VIDA HEYDARI
CONTEMPORARY

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Exhibition Opening

Prajith Elampilal & Ramansh Bhargava: (Not) In Plain Sight

Two Person Exhibition
28 November 2026 – 2 January 2027
Vida Heydari Contemporary, Koregaon Park, Pune
Curated by Yash Vikram

Opening: Saturday 28 November 2026, 7:00 – 9:00 PM



Artwork detail of Prajith Elampilal & Ramansh Bhargava

Vida Heydari Contemporary is pleased to present (Not) In Plain Sight, bringing together the practices of Ramansh Bhargava and Prajith Elampilal, navigating the tender and often elusive territories of longing, infatuation, and intimacy. Situated at the intersection of the corporeal and the spatial, the exhibition considers the body as both a site of desire and a space through which identity, relationships and belonging are negotiated. Anne Carson, in Eros the Bittersweet, positions human desire along an axis of paradox, with absence and presence as its two poles. These two artistic practices inhabit this very tension between what is revealed and what remains hidden, between desiring and being desired.

In Ramansh Bhargava's works, desire comes into view through transient, imagined landscapes that exist somewhere between reality and fantasy. Conceived as dark liminal territories, his paintings merge the body and landscape into a shared space. By making the larger-than-life presence of his figures so visible, he constructs a space of belonging that otherwise remains out of sight for identities that remain invisible.

While Prajith Elampilal approaches it through a more oblique language of metaphors, familiar objects and layered narratives. Elampilal's works on paper take an excavative approach, becoming ways of drawing out the meanings embedded within the medium. These gestures reveal fragments of the body's desires and demands, as well as its relationship with the landscapes in which his figures float. Often otherworldly in appearance, these figures gaze directly at the viewer, confronting the very act of looking. In doing so, they turn the gaze back upon us, challenging our assumptions and judgements while making visible the vulnerability of being seen.

Through these distinct yet intersecting approaches, (Not) In Plain Sight considers how desire and intimacy are experienced, expressed and understood. Moving between visibility and concealment, freedom and restraint, the exhibition creates a space where questions of identity, belonging and human connection remain open to interpretation.

About the artists

Prajith Elampilal

Prajith Elampilal (b. 1993, Thalassery, India) is a contemporary artist whose practice is rooted in a deeply personal exploration of emotion and memory. He earned his Bachelor's degree in Visual Arts, specialising in Creative Painting, from Thrissur Fine Arts College in 2015, followed by a Master's degree in Visual Arts from Maharaja Sayaji Rao University, Baroda, in 2017. Elampilal's artistic journey began during childhood, when blackboards served as an unconventional canvas for self-expression after his parents discouraged him from using paper. This formative experience continues to inform his distinctive, excavation-like process, which involves dipping, scratching, and erasing to reveal hidden layers of colour and narrative.

Elampilal has participated in several group exhibitions across India, including Artistic Alchemy (2024), Devayanam (2022), Sea and Soul (2021), Corpus Exhibition, Image and Inextricably (2019) and The Third Hand (2018). He has also participated in various artist residencies, including those at Space Studio, Vadodara, Raja Ravi Varma Studio, and the National Art Camp organised by Kerala Lalithakala Academy.

Prajith Elampilal currently lives and works in Vadodara, India.

Ramansh Bhargava

Ramansh Bhargava (b. 1996, Delhi, India) is a contemporary artist whose practice explores philosophical, social and psychological themes through a diverse visual language and range of media. He completed his Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts from Amity University in 2019, followed by a Master's degree in Fine Arts from Shiv Nadar University in 2024. A significant focus of his work is the investigation of liminal bodies, those existing in the spaces between societal structures, often marginalised or overlooked.

Bhargava presented his debut solo exhibition, Sight Under Construction, in 2022 and has participated in several group exhibitions, including Open House (2022) and Surface 06 (2020). In 2022, he was an artist-in-residence at the Next Step Residency, 1 Shanti Road, Bengaluru.

Ramansh Bhargava currently lives and works in Delhi, India.

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, Vida Heydari Contemporary is organised around this inquiry and the cultural contexts it has drawn towards it, contexts that are rarely placed in conversation and that the gallery holds together as a single curatorial position.

The gallery 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

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Press kit: download here

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