

Dayanita Singh *Museum of Chance*



Museum of Chance, Goethe-Institut Max Mueller Bhavan Mumbai, as shown in November 2014

Gerhard Steidl calls her the genius of book making, she calls herself a book artist.

What is a book? Can a mass produced artist book be considered a contemporary art work in its own right? Can a book be both a book and an exhibition? And can a book, shown on a wall as a work, also become a catalogue of its very exhibition

With *Museum of Chance* (Steidl 2014) Dayanita Singh has achieved all of this, creating a work that is simultaneously a book, an art object, an exhibition and a catalogue.

A book with 88 images and a short text by Aveek Sen, *Museum of Chance* transforms into a book-object and exhibition when its 88 different covers are placed into specially constructed wooden structures and displayed on a wall. In placing the book directly onto the wall in this way, Singh departs from simply just showing edition prints framed on a wall, turning the book itself into the art object: a work to be valued, looked at and read as such, rather than being simply regarded as a gathering of photographic reproductions.