

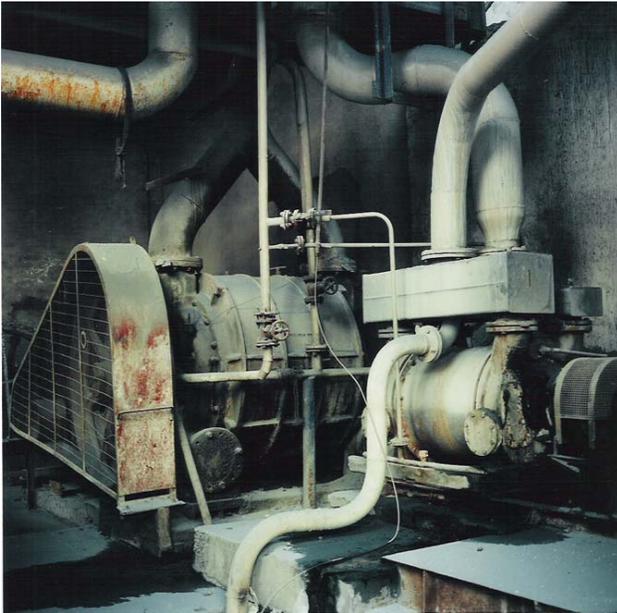
## Peabody Museum Awards the Robert Gardner Fellowship in Photography

**(Cambridge, June 5, 2008)** The Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology announces that Dayanita Singh of New Delhi, India has been awarded the Robert Gardner Fellowship in Photography. Dayanita Singh was born in 1961 in New Delhi. She studied visual communication at the National Institute of Design in Ahmedabad and documentary photography at the International Center of Photography in New York. She has worked as a photojournalist for many international publications including *Der Alltag*, *Fortune*, *Newsweek*, *New Yorker*, *India Magazine*, *SZ Magazine*, and *Time*. Her work has been exhibited internationally in Zurich, New Delhi, Brussels, Stockholm, London, Berlin, Milan, Boston, and New York among others. She has also published five books of her photographs: *Zakir Hussain* (1986), *Myself, Mona Ahmed* (2001), *Privacy* (2003), *Chairs* (2005), and *Go Away Closer* (2007). Dayanita Singh lives and Works in New Delhi.

During the fellowship year, Ms. Singh will be photographing the India that is slipping through the cracks, unnoticed, uncelebrated, in the rush to keep up, to modernize, globalize, westernize. Already lost in Delhi and Bombay, this India can still be found in Benares and Calcutta. In Calcutta, there is a man who has spent his life sculpting from the clay of the Ganges each of the ten fingers for each of the ten hands of the goddess Durga for the fall *pujas*. In Benares, there is a man who sells perfume that his family makes, from house to house; and a cotton man, who pulls out the cotton from old quilts and mattresses and fluffs them to life again. But there is also the foundry in Howrah, where barefoot and scarcely clothed men pour molten iron into handcrafted moulds, to be shipped to Germany and assembled into powerful precision machinery.

Ms. Singh plans a biographical element that could create a diary format for the resulting book and has titled her project *My Indian Diary*: "Where one jumps from the biggest steel factory in Jamshedpur to an evening in Florence back to the envelope maker in Calcutta and onto a

wealthy wedding. Where the photographer is like the story teller who does not let you get too comfortable in what you are seeing, who reminds you again and again that this is not a world of the distant past but in the present, where Calcutta Jamshedpur, and Florence coexist. At least in my mind.”



From *Factory Diaries*, Dayanita Singh. Copyright, all rights reserved.

The **Robert Gardner Fellowship in Photography** funds an “established practitioner of the photographic arts to create and subsequently publish through the Peabody Museum a major book of photographs on the human condition anywhere in the world.” The Fellowship committee invites nominations from experts around the world; nominees are reviewed and selected by a committee of three. The Fellowship provides a stipend of \$50,000. The fellowship is unique in its dedication to funding professional documentary photography. The Fellowship was given by Robert Gardner, award-winning documentary filmmaker and author, whose works have entered the permanent canon of non-fiction filmmaking. Gardner’s works include the documentary films “Dead Birds” and “Forest of Bliss” and books *Gardens of War* and *A Human Document*. In the 1970s Gardner produced and hosted “Screening Room,” a series of more than one hundred 90-minute programs on independent and experimental filmmaking. The series, considered an invaluable historical record of modern cinema, has been transferred to digital format, for archival preservation by the Museum of Film and Broadcasting in New York City. Robert Gardner

received Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees from Harvard University, and was director of the Film Study Center from 1957 to 1997. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

The Peabody Museum is among the oldest archaeological and ethnographic museums in the world with one of the finest collections of human cultural history found anywhere. In addition to its archaeological and ethnographic holdings, the Museum's photographic archives, one of the largest of its kind, holds more than 500,000 historical photographs, dating from the mid-19th century to the present and chronicling anthropology, archaeology, and world culture.