

Press Release: Exhibition Opening

FUGITIVE DUST

Works by M. Pravat

Curated by Sabih Ahmed

March 6 - May 2, 2021

VHC
VIDA HEYDARI
CONTEMPORARY

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M. Pravat, Granular Structures - 1
2021

Digital Print on Museum Etching 350 GSM, Acid-free Archival Paper
61 x 81.2 cm (24 x 32"), Edition 1 of 3

VHC is pleased to present **Fugitive Dust, a solo exhibition of works by M. Pravat.** The show features artworks and studies from Pravat's practice spanning from 2016 to 2021 that include sculptural installations, paintings, drawings, collage works and prints.

Bringing together a range of media such as brick, dust, slate, wood, metal, ink, graphite, pigment and paper, Pravat's art practice utilises materials that draw on lived experiences of the built environment. Created from the vantage point of someone living in the ever-expanding and ever-intensifying city of Delhi, the materials deployed in Pravat's works offer not so much an integrated image of a contemporary urban-scape but a disintegration of it where blue-prints, maps, architecture and geological land mass collapse into one another. According to Pravat, "the dust that rises from construction sites and demolition drives never settles. It thickens the air we breathe, forms clouds in the sky, sediments into the earth's crust and flows into water bodies before returning back into construction sites. A city is a continuous cycle of solid, liquid and gaseous states." In Pravat's work, we observe a transitory crystallisation of these multiple states. *Fugitive Dust* presents a condensed encounter with the material flux of contemporary reality.

ABOUT M. PRAVAT

M. Pravat completed his Bachelor's degree in painting in 2002 and his Master's in 2004, both granted by the Faculty of Fine Arts at M.S. University, Baroda. His art practice examines architectural forms and materials through a fractured lens. Over the years, his works have been presented in solo and group exhibitions, biennales and art fairs in Colombo, Delhi, Dubai, Mumbai, New York, Seoul and Zurich. His recent solo-exhibitions include 'Liquid States' in 1x1 Gallery, Dubai (2017); 'From Today, I Have No Future' in Aicon Gallery, New York (2017); and 'Blue Print', Nature Morte, Delhi (2011). He is a member of the Layout collective along with artists Navid Tschopp, Susanta Mondal, and architect S. Boka, and their projects have been exhibited in the Kochi-Muziris Biennale (2012), Kiran Nadar Museum of Art (2013), INSERT (2014), the Colombo Biennale (2014), and in non-institutional sites in Delhi and Zurich. He was a recipient of the ProHelvetia artist residency in Switzerland. Pravat lives and works in New Delhi.

The exhibition is curated by **Sabih Ahmed**, curator and writer based in Dubai. He currently holds the position of Associate Director and Curator of Ishara Art Foundation. His curatorial work and research focus on modern and contemporary art of South Asia through diverse itineraries, languages, and inter-disciplinary formations. Prior to Ishara, Ahmed was a Senior Researcher and Projects Manager at Asia Art Archive from 2009 to 2019. He has led research projects around the digitisation of seminal artist archives, digital bibliographies of art across multiple languages, and organised colloquia and seminars around digital archives and educational resources. Ahmed was a Curatorial Collegiate member of the 11th Shanghai Biennale curated by Raqs Media Collective in 2016, has served as a Visiting Faculty at the Ambedkar University Delhi from 2014-2019, and his writings have been published in various international publications. Ahmed is currently on the Advisory Board of Sher-Gil Sundaram Arts Foundation, Delhi.

For press and interview requests please contact

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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.

VHC | Vida Heydari Contemporary | Marvel Alainé, Lane 8, Koregaon Park, Pune, India