

IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE | 11 JANUARY 2024

Exhibition Opening

mumbai
gallery weekend

VHC
VIDA HEYDARI
CONTEMPORARY

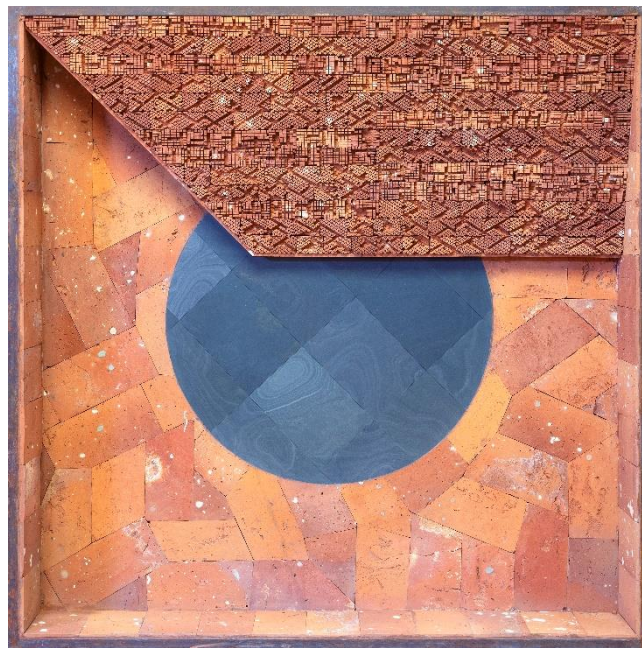
From Debris, We Rise

Solo Exhibition by M. Pravat

Curatorial Advisor - Anushka Rajendran

11 January – 17 January 2024

Opening: Thursday, 11 January 2024, 4 PM – 9 PM



Reality 2

2023

Fired Brick, Cut Slate, Stone Dust, Metal

122 x 122 cm (48 x 48 in)

VHC is thrilled to announce our inaugural showcase at the annual **Mumbai Gallery Weekend**. This also marks the debut showcase for **VHC in Mumbai**. Join us for the opening of our exhibition, *From Debris, We Rise*, a solo by **M. Pravat**, this **Thursday** from **4 to 9 PM** at **The STANDS** (formerly Bungalow Eight). It will run through **17 January 2024**. The Artist will be present throughout the exhibition.

From Debris, We Rise is an amalgamation of recent works from M Pravat's studio, which are all mimetic transmutations of the context it is nestled within, the village of Rajpur in Chattarpur, Delhi.

Perhaps as an unconscious, residual impulse from Pravat's early encounters with the experimental theatre scene in Kolkata where he grew up, and the villages of West Bengal, essaying plural roles as scenographer, prop designer, and voice actor, his practice consistently attempts to critically reinterpret and perform in the studio, processes that he observes in the world around him. The mise en scène is set by discarded debris from demolitions and constructions in Chattarpur that he collects and brings to his studio, which consequently comes to be doused in a veneer of brick dust. The sensorial environment of the construction site is mirrored by the studio as well with its temporary asbestos roof,

pliability to the extreme climatic conditions of Delhi, and hazardous material residue, while also echoing its acoustics. Within its confines, he follows methods of making that are similar to those that are familiar to the building industry, collaborating with stone workers and brick masons to render works that speak to the urbanisation of the city. His process alternates between the subtractive Brechtian aesthetics that perhaps come to him from his engagement with theatre and an alchemical metamorphosing of drab debris into softer, delicate forms that reclaim the ugliness of redevelopment in the locality, which once used to be forested land. The works are material testimonies of infinite expansion, and abstract actors performing the logic of materialism.

- Anushka Rajendran

ARTIST STATEMENT

From Debris, We Rise is my most recent work building upon themes I have been exploring for over a decade, namely the different expressions of a city under construction. My interest in this subject comes particularly from the discord between the city as it appears in masterplans, in popular desires and in physical experience. I feel we experience the dissonance between the three in our everyday lives with brutal intensity, be it from the intimacy of one's home or on the scale of urban development projects and the creation of smart cities. In the past, I tried to capture these contradictions through under-construction sites arrested in time and textures. In recent years, my practice has turned to exploring processes of deconstruction – not only of the urban environment, but of habitats, materials and even images as such. If, at the heart of any building exercise is also a systematic process of undoing and destruction, how can I measure and express these forces together? Dismantling my house brick by brick is an attempt to find forms and answers to this question with the acute awareness of its impact on homes, infrastructures, cities, and the planet.

ABOUT THE ARTIST 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 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. His ongoing interests in architectural forms emerge 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.

ABOUT CURATORIAL ADVISOR - ANUSHKA RAJENDRAN

Anushka Rajendran is the curator of Prameya Art Foundation (New Delhi) and also works independently as a curator and writer. Her ongoing curatorial research traces how the notion of public has acquired alternative significance to contemporary art in recent years, as well as the aesthetics of engagement within exhibition frameworks. This is informed by her previous research on responses by artists living in India in the 1990s to political and cultural trauma which has since expanded to encompass the South Asia region. She was the Festival Curator for Language is Migrant, the 2022 edition of Colomboscope, the only interdisciplinary arts festival in Sri Lanka and was on the curatorial team for Kochi Muziris Biennale 2018. Other recent projects include, Omer Wasim: Spectral Remains, Khoj Studios, 2023 (New Delhi); Like Cupping Water with their Hands, PRAF at Focal Point, Sharjah Art Foundation, 2022 (Sharjah, UAE); Language is Migrant, Warehouse421, 2022 (Abu Dhabi); Phantasmapolis: Looking Back to the Future, Asian Art Biennial 2021-22, National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, 2021 (Taiwan); And yet the air was still stirring, Fundación Sandretto Re Rebaudengo Madrid, 2021-22 (Spain); Anatomies of Tongues, Chobi Mela Shunno, 2021 (Dhaka); Speculations on a New World Order, Shrine Empire, 2020 (New Delhi); and Between the Lines, Aomori Contemporary Art Centre, 2019 (Japan). She has published essays in several publications including anthologies, academic journals and artists' monographs. At the moment, she is editing a monograph on Anoli Perera's life and work.

Anushka Rajendran lives and works in New Delhi, India.

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 Alain, 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/1fWbRwpc80katut9VYMFu7bhyBApx30ZJ?usp=sharing>

Interview can be arranged with the artist and the gallery founder Vida Heydari.