
The Present Image
& the Absentee Maker

Curated by Monica Jain

Sept 23 - Oct 10, 2020



The Present Image and the Absentee Maker

The pandemic has altered our perceptions and outlook, making us introspect and reflect on matters of significance. It has completely redefined how we communicate and express ourselves, making us realise that ultimately it is culture and social connections that make humanity humane and well, happy. Large openings and VIP previews that provided stimulating cultural dialogue between the viewer and the artist to discuss art and its nuances have been replaced by virtual communication. Even though we are not able to physically view an artwork today, exhibitions in virtual form have opened new domains for artistic discourse. As much as we long to see art, we also wish to meet the makers and engage in cultural dialogue. This exhibition thus focuses equally on the image or the work which is present in the gallery as on the maker who is absent and attempts at bringing one physically and the other virtually to you. The Present Image & the Absentee Maker takes you to our artists' studio spaces so you can view, rather intimately, some very sensitive works of art and their process of art making. It focuses on artists who are based out of Delhi ; in Vadodara, Kochi in India and Providence, USA - places where travel to and fro is restricted during these dystopian times.

- Monica Jain



Ganesh Gohain

A Tree of Illusion

dry pastles, eraser, paper on board
69 x 48 inches

In the city of Vadodara, Gujarat senior artist Ganesh Gohain, Ganesh Da as we fondly call him has been working for the past few decades. His unparalleled acclaim reflects on his multifaceted art practice which has been recognised by the numerous prestigious awards bestowed upon him in the field of art, namely Charles Wallace Fellowship Award at Berlandieri Sculpture Workshop (Wales, United Kingdom, 2002-03) and the French Government Scholarship invitation from Ecole Superieure Des Beaux Arts, Le Mans, France in the year 1998.

Ganesh Da's work makes us move across terrains of ever evolving consciousness, where we often come across spaces that redefine the way we manoeuvre our thoughts. While in those spaces we find ourselves gazing into the wide horizons of familiarity. It is this familiarity that we rediscover in his Tree of Illusion. The work makes us want to look closely at the sublime branches and touch the fleeting skies above it. Here, he attempts to make us dwell deep into the form and probe its infinite possibilities which keep growing and moving towards us.



Pradeepkumar KP

Creation Series

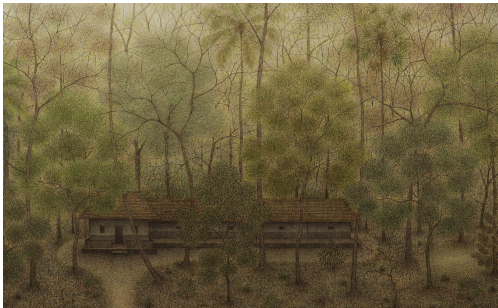
mixed media on acid free paper
45 x 60 inches



Everyday Sketches

Water color and charcoal on acid free paper
30 x 22 inches

K P Pradeepkumar is an independent visual artist who has been working in Kochi for over a decade. Born in Kozhikode, he did his BFA from College of Fine Arts Thiruvananthapuram in early nineties, and a year of study in Creative Practice at TransArt Institute, New York. He has been working and exhibiting in and out the country. His new Creation Series makes us wander into delightful botanical realms. The visual testimony of his works investigates the problems in presenting, representing, reconstructing, re-territorializing and preserving the self and its correlated vicinities. In his works we witness a transgressed nomadic self, which constantly finds itself one with a flora & fauna filled geographical territory.



Sanam CN

Untitled

Watercolour and pastel on rice paper over canvas
48 x 84 inches

Sanam C Narayana's works tether on the threshold of real and imagined landscapes while evoking a sense of quietude, nostalgia and eternity.

The artist completed his BFA and MFA in Sculpture from RLV Fine Arts College, Thripunithura (2006) and has an equally strong drawing base. His work is painstakingly done with each taking several months to complete. The mystical topologies he creates remind us of his hometown Kochi, Kerala, a hub for both international and national artistic dialogue. Sanam says that his works are narratives of constantly changing landscapes, the transformations of which are sometimes tremendous in scope. In the light of modern human development, the speed and power of these changes can be radical and unprecedented. The detailed rendering with charcoal and watercolours provides a cartographic approach to the passage of time. This work particularly, presents the essence of the absent, the idea behind this exhibition. Even though the humans are visibly absent in this work, their presence is implied and sensed. Right in the middle of organic chaos exist these gentle, quiet clearings that are magic portals opening up bridges to distinguish between what is real and what is not.



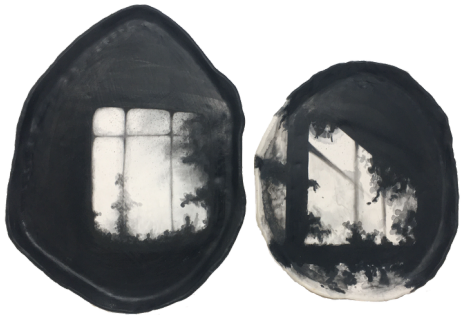
Puja Mondal

Saffron Field III

Dry fresco on terracotta tiles
31 x 35 inches

Puja Mondal has completed her BFA and MFA in Painting from the prestigious Faculty of Fine Arts, Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda and continues to work in the city. Engaging with her practice, one feels a strong sense of solidarity with her belief in freedom of expression which is a response to the onslaught on creative institutions seen in the past across the world. Her practice is thus a response towards oppressive policies of dictatorial regimes and fascist governments.

Her work Saf ron Field III is an embodiment of this perception, where she collates the significance of unity and co-existence during these times. The materiality of terracotta, executed with cuts, breaks and scratches express the violence that encumbers history, culture and tradition



Kopal Seth

Untitled

Indian Ink stoneware
14 x 10 x 1 inches, 11 x 8.5 x 1 inches



Untitled

Intaglio stoneware
6 x 4 x 1 inches

In Providence, USA, young contemporary artist Kopal Seth is making waves with her small, sensitive works in ceramic and paper. We have been working with her since she completed her BFA from The Faculty of Fine Arts, Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara, India. She has recently completed her Master's in Ceramics from the Rhode Island School of Design and her works have been featured among the best artworks at display from Yale and RISD in the prestigious Hyperallergic magazine.

In her practice we see a mature artist with a strong sense of self asserting familiarity with her home and her roots. Kopal's studio practice anchors her, filling the void created by emotional dissonance and physical distance. In her ceramic and paper inquiries namely Dareecha , Kohra ,Untitled and Path to where 2 she navigates through the bygone days and bring back sensitive moments of serenity aroma of past and nostalgia.

Manish Sharma

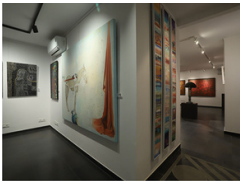
My Lost Memory



24kt gold leaf, acrylic on paper
45 x 68 inches

Manish Sharma completed his MFA in painting from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Rajasthan University in 2002 and since then has exhibited with galleries across India. He has been working with us since 2018 and through his works were also well received at the India Art Fair 2019.

In his works the idea of nostalgia is evoked as a part of a person's / community's strong intentions to escape from the oppressive present and take refuge in the memories of a golden past. In the painting My Lost Memory he juxtaposes the present with the past while traversing multiple layers of economic and cultural realities.



Established in 2014, Art Centrix Space is a unique 3,500 square feet space in a stunningly landscaped 2.5 acres environment in the heart of South Delhi's Vasant Kunj. The indoor space has a formal gallery that is approached by an unusual sculpture garden. It is a natural setting for unique installations and sculptures and is a hub for cultural conversations and events. Through thought provoking curated exhibitions both upcoming and mid career contemporary artists have been represented at our shows and at booths at the Art Fairs in the past few years.

Apart from paintings, works of paper, bronze and stone sculptures, Art Centrix Space has a vast collection of Contemporary Pichwais of the quality hitherto unseen in India including those in pure gold, whites and monochromes. The gallery also collaborates with Indian artists to create exceptional modern kinetic sculptures.

Monica Jain, the Curator-Director of Art Centrix Space holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from College of Art, New Delhi and a Master of Arts in Art History from the National Museum Institute, New Delhi. As an artist, she has trained under renowned sculptor KS Radhakrishnan to work in wax and bronze and loves the spontaneity of watercolours. She styles spaces with art, bespoke sculptures and installations.

View show at:

artcentrix.com/page/the-present-image-the-absentee-maker

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Artsy

artsy.net/show/art-centrix-space-the-present-image-and-the-absentee-maker



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