

PRESS RELEASE | 6 July 2023

Exhibition Opening

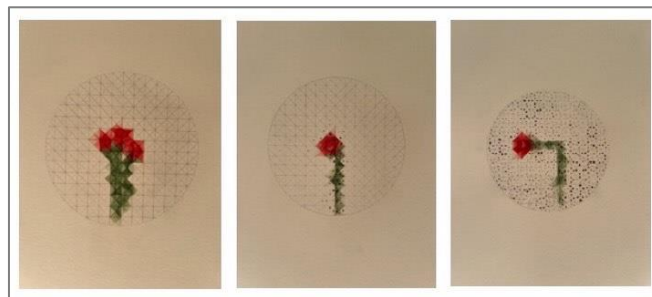


Unveiled Horizons

Group Exhibition

6 July – 9 August 2023

Opening: Thursday, 6 July 2023, 5 PM – 8 PM



Richi Bhatia
Soliloquies 1
2023

Watercolor, Graphite, Acid-free Canson Paper
12 x 27 in

VHC is excited to announce the opening of our latest exhibition, **Unveiled Horizons**, which brings together seven contemporary artists -- **Aparajita Jain Mahajan, Durgesh Kumar, Gauri Gandhi, Harman Taneja, Harpreet Singh, Priti Vadakkath** and **Richi Bhatia**.

The works in the show point toward processes underlying construction in and around cities and how they are reflected in the formation of the self -- at the level of the mind, the spirit and the body -- through humour, despair, scepticism, hope and desire.

The exhibition will preview on **Thursday, 6 July 2023, from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm** at **VHC | Vida Heydari Contemporary** in the presence of artists Aparajita Jain Mahajan, Durgesh Kumar and Gauri Gandhi. It will run through 9 August 2023.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

APARAJITA JAIN MAHAJAN

Born in New York, US in 1980, Aparajita Jain Mahajan is an abstract mixed-media artist who attained her BFA at Rhode Island School of Design, majoring in Film, Animation, and Video. She further strengthened her visual language at the Art Students League in New York in 2007. She is part of the leadership team at Thrive Together Network, has created animations for the

Eternal Gandhi Multimedia Museum in New Delhi, and assisted film maker Saeed Mirza in his tribute to Gandhi in 2004.

Since 2009, Aparajita has been part of many shows, some of which include: 'Attachment; Abbreviated' – a digital exhibition as part of the 'Taking Up Space' initiative by the Thrive Together Network (2022), the RISD alumni show at the India Art Fair (2020), 'Interactions' at the India Habitat Centre (2016), 'The Line in Between' at the Alliance Française (2012) amongst others.

Aparajita Jain Mahajan lives and works in Pune, India.

DURGESH KUMAR

Born in 1996, Bihar, India, Durgesh received his Diploma in Forensic Science and Forensic Photography from the International Forensic Sciences (IFS), Pune in 2018, as well as a Diploma in Advertising and Commercial Photography from the School of Photography, Pune in 2016, where he has attempted to hone his skills in these fields through his practice. In addition, he identifies himself as a self-taught scientific professional photographer, while also delving into the painting and sculpting. His artistic endeavours reflect his deep desire to unveil truth using available and accessible medias, methods, and equipment.

Durgesh Kumar lives and works in Pune, India

GAURI GANDHI

Born in 1956 in Amritsar, India, Gauri attained her M.A. in Sculpture from the Faculty of Fine Arts, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda in 1982. After having explored ceramics at Bharat Bhawan in Bhopal, and studied advanced ceramics studies under Mrs. Nirmala Patwardhan in Pune, she established her own studio in 2001. Between 2008-2023, she taught sculpture at FLAME University, Pune, where she curated 'Art-tete-a-tete' in 2017 and initiated the 'FLAME Artist's Residency' in 2018.

As an artist, she has explored and worked extensively in mediums like papier-mâché, nature assemblage, painting, printmaking, installations, and photography, besides exhibiting at and curating for Pune Biennale, among other exhibitions.

Gauri Gandhi lives and works in Pune, India.

HARMAN TANEJA

Born in 1994 in New Delhi, India, Harman obtained her Bachelor's in Architecture from the School of Architecture and Planning, and Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, New Delhi in 2017.

Studying the architecture of well not only broadened the way she understands sites and their spatiality, but also began Harman on a journey of analysing blank spaces, that have come to inform her forms and lend another dimension to her works. Further, interning at Auroville helped her cultivate value for a material like resin, which has become one of her primary mediums of work. By exploring resin's materiality and productional possibilities at different scales, she tries to attain a curvilinearity which is generally missing from structural frameworks around us. Through curvaceous forms within her work, she thereby attempts to break away from and rethink the way our lives are shaped and moulded, where rigidity of cubes and in turn spaces, mirror set norms of society.

Harman Taneja lives and works in New Delhi, India.

HARPREET SINGH

Born in 1969 in Chandigarh, India Harpreet did his Bachelor's in Fine Arts from Government College of Arts, Chandigarh, India. He is recipient of the Punjab State Lalit Kala Academy Award, Chandigarh Lalit Kala Academy Award, and the AIFACS Award. He has also worked as an art director, anchor, script writer, actor, and set designer.

Inspired from urban life, its issues and fantasies, and influenced by modern day experiences, he primarily works by building layers and creating collages on paper and canvas. The artworks are visual, text, and icon based where layers of time, memories, and imagination play with each other.

Harpreet Singh lives and works in New Delhi, India.

PRITI VADAKKATH

Born in 1971, Kochi, India, Priti graduated with a Bachelor's degree in History of Fine Arts from Stella Maris College, Chennai, followed by a Diploma in Accessory Design from the National Institute of Fashion Technology, Delhi.

Priti's practice is informed by varied lived experiences: as a mother and caregiver to a 21-year-old with autism spectrum disorder, her design background, and her abiding interest and involvement in horticulture, ecology, and sustainability.

Apart from having solo shows at Kashi Art Gallery, Fort Kochi, and The Viewing Room, Mumbai, she has been part of several group shows, some of which include: 'A place at the Table' (curated by Tanya Abraham, an invited satellite show within the Kochi-Muziris Biennale 2022-23), 'Lokame Tharavadu' (2021), 'India' (curated by Bose Krishnamachari), amongst others. With her work being part of many private and museum collections, she has worked extensively with galleries in India and abroad.

Priti Vadakkath lives and works in Munnar, India.

RICHI BHATIA

Born in 1990, Ahmedabad, India, Richi did her Bachelor's in Painting from Surat School of Fine Arts, Veer Narmad South Gujarat University, Surat (2013) and Master's in Painting from Maharaja Sayajirao University of Vadodara (2015). She has a Diploma in Curatorial Studies of Modern and Contemporary Indian Art, Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum, Mumbai (2018). She was part of 'When Was Contemporary', a theory-based module facilitated by BICAR, under Prof. Rohit Goel (2019).

She is interested in engaging with hand- and labour-based acts of creation, that involve long hours of working and employ text, research, drawing, performance, sculpture, installation, and food interventions.

She has been a part of 'Rewilding the Kitchen', 2023, curated by Nahla Tabba at Alserkal Arts Foundation, Dubai, UAE; an autumn guest artist in residence at Ladakh Arts and Media Organisation, Leh (2022); one of the visiting artist fellows for Laxmi Mittal and Family South Asia Institute, Harvard University (2020); artist in residence at Space 118, Mumbai (2017); artist in residence at the Blueprint Studio, Vadodara (2015), amongst others. Richi is currently a resident artist at Alserkal Arts Foundation, Dubai.

Richi Bhatia lives and works in UAE and India.

ABOUT VHC | VIDA HEYDARI CONTEMPORARY

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 contributes to the cultural fabric of Pune city through its collateral programs. VHC endeavours to create a platform to encounter and engage with relevant contemporary art practices from around the world.

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.

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/1GmnSGCQHekDfFl4_3C11vHuEUfgMSyXv?usp=sharing

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