Ahmedabad, India (2006)

Tom R. Chambers spent three weeks in Ahmedabad, India teaching a Digital/New Media Arts workshop for graduate students at the National Institute of Design. He also documented the streets in and around the city with the help of some of his students. They were instrumental in "opening doors" via introductions and translations so Chambers could make the photographs. The workshop culminated in the exhibition, NMA@NID.

Ahmedabad is the largest city and former capital of the Indian state of Gujarat. The area around Ahmedabad has been inhabited since the 11th century, when it was known as Ashaval. Sultan Ahmed Shah in 1411 A.D. laid the foundation of a new walled city near Karnavati and named it Ahmedabad after the four saints in the area by the name Ahmed. Incorporated into the Bombay Presidency during British rule, Ahmedabad became one of the most important cities in the Gujarat region. In 1864, a railway link between Ahmedabad and Mumbai (then Bombay) was established.

The Indian independence movement developed roots in the city when Mahatma Gandhi established two ashrams - the Kochrab Ashram near Paldi in 1915 and the Satyagraha Ashram (now Sabarmati Ashram) on the banks of the Sabarmati in 1917. In 1930, Gandhi initiated the Salt Satyagraha from Ahmedabad by embarking from his ashram on the Dandi Salt March. Following independence and the partition of India in 1947, the city was scarred by the intense communal violence that broke out between Hindus and Muslims in 1947, Ahmedabad was the focus for settlement by Hindu migrants from Pakistan. (Wp)























































































































































