

**PRESS RELEASE | 1 February 2025**

Exhibition Opening

INDIA ART FAIR  
**YOUNG  
COLLECTORS'  
PROGRAMME**

**VHC**  
VIDA HEYDARI  
CONTEMPORARY

**Confluences | Over(p)lay**

Two Group Exhibitions

1 February – 9 February 2025

**Opening: Saturday, 1 February 2025**

VHC is pleased to announce the opening of two group exhibitions in parallel to India Art Fair's Young Collectors' Programme, "**Confluences**" and "**Over(p)lay**" at Stir Gallery, New Delhi. These two exhibitions will preview on **Saturday, 1 February 2025, 5:00 PM** onwards (invite only) at **STIR Gallery, Delhi**. The exhibitions will run through 9 February 2025.

**CONFLUENCES**

**Confluences** showcases a mix of contemporary practices that highlight artistic experimentations at the intersection of painting and photography. Bringing together a careful selection of practitioners, the showcase seeks to find points of fluidity, overlaps, and interconnections in merging otherwise two distinct techniques to reveal how each influences and remoulds the other.



MARYAM FIRUZI

Scattered Memories Of A Distorted Future - *Zahra Shafie*, 2021

Staged Photography on Hahnemühle Paper

90 x 120 cm (35.5 x 47 in)

Edition: 2/5 + 2 AP

## **ABOUT THE ARTISTS**

### **ELTHO K S**

Eltho, born in 1992 in Thrissur, Kerala, holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Government College of Fine Arts, Kerala (2020) and a Master of Fine Arts from Visva-Bharati University, Kala Bhavana, Santiniketan (2024). His practice reflects a deep engagement with the socio-political dynamics of the agricultural landscapes that shaped his upbringing and identity. His works often highlight unexplored visual narratives of these environments, foregrounding the overlooked histories of marginalized communities.

Eltho has participated in several notable group exhibitions, including “NAKSHI” at the Academy of Fine Arts, Kolkata in 2024, “Non-Sense”, curated by Hidden Artist Initiative at the Faculty of Fine Arts, Vadodara in 2024, the Lalit Kala Akademi State Exhibition at Pepper House, Kochi in 2024; and “Ocha” at Lalit Kala Akademi, Thrissur in 2020.

Eltho currently lives and works in Thrissur, Kerala.

### **HIREN PATEL**

Hiren Patel, born in 1987 in Navsari, India, holds a Bachelor’s degree in Applied Arts from B. A. Mehta Kala Maha Vidyalaya, Amalsad (2011), and a Master’s degree in Printmaking from the Faculty of Fine Arts, M. S. University of Baroda, Vadodara (2017). His artistic practice examines the complexities of modern village farming in South Gujarat, portraying the paradoxical realities of rural life. Deeply connected to the region’s agricultural landscapes, his work explores the interplay between tradition and innovation, addressing the environmental and societal impacts of contemporary farming practices.

Hiren held his first solo exhibition “New Futures” at Knots, Vadodara in 2018, followed by Journey of Wisdom at Art Privilege Gallery, Mumbai in 2020. He has participated in several prominent group shows, including “MERA KI” at Vis-à-vis Studio, Vadodara in 2023, Sheemesha Art Studio, Vadodara in 2021, “Ground” at Mimesis Print Studio, Baroda in 2019, and “Interlude-1” at Knots, Vadodara in 2018, among others. Recently, he was an artist-in-residence at the Space Studio in Baroda.

Hiren Patel currently lives and works in Vadodara, India.

### **MARYAM FIRUZI**

Maryam Firuzi was born in 1986 in Shiraz, Iran and works in photography and cinema. She is a graduate in Bachelors of Art from the Art University of Tehran in Cinema, and Master of Arts in Film Studies. Born during a turbulent period in contemporary Iran, Firuzi views art as her primary means of self-expression, enabling her to explore and articulate her most profound emotions. Her work often addresses cultural crises, gender issues, and identity, all

through a self-reflective lens. She perceives Iran as a crossroads between Western civilization and Eastern heritage, a position that has historically sparked complex dialogues on gender, identity, and culture. For Firuzi, art serves as a critical entry point into these multifaceted discussions.

Firuzi has twice been awarded the Peace Medal of the Global Peace Photo Award (2018 & 2022). Her works have been featured in numerous photo festivals and exhibitions, including the La Gacilly Photo Festival in France and Austria, the 9th Daegu Photo Biennial in South Korea, the "Open Your Eyes" Photo Festival in Zurich, the Art & Folk Craft Museum in the United States. She was also the laureate of the 6th edition of the IWPA Award in 2022.

Maryam Firuzi lives and works in Tehran, Iran.

### **NAVID AFZALNIA**

Navid Afzalnia, born in 1997 in Iran. He earned his Bachelor's degree in Photography from the University of Art, Tehran, in 2021 and is currently pursuing a Master of Fine Art at the University of the Arts Helsinki, Finland. He is a photographer whose work delves deeply into themes of personal and collective memory, domestic spaces, and socio-political issues.

Afzalnia's recent exhibitions include participation in a group show at Soore University of Art in 2023 and the Oripeu Project in Nantes, France, the same year. He was also featured in the 2018 exhibition "In City" at the University of Tehran.

Navid Afzalnia is currently continuing his higher studies in Finland.

### **NILOTPAL D SINHA**

Nilotpal D. Sinha, born in 1984 in Dharamnagar, India, holds both a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in Visual Arts in Painting from Maharaja Sayajirao University, Baroda. His artistic practice is deeply personal, often centered on imaginative and emotionally resonant depictions of individuals intimately connected to his life.

Nilotpal has participated in several notable group exhibitions, including the Baroda March exhibitions by Rukshaan Art (2022, 2021), Little Infinity at Art and Aesthetic Gallery, New Delhi (2017), Subjective Idioms, a two-person show at Art and Aesthetic Gallery, New Delhi (2015), and Tentacles at Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai (2011), among others.

Nilotpal Dhvaj Sinha currently lives and works in Shilong, India,

### **PRAJITH ELLAMPILAL**

Prajith Ellampilal, born in 1993 in Thalassery, India, is a contemporary artist whose practice is rooted in a deeply personal exploration of emotion and memory. He earned his Bachelor's degree in Visual Arts with a specialization in Creative Painting from Thrissur Fine Arts College

in 2015, followed by a Master's degree in Visual Arts from Maharaja Sayaji Rao University, Baroda, in 2017. Ellampilal's artistic journey began during his childhood, where blackboards served as an unconventional canvas for self-expression after his parents discouraged him from using paper. This formative experience informs his distinctive excavation-like process, which involves dipping, scratching, and erasing to reveal hidden layers of colour and narrative.

Ellampilal has showcased his works in prominent group exhibitions across India, including "Artistic Alchemy" at Kerala Lalithakala Academy, Kozhikode in 2024, "Devayanam" at Asian Art Centre in 2022, "Sea and Soul" at Darbar Art Centre, Ernakulam in 2021, "Corpus Exhibition, Image and Inextricably" at Art Konsult, Delhi in 2019, and "The Third Hand" at Priyasri Art Gallery, Mumbai in 2018, among others. He has also participated in various artist residencies, such as those at Space Studio in Vadodara, Raja Ravi Varma Studio, and the National Art Camp organized by Kerala Lalithakala Academy.

Prajith Ellampilal currently lives and works in Vadodara, India.

### **RAMANSH BHARGAVA**

Ramansh Bhargava was born in 1996 in Delhi, India. He completed his Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts from Amity University in 2019 and earned his Master's in Fine Arts from Shiv Nadar University in 2024. His academic journey has profoundly shaped his exploration of visual language, allowing him to delve into philosophical, social, and psychological themes through diverse media. A significant focus of his work is the investigation of liminal bodies—those existing in the spaces between societal structures, often marginalized or overlooked.

Bhargava had his debut solo show, *Sight Under Construction*, in 2022 at NFC, Delhi. He has also participated in group exhibitions such as *Open House* at Art-Buzz Studio, Delhi, in 2022, and *Surface 06* at Art-Buzz Studio, Delhi, in 2020. In 2022, he was an artist-in-residence at the Next Step Residency, 1 Shanti Road, Bangalore.

Ramansh Bhargava currently lives and works in Delhi, India.

### **RITIKA SHARMA**

Ritika Sharma was born in the year 1994 in Delhi, India. She has completed her Bachelor's in Fine Art (2015) and Master's in Fine Arts (2017) both in Painting from the College of Art, Delhi. Her artistic practice investigates everyday experiences, observations, local spaces, and their involved politics through mixed media works.

Ritika Sharma has participated in prominent exhibitions, including "Out of Turn" by MAG Contemporary curated by Adwait Singh at Bikaner House, Delhi in 2024, "Beyond the Gaze" at Alliance Franciase, Dhaka, Bangladesh in 2024, "Art For Climate Action" by Ministry of Textiles at National Crafts Museum in 2023, "Yuva Sambhav" by Raza Foundation at Bikaner House in 2022 and "Delhi Through Internal and External Experiences" at Nippon Art Gallery,

Mumbai in 2021, and many others. She has also been actively participating in artist residencies, workshops, and courses including “Summer Residency” at LAMO, Ladakh 2024, “Beyond the Gaze 2023” - an international workshop by Photo South Asia, Space Studio - BICAR Writing Fellowship 2023, “On-Screens” by Reliable Copy in 2021 and “Coloring the World” - an artist residency at Piramal Art Foundation in 2019. Her practice has been recognized with the Emerging Artist Award in 2024, the Space118 Fine Art Grant in 2024, and the Inlaks Fine Art Award in 2025.

Ritika Sharma lives and works in Noida, India.

### **SAMIM ALAM BEG**

Md Samim Alam Beg, born in 1998 in Murshidabad, West Bengal, India. He pursued his academic studies at Rabindra Bharati University in Kolkata, earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts in 2020 and a Master of Fine Arts in 2022, both in Sculpture. Samim’s artistic practice is characterized by a profound exploration of the interplay between cultural and natural landscapes. Driven by an insatiable curiosity, he experiments with objects and forms derived from nature, aiming to establish a thoughtful dialogue between architectural practices and visual art. Photography also plays an integral role in his practice, adding another layer to his exploration of nature’s beauty and complexity.

In 2023, Samim’s work was featured in the Space 118 Fundraiser Show in Mumbai. He was also awarded the MFA Gold Medal, the Nirod Baran Memorial Prize, and the Bhunath Mukherjee Memorial Prize by Rabindra Bharati University. In 2022, he received the Students Annual Exhibition Gold Medal and the Salma Naqvi Award from Art Family. In 2021, he participated in exhibitions like Abir First Take in Ahmedabad and the Kochi Students’ Biennale and received the Kala Sakshi Memorial Trust Art Scholarship.

Samim Alam Beg lives and works in Kochi, Kerala.

### **VIKRANT KANO**

Vikrant Kano was born in 1992 in Delhi, India. He completed his Bachelor of Fine Arts (2016) and Master of Fine Arts (2018) at the College of Art, New Delhi. His practice explores the “idea of home” by delving into his family history and archives. Through his work, Vikrant examines the interconnected themes of home and homelessness, migration and land ownership, physical and mental boundaries, memory and trauma, as well as fact and fiction.

In 2021, Vikrant held his first solo online exhibition, PRAF Discover Series-04: Lost In Translation, supported by Prameya Art Foundation. He has also participated in numerous exhibitions across India and internationally. Notable exhibitions include Transitions and Transformations: The Constant Flux of Personal Structures curated by Geraldine Ondrizeck at Palazzo Bembo, Venice (2022), the online video art exhibition Diaphragm – Mixing Cultures at the Wrong Biennale (2022), and Call to Disorder: Experiments in Practice and Research curated by Vidya Shivadas at the Serendipity Arts Festival, Goa (2019). Vikrant’s work has

also been showcased in Castelnuovo Fotografia at the Castle of Rocca Colonna, Rome (2019), and Projector by Indus Art Collective in Madrid, Spain (2019).

Vikrant Kano lives and works in Delhi, India.

### **YASHNA KAUL**

Yashna Kaul was born in 1995 in New Delhi. She completed BFA in Photography and Imaging from Tisch School of the Art, New York University in 2018. Through her practice, Kaul reflects on the nature of memory itself—how it is preserved, how it is altered, and how it is sometimes lost. Her work challenges to consider the ways in which photography can both reveal and obscure, offering a nuanced meditation on the role of images in the construction of our personal and collective identities.

Her work has been exhibited both in India and internationally. Her most recent exhibitions include 'Kyotographie' in Kyoto, Japan, in 2024; the Serendipity Arts Festival in Goa in 2023; the Photo Vogue Festival in Milan, Italy, in 2023; and the India Art Fair in 2023, among others. She was awarded the 2024 Japan Photo Award and received an honourable mention for the 2023 PhMuseum Women Photographers Grant New Generation Prize.

Yashna Kaul currently lives and works in between Mumbai and New Delhi, India.

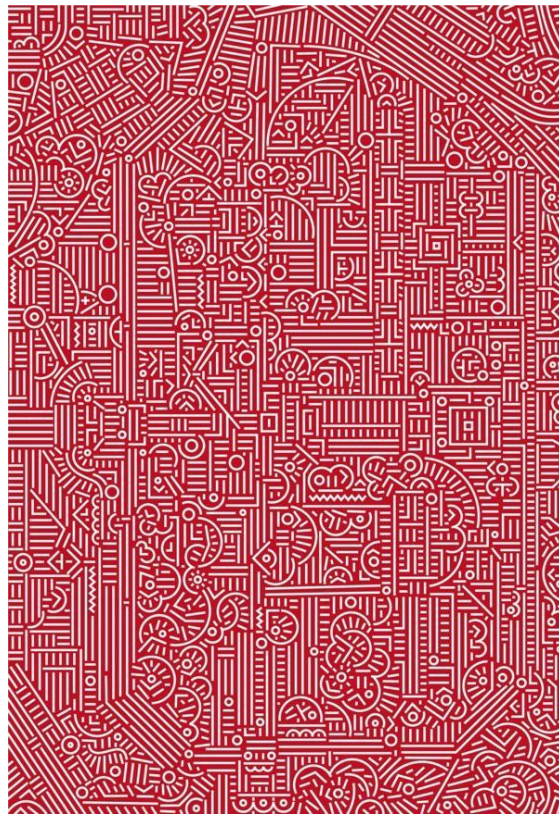
### **Press Kit:**

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1t0HZfjpOe-H4cwiuDvwqz76LSRQrrG5?usp=sharing>

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

## **OVER(P)LAY**

**Over(p)lay**, acts as a mediator, bringing together diverse perspectives on the growth, transformation, and adaptation of contemporary cities. This exhibition reflects on the architecture of cities and the architecture of one's own life, unearthing the hidden layers that influence how we imagine, construct, and navigate the spaces around us.



LU XINJIAN

Red Fort, Delhi, 2024

Acrylic, Canvas

160 x 110 cm (62.5 x 43.5 in)

### **ABOUT THE ARTISTS**

#### **APARAJITA JAIN MAHAJAN**

Aparajita Jain Mahajan was born in 1980 in New York, USA. She earned her BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design, majoring in Film, Animation, and Video. In 2007, she further refined her visual language at the Art Students League of New York. Alongside her art practice, Aparajita has been actively involved in social projects. She created animations for the Eternal Gandhi Multimedia Museum in New Delhi and assisted filmmaker Saeed Mirza in

his 2004 tribute to Gandhi. While living in Auroville, a universal township, she taught art at an outreach village school and created a documentary about this unique institution.

Since 2009, Aparajita has participated in numerous exhibitions, including “Miniatures Conjure Delights” in 2024 at Garrett Museum of Art, Indiana, USA, “Entwined” at Apparao Galleries, Chennai (2024), “Unveiled Horizons” at Vida Heydari Contemporary, Pune (2023), “Between Interruptions” at Angelica Kauffman Micro Gallery (2023), the Architectural Digest Fair 2023 with VHC, and the Terrain Biennial 2023 with Angelica Kauffman Gallery in Chicago, USA. She was also part of the digital exhibition “Attachment; Abbreviated”, organized under the “Taking Up Space” initiative by the Thrive Together Network (2022), among many others.

Aparajita Jain Mahajan lives and works in Pune, India.

### **DEEPIKA SAKHAT**

Deepika Sakhat, born in 1990 in Mumbai, India, completed her Bachelor in Visual Arts (Drawing and Printmaking) from Vasai Vikasini College of Visual Arts in 2016 and Master in Visual Art (Printmaking) from Maharaja Sayajirao University, Baroda. Deepika’s work reflects a deep connection to nature, celebrating open spaces, wildlife, and the freedom of birds. Through the symbolism of the bird, she explores themes of freedom, spontaneity, and the beauty of nature’s cycles, using the bird as a metaphor for the human experience and journey. Her process is meditative, with a focus on minimal expression, using various painting and printmaking techniques to evoke calmness and inner reflection.

Deepika Sakhat has exhibited in various group shows in India and abroad including at “Natura Urbana” by Ether Project in 2023, “Emerging Palettes” by Srishti Art Gallery, Hyderabad in 2022, “Emerging Reflection” at Apparat Gallery, Chennai in 2022, Aalap Exhibition, Academy of Fine Art, Kolkata, Art for Hope in 2021, Soul and Spirit Art Exhibition in 2020, Abir first Take, Ahmedabad in 2019, Monsson Art Show in Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai in 2016 and many others. Deepika Sachet was a part of Space Baroda Residency in 2022, and Dehgam Artist Residency, Ahmedabad in 2018.

Deepika Sakhat lives and works in Vadodara, India.

### **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.

### **KANAN KOTESHWAR**

Kanan Koteswar, born in 1985 in Dabhoi, India, holds a diverse academic background that informs her artistic practice. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Home Science from the Maharaja Sayajirao University (MSU) of Baroda in 2005, followed by a degree in Early Childhood and Education from the same institution in 2007. In 2010, she completed her Master's in Museology from the Faculty of Fine Arts, MSU, and also holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Guidance and Counselling. Her varied academic training profoundly shapes her artistic vision, where she finds poetic irony in the act of preserving what has seemingly lost its significance. She likens her work to finding life in the dead—reforming the broken and forgotten.

In 2018, Kanan made her solo debut with the exhibition “Pracyuta” at Knots Experimental Art Space in Baroda. She has since participated in several group exhibitions, including “He/Hem” at Vida Heydari Contemporary, in 2024, “From Where All That Sweat” at Amuseum Art Gallery of Modern Art, Thiruvananthapuram, in 2022, and “Interlude 2” by Knots Collective at the Faculty of Fine Arts, Baroda, in 2019, among many others.

Kanan Koteswar lives and works in Baroda, India.

### **LU XINJIAN**

Born in 1977 in Jiangsu province, China, Xinjian studied at the Computer Graphic Design Department, Nanjing Arts Institute, China, in 2000 and the IM Postgraduate Department, Design Academy Eindhoven, Netherlands, in 2005. He then acquired an MFA in Interactive Media and Environments from the Frank Mohr Institute, Netherlands, in 2006. Rendering a bird's eye view of urban cities using simplified shapes and lines, where the cityscape is represented as de-centralised and flattened, Xinjian's works share affinities with the conventions, styles and techniques of Abstract Expressionism. His exploration of different city plans reveals the rise in urban density that is symptomatic of cities today as well as the standardisation underlying the development of urban spaces globally.

Since returning to Shanghai in 2010, Xinjian's works have been exhibited at numerous venues in China, England and the USA, some of which include the ART LABOR Gallery in Shanghai, Fabien Frys Fine Art in Los Angeles and Hua Gallery in London. His works are part of many public and institutional collections, such as the White Rabbit Gallery in Sydney, the DSL Collection in Paris and the Anxin Trust Collection in Shanghai.

Lu Xinjian lives and works in Shanghai, China.

### **M. PRAVAT**

M. Pravat was born in 1972 in Kolkata, India. He completed his Bachelor's degree in painting in 2002 and his Master's in 2004, both granted by the Faculty of Fine Arts at M.S. University, Baroda. M. Pravat's art practice examines architectural forms and materials through a fractured lens, using photography, 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. His 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.

Over the years, his works have been presented in solo and group exhibitions, biennales and art fairs in Colombo, Delhi, Dubai, Mumbai, New York, Seoul and Zurich. His recent solo-exhibitions include "Terraform" presented by VHC at STIR, New Delhi (2025); "From Debris, We Rise" presented by VHC at Bungalow Eight (2024); "Liquid States" at 1x1 Gallery, Dubai (2017); "From Today, I Have No Future" at Aicon Gallery, New York (2017); and "Blue Print" at Nature Morte, Delhi (2011). He is a member of the Layout collective along with artists Navid Tschopp, Susanta Mondal, and architect S. Boka. Their projects have been exhibited in the Kochi- Muziris Biennale, 2012, Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, 2013, INSERT, 2014, the Colombo Biennale, 2014, and in non- institutional sites in Delhi and Zurich. He was a recipient of the Pro Helvetia artist residency in Switzerland.

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

### **MONALI MEHER**

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.

### **NATASHA SINGH**

Born in 1988, Jiroft, Iran, Natasha Singh completed her Bachelor's in Product Design from National Institute of Fashion and Technology, Hyderabad and her Masters in Communication Design, Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London. Natasha is an interdisciplinary artist, interested in bridging the ancient practices of art in India and creative technologies. She has worked with computer vision, and cameras to create Generative sculpture of Yoga. Her main objective is to investigate the patterns of rhythm, and its effects on the human body. She runs an award-winning boutique studio at the intersection of Art and Technology, called as Timeblur Studio. Her work has been exhibited at Exhibit320, Delhi, Delhi Contemporary Art week 2023, Art Mumbai 2023, Sunaparanta, Goa 2023 and Indian Art, Architecture and Design Biennale in Delhi, 2023. She has spoken at EyeMyth festival, Future conference 2024, and Tedx.

Natasha Singh currently lives and works in Gurgaon, 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 and offer a captivating sensory presence.

Pooya Aryanpour lives and works in Tehran, Iran.

## **RAVI MORYA**

Ravi Morya was born in 1992, Gwalior, India. He pursued BFA in Painting, from RMT University in 2015. Within Morya's practice, repetition evolves into a conceptual framework for understanding the human experience. It is through the repetition of motifs, gestures, and processes, that he unveils the overtones of our collective consciousness, offering glimpses into the nature of our being.

His works have been exhibited in several solo, and group shows in India. Additionally, Ravi has been a scholar at the Ministry of Culture on the Young Artist scholarship. He has also been a part of shows like the Art Incept grant show, CIMA art gallery annual show, Birla Academy, Kolkata, and is a recipient of awards like the Prafulla Dhanukar Art, CIMA award, Madhya Pradesh State award, and the All India Art award from the state gallery of art, Hyderabad.

Ravi Morya lives and works in New Delhi, India.

## **VIVEK VILASINI**

Vivek Vilasini is a multimedia artist from Kerala, who has studied art practices and sculpture from traditional Indian craftspeople. Before turning to art, he trained as a Marine Radio Officer and pursued a degree from Kerala University. Vilasini's paintings, sculptures, photographs and mixed media works explore how ideas influence identities in contemporary society. His works manifest the continuous connection and negotiation between these ideas and identities. He highlights the appropriation and juxtaposition of forms and meanings in different settings.

He has been a part of numerous international solo and group exhibitions, including in his repertoire, prestigious international art festivals such as Art Basel Hong Kong, NGMA Mumbai, New York University Museum, Dubai Art Fair, etc. His works are in the collection of the Smithsonian Museum; Kadist Collection, Arco Foundation, Hermes Collection and other notable collectives.

Vivek Vilasini lives and works in Kochi, India.

## **ZHANG JI**

Zhang Ji was born in 1978 in Shandong, China. He graduated with a Master's in Mural Painting from the Central Academy of Fine Arts in 2008. Through his works, he attempts to cultivate an engaging dialogue between painting and religious architecture.

Created using a syringe to patiently apply as many as 120 tubes onto the canvas (at 170 millilitres per tube), 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.

**Press Kit:**

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1XwwrgVsBOOKSo6Bng1QyuTK1G2Xnvddi?usp=sharing>

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

**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/>

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