

**PRESS RELEASE | 16 March 2024**

Exhibition Opening

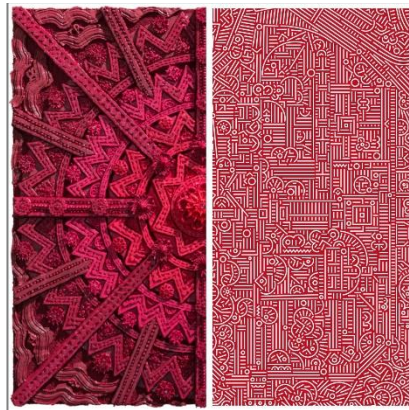
**VHC**  
VIDA HEYDARI  
CONTEMPORARY

**InDNA**

Two Person Exhibition

16 March – 16 June 2024

**Opening: Saturday, 16 March 2024, 4 PM – 7 PM**



Artwork detail of Zhang Ji and Lu Xinjian

VHC is pleased to announce the opening of our latest exhibition, **InDNA**, which brings together works by two contemporary artists – **Lu Xinjian** and **Zhang Ji** in India.

Drawing upon references from both religious and secular traditions of Indian architecture and philosophy, '*InDNA*' highlights the artists' transcending relationship with a geographically distant culture as made manifest in their latest bodies of work.

The exhibition will preview on **Saturday, 16 March 2024, from 4 pm to 7 pm** at **VHC | Vida Heydari Contemporary**. It will run through 16 June 2024.

**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 is represented as de-centralised and flattened, Xinjian's works share affinities with the conventions, styles and techniques of Abstract Expressionism. His exploration of different city plans reveals the rise in urban density that is symptomatic of cities today as well as the

standardisation underlying the development of urban spaces globally. Even as Xinjian traces the latter, 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.

Since returning to Shanghai in 2010, 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 Fryns 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.

### **Zhang Ji**

Zhang Ji was born in 1978 in Shandong, China. He graduated with a Master's in Mural Painting from the Central Academy of Fine Arts in 2008. Through his works, he attempts to cultivate an engaging dialogue between painting and religious architecture.

Created using a syringe to patiently apply as many as 120 tubes onto the canvas (at 170 millilitres per tube), Zhang's works often resemble bas-relief sculptures, modulating between composition and decomposition, sturdiness and ephemerality. Referencing motifs from religious architecture—specifically mosques, synagogues and cathedrals in Europe and the Middle East—he creates intricate patterns that are replicated across the canvas. Zhang intends his works to serve as an extended meditation to 21st-century viewers of how the visual vocabulary of religion and religious architecture still speaks to the vast and fertile recesses of our collective imagination.

Zhang Ji lives and works in Beijing, China.

### **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 three 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 India Design ID.

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 | Vida Heydari Contemporary | Marvel Alaine, 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/>

**For interview requests and additional information, please contact:**

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**Press Kit:**

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1QbPTLegETn8Zh0vOsueixB3W-bM5kSAY?usp=sharing>

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