VHC
VIDA HEYDARI
CONTEMPORARY

Internalising a City

Ashutosh Potdar, Payal Arya and Aditi Kulkarni, Prabhakar Pachpute, Rajyashri Goody, Rupali Patil,
Snehal Goyal and Vaibhav Raj Shah
Curated by Veeranganakumari Solanki
23 June – 4 August

Opening: Thursday, 23 June 2022, 6 – 10 PM

Prabhakar Pachpute
Belonging
2018
Plaster of Paris and Acrylic Paint
7.1H x 6.3W x 6.7D in (18H x 16W x 17D cm)

We are pleased to invite you to the opening of our latest group exhibition, *Internalising a City*, curated by **Veeranganakumari Solanki** at VHC **(Vida Heydari Contemporary)** on **Thursday, 23 June 2022, at 6 PM**. The exhibition displays artworks by prominent contemporary artists from Pune; **Ashutosh Potdar, Payal Arya and Aditi Kulkarni, Prabhakar Pachpute, Rajyashri Goody, Rupali Patil, Snehal Goyal and Vaibhav Raj Shah,** along with a **curatorial walkthrough at 8 PM**.

Internalising a City meticulously emulates how in navigating spaces, we surrender to belonging. The show further manifests in the form of home, identity, comfort and perhaps familiarity that allows space for expanding into other associations.

The participating artists are rooted in the city of Pune, with either personal childhood memories or allowing themselves to be adopted by this city that they now refer to as home. The exhibition articulates in varied media including photography, drawings, archives, texts and sounds, and extends the experience of the exhibition from inside and outside the gallery.
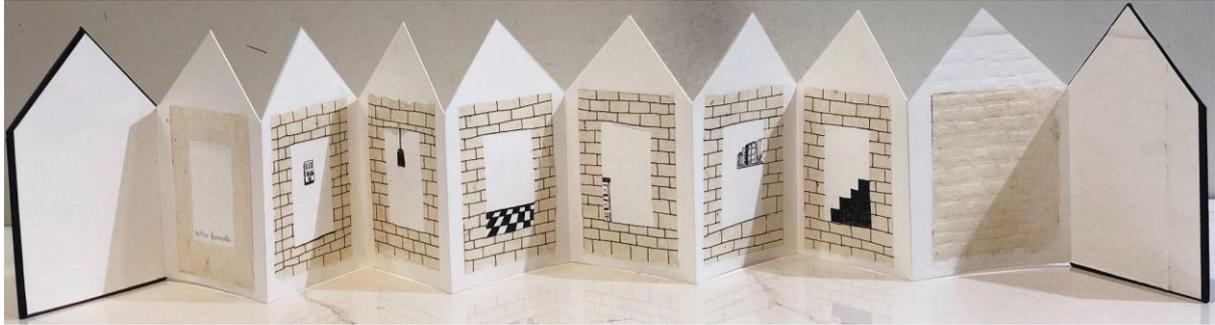
Snehal Goyal
I walked out, I had a home. I also had the wind, the clouds and the shadows.... (5)
2020 - 2021
Ink, Chine-Colle and Gold Foil on Paper
38 x 25.4 in (15 x 10 cm)

CURATORIAL NOTE - ARTIST STATEMENT (excerpt)

In navigating spaces, we surrender to belonging. This belonging manifests in the form of home, identity, comfort and perhaps familiarity that in turn gives room to expand into other associations. In the instance of Internalising a City, the expansion and reverse contraction are looked at by these eight artists in relation to Pune. All participating artists hold a link to the city that has adopted them and grown into what they call home. These associations range from personal childhood memories of growing up in Poona to more informed ones from adulthood for those who arrived in Pune later…

…Through these personal chapters of time that expand from the city into landscapes and memory architectures of the mind the artists in this exhibition work closely with the time that has layered and internalised a city, Pune, which they call home. These time frames are created and hidden with emotions. They are laden with strained roots of past associations that inform their current situations and places. The works that oscillate between details of the skin to worn walls of the city, recipe books to collected letters and photographs, and light from windows to imagined and forgotten lands, link back to the various paces and ways in which the city has been experienced. Trying to understand Pune or Poona as a city in this exhibition, leads to a realisation that the city exists in every conversation yet disappears as a form the moment it begins to internalise a personal dialogue. We are all Internalising the City.

ABOUT VEERANGANAKUMARI SOLANKI

Veeranganakumari Solanki is an independent curator and writer, interested in the way interdisciplinary forms and creative practices merge to create dialogues in public and private spaces and the convergence of images across disciplines.

Further, her research and practice consider how historical and contemporary thought inform exhibition-making and artistic practices to expand the ideas of medium specificity through narration, memory, time and story-telling. Her curatorial discourse has focused primarily on art practices within South Asia and its diasporic context. Veerangana was the Exhibition Design Team Lead for the Kathmandu Triennale 2077 (2022), the 2019 Brooks International Research Fellow at Tate Modern and a resident at Delfina Foundation. Currently, she is the Programme Director at Space Studio, Baroda, a core team member of Art Chain India and teaches the Curatorial Practice MFA programme at Kathmandu University.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

ADITI KULKARNI

Aditi Kulkarni is a multidisciplinary artist, whose practice deals with the concepts of time, alienation of space, momentum using laws of physics, and politics of every day.

She has participated in various international residencies, film-video festivals, museums, workshops, and exhibitions/shows. Her solo exhibition 'Alienation of space and time…ongoing experiment' was held at Seven Art Gallery, New Delhi.

Kulkarni was invited to Baden Württemberg FilmAkademie, Ludwigsburg, Germany, where she has co-directed & produced, short film' PIPIO'. She received British Council Fellowship-Charles Wallace India Trust Award for Research Residency at Spike Island, Bristol in 2009. She was among the top twenty finalists for The Skoda Prize in 2012.

Aditi Kulkarni lives and works in Pune, India.

ASHUTOSH POTDAR

Ashutosh Potdar is among the most prominent playwrights, poets, and short-story writers in Marathi literature. He is the founding editor of हाकारा | *Hākārā*, an online peer-reviewed journal of creative expression published in Marathi and English.

Potdar's plays have been performed at several national and international festivals, such as Bharat Ranga Mahotsav, National School of Drama, Prithvi Theatre, International Theatre Festival of Kerala and more. Potdar published his research on drama and literature in English and Marathi in various journals and presented papers at national and international conferences in India, Sweden, Germany, North Cyprus, Denmark and the USA.

He is the recipient of the Maharashtra Foundation's R. C. Datar Award, Bodhi Natya Parishad's Ashwaghosh Sanman, Natya Parishad's Manorama Natu Award, and the Maharashtra government's Ram Ganesh Gadkari Award. His plays have been translated into Hindi.

Ashutosh Potdar lives and works in Pune, India.

PAYAL ARYA

Payal Arya, born in Pune, graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Sociology from Mumbai University in 2014, Bachelor of Fine Arts from Rachana Sansad, Mumbai in 2013, Master's Fine Arts degree from Shiv Nadar University, Delhi in 2016.

Arya creates site-specific and immersive installations that people inhabit blurring the parameters of the room. She explores the concept of nonlinear time and notions of distance, position and bodily tolerance, to rethink what it means to have agency.

Arya was invited to Film Akademie Baden Wurttemberg, Germany, where she co-directed, co-produced and was the production designer for the film 'PIPIO' creating a VR experience and an interactive installation. She has been part of various group exhibitions at known organisations and festivals such as Kala Ghoda festival, Mumbai; Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, New Delhi; Pune Biennale, Pune; Kalakar Theatre, Delhi; Experimenter viewing room, Kolkata and more.

Payal Arya lives and works in Pune, India.

PRABHAKAR PACHPUTE

Prabhakar Pachpute, born in Sasti, Chandrapur received his Bachelor's in Fine Arts in sculpture from Indira Kala Sangit University, Khairagarh in 2009 and his Master's in Fine Arts from Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara in 2011.

Pachpute works in an array of mediums and materials including drawing, light, stop motion animations, sound and sculptural forms. His use of charcoal directly connects to his subject matter and the familiar roots of coal mines and miners.

He has exhibited extensively with solo shows at Experimenter, Kolkata, 2013, 2017 and 2020; National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai, 2016; Asilo Via Porpora, Milan, 2018; and Glasgow School of Art, 2019, and more. He has also participated in group exhibitions at Van Abbe Museum, Eindhoven, 2013; Kadist Art Foundation, Paris, 2013; IFA, Stuttgart & Berlin, 2013; DRAF, London, 2014; MACBA, Barcelona, 2015; Parasite, Hong Kong, 2017; Asia Cultural Centre, Gwangju, 2017; STUK, Leuven, 2018; AV Festival, Newcastle, 2018, etc. Selected fair and Biennials include Dhaka Art Summit, 2018; 2nd Yinchuan Biennale, 2018 and the 4th Kochi-Muziris Biennale, 2018.

Prabhakar Pachpute lives and works in Pune, India.

RAJYASHRI GOODY

Rajyashri Goody completed her BA in Sociology at Fergusson College, Pune and MA in Visual Anthropology at the Granada Centre for Visual Anthropology at the University of Manchester, United Kingdom.

Goody's art practice is informed by her academic background and her 'Ambedkarite' roots. Through writing, ceramics, photography and sculpture, she attempts to decode and make visible instances of everyday power and resistance within the Dalit communities in India.

In July 2018 she had a solo show, 'Eat With Great Delight', at Clark House Initiative, Mumbai. Selected group exhibitions held at Goethe Institut, Mumbai, Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna, Devi Art Foundation, New Delhi, Serendipity Arts Festival, Goa, Ishara Art Foundation, Dubai, Asia House, London, The Showroom, London, Harvard University, Cambridge and Khoj International, New Delhi. Her work has also been presented at literature festivals in India.

Rajyashri Goody lives and works in Amsterdam, Netherlands.

RUPALI PATIL

Rupali Patil, born in Pune, received her Bachelors in Fine Arts from Bharti Vidyapeeth, Pune and Masters in Printmaking from The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara.

Patil's visual arts practice crossfades within printmaking, drawing and installations. Her subjects mainly focus on social issues, especially- the subject of water and natural mineral crises.

Her works were presented at the Biennales such as 3rd Industrial Art Biennial, Croatia, 2020; Pune Biennale, India, 2017 and 14th Istanbul Biennale, Turkey, 2015. She also participated in several group exhibitions such as 'Eros' at Parasite, University Museum and Art Gallery, Hong Kong, 2014; 'Insert', curated by RAQS media collective, at IGNCA Delhi, 'Kamarado' at Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam,

2015; and others international and national art spaces. In 2014, Clark House Initiative in Mumbai hosted her debut solo exhibition, 'Everybody Drinks but Nobody Cries'.

Rupali Patil lives and works in Pune, India.

SNEHAL GOYAL

Snehal Goyal is a visual artist from Pune, who received her Bachelor of Fine Arts from Bharti Vidyapeeth College of Fine Arts, Pune and Masters in Visual Art from The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara.

As a printmaker, Goyal goes beyond the medium's traditional form to introduce different media in her practice. Her ongoing series brings to life the relationships we form with the inanimate objects that are an inherent part of our everyday lives.

She has exhibited nationally and internationally in galleries and fairs like Gallery Espace, New Delhi and Neiman Gallery at Columbia School of Art amongst many others. She has been a resident artist at the Glasgow Print Studio and is also very passionately engaged to create 'Vistaar Art Studio'- a collaborative platform for artists.

Snehal Goyal lives and works in Pune, India.

VAIBHAV RAJ SHAH

Vaibhav Raj Shah is a visual artist, who received his Master in Fine Arts from The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara, India and Master in Photography from Fergusson College, Pune, India. He also studied Drawing at Spring Studio in Manhattan, New York City, USA. He began as a classical landscape painter and currently has a multi-media approach to his practice ranging from etchings, oil paintings, photography, sculpture and video art.

Shah is the Founder/Director of ARTHISTORY+, an arts and culture platform dedicated to Indian artists, arts and contemporary culture.

Shah's work has been a part of Art Basel Hong Kong, Sarai Reader 09, Continuum, {.BOX} Video Festival Milan, Van Lagos International Video Art Exhibition, Museum of Memories and others. Vaibhav was the official artist for the Commonwealth Games in India in partnership with the Government of India.

Vaibhav Raj Shah is based in Pune, India and Panaji, India.

About Vida Heydari/Vida Heydari Contemporary Art Gallery

Established in 2020, VHC is Pune's newest contemporary art gallery. VHC celebrates art by partnering with artists, promoting their work and connecting them to art lovers. The gallery showcases works by local and international artists and through its collateral programs aims to contribute to the cultural fabric of Pune city. VHC endeavours to create a platform to encounter and engage with relevant contemporary art practices from around the world.

VHC also celebrates the art of fine cuisine with its restaurant. The experience of engaging with art is enhanced by the cuisine on offer, where the restaurant serves as a space of encounter,

conversation and reflection. The restaurant also hosts Live music performances every Thursday, giving a platform to up and coming artists to perform.

VHC was founded by Vida Heydari, a curator and gallerist with over 14 years of diverse experience in the global art world. She has worked with accomplished Indian, Iranian and Chinese contemporary artists and has also consulted for various private and public collections.

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

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