



Yamini Nayar, *One of These Days*, 2009, Digital chromogenic print, 36 x 48 in. (91.4 x 121.9 cm), Courtesy Thomas Erben Gallery. +1 212 645 8701

YAMINI NAYAR

ARTIST TO WATCH

Nayar is a Brooklyn-based artist of Indian descent. Born in Detroit, Michigan, in 1975, she received her BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design in 1999 and an MFA from the School of Visual Arts (2005). Though her work most easily is recognized as photography, Nayar's practice is situated somewhere between performance, sculpture and photography. The artist's large-scale photo prints are the evidentiary product of intensive sculptural installations that she manufactures in her studio; once she has created these environments, she then documents and disassembles them. The result speaks as much to the power of the constructed moment as it does to any real physical presence. Nayar often builds her interior landscapes and vistas from a combination of found and repurposed materials. Her constructions are significant for their formal complexity and minute attention to details, as well as their ability to transmute abstracted installation into surreal landscape. The result is something between the ramshackle and the surreal. They have been classified

as both romantic and apocalyptic, and are widely recognized for their hypnotic, dreamlike quality. Though her images usually suggest the interiors of abandoned buildings, their perspective frequently is disorienting, creating a sense of place that is both familiar and alien. Indeed, her landscapes look as if "their architects abandoned them, unfinished, and decided to invite the vandals in." Nayar has received a number of important residencies and awards, including the Aaron Siskind Memorial Scholarship while at the School of Visual Arts in 2004, Chashama Artist-in-Residence, CPW Photography Residency, Woodstock, New York, and Artist Honoree, BRIC Arts and Media; she was selected for the 2011-2012 Lower Manhattan Cultural Council Workspace Residency Program. Her work has been exhibited internationally, including at the Sharjah Biennial, Cincinnati Art Museum, Galerie Anne Barrault, Saatchi Gallery and the U.S. Embassy in Mumbai, among others. She is represented by Thomas Erben Gallery in New York. —HH