



CULTURE & LIVING

11 new art shows in India to add to your July 2023 calendar

Respective exhibitions, an ode to portraiture, celebrating the works of female artists from the Baroda School, photography shows... this month's round-up of the art world has something for everyone

BY HUZAN TATA
4 July 2023

As we enter the second half of the year, galleries are in full swing with their roster of exhibitions and art shows in India as well as abroad, making sure our calendars are always full. The second part of Akara Contemporary's *Let Me Tell You A Story* went on display this month, showcasing fascinating works by international talents. DAG's Mumbai HQ will be hosting Prabhakar Barwe's works later in the month, an exhibition we're eager to get a glimpse of. Talwar Gallery's New York space is exhibiting artworks by Kartik Sood (so definitely catch that if you're in the Big Apple till July 28th), while the second edition of the Bihar Museum Biennale gets ready to launch in August. Here's our pick of what else you should definitely catch a peek of this month:

ADVERTISING



Visages at Art Musings, Mumbai



Lalu Prasad Shaw, *Reflection*, Tempera on Paper

Portraiture has evolved by leaps from the times before photography took over the world, with artists slowly looking to capture personalities and deeply personal characteristics on their canvases. This group exhibition, which includes works by KG Subramanyan, Sakti Burman, Jogen Chowdhury, Jayasri Burman, Maité Delteil, T Vaikuntam, Suhas Roy, Laxma Goud, Suhas Bahulkar, Neeraj Goswami and Lalu Prasad Shaw, celebrates the world of human portraits while showcasing each artist's signature style. Featuring paintings in oils, acrylic and watercolour as well as etchings and sculptures, the show promises a visual treat as it brings stylised representations of the human form by several renowned artists to gallery walls.

On view at Art Musings, Admiralty Building, Colaba Cross Lane, Mumbai until 25th July 2023

***Cut From The Same Cloth* by Seema Kohli at Bikaner House, New Delhi**



Ride the Mind

Studying ancient legends and myths of India, this artist weaves them into her creations that explore notions of beauty, spirituality and sensuality. In this exhibition, Seema Kohli—known for her intricately detailed artworks in various media—explores the female form in all its glory, as well as the cosmic female energy of 'shakti'. Through 15 artworks embroidered with silk and cotton threads, beads and sequins on untreated canvas cloth, Kohli celebrates femininity, and brings to life her personal experiences and influences as a brilliant abstract storyteller.

On view at Bikaner House, Center of Contemporary Art, Pandara Road, New Delhi from 28th July-4th August 2023

Dasht-Gard by Shad Fatima at Art & Charlie, Mumbai



People Around Me by Shad Fatima

The Urdu title of this show, meaning 'wanderer, lover, or madman' goes aptly with Bhopal-based artist Shad Fatima's body of work. Her delightful creations are an ode to the powerful 'wandering spirit' that the artist believes we all possess. The showcase includes a series of portraits in charcoal and ceramic sculptures portraying quirky, fantastical characters as part of a series of abstract monochrome landscapes. As the note on the show aptly says, 'In a society that often categorises individuals based on rigid constructs, Shad Fatima reminds us that we are all wanderers on a collective journey, united by the threads of our interdependence'.

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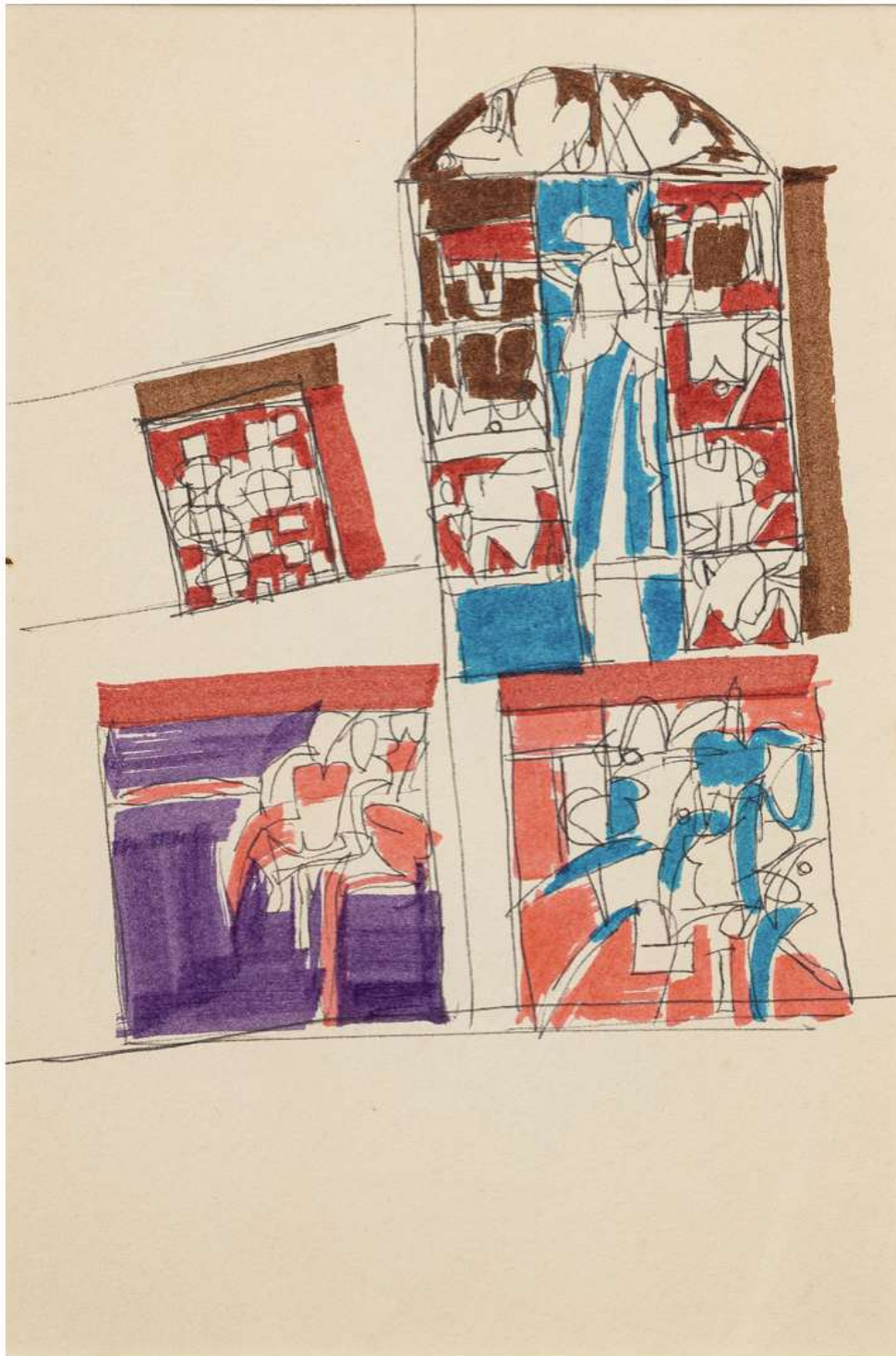
and the Construction of Modern Brazil and Nature Strikes Back: Photographs by Emmanuel Lenain at Bihar Museum, Patna



Agra, Uttar Pradesh, November 2020

What better way to get locals curious about a creative showcase than a display of striking photographs? Curated by famed art maven Dr Alka Pande, these two photography exhibitions are curtain raisers to the second edition of the Bihar Museum Biennale that flags off early next month. While *Brasilia 60+* celebrates Brazil's 200th year of independence with images showcasing the capital's changing architecture over the decades, *Nature Strikes Back* is a series of stark monochrome images focusing on how human interventions have affected nature and our natural habitats for the worse. The 41 photos that make up this show are each a poignant reminder of the importance of respecting our natural world and the delicate relationship between man and nature. Definitely two unmissable shows for any aficionados of the camera.

K.G. Subramanyan: His Art As Language at Chatterjee & Lal, Mumbai



Untitled, circa mid-1960s, marker pen on paper

He participated in India's freedom struggle and was even imprisoned for it. In the 1940s, he studied at the Visva Bharati University in Santiniketan under some of India's finest artists, and in the 1950s he joined the faculty of Fine Arts at Baroda's MS University. In the mid-1950s, he left to study at the Slade School of Art in London as a British scholar. Such was the early journey of Padma Vibhushan awardee KG Subramanyan's life. In the second of this two-part exhibition, Chatterjee & Lal focuses on art historian E.H. Gombrich's influence on Subramanyan's work. Featuring works created with markers, sand and other media, the show gives viewers a glimpse of the legendary artist's use of art as a medium to effectively communicate between the artist and the audience.

On view at Chatterjee & Lal, 01/18 Kamal Mansion, Colaba, Mumbai until 29th July 2023

Ephemeroptera: Time After Time at Tarq, Mumbai



After Party (Department of Sculpture), 2016 by Phillipe Calia

This group exhibition gets its name from the scientific word for Mayflies—creatures whose lives span anywhere between thirty minutes to twenty-four hours. In collaboration with Gallery XXL, Tarq's latest show is “a meditation on memory, permanence and transience”, featuring creations by Amitabh Kumar, Daku, Nibha Sikander, Philippe Calia, Sajid Wajid Shaikh, and Vishwa Shroff. The artworks on display touch upon themes of loss, memory, the temporality of time, the cyclical nature of life and death and the fleetingness of it all—not very different from the mayflies.

On view at Tarq, KK (Navsari) Chambers, Fort, Mumbai until 29th July 2023

Very Small Feelings at Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, New Delhi



Poke Press Squeeze Clasp by Afra Eisma 2021-23

One of the best ways to get through the whirlwind called life is to remember to embrace the child within us whenever we can and keep that feeling alive. This exhibition, organised in collaboration with Dhaka's Samdani Art Foundation and curated by Akansha Rastogi and Diana Campbell, aims to do just that. Featuring 42 projects including historical works, performances, books, archival materials, artists' creative prompts turned into installations and many kinds of landscapes, this exhibit is a delightful showcase of stories, characters and narratives, and will compel viewers to revisit their youth and relive their childhood. As Rastogi says about the show, 'There is an old saying, 'Nothing is older than a child'. *Very Small Feelings* explores this circuitous, labyrinth-like adage as a provocation to turn the museum into a playground and a creative space for intergenerational conversations.'

Shanti Dave: Neither Earth, Nor Sky at DAG, New Delhi



Untitled (Self-Portrait), 1954

A former member of the Lalit Kala Akademi and the Sahitya Kala Parishad, Shanti Dave is considered one of India's finest artists of the 20th century. Now, DAG hosts the first-ever retrospective on the late creator, highlighting his work as a painter, printmaker and muralist. The showcase includes Dave's rarely seen early figurative works made under the tutelage of stalwarts N S. Bendre and K. G. Subramanyan, as well as never-seen-before monochrome graphic watercolours of the Indo-Pak War. "For me, his style and technique are unparalleled. He was India's first major abstractionist to incorporate beeswax into his practice and his encaustic paintings often appear like sculptures in relief.... A quiet, inward-looking person, Shantibhai doesn't talk much about his art, leaving the interpretation to art writers and scholars who find his work as mysterious as it is intriguing," says Ashish Anand, CEO and MD of the gallery about Dave's oeuvre.

Mycelial Legacies II at Jehangir Nicholson Art Foundation, Mumbai



Jyotsna Bhatt (installation view)

The Fine Arts faculty at M.S. University in Baroda has been a significant institution in the world of contemporary Indian art, with several noted names being graduates of this prestigious school. This show, curated by Deeksha Nath, focuses on the works of 22 female artists, all of whom have walked the hallways of the Baroda school. Featuring works created over the last six decades in diverse media by artists such as Anita Dube, Gargi Raina, Hema Upadhyay, Jayashree Chakravarty, Madhurima Patni, Manisha Parekh, Mrinalini Mukherjee, Nasreen Mohamedi, Nilima Sheikh, Pushpamala N., Rekha Rodwittiya, Shakuntala Kulkarni, Soghra Khurasani and Vasudha Thozhur among others, the show aims to expand viewers' understanding of the contribution of the Baroda School of Art to the Indian art landscape.

Landscapes in Flux at The Gallery, New Delhi

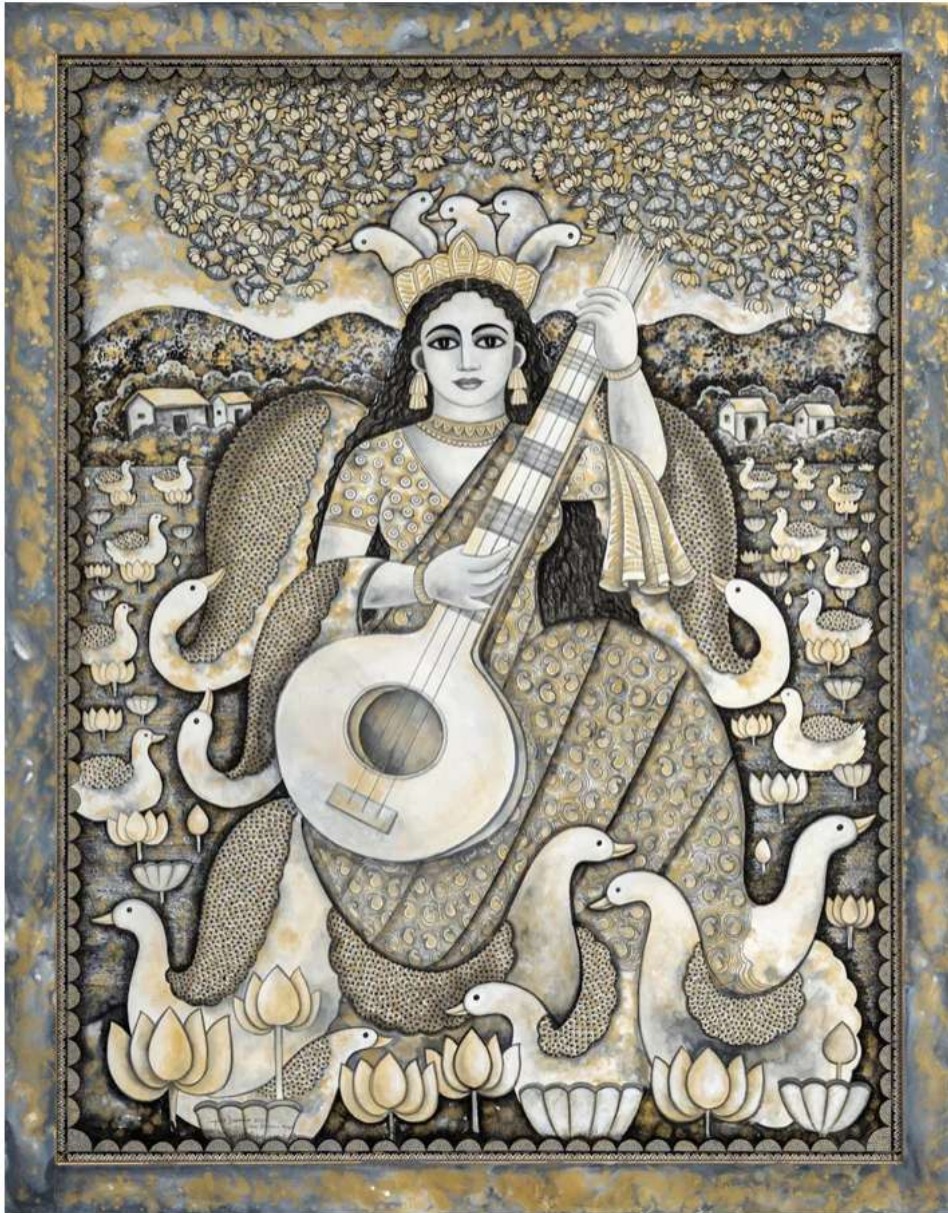


Fantasy World, GS Smitha

Portraiture and landscapes remain two themes of traditional art that never go out of style. This exhibition, presented by MAG Contemporary, a vertical of Modern Art Gallery, celebrates landscapes in all their glory, as seen from an artist's eye. Featuring works by varied artists working with diverse media, the show explores the idea of landscapes and architectural design and showcases artistic interpretations of how these can coexist, as well as remind us of India's rich cultural and natural heritage.

On view at The Gallery, Ground Floor, Main Building, Bikaner House, New Delhi from 21st to 27th July 2023

Bengal Beyond Boundaries by Aakriti Art Gallery at Bikaner House, New Delhi



Ahir Bhairav by Jayasri Burman

In *Bengal Beyond Boundaries*, works by Bengal's master artists, both past and contemporary, will be put on display at Bikaner House in New Delhi courtesy of Aakriti Art Gallery in Kolkata. Featuring seminal works by Abanindranath Tagore, Nandalal Bose, Jamini Roy, Hemen Majumdar, Somnath Hore, Rabin Mondal, Ganesh Pyne, Arpita Singh, Jogen Chowdhury, Anjolie Ela Menon, Paresh Maity and several others, the exhibition—conceptualised by artist Jogen Chowdhury and curated by Uma Nair—seeks to portray the history of the Bengal School as one that was born of the reflection of human understanding, a love of nature and the innate need to document human history.

On view at Bikaner House, New Delhi from 6th to 16th July 2023

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