

## Family Review

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# Dissent and Desire

January 20–April 29, 2018



*Sonal #1*, 2015. Archival inkjet print, edition of 2. Courtesy the artists and sepiaEYE, New York, New York.

## **Family Review**

### **Dissent and Desire**

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*Dissent and Desire* is an exhibition chronicling contemporary LGBTQ+ life in Delhi, India through photographs by artists Sunil Gupta and Charan Singh. The photographs show intimate and ordinary moments in the lives of twenty diverse individuals.

The images in the exhibition show some couples kissing or in bed together but the subjects are clothed and shown sleeping or cuddling. Each image is accompanied by first-person narrative texts from the subjects in the photographs. The texts are displayed alongside the images and given equal attention throughout the exhibition. The texts confront issues of sex, homosexuality, and prostitution. These texts are not explicit—but do state that these ideas exist. The people portrayed in the photographs are part of the LGBTQ+ community that often has different terms and categorizations than what might be readily understood in the West. Such as the idea of a third gender, or hijra, which is not equivalent to the Western concept of transgender. *Hijra* is used by those assigned the male gender at birth who do not identify as men. Many wear makeup and dress in clothing traditionally worn by women. Gender fluidity is an ancient idea in India.