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## **Artist Talk: Rashmi Talpade to discuss her exhibit, “Urban Legends of Modern Archaeology” on Saturday, February 9**

**(HARTFORD, CT: January 12, 2018)** Fire hydrants and manhole covers take a prominent place in a new exhibit at Hartford Public Library’s ArtWalk, as does nature in all its overwhelming fertility. Rashmi Talpade’s “Urban Legends of Modern Archaeology” is a series of rich collages juxtaposing the past with the present, and nature with humanity.

“Urban Legends of Modern Archaeology” opened at the ArtWalk at Hartford Public Library (HPL) on Friday, January 11. The exhibit will run through Sunday, February 24.

Talpade will discuss her exhibit and her work in general at a special ArtWalk Artist Talk on Saturday, February 9, from 2-3 pm at the ArtWalk, which is located on the third floor of Hartford Public Library, 500 Main Street, Hartford. The talk is free and open to the public.

Talpade has made her artistic mark in both India and the United States. She has had her work displayed at prominent galleries in Bombay, New Delhi and Bhopal, India and three of her works are now in the permanent collection of the New Britain Museum of American Art. Recently she received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and Connecticut Office of the Arts (COA) to lead the residents of Wallingford in creating a large photo collage for the town library. Talpade is in the process of creating 10 photo collages for the five branches of the New Haven Free Public Library, a project that was also awarded a grant by the COA.

“We are thrilled to have such a distinguished and innovative artist as Rashmi Talpade display her work on our ArtWalk,” said HPL CEO Bridget Quinn-Carey. “Each piece in the exhibit is so rich with intriguing and provocative details that they are almost worlds unto themselves. It is not an exhibit to be rushed through. It is one to linger over, to examine, to ponder and to discuss. And that is what true art is all about.”

“My new series, Modern Archaeology, works to make sense of our world today, which is filled with conflicting needs,” Talpade writes. “As we move rapidly towards further automation, computerization and virtual realities, attempting to capture our world in our hand held devices, we simultaneously struggle to preserve our planet, our constantly changing social structures, and our abiding faith in an increasingly isolated society.”

Talpade’s ArtWalk exhibit consists of six large and over 50 smaller collages. Each one contains a series of striking images, from fake flamingoes covered in snow to a rusted store sign and yellowing venetian

blinds, all adding up to a unique and potent whole. “The viewer must engage with the work or they will miss the details that reveal the optical play of visual depth, challenging perspectives and fictionalized worlds,” she writes. “It is essential to stand back and maintain a necessary distance to understand how the work multiplies spatially to create a complete image.”

For the viewer, Talpade’s exhibit unrolls in a constant stream of fresh ideas and shifting paradigms that leave us wondering what future archeologist will think of our society, based solely on the relics we’ve left behind.

*“Urban Legends of Modern Archeology” is funded by Bank of America and The Roberts Foundation. Viewing hours are Monday through Thursday, 9:30 am – 8:00 pm; Friday and Saturday, 9:30 am – 5:00 pm; and Sunday, 1:00 – 5:00 pm.*

## **ABOUT HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Now celebrating its 125<sup>th</sup> year, Hartford Public Library remains at the forefront of redefining the urban library experience in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. With seven locations throughout the city, the library provides education, intellectual enrichment and cultural development for thousands of children, youth and adults every year. Hartford Public Library has also gained local and national recognition for its wide range of new initiatives and partnerships designed to meet the needs of a diverse and dynamic city and region, including immigration services, employment assistance and youth leadership training. Please visit [www.hplct.org](http://www.hplct.org).

### **About the ArtWalk**

ArtWalk at Hartford Public Library provides artists with a large and visually stunning space to display their work. The state-of-the-art gallery rises above Main Street in Downtown Hartford along a glass wall that floods the space with ambient light during the day and appears to glow as a jewel box at night. Exhibitions offer an array of art experiences that reflect a variety of media, styles, and cultures in the art world, providing diverse viewing experiences, and allowing for many tastes. Art work is displayed on “floating” wall sections that allow the visitor to discover each piece while never seeing the whole exhibition from one vantage point. The gallery was made possible through the generosity of donors to the Library’s completed Capital Campaign, especially the Beatrice Fox Auerbach Foundation Fund at Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.