

**PRESS RELEASE | IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

VHC  
VIDA HEYDARI  
CONTEMPORARY

## **VHC at India Art Fair**

Contemporary Art Gallery Booth at IAF

9 - 12 February 2023

**INDIA ART FAIR**  
**9 ————— 12 FEB 2023**

**India Art Fair: Thursday, 9 February - Sunday, 12 February 2023, New Delhi**  
**Booth No: F3**

VHC is excited to mark its return at the India Art Fair in New Delhi, 2023, as a contemporary art gallery, following a successful inaugural participation last year. Committed to presenting works by artists spanning contexts, geographies, concerns, and mediums, we are delighted to showcase works by Debasree Das, Katayoun Karami, M. Pravat, Mark Prime, Vaishali Oak and Zhang Ji at our booth, in this fair.

While Mark Prime's sculptures and Vaishali Oak's tapestries expand upon the scope of formal and material explorations, works by Debasree Das, M. Pravat, and Zhang Ji focus upon time- and labour-intensive processes of embroidering, layering, and patterning. When placed alongside Katayoun Karami's photographs, where larger historical and political markers get reflected through everyday life and negotiations, the works in the booth provoke the viewer to think through gendered, urban, industrial, and personal histories.

We look forward to having you at our booth, as we bring together works that create a space for myriad experiences, coupled with reflection and conversation.

### **ABOUT THE ARTISTS**

#### **Debasree Das**

Equipped with a Bachelor's in Printmaking from Government College of Art & Crafts, Guwahati in 2005 and Master's in Printmaking from the Faculty of Fine Arts, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda in 2007, Debasree Das works across various mediums and techniques to explore the relationship between the body, mind, spirit, and dreams through a gendered lens.

Employing drawing, painting, hand embroidery, and appliqué on silk, canvas, and paper, amongst others, her mixed media paintings act as cathartic devices, which examine fairy tales, fables, and socio-cultural myths that form a woman's self-hood. Her ongoing practice is rooted in the physical, psychological, and emotional changes she experienced while undergoing a transformation from being a wife to a mother, from experiencing agony to ecstasy.

Debasree lives and works in Baroda, Gujarat.

## **Katayoun Karami**

Having studied Architecture at Middle East University in Ankara, Turkey, as a conceptual artist, Katayoun Karami's art practice involves various mediums and engages with socio-personal projects based on collective community experiences.

Working with personal archives and photographs, she is interested in examining the consequence of time, amidst changing socio-political and cultural environment in Iran, as seen through the lens of two consecutive generations – that of hers that lived through the years of Islamic revolution and her mother's generation that witnessed the pre-revolution years. She believes that the transformation between two generations is endowed with kindness and mystery, where one is increasingly focused on the self, aware of its own wants and ready to fight for it, without the luxury of reflecting on what may have been.

Katayoun Karami lives and works in Tehran, Iran.

## **M. Pravat**

Born in 1972 in Kolkata, 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.

## **Mark Prime**

Born in Norwich, UK, Mark Prime works across a range of mediums from laser installations to photography and towards a more recent endeavour, painting. The concepts and aspects of rhythm, repetition, and pattern, enter his minimalistic, geometrically abstract works that bring together his long standing engagement with music and the attributes of light.

His ongoing sculptural work introduces another element, that of the environment of factories, to the above equation of music and visuals. The work intends to explore the principles of repetitive flow and rhythm that underlies the material environment of industrial production.

Mark Prime lives and works in Mumbai.

## **Vaishali Oak**

Having worked with textile as her primary medium of expression since 1997, Vaishali Oak has developed a unique style that draws from a local quilting practice called Godhadi. While her layered approach allows a play with form and colour, the upper layers gradually reveal and texturise different surfaces. She is also invested in creating patterns that mimic the natural degradation of fabric over prolonged use.

Expanding upon her interests in the nature of forms as they change over time, her current body of highly layered works focus upon the river-like characteristic of human thought, which is central to our being and relation with the environment. Through her works, Vaishali observes how the thought combines and brings together the past, present, and future, as it continues to flow, form, and become.

Vaishali Oak lives and works in Pune, India.

## **Zhang Ji**

Zhang Ji graduated with a Master's degree in Mural Painting from Central Academy of Fine Arts in 2008, and through his works, he attempts to cultivate an engaging dialogue between painting and religious architecture.

Created using a syringe to patiently apply as much as 120 tubes at 170 millilitres per tube onto the canvas, his works often resemble bas-relief sculptures, with the works modulating between composition and decomposition, and 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. He 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.

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

**E: [info@vhc.art](mailto:info@vhc.art) | T: +91 85308 60888**

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

**PRESS PACK: [VHC IAF 2023 Press Kit](#)**

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## **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 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 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 Alaina, Lane 8, Koregaon Park, Pune, India

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

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

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## **About India Art Fair**

India Art Fair is the leading platform to discover modern and contemporary art from South Asia, offering a unique access point to the region's thriving cultural scene.

Taking place annually in India's capital, New Delhi, the fair celebrates modern-day South Asia, combining cutting-edge contemporary visual art with modern masters and vernacular artistic traditions. Positioning art and the artist's voice at its core, the fair's programme draws together galleries and institutions, private foundations and arts charities, artists' collectives and national museums, cultural events and festivals, enabling local and international audiences to engage in innovative ways with the cultural history and development of the region.

The fair is committed to supporting arts education and professional development opportunities and runs a year-round programme of events, including education initiatives, artist commissions and pop-up programmes, aiming to increase audiences for the arts within India.

India Art Fair is owned by Angus Montgomery Arts, a division of Angus Montgomery Ltd.

India Art Fair | NSIC Exhibition Grounds, Okhla Phase III, Okhla Industrial Estate, New Delhi, Delhi 110020

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