VIDA HEYDARI
CONTEMPORARY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Exhibition Opening

Where the Body Begins

A group exhibition in three parts, bringing together 45 Pune-born or Pune-based artists.
8 August – 21 November 2026
Vida Heydari Contemporary, Koregaon Park, Pune
Curated by Vida Heydari

Opening (Memory): Saturday 8 August 2026, 7:00 – 9:00 PM
Opening (Nature): Saturday 19 September 2026, 7:00 – 9:00 PM
Opening (Body): Saturday 24 October 2026, 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Vida Heydari Contemporary is pleased to present Where the Body Begins, one exhibition unfolding in three parts from August to November 2026. Opening on 8 August and continuing through 21 November, it brings together 45 artists in three connected exhibitions: Memory, Nature, and Body.

The title is a question rather than a definition. Where does the body begin? With the physical self, the landscape it inhabits, the histories it carries, or the forces that move through it? Across the three exhibitions, the body is understood as more than anatomy: it is shaped by memory, place, weather, inheritance, touch, labour, material, desire, vulnerability, and other forms of life.

The sequence follows an internal logic: from what is carried and remembered, to what acts upon and through us, to the body as the place where these forces become lived and felt. Each exhibition has its own atmosphere and set of concerns; together they form one continuous curatorial statement.

All participating artists are Pune-born or Pune-based. The project considers the city as shared ground, a place shaped by different generations, histories, environments, and languages. Rather than defining a single Pune art scene, it brings distinct practices into proximity and asks what becomes visible when artists connected by place approach shared questions from different positions.

Where the Body Begins: Memory

8 August – 12 September 2026

Memory considers what remains within places, objects, materials, images, gestures, and inherited forms. It is concerned not only with personal recollection, but with the ways memory is carried collectively: through family, architecture, landscape, language, labour, ritual, archives, and the everyday life of a city.

Memory here is not fixed. It fades, repeats, fractures, and is reconstructed. It may survive as an image or object, or less directly as a trace, an absence, a pattern, a digital residue, or something held within material. The works move between intimate histories and larger cultural memory, asking how the past continues to act upon the present even when its original form has disappeared.

Artists: Abhishek Pandey, Aparajita JM, Charudatt Pande, Harshada Arvind Kolapkar, Kisalay Vora, Monali Meher, Nandakumar P K, Narendra Dengle, Parth Palsay, Ruby Ram, Ruddhi Vichare, Sameer Gorde, Shilpa Bawane, Uday Banerjee, Vaishnavi Walvekar, Yash Raj.

Where the Body Begins: Nature

19 September – 17 October 2026

Nature considers the natural world not as subject or scenery but as force: something that acts upon us, moves through us, and shapes how we experience time, place, and the body. The exhibition asks what it means to be within nature rather than to observe it from a distance.

The works engage with land, atmosphere, flora, growth, decay, and ecological transformation. Some begin with close observation; others move toward abstraction or interiority. Structures found in plants, cells, bodies, and landscapes often mirror one another. Nature is not presented as passive, pristine, or separate from human life. It is unstable, generative, vulnerable, and continually shaping and being shaped by the bodies and environments within it.

Artists: Deepashri Dixit, Priyanka Bardiya, Puneeta Ranjan, Rachana Bajaj, Saloni Lodha, Saurabh Talekar, Shamira Dharap, Shubhankar Chandere, Smita Kinkale, Snehal Kulkarni, Sujyot Parkhe, Veena Chandran.

Where the Body Begins: Body

24 October – 21 November 2026

Body considers the body not as image or physical form alone, but as a lived and continually changing space, one that carries memory, sensation, desire, vulnerability, inheritance, and transformation. The exhibition asks where the body begins and ends, and how it is shaped by what moves through it: time, touch, environment, experience, labour, material, and social structures.

The body appears through anatomy and gesture, but also through surface, repetition, pressure, texture, movement, concealment, and fragmentation. Rather than presenting it as stable or self-contained, the exhibition understands the body as permeable, formed through contact with natural systems, personal histories, social structures, and the physical world.

Artists: Deepti Munot, Dhruti Mahajan, Gauri Gandhi, Gauri Kulkarni, Hansika Mangwani, Harshit Bondre, Ketaki Pimpalkhare, Manasa Priya Dhulipalla, Mandar Kadam, Michelle Boyle, Mohammad Sadikot, Radhesham Dhamal, Rajita Schade, Smruti Joshi, Soham Joshi, yasho, Yogesh Ramkrishna.

The city remains present across all three parts, not always as an image, but as a condition.

About VHC

Vida Heydari Contemporary is a contemporary art gallery shaped by a recurring inquiry: what becomes visible, and what remains hidden?

The artists the gallery represents approach this question from different positions: through memory and what time has obscured, through landscape and the systems embedded within it, through archives and what they conceal, and through the structures that shape how we perceive ourselves and one another. The question is the same. The practices are not.

Rather than defining itself through geography, medium, or category, the gallery is organised around this inquiry and the cultural contexts it has drawn toward it. It works with artists whose careers it is actively building alongside others with long institutional histories. What connects them is not a region of origin or a material form, but the quality of attention their work demands and the questions it continues to ask.

Press Information

Vida Heydari Contemporary, Marvel Alaina, Lane 8, Koregaon Park, Pune, India

Website: vhc.art | Instagram: @vhc.art

E: info@vhc.art | T: +91 85308 60888

Press kit: download here

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