

The Odd One

Retrofit: People and the spaces we inhabit

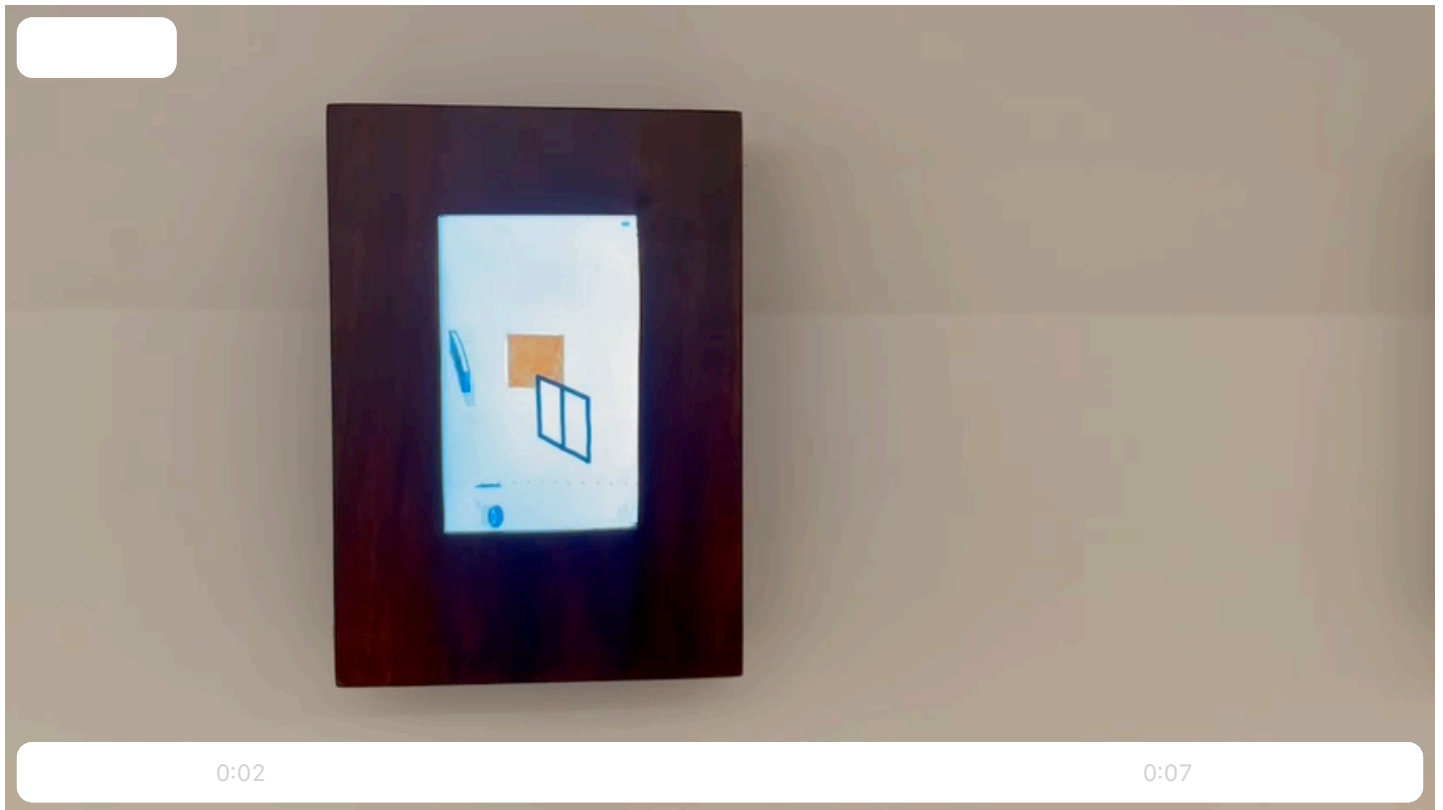
TARQ opens at a new space making a home for the art we love in KK Navsari Chambers, Azad Maidan, Fort. While the gallery has always showcased young contemporary artists the opening of the new space features a now seasoned favorite Sameer Kulavoor who has had four shows at TARQ prior to this one. His second solo show 'You Are All Caught Up' which opened right after covid regulations were eased seeps into this one because they are both inspired by the pandemic and the lockdown. While the former focuses on people and has a more intrinsic relationship to technology his current show 'Edifice Complex' which is on from the 13th of April to the 10th of June, 2023 focuses on architectural structures that seemed amplified during the pandemic.



Sameer Kulavoor commemorates TARQ's new home in Fort, Mumbai.

'Edifice Complex' Is an ode to the diversity of the Indian architectural landscape where a jigsaw puzzle of architectural styles and haphazard building practices creates oddities like aluminum foil jutting out or flyovers so close to homes you can peep into them. In this sense both the people and

the architecture seem to be retrofitted into each other creating these unique physicalities. Gentrification also plays a key role transforming places unrecognizably over the years. There is also the aspect of class and architecture. Often old buildings keep their prestigious facades but behind the fancy entrances there are AC ducts popping out and dusty tiny walkways.



Time-lapse videos at TARQ's opening show Edifice Complex.

The second part of the show are time-lapses that are both in poster and video form. They are an exploration of architectural elements that transform over time. These represent the economic class of people living in a particular space and the different architectural trends that are often borrowed from different areas coming together to create hybrid forms. The video compresses it into a 10-15 second clip with quick flashes of sign posts, dots and pops of colour.

Through the breaking down of complex forms into simple shapes Kulavoor brings attention to architectural form in its simplicity. A line turns into a triangle which turns then into a complex shape and back into a simplistic form. Geometry is the base of any complex structure and by using these basic building blocks as it were makes them easy to morph and reinterpret.