



Shashank Gupta
T. Venkanna

Information:

Preview and Book Launch: Oct 08, 2015, 6:00pm to 9:30pm (Mumbai Gallery Weekend)

Show Dates: Oct 09 – 15, 2015

Location: Gallery Maskara, 6/7, 3rd Pasta Lane, Colaba, Mumbai – 400 005

Gallery Timings: 11am to 7pm, Monday – Saturday

Entry Fee: Free

pimp is both the title of the debut novel by author **Shashank Gupta** and the title of the new set of etchings by artist **T. Venkanna**. Inspired by the contents of the book, the artist has created these new prints to coincide with the official India release of the book on October 8th at Gallery Maskara. Several of these prints are also illustrated in the book.

The writer and the artist will be in conversation with noted playwright and theatre director **Pranay Gupta** from 6pm to 7pm, October 08, 2015 at Gallery Maskara.

About the Author

Shashank Gupta means 'Moon Secret'. His mother thought naming her very dark third-born so would mysteriously lighten his complexion. This has not happened in 49 years. Instead, his career has waxed and waned like the moon. Two months into his PhD, he revolted and bolted, choosing to work on his father's farm. And then six years of growing-cutting-growing crops and the bleak prospects of gentlemen farmers in India, made him run away to Mumbai at 29. He went on to become a copywriter in advertising at the very bottom of the ladder and took seven years and several horrible campaigns to be called a Creative Director.

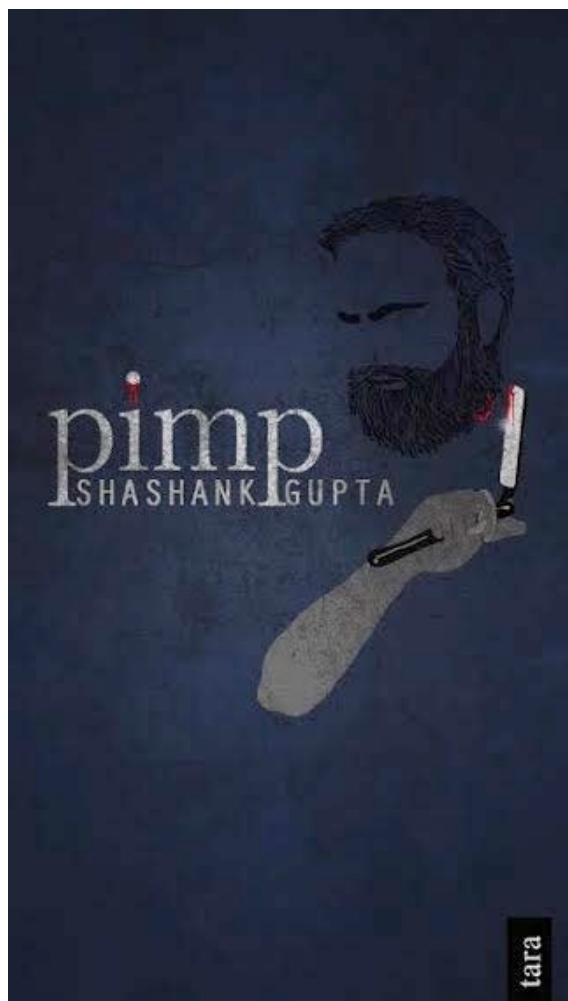
About the Artist

Artist T. Venkanna holds a Masters in Fine Arts (M.F.A.) in printmaking from the Faculty of Fine Arts, M.S. University of Baroda and Bachelors in Fine Arts (B.F.A.) in painting from J.N.T.U, Hyderabad where he was awarded a Gold medal. Born in 1980, the Venkanna is regarded as a torchbearer of his generation, and has received critical acclaim both internationally and within India. The artist was one of 20 artists shortlisted for the SKODA prize in 2010 and 2012. His works are in major collections including the Charles Saatchi collection (UK), the Burger Collection (Switzerland), Swagemakers collection (Netherlands) and many more in America, Japan, Russia, Europe and India.

About the Moderator

Pranay Gupta is a noted playwright, theatre director, actor, elocutionist, live storyteller and motivational speaker. He has co-founded the cultural organization TAS, and also runs a creative consulting firm.

About the Book



At sixty, when most men retire into emptiness, Uncle, our wrinkled protagonist, comes back with a flourishing brothel at his dead father's mansion and there begins a search for the ultimate pleasure. He dives into the darkness exploring the sin of the flesh, dictated by the devil from a distant past: a stepmother he loved to destruction. She is the only emotion, the only trace of warmth and love in Uncle's otherwise cold heart: it is she who taught him the value, as she saw it, of mortal life and human sacrifice.

His mind is complex yet simple in its desires, resting on dark sarcasm and unpredictability, that compels one to relish every word, every move and every absurdity with a curious hunger. Unable to remain lucid, he floats dangerously in and out of reality and dreams, not knowing where one ends and the other begins.

The god of sex, wealth, power, and religion has everything yet nothing- he has still not experienced the ultimate euphoria, which is derived from the ultimate pain and sacrifice. Pimp is the story of a man who graduates from lesser pleasures to higher planes. A spiritual journey of a fearsome lunatic's successes and excesses. **Published by TARA PRESS, New Delhi.**

About Gallery Maskara

Gallery Maskara has a clear and compelling mission to taking a *global* and *multidisciplinary* approach to art that responds to the cultural fabric of our time thus fueling critical dialogue, collaboration, and public engagement. More simply put it is to *EXHIBIT AND PROMOTE ART OF THE PRESENT.*

The gallery is located in the heart of downtown Mumbai between 2nd and 3rd Pasta lane in Colaba, and functions as a hub for the exploration of emerging ideas in the contemporary art. The freestanding 3,250 square foot building served as a cotton godown during India's pre independence era and has been renovated by noted conservation architect Rahul Mehrotra to maintain its historic character. With a nearly 50 feet ceiling height and walls that run 100 feet in length, the cavernous space marks a shift from the typical white cube neutral space and is raw yet flexible, making the building extremely well-suited for contemporary art practices.

For more information, visit: <http://www.gallerymaskara.com>

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<<< See overleaf for examples of etchings by T. Venkanna illustrated in the book >>>

Selected etchings by artist T.Venkanna in the book

