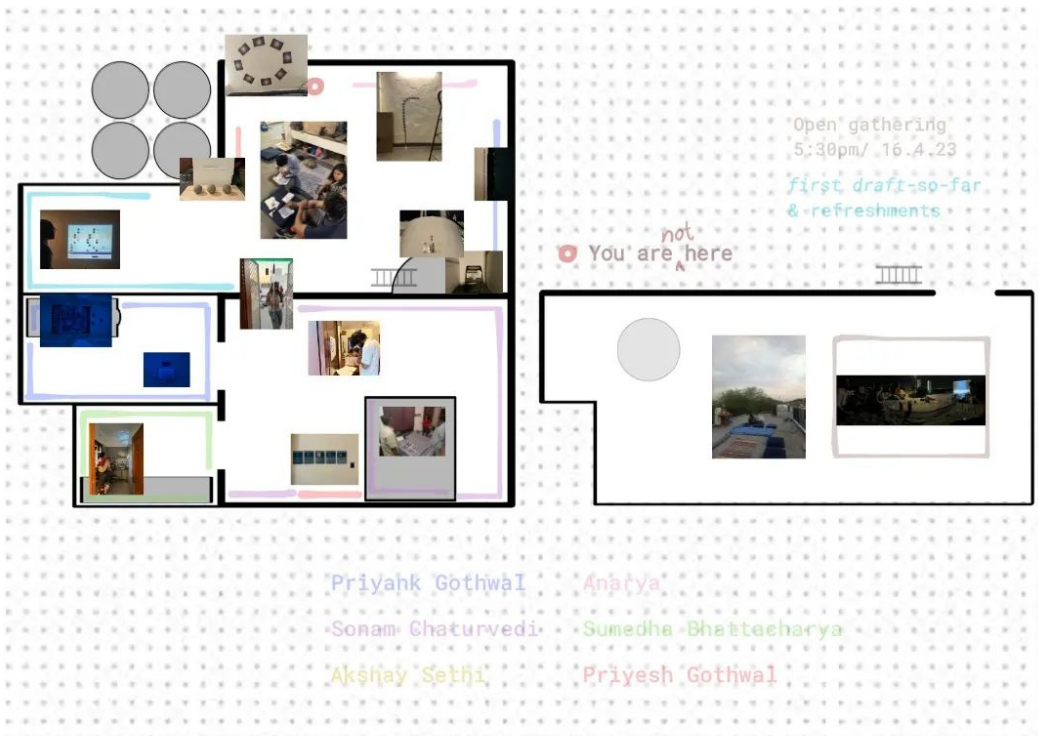
18th March '23
at FICA Reading Room, New Delhi



3/pop-up show/ first draft -- 14 to 16 April '23
Terrace/6464, B-9, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi

by Anarya : Priyesh Gothwal : Akshay
Priyank Gothwal : Sumedha : Sonam

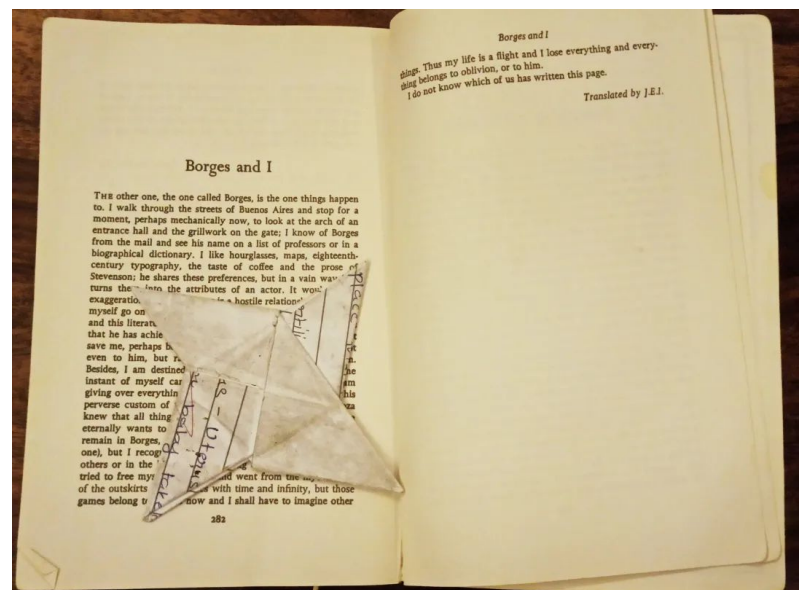
The third pop-up show by *first draft* tried to explore the potentiality of drafting as a method to enter into conversations, critiques, rehearsals, improvisations and more, in new ways. Ensuing a practice of teasing and toying with the artistic processes and embracing their overlaps, hiccups, extensions, rough-edges that need not smoothen, these works carry a life of their own into discursive and associative modes of being.



9/ first draftings -- to bring a page

This gathering invited people to share a page of their choice. It can be from a book, diary, notebook, letters, magazine, catalogue, album, to-dos, webpages, and others.

16th April '23,
Terrace 6464: a residential/non-commercial place at Vasant Kunj, Delhi,
India



10/ **first draft-ings** -- vocabularies responding to the night-sky.

In response to the poem, *I am Vertical* by Sylvia Plath, this gathering proposed ways of understanding and exploring our shifting relationship with the night-sky.

10-11 June '23,
Terrace 6464: a residential/non-commercial place at Vasant Kunj, Delhi,
India



11/ first draft-ings -- bring a page from a book that has influenced you

This gathering was in collaboration with Asia Art Archive in India, as part of the ongoing project 'Under the Influence' at [@asiaartarchiveinindia](#)'s Reading Room in Delhi. The participants were supposed to exchange their pages beforehand and then reflect, annotate or speculate on someone else's page that unfolded through conversations at the gathering.

19th August '23,
[@Asia Art Archive](#) reading room, Delhi, India

