

PRESS RELEASE | IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**INDIA
ART
FAIR**
1—4 FEB 2024

VHC
VIDA HEYDARI
CONTEMPORARY

VHC at India Art Fair

1 February – 4 February 2024

Booth No: D05

India Art Fair: Thursday, 1 February – Sunday, 4 February 2024, NSIC Exhibition Grounds, Okhla Phase III, New Delhi 110020

VHC is excited to participate in the 15th edition of the India Art Fair. Committed to presenting works by artists spanning contexts, geographies, concerns and mediums, VHC will showcase works by Demos Chiang, M. Pravat, Pooya Aryanpour, Richa Arya and Zhang Ji in Booth D05 at the fair.

M. Pravat presents a body of work that binds together the existing entanglement of our lives with the materiality of urbanism as it continues to evolve with time. In a similar vein, Zhang Ji's canvases, referencing the historicity of temple architecture, attune us towards a possibility of dialogue between religious values, and our collective modern sensibilities, while Pooya Aryanpour's fantastical sculptures, inspired by traditional Iranian handicraft techniques tap into an experimental optic revelry of our sensorium. Finally, centre-staging their lived experiences, Demos Chiang and Richa Arya reflect on their childhood to draw upon values, instances, people, and surroundings that have aided them into materialising and building their individual creative practices.

We look forward to having you at our booth, as we bring together works that create a space for myriad experiences, reflection and conversation.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

DEMOS CHIANG

Demos Chiang was born in Taipei, Taiwan. Working across mediums like painting, sculpture and multi-media installation, Chiang's design- and art- oriented practice—a fusion of Eastern and Western cultures—is influenced by his traditional roots and the Western education he received in his formative years.

While anthropomorphic forms in Chiang's works reflect his concern for the current state of the world, his work also reveals his sensitive nature and compassion towards all beings—human and non-human. Layered using rich and diverse textures, with brush strokes evoking a sense of speed and fluidity, his paintings often contain poems in English that are meant as philosophical reflections. In his sculptural forms, Chiang employs the concept of vacuum to

examine the notions of transience and time. Among other achievements, Chiang was invited as a main exhibiting artist at the 2021 Chengdu Biennale: Super Fusion, Seoul, South Korea.

Demos Chiang currently lives and works in Taipei, Taiwan.

M. PRAVAT

Born in 1972 in Kolkata, M. Pravat's art practice examines architectural forms and materials through a fractured lens, using paintings and installations. He believes that our lives are unquestionably shaped by the built environments we inhabit. Along with images and materials, architecture plays a pivotal role in the formation of our sensibilities and in shaping our experiences and understanding of space and form.

Pravat's practice is deeply embedded in the manifestations and imaginations of architectural spaces, where he attempts to shed the representational familiarity associated with our built environments and, in doing so, finds himself appropriating, redistributing and reconfiguring the relationship between images and materials. His ongoing interest in architectural forms emerges from the lived experience of being in a city that is in a constant state of flux, where he observes how there is a continuous negotiation between its master plan, its popular aspirations and the everyday experiences of it with the flux being both tangible and intangible.

M. Pravat lives and works in New Delhi, India.

POOYA ARYANPOUR

Pooya Aryanpour, born in 1971 in Tehran, Iran, is an artist, art instructor and university lecturer. He studied painting at the Faculty of Art and Architecture, Azad University Tehran, where he obtained his Master's degree in 1999. His work has been extensively exhibited in Iran and overseas at biennials, galleries, art fairs and institutional exhibitions.

In his three-dimensional pieces, Aryanpour combines architectural practices, sculpting and painting inspired by traditional Iranian ornamentation techniques such as mirror-work (Ayine-Kari). He has adapted these to his vision through diverse modern approaches and procedures. Using such techniques, Aryanpour often takes the observer beyond the physical boundaries of his sculptural pieces as they create sweeping reflections through a play of light, lines and forms to offer a captivating sensory presence.

Pooya Aryanpour lives and works in Tehran, Iran.

RICHA ARYA

Born in 1997 in the village of Panipat, India, Richa Arya completed her Bachelor's in Sculpture from Kurukshetra University in 2018 and her Master's in Sculpture from Delhi College of Art in 2020. The move from village to a metropolis made Arya aware of the regressive attitudes about women still prevalent in her hometown and others like it. Her use of an unusual material like iron, which she painstakingly pierces and embroiders, might be poetically seen as the struggle to make something out of the hard life that is the norm for the women of the village.

Arya had a solo presentation of her work at Triveni Gallery, New Delhi, in 2021, supported by the Raza Foundation. Most recently, she has participated in several group shows at The Lexicon Art Gallery, New Delhi, in 2022 and with Carpe Arte, Mumbai, in 2022. Arya has been the recipient of the Imaginarium Emami Art Award in 2023 and the Prafulla Dahanukar All India Merit Award in 2021. In 2022, she was a resident artist at the Serendipity Arts Festival, New Delhi/Goa and Khoj Peers, New Delhi.

Richa Arya lives and works in Noida, India.

ZHANG JI

Zhang Ji graduated with a Master's degree in Mural Painting from the Central Academy of Fine Arts in 2008, and through his works, he attempts to cultivate an engaging dialogue between painting and religious architecture.

Created using a syringe by painstakingly applying as many as 120 tubes (at 170 millilitres per tube) onto the canvas, Zhang's works often resemble bas-relief sculptures, modulating between composition and decomposition, sturdiness and ephemerality. Referencing motifs from religious architecture—specifically mosques, synagogues, and cathedrals in Europe and the Middle East—he creates intricate patterns that are replicated across the canvas. Zhang intends his works to serve as an extended meditation to 21st-century viewers of how the visual vocabulary of religion and religious architecture still speaks to the vast and fertile recesses of our collective imagination.

Zhang Ji lives and works in Beijing, China.

Artist M. Pravat, Pooya Aryanpour and Richa Arya will be present during India Art Fair.

For interview requests and additional information please contact

E: info@vhc.art | T: +91 85308 60888

Interviews can be arranged with the artists and the gallery founder, Vida Heydari.

PRESS PACK:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1UmjVK-UKvIwRSf3IXbjogkJZyj7JDGBS?usp=sharing>

ABOUT VHC | VIDA HEYDARI CONTEMPORARY

VHC | Vida Heydari Contemporary is an international art gallery in Pune specialising in contemporary art and representing established and emerging artists with diverse backgrounds, across a variety of mediums and genres.

Founded in 2020 with an emphasis on authenticity, quality and innovation, VHC aims to contribute to the cultural fabric of the city. The gallery is committed to fostering the careers of its artists and sharing their work with a global audience, providing a platform for under-represented artists, presenting pioneering museum-quality exhibitions, positive collaborations, price transparency and offering a very hands-on and tailored high-quality experience.

In less than three years from its inception, VHC has mounted significant exhibitions featuring local and international artists. It has also participated in some of the most prestigious art fairs, such as Art Basel Hong Kong, India Art Fair and India Design ID.

In addition to the gallery program, VHC hosts talks, performances, workshops and educational programs to create engaging and enriching artistic experiences that capture the essence of life.

VHC | Vida Heydari Contemporary | Marvel Alaine, Lane 8, Koregaon Park, Pune, India.

Web: <https://www.vhc.art/>

IG: <https://www.instagram.com/vhc.art/>

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About India Art Fair

India Art Fair is the leading platform to discover modern and contemporary art from South Asia, offering a unique access point to the region's thriving cultural scene.

Taking place annually in India's capital, New Delhi, the fair celebrates modern-day South Asia, combining cutting-edge contemporary visual art with modern masters and vernacular artistic traditions. Positioning art and the artist's voice at its core, the fair's programme draws together galleries and institutions, private foundations and arts charities, artists' collectives and national museums, cultural events and festivals, enabling local and international audiences to engage in innovative ways with the cultural history and development of the region.

The fair is committed to supporting arts education and professional development opportunities and runs a year-round programme of events, including education initiatives, artist commissions and pop-up programmes, aiming to increase audiences for the arts within India.

Web: <https://indiaartfair.in/>

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