

'Origins of a Perennial Bouquet'
Curated by Bose Krishnamachari

Inaugural Exhibition of Vida Heydari Contemporary Art Gallery

Pune, 16 December 2020 : Vida Heydari Contemporary Art Gallery, a new gallery space in Pune, helmed by Ms Vida Heydari will host its' inaugural exhibition, a group show titled 'Origins of a Perennial Bouquet', curated by artist-curator Bose Krishnamachari.

The show will exhibit the works of leading Indian contemporary artists **Benitha Perciyal, Manish Nai, Sudarshan Shetty, Sumedh Rajendran and Tanya Goel.**

The opening of 'Origins of a Perennial Bouquet' will mark the launch of the gallery space, and will preview on December 16, 2020. The artworks will be on display for a duration of 8 weeks.

On the concept behind the inaugural show, Bose Krishnamachari remarks, "I think of this gathering of practices as an exploration of well-informed materiality. Each practice is distinct, but presents deep and inventive understandings of the relation between material, medium, process, time and idea. I trust that the threads of aesthetics and craftsmanship explored in these material-laboratories will create a bouquet of perennial pleasure".

About Vida Heydari/Vida Heydari Contemporary Art Gallery

VHC is 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.

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.

Vida elaborates on the connection between Pune and the role VHC will play in its cultural fabric. “My time in the city has shown me there’s an abundance of artists and art lovers. I want VHC to be a space for creative minds of the city to come together, to get inspired and to facilitate a meeting place for art lovers and like minded people.” She also highlights the significance of the inaugural exhibition: “This exhibition will put Pune on the art map and is a milestone for the art and culture of the city as we are bringing together some of the country’s most significant artistic and curatorial practices.”

About the Curator

BOSE KRISHNAMACHARI

Artist and independent curator Bose Krishnamachari lives and works between Mumbai and Kochi. His diverse artistic and curatorial practice includes contemporary art, design and sciences.

He is the co-founder of the Kochi Biennale Foundation and founding President. Krishnamachari was Artistic Director and Co-Curator of India’s first Biennale – The Kochi-Muziris Biennale 2012, Director of Kochi-Muziris Biennale 2014, 2016, 2018 and 2021. Bose Krishnamachari curated ‘For an Image, Faster than Light’, first edition of the Yinchuan Biennale in Yinchuan, MOCA, China-2016. ‘The Mirror Sees Best in the Dark’ (2019-2020) was his most recent solo exhibition at the Emami Art Gallery, Kolkata. He was a columnist, ‘Everyone is a Camera’ for The Week magazine. He is a Board Member of the International Biennale Association and an Academic Board Member of the Taoxichuan China Arts and Sciences project. He has won several national and International fellowships and awards, and has served on the jury for international curatorial and artist awards. Krishnamachari is known for his patronage towards young Indian artists and is also an educator.

About the Artists

BENITHA PERCIYAL

Born in 1978, Benitha Perciyal hails from Thiruvanamalai, which illustrates her affinity towards work that is firmly rooted in the Christian faith. Her practice encapsulates the use of primarily organic materials, with a strong focus on those that induce olfactory experiences like myrrh, cinnamon, frankincense and more. Her sculptures are solely made of organic compounds that slow down the process of creation, while enabling a certain perpetuity to their ‘becoming’. Fast-paced, manufactured modernity is resisted here, with use and re-use being the norm for materials like wood, resin and coal. Her work has been widely exhibited in group and solo shows in galleries in London, Dubai, Delhi, Mumbai and Kochi. Her airy, spacious studio, which is located in Chennai, is the site of her work - an ode to memory, faith and transcendence.

TANYA GOEL

Tanya Goel's works are notable for their exploration of a rigorous abstraction that is deeply invested in the process of their creation. Born in 1985, Goel studied at the Faculty of Fine Arts, MS University, Baroda and at SAIC, Chicago, before completing her Master's Degree in Fine Arts from Yale University in 2010. Her work has been hosted at galleries of repute like Nature Morte and Galerie Mirchandani + Steinruecke in addition to also being in the collections of noteworthy museums in New Delhi, Philadelphia, Alberta, Zurich and more. With a focus on textured pigments, Goel utilizes a diverse array of materials from urban climes (aluminum, concrete, glass, soil, mica, graphite and foils) in order to accentuate the equally versatile effect of light on them. Repetition, density and complexity characterise her work, where these meticulously selected elements bring forth a creation that is forever in a state of dynamic flux.

SUDARSHAN SHETTY

Born in 1961 in Mangalore, India, Sudarshan Shetty is based out of Mumbai today. Shetty's career spans nearly three decades and has been exhibited widely. In 1999, he was the only Indian artist commissioned to make a public sculpture, *Home and Away* in Fukuoka, Japan. Shetty initially trained as a painter, but his exposure to his contemporaries at the National School of Design also helped him explore the intersections of sculpture, design and architecture. His installations are developed around a rigorous selection of materials and juxtapositions of things that are culturally distinct. The reanimation of inert objects is his strength, where they morph into mechanical creations that explore various themes - futility, body loss, death. The artist turned curator for the third edition of the Kochi-Muziris Biennale, 2016. Shetty's work is part of many important public collections including the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Japan and the FC MoCA, Manchester, UK.

MANISH NAI

Manish Nai, born in 1980, Gujarat, obtained a Diploma in Drawing and Painting from the L.S. Raheja School of Art in Mumbai. It was here that he discovered his fascination with minimalism at a time where excessive ornamentation was the norm. Materials are reborn in his work, where once they previously adorned bodies in a rather functional form, but today, they exist independently as art instead. These materials, described as "modest and quintessentially Indian", like jute and newspapers, are now suddenly devoid of inherent meaning where their multifaceted nature comes through in other forms. Nai's work has been shown at Art Basel Hong Kong and in numerous group shows at the Lalit Kala Akademi, Chennai (2014); *The Indian Parallax or the Doubling of Happiness* at the Birla Academy of Art and Culture, Kolkata (2012); *news* – at Galerie Mirchandani + Steinruecke, Mumbai (2012); and the Mumbai City Pavilion at the ninth Shanghai Biennale (2012).

SUMEDH RAJENDRAN

Hailing from Trivandrum, Sumedh Rajendran completed his BFA from College of Fine Arts in 1994 and MFA from Delhi College Of Art in 1999. Contradictory values and social apathy find themselves juxtaposed in his works, which are composite in nature. Through the usage of industrialized materials like ceramic tiles, leather, tin sheets, cans, rubber, cement, concrete, and steel, Rajendran dissolves notions of boundaries between entities, turning them into

chimaeras of meaning. His work is known for providing a fresh perspective into sculpture and recontextualizing its relevance to the world of contemporary Indian art. By his own admission, he wishes his work to transcend boundaries and find meaning in a common space, regardless of cultural context. Rajendran has exhibited widely in group shows in Berlin, Delhi, Taipei, Mumbai and Kochi. He was a participant of the first edition of the international Kochi-Muziris Biennale in 2012 and also in the exhibition 'India Awakens: Under the Banyan Tree', Essl Museum, Austria.