

Remember the Time

Through photos and paintings, two artists attempt to discover our fading memories

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IN A reproduced photograph by Surchi Choksi, a ghost of a figure is seen leaning against a lamp post. A possible famous landmark forms the background, but it is too blurry to recognise. In another photograph, a group of people can be spotted seated in a circle picnicking on a sunny day. Here, too, the faces of the people and the background is not quite clear. The photographs give you an inkling into the mood of the day, but the details are missing.

These photographs by the Mumbai-based artist are part of the exhibition titled "Reliquaries - The Remembered Self" at the TARQ gallery, Colaba. "Images have the power to bring to mind stories, and legends. Through distorted personal photographs, I want to explore how we create a memory and how much of it stays with us years later. I'm trying to show that what we remember is just a part of it, and not the absolute memory," Choksi says.

While the artist takes a more personal approach to deciphering memory, Mumbai and Barcelona-based Rithika Merchant, who is also partici-



pating in the show, chooses a broader path. She looks back at not just her past, but that of the entire human race and examines its history through myths and folklore. An example is the watercolour, "Doppelganger", in which two figures are bound together through the veins of leaves. "Today, science gives us an explanation for most things. However, it takes away the spirituality from things. Through my work, I try to trace the spiritual past of the human race and examine its relation to the present," she says.

"Reliquaries - The Remembered Self" is on at the TARQ gallery, Colaba, till April 10

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