

VHC at Art Mumbai 2025

13 - 16 November 2025

Booth C62

Art Mumbai: Thursday, 13 November – Sunday, 16 November 2025, Mahalaxmi Racecourse, Mumbai

VHC is pleased to present works by **Lu Xinjian**, **Monali Meher**, **Pooya Aryanpour**, **Ravi Morya**, **Reza Derakshani**, and **Samim Alam Beg** in its second presentation at Art Mumbai, reflecting on the layered relationship between memory, perception, and form. Each artist, through a distinct visual language, engages with the tension between structure and intuition, the personal and the collective.

Monali Meher's process-driven works trace the passage of time through gesture, endurance, and transformation – mapping the body as both site and witness to memory. **Lu Xinjian** translates the complexity of urban landscapes into rhythmic networks of color and geometry, while **Pooya Aryanpour's** dynamic compositions turn fragments of history and myth into meditations on transformation and continuity.

In **Ravi Morya's** paintings, everyday scenes take on a quiet psychological charge – revealing the poetics of the ordinary. **Reza Derakshani's** lush, layered surfaces, grounded in Persian iconography and memory, oscillate between figuration and abstraction, between beauty and loss. **Samim Alam Beg**, through his atmospheric compositions, draws on landscape and light to evoke introspection and transcendence.

Together, these artists traverse different geographies and sensibilities yet share a deep concern with the ways images hold time – as gesture, rhythm, and remembrance.

Artists Samim Alam Beg and Ravi Morya will be present during the fair.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

LU XINJIAN

Born in 1977 in Jiangsu province, China, Xinjian studied at the Computer Graphic Design Department, Nanjing Arts Institute, China, in 2000 and the IM Postgraduate Department, Design Academy Eindhoven, Netherlands, in 2005. He then acquired an MFA in Interactive Media and Environments from the Frank Mohr Institute, Netherlands, in 2006.

Rendering a bird's eye view of urban cities using simplified shapes and lines, where the cityscape gets represented as de-centralized and flattened, Xinjian's works share affinities with the conventions, styles and techniques of Abstract Expressionism. Even as Xinjian traces the rise in urban density, he attempts to retain the signature architectural elements that facilitate the inhabitants to recognise the places they reside in and embrace the differences between the cultures and lifestyles that shape these urban spaces.

Xinjian's works have been exhibited at numerous venues in China, England and the USA, some of which include the ART LABOR Gallery in Shanghai, Fabien Frys Fine Art in Los

Angeles and Hua Gallery in London. His works are part of many public and institutional collections, such as the White Rabbit Gallery in Sydney, the DSL Collection in Paris and the Anxin Trust Collection in Shanghai.

Lu Xinjian lives and works in Shanghai, China.

MONALI MEHER

Monali Meher, born in 1969 in Pune, India, is a multidisciplinary artist who studied at the Sir J. J. School of Art, Mumbai. Her career has spanned several decades, during which she has performed and exhibited at prominent international venues such as Tate Modern, Sinop Biennale in Turkey, Rijksmuseum Twenthe, Art Dubai, MAXXI Museum Rome, Guangzhou Live in China, and the Prague Biennale. Her work has been featured in renowned institutions including the Cobra Museum in Amstelveen, Museum Arnhem, and Stedelijk Kunstakademie.

Notable highlights in Meher's career include receiving the prestigious 'Golden Chimera Award' at the ICASTICA Biennial in Arezzo, Italy, in 2013, and her participation in major events such as the 4th Thessaloniki Biennale, the Dakar Biennale, and the Kathmandu Triennale. In 2021, her performance at Arctic Action VI in Spitsbergen and her inclusion in the 'Upcycling' Sinop Biennale 8 exemplify her ongoing engagement with global audiences.

Meher's practice explores themes of time, memory, and transformation, often through performance and site-specific installations. One of her most significant public installations, "The Bridge Is Open" (2011), under the Willem's Bridge in Amsterdam, will remain on view until 2025. Throughout her career, she has been the recipient of several accolades, including LIVE Funds from BKVB Amsterdam in 2009 and the prestigious NN Art Award at Art Rotterdam in 2023.

Her works have been supported by institutions such as AFK and Fonds BKVB and have been enriched by numerous residencies, including the UNESCO-Aschberg Residency in Vienna, the Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten in Amsterdam, the Casa Masaccio residency in Italy, and KHOJ in New Delhi.

Monali Meher lives and works in Ghent, Belgium.

POOYA ARYANPOUR

Pooya Aryanpour, born in 1971 in Tehran, Iran, is an artist, art instructor and university lecturer. He studied painting at the Faculty of Art and Architecture, Azad University Tehran, where he obtained his Master's degree in 1999. His work has been extensively exhibited, both in Iran and overseas, at biennials, galleries, art fairs and institutional exhibitions.

Aryanpour started his artistic practice in the mid-1990s, initially focusing on painting. He explored subject material rooted in the traditions of Iranian culture. Aryanpour's early pieces employed traces of colour, abstract forms and drawing to create mystery and suspense. Aryanpour's sculptures and sculptural installations, while rooted in the very traditions and thought processes involved in his drawings and paintings, appear as large recognisable forms that engage the viewer in an interactive and performative act by transforming his drawings into intricate mirror works and projecting them in space.

Pooya Aryanpour lives and works in Tehran, Iran.

RAVI MORYA

Ravi Morya was born in 1992, Gwalior, India. He pursued BFA in Painting, from RMT University in 2015. Within Morya's practice, repetition evolves into a conceptual framework for understanding the human experience. It is through the repetition of motifs, gestures, and processes, that he unveils the overtones of our collective consciousness, offering glimpses into the nature of our being.

His works have been exhibited in several solo, and group shows in India. Additionally, Ravi has been a scholar at the Ministry of Culture on the Young Artist scholarship. He has also been a part of shows like the Art Incept grant show, CIMA art gallery annual show, Birla Academy, Kolkata, and is a recipient of awards like the Prafulla Dhanukar Art, CIMA award, Madhya Pradesh State award, and the All India Art award from the state gallery of art, Hyderabad.

Ravi Morya lives and works in New Delhi, India.

REZA DERAKSHANI

Reza Derakshani was born in 1952 in Sangsar, Iran. He pursued his education at the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Tehran, under the guidance of prominent figures like Hannibal Alkhas, Marcos Grigorian, and Mohsen Vaziri Moghaddam. Later, he pursued further education at the Pasadena Art School in California. After teaching at the University of Tehran for several years, Derakshani embarked on a period of artistic exploration in the U.S. and Europe, where his work evolved to integrate Iranian artistic heritage with the influences of Neo-Expressionism and Western abstract movements. His work, often described as a modern extension of Persian miniature painting (Negargari), melds intricate symbolism with dynamic, large-scale compositions that are celebrated for their vibrant color and radiant surfaces, incorporating materials such as silver and gold leaf.

Derakshani's artistic journey began early, with his first solo exhibitions in the early 1970s at the Ghandriz and Seyhoun Galleries in Tehran, gaining him swift recognition. Throughout the 2000s, Derakshani continued to exhibit widely, with notable solo exhibitions such as "Beyond the Darkness" at Khak Art Gallery in Tehran, and "Migration" at Leila Heller Gallery, New York. His work has also been featured in the 6th Tehran Contemporary Painting Biennial, held at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art.

Reza Derakshani lives and works in Istanbul, Turkey.

SAMIM ALAM BEG

Samim Alam Beg, born in 1998 in Murshidabad, India. He pursued his academic studies at Rabindra Bharati University in Kolkata, earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts in 2020 and a Master of Fine Arts in 2022, both in Sculpture. Samim's artistic practice is characterized by a profound exploration of the interplay between cultural and natural landscapes. Driven by an

insatiable curiosity, he experiments with objects and forms derived from nature, aiming to establish a thoughtful dialogue between architectural practices and visual art. His work seamlessly integrates the functional design of architecture with the intricacy of nature's creations, using materials such as ceramics and metal to create sculptural transpositions of natural forms into delicate filigree. Photography also plays an integral role in his practice, adding another layer to his exploration of nature's beauty and complexity.

In 2023, Samim's work was featured in the Space 118 Fundraiser Show in Mumbai. He was also awarded the MFA Gold Medal, the Nirod Baran Memorial Prize, and the Bhunath Mukherjee Memorial Prize by Rabindra Bharati University. In 2022, he received the Students Annual Exhibition Gold Medal and the Salma Naqvi Award from Art Family. In 2021, he participated in exhibitions like Abir First Take in Ahmedabad and the Kochi Students' Biennale and received the Kala Sakshi Memorial Trust Art Scholarship.

Samim Alam Beg lives and works in Kochi, India.

ABOUT VHC | VIDA HEYDARI CONTEMPORARY

VHC | Vida Heydari Contemporary is an international art gallery in Pune specialising in contemporary art and representing established and emerging artists with diverse backgrounds, across a variety of mediums and genres.

Founded in 2020 with an emphasis on authenticity, quality and innovation, VHC aims to contribute to the cultural fabric of the city. The gallery is committed to fostering the careers of its artists and sharing their work with a global audience, providing a platform for under-represented artists, presenting pioneering museum-quality exhibitions, positive collaborations, price transparency and offering a very hands-on and tailored high-quality experience.

In less than four years from its inception, VHC has mounted significant exhibitions featuring local and international artists. It has also participated in some of the most prestigious art fairs, such as Art Basel Hong Kong, India Art Fair and Art Mumbai. In addition to the gallery program, VHC hosts talks, performances, workshops and educational programs to create engaging and enriching artistic experiences that capture the essence of life.

VHC - Marvel Alaina, Lane 8, Koregaon Park, Pune, India.

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

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

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/vhc.art/>

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Press Kit:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1OPh8JXfl1zhxksa_kNXz9RuCc7TSDD3M

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