

## Building Blocks

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Since his first solo *measure/decipher* in 2015, Pratap Morey has been trying to understand Mumbai's space crunch in a variety of ways. *Concrete Ciphers* at TARQ, Mumbai, from the 16<sup>th</sup> of January to the 28<sup>th</sup> of February, continues his exploration of the urban jungle. The exhibition is full of stark lines that represent the limits of rooms. City precincts, their crises of development and the interlocking of structures to create a jigsaw, are explored through drawings, relief sculptures and paintings.

Morey's often technically accurate sketches come across as architectural drawings at first glance. However, on closer examination, as seen in *Lost Right Angle* (2018), a painting on board with engravings and silver pastings, one realises that the perspective feels right only when the pieces of the puzzle are correctly put together. Inspired by Tangram, the Chinese geometric puzzle, he accommodates even the seemingly 'unfit' structures in his works, reflecting on the prodigious capacity of the city to be inclusive. Staying clear of humans and their activities, Morey draws our attention to mechanised and emotionless routines. He compares the fitting of various modular parts to form large structures – of a bridge or a metro – with *Tetris*, the tile-coordinating puzzle video game from the 1980s. *Acronymous invasion* (2018) is a drawing where multiple parts, planes and grids co-exist carefully. Morey brings his attention to the myriad possibilities that lie within these components to create alternate realities. /



Pratap Morey. *Lost Right Angle – III*. Archival ink, graphite drawings, engravings and metallic canson paper pasted with archival glue on conservation board. 40" x 64". 2018. © the artist. Photograph by Ashish Chandra. Image courtesy of TARQ.