

**PRESS RELEASE | 9 November 2024**

Exhibition Opening

**VHC**  
VIDA HEYDARI  
CONTEMPORARY

**Walking Root Route**

Solo Exhibition

9 November 2024 – 7 December 2024

**Opening: Saturday, 9 November 2024, 5:30 – 8:30 PM**



Spiced Auroras 3

2024

Digital Print On Hahnemuehle Photo Rag

25.5 x 42 cm (10 x 16.5 in)

Edition 1/5 + 2 A.P

VHC is pleased to announce the opening of our latest exhibition, *Walking Root Route*, which explores what it means to be connected—through nature, through history, and through the quiet endurance of roots and routes that bind us all. Meher traces an intricate map of connections between origin and movement, where root becomes route. This solo exhibition finds its heart in the banyan tree, a symbol of grounding and growth, its branches eternally stretching towards both sky and earth.

The exhibition will preview on **Saturday, 9 November 2024**, from **5:30 to 8:30 PM** at **VHC | Vida Heydari Contemporary**. It will run through 7 December 2024.

**ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Monali Meher, born in 1969 in Pune, India, is a multidisciplinary artist who studied at the Sir J. J. School of Art, Mumbai. Her career has spanned several decades, during which she has performed and exhibited at prominent international venues such as Tate Modern, Sinop Biennale in Turkey, Rijksmuseum Twenthe, Art Dubai, MAXXI Museum Rome, Guangzhou Live in China, and the Prague Biennale. Her work has been featured in renowned institutions including the Cobra Museum in Amstelveen, Museum Arnhem, and Stedelijk Kunstakademie.

Notable highlights in Meher's career include receiving the prestigious 'Golden Chimera Award' at the ICASTICA Biennial in Arezzo, Italy, in 2013, and her participation in major events such as the 4th Thessaloniki Biennale, the Dakar Biennale, and the Kathmandu Triennale. In 2021, her performance at Arctic Action VI in Spitsbergen and her inclusion in the 'Upcycling' Sinop Biennale 8 exemplify her ongoing engagement with global audiences.

Meher's practice explores themes of identity, time, memory, and transformation, often through performance and site-specific installations. One of her most significant public installations, "The Bridge Is Open" (2011), under the Willem's Bridge in Amsterdam, will remain on view until 2025. Throughout her career, she has been the recipient of several accolades, including LIVE Funds from BKVB Amsterdam in 2009 and the prestigious NN Art Award at Art Rotterdam in 2023.

Her works have been supported by institutions such as AFK and Fonds BKVB and have been enriched by numerous residencies, including the UNESCO-Aschberg Residency in Vienna, the Rijksakademie Van Beeldende Kunsten in Amsterdam, the Casa Masaccio residency in Italy, and KHOJ in New Delhi.

Monali Meher lives and works in Ghent, Belgium.

#### **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 four 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 - Marvel Alaine, Lane 8, Koregaon Park, Pune, India.

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

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

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/vhc.art/>

**For interview requests and additional information please contact:**

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**Press Kit:**

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1yIL5BGERubYBtoTzIn5WAHmHbD-7r68E?usp=sharing>

**Interviews can be arranged with the artists and the gallery director Vida Heydari.**