



(Clockwise from left) *A Walk To Remember - XVIII* by Abhishek Narayan Verma, gouache on paper, 2021; *Glass Web* by Birraaj Dodiya, oil on linen, 2022; *When I was in my Mama's Womb* by Amrai Dua, acrylic on canvas, 2020



■ ART ■

NAMES TO KNOW

The young artists who need to be on your radar.

satire, sexuality, memory, and nature are the themes inspiring some of the country's most compelling young artists. One promising name to have emerged this year is Chandigarh-based Gurjeet Singh, whose mixed-media, soft fabric sculptures address LGBTQIA+ issues through delightfully weird characters. Gurjeet's works are based on his observations and experiences, like the series on his friend who fell in love with a bus conductor, but never saw the relationship come to fruition.

Mumbai-based Birraaj Dodiya's works, meanwhile, make use of discarded objects, industrial material, and personal relics to address the question of absence, uncertainty, and the destruction of landscape. Similarly, Rithika Merchant delves



into the ecological crises and climate change, through symbolism and botanical drawings in watercolour and cut paper elements. From Delhi, Amrai Dua's vivid portraits offer fresh perspective on community by portraying scenes like gossiping and pickle making... And taking a modern approach to storytelling is Lucknow-based Sonal Varshneya, who adds an imaginative and contemporary touch to the protagonists, with women flying across cities. Finally, Saubiya Chasmawala encapsulates her interest in the self, history, and identity with striking works that showcase abstracted and layered Arabic script, while Abhishek Narayan Verma takes to satire to speak of the political landscape within a global context.

The future is brimming with creativity!

By Radhika Bhalla



(Anti-clockwise from above) *Gates of Horn and Ivory* by Rithika Merchant, gouache, watercolour and ink on paper, 2020; *Kissa Goi* by Sonal Varshneya, etching on archival paper, 2019-20; *Untitled #17* by Saubiya Chasmawala, saffron on paper, 2019

