

CULTURE & LIVING

15 new art shows in India to add to your August 2023 calendar

Films, paintings, celebratory showcases, an ode to Indian graphic design... we give you the lowdown on all things art to catch this month

BY HUZAN TATA
8 August 2023



Leang Seckon, Fly out of Tuol Sleng, 2019

The month we think of our country the most is here—when we raise the tricolour and be thankful to call ourselves Indian. And the creative world—the arts—arguably shapes minds, outlooks and feelings more than anything else does. This month's line-up of art shows in India includes retrospectives, a gallery's monumental silver jubilee exhibition, cross-border narratives, a look into a region's continuous freedom struggle and even films that showcase the ills of society. Further away from home, Bharti Kher's 18-foot-tall installation *Ancestor* is on display in NYC's Central Park till the end of this month—the towering mother figure is an unmissable sight if you're in the Big Apple anytime soon. Ranjani Shettar's *Morning Glory* is another creation that's currently on display at the Art Institute of Chicago. Here's to Indians

continuing to make a name for themselves on a global stage. And here's our pick of what you can catch at a gallery near you this month...

MEMORY TRACE / DAPAAAN*(...it is said) by Ankush Safaya at Latitude 28, New Delhi

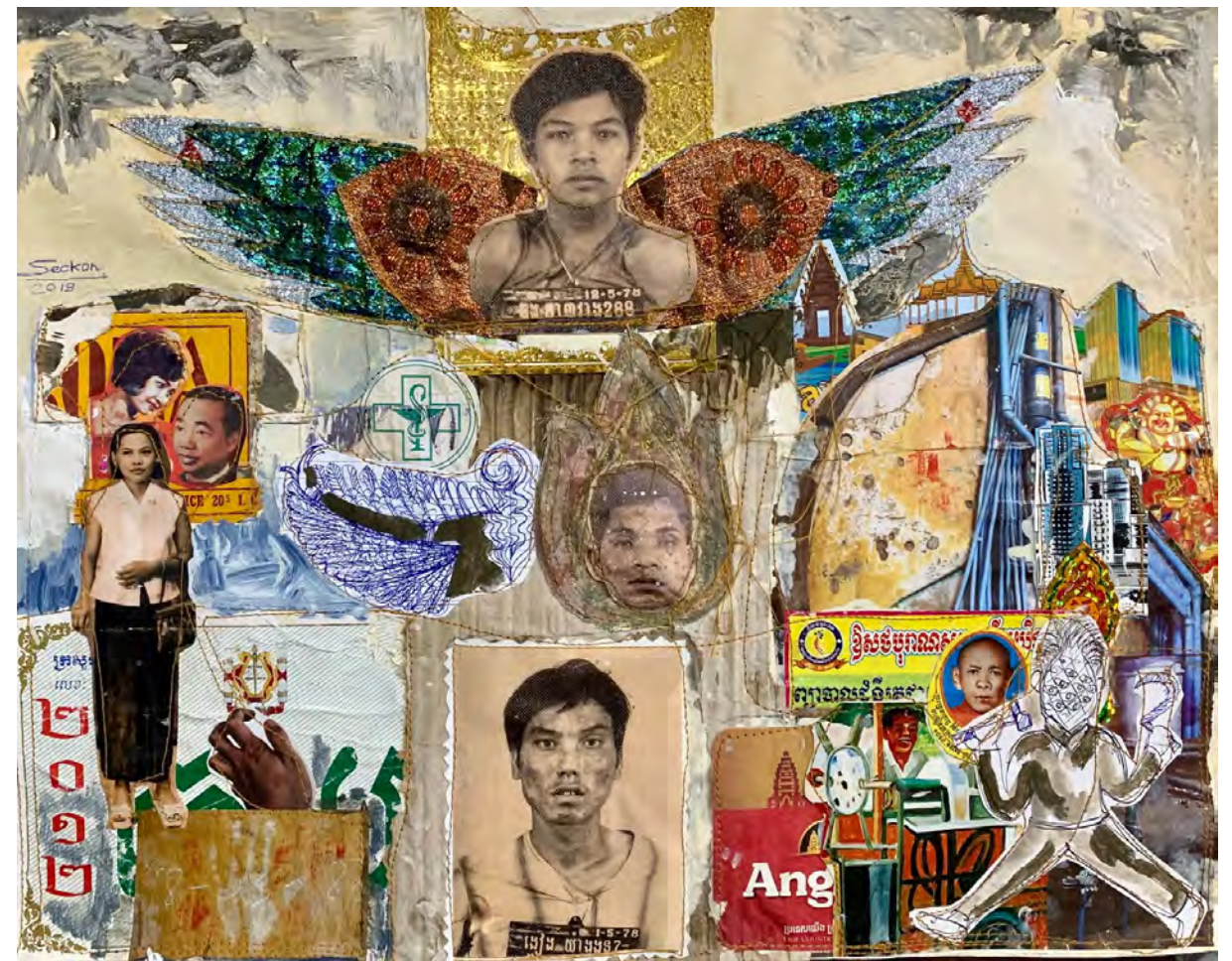


Ankush Safaya, Untitled (12), Brown paper on white paper (Assemblage of 70 units), 9 x 12 inches each, 2021

'Dapaan' is a colloquial Kashmiri word used frequently to begin any story, whether fictional or factual. This artist's visual story is probably a bit of both. In collaboration with Mumbai's Sakshi Gallery, this exhibition showcases artist Ankush Safaya's creations that 'blur the boundaries between reality and imagination'. Safaya has drawn inspiration from his personal experiences, music, art and literature and he masterfully weaves them together, while "inviting viewers to embark on their own introspective journey of memories and connections".

On view at Latitude 28, F-208, First Floor, Lado Sarai, New Delhi until 12th August 2023

Contours: Practices from Beyond the Border at Akar Prakar, New Delhi



Leang Seckon, Fly out of Tuol Sleng, 2019

Nothing expresses the impact of war on people like art does, more so civil wars that tear apart nations from within. The Cambodian Civil War of the '60s-'70s and the Bangladesh Liberation War of the early '70s were two such events that continue to affect the lives and hearts of the countries' citizens. This exhibition showcases themes like social and political identity, art historiographies, and interpretations of community by artists of both nations, who continue to experience life in the aftermath of these wars. Featuring creations by Leang Seckon, Mahbabur Rahman, Manir Mrittik, Marzia Farhana, Najmun Nahar Keya, Tayeba Begum Lipi, Tejosh Halder Josh, Yasmin Jahan Nupur and Yim Maline, the exhibition breaks down both geographical and mental borders to bring to our shores a constant reminder of the effects of war and the fragility of human nature.

On view at Akar Prakar, D 43, Defence Colony, New Delhi until 10th August 2023

Shadow Circus: A Personal Archive of Tibetan Resistance (1957 – 1974) at Experimenter, Mumbai



Reconnaissance mission in Tibet by members of the Mustang Resistance Force, early 1960s

It's no secret that Tibet has been under Chinese occupation since the 1950s and continues their resistance against the regime to this very day. But little is known of the guerilla war that the Tibetans fought from the mid-1950s to 1974, a battle which included the involvement of the CIA as well. This exhibition by filmmakers Ritu Sarin and Tenzing Sonam, whose father Lhamo Tsering was one of the leaders of the resistance and a liaison with the CIA, chronicles this struggle and brings to viewers a history almost unknown. The project, made in collaboration with curator-critic Natasha Ginwalla, includes letters, documents, photographs, maps and audio-visuals in a poignant showcase capturing the early years of a continuing battle for freedom.

On view at Experimenter, First Floor, Sunny House, 16/18 Merewether Road, Mumbai until 26th August 2023

Lalit Mohan Sen: An Enduring Legacy at Emami Art, Kolkata



Portrait of a Young Woman, Oil on Board, 1940s

There are some great creators who are widely known during their lifetimes but forgotten soon after they're gone. Bengali artist Lalit Mohan Sen is one such name that comes to mind. Born in West Bengal and educated in Lucknow and London, Sen's creative oeuvre encompassed drawings, oil paintings, tempera, prints, photographs, designs and sculptures—all on display in this retrospective show. Excelling in realism, portraits and landscapes, the artist drew inspiration from much of Classical Indian art and also held a passion for sketching and photography, with some never-before-seen pictures clicked of the Jaunsar district of Uttarakhand included in this unmissable show. This one is a true glimpse into the art and times of one of India's best modern masters.

On view at Emami Art, Kolkata Center for Creativity, Anandapur, Adarsha Nagar, Kolkata until 30th September 2023

Altaf: Early Drawings and Prabhakar Barwe: Between Object & Space at DAG, Mumbai



Altaf



Prabhakar Barwe

Two brilliant minds, two great shows. DAG Mumbai takes viewers into the worlds of famed artists Altaf and Prabhakar Barwe. While *Prabhakar Barwe: Between Object & Space* includes a selection of the maestro's watercolours, drawings, paintings, textiles and sculptures, *Altaf: Early Drawings*, curated by his daughter Sasha Altaf, brings to gallery walls drawings from his formative years as an artist in the '60s and '70s, as well as notes from his early diaries. These two thought-provoking shows are sure to provide viewers with an intimate look into the minds of two undeniable artistic masters of their eras and after.

On view at DAG 1&2, Taj Mahal Palace Hotel, Apollo Bunder, Mumbai until 26th August 2023

Master Collection at Rang Mirage, New Delhi



M.F. Husain

Classic never goes out of style or memory, and the same applies to the art world too. New media, artists and themes may come and go, but the style and creations of major masters stay in viewers' minds forever. This exhibition brings together canvases by some of India's finest artists, taking us through a nostalgic journey of drawings and paintings. Featuring canvases by M.F. Husain, Paresh Maity, S.H. Raza, Ganesh Pyne, Raja Ravi Verma, Manu Parekh, Jogen Choudhary, Sakti Burman, Arpana Gaur, F.N. Souza and more, this show is a salute to some of the most internationally renowned names of Indian art.

On view at Rang Mirage, A-58 Central Avenue, Sainik Farms, New Delhi until 15th August 2023

***Everyday India* by Sameer and Zeenat Kulavoor at Gallery 47A, Mumbai**



Noticing different typefaces and graphics on signboards and products is a great way to see how people's preferences, design sensibilities and lifestyles change as years pass. *Everyday India*, brought together by siblings Sameer and Zeenat Kulavoor, showcases the 'iconic, nostalgic, familiar, unfamiliar, accidental and intentional graphic design' we find all around us, from malls to small stores and from screens to print. This intriguing dive into our design culture includes six original paintings that capture the best of Indian graphic design, as well as a series of 5 flip books of the ubiquitous iconography we all love to spot around us. As cultural curator Srila Chatterjee says about the show, "It is a fascinating look at design that really does make this country work, every single day... growing up in India has given us a whole

unique language of design that has become a part of our DNA, that becomes a trigger to stories that encompass every part of our lives”.

On view at Gallery 47A, Khotachi Wadi, Girgaum, Mumbai until 13th August 2023

***Reflecting the Self* at Bikaner House, New Delhi**



"SELF PORTRAIT IN THE STUDIO WITH A SINGLE MALT."
Water colour on Arches Paper
30 x 70 - 2023
V RAMESH

V Ramesh - Self Portrait in the studio with a single malt

A quarter century of displaying art is a huge milestone for any gallery to achieve. To commemorate this special anniversary, Threshold Art is showcasing an exhibition on the art of self-portraiture at Bikaner House. Curated by Deeksha Nath and Tuntty Chauhan, *Reflecting the Self* includes works by over thirty artists including Anju Dodiya, Dilip Ranade, Gulammohammed Shaikh, Jayshree Chakravarthy, Jyoti Bhatt, Manjunath Kamath, Sudhir Patwardhan, V Ramesh, T Vaikuntam and many more, making it a real celebration of creativity. “The theme serves as a unifying element for diverse artistic practices. The exhibition celebrates the strong bonds forged between the gallery and the artists, acknowledging their artistic excellence and the lasting impact they have made within the art community,” says Tuntty Chauhan about the theme of the grand showcase.

On view at Centre for Contemporary Art, Bikaner House, New Delhi from 18th-28th August 2023

***A Reverie of a Memory* by Anilakumar Govindappa at Method, Mumbai**

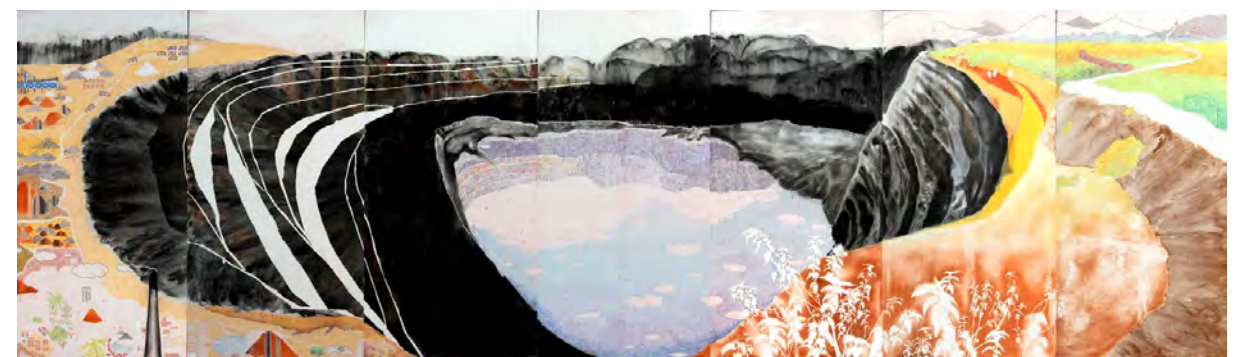


When lake becomes ground

Method launches its third art space in Mumbai with a showcase of Anilakumar Govindappa's works, a collection that takes viewers on a journey through cities that have left a mark on his memory. Focusing on themes like home, love and attachment, the exhibition presents places as seen from the artist's eyes but leaves the story of each canvas open-ended for the viewer to ponder. Govindappa's creations are sure to appeal to any aficionado of contemporary art.

On view at Method, Armaan Bungalow, 23 Hatkesh Society, NS Road #6, Mumbai until 21st August 2023

***Silent Vision* by Suman Chandra at CIMA Gallery, Kolkata**



For some, it's personal experiences that define their art practice; for some, it's the happenings in the wider world that make an impact on their art—like it is for Santiniketan graduate and CIMA Award winner Suman Chandra. Although his family is in the coal business, it was this exposure to coal topographies that affected his outlook as he learnt of the dangers and effects of coal mining. Working with coal dust as a medium, the artist creates canvasses that are both stark and inviting, where the political and the poetic merge into one.

On view at CIMA Gallery, Sunny Towers, 43 Ashutosh Chowdhury Avenue, Kolkata until 19th August 2023

Material Memories at Tao Art Gallery, Mumbai



Nahid Merchant, At Abdul Rehman Street, 2023



Smita Mandlik, Untitled, 2023 (mixed media)

Two artists come together in a show of memory, nostalgia and a showcase of how memories can be emotional bridges between our present selves and the past that shape us. Featuring abstract creations by artists Nahid Merchant and Smita Mandlik, this exhibition explores themes of place, relationships, memories and the interconnectedness of them all. As

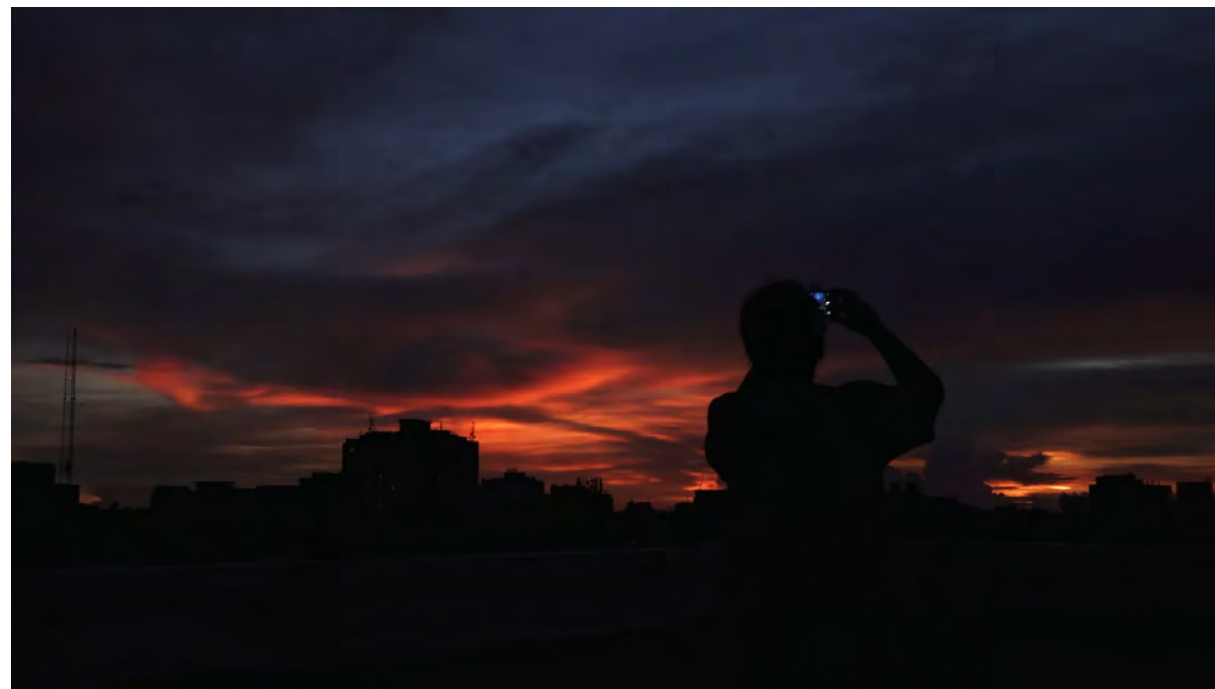
Sanjana Shah, creative director of the gallery explains in her note on the show, 'Merchant and Mandlik come together with a unique synergy of tactile mediums exploring how their memories have shaped their personal sense of identity'.

On view at Tao Art Gallery, 165, The View, Dr Annie Besant Road, Mumbai until 20th August 2023

***Siege of Darkness* by Payal Kapadia and Priya Sen at Experimenter, Kolkata**



Payal Kapadia



Priya Sen

Filmmaking is an art form that's probably got the widest reach, and it's through this medium that many artists choose to express the stories close to their hearts. Two films by filmmaker-artists Payal Kapadia and Priya Sen make up this exhibition that questions the way we view relationships, as well as speaks of the constantly changing dynamics of the social and political constructs of society. Kapadia's film, *A Night of Knowing Nothing*, tells the story of L, a university student who writes letters to her estranged lover, unfolding a tale of realities, fiction, dreams, anxieties and more. *No Stranger At All*, Sen's film, is a realist documentary that focuses on a post-2020 Delhi that has been shaped by two events: a global pandemic and the rise of fascism across the country. These two films showcase the true realities of our times in a hard-hitting manner.

On view at Experimenter, 2/1 Hindustan Road, Kolkata from 3rd-19th August 2023

***Art Night Thursday* by Gaysi Family and Nayanika Chatterjee at Colaba, Mumbai**



[View more on Instagram](#)

512 likes

gaysifamily

[UPDATE : All spots full for now! 📅]

Mumbai Peeps, Up For Art Night Thursday?

Calling all art enthusiasts and culture seekers!

Join us for an enchanting evening at Art Night Thursday in Mumbai, where the vibrant spirit of creativity fills the summer air. Prepare to be captivated by a dazzling array of striking exhibitions that the city's galleries have curated, showcasing the boundless imagination of artists exploring themes, mediums, and the intricate tapestry of identity.

Your guide for the evening is Nayanika. She is an animator/illustrator based in Mumbai and runs her own creative studio, @isthisart__. In her free time, she obsesses over CrossFit and her dog, Stark.

Date: Thursday, 10th August

Time: 6PM-9PM

Meeting Point: Colaba

Plan for the evening: Will be shared closer to the date

🌟 RSVP link in the bio! RSVP soon, limited spots! 🌟

PS - Do RSVP ONLY if you are certain of attending. A request.

Cheers,

Team Gaysi

#ArtNightThursdayMumbai #ExperienceTheArts #SummerOfCreativity #gaysifamily #queerartists

In this enchanting evening organised by Gaysi Family, illustrator and animator Nayanika Chatterjee will guide attendees through a tour of Mumbai's vibrant, creative exhibitions that explore "themes, mediums, and the intricate tapestry of identity." With the meeting point in Colaba and a plan to visit an array of Mumbai galleries and exhibitions, this promises to be a thrilling night of exploration and introspection. Guide Nayanika Chatterjee, who also runs her own creative studio, will no doubt make sure the evening sparkles as both entertainment and knowledge blend together.

On view at Colaba, Mumbai on 10th August 2023

***Archipelagic Archivist* by Parag Tandel at TARQ, Mumbai**



Vitamin Sea, Coastal Road Project 3, 2023

his upcoming solo exhibition at TARQ, artist Parag Tandel from Thane's Chendani Koliwada, archives the rich culture of the Kolis alongside networks of kinship between the community and coastal ecosystems. Passing down knowledge through oraliture, the Kolis have sadly been left out of the process of penning their own history. Tandel presents new bodies of sculpture that draw from complex traditions of food, fishing and faith to counteract this erasure.

On view at Tarq, KK (Navsari) Chambers, Fort, Mumbai from 10th August-30th September 2023

Also read:

[*11 new art shows in India to add to your July 2023 calendar*](#)

[*25 must-visit art exhibits in and around India you need to check out*](#)

[*Jaya Mukerjee Logue's workspace is a painting-within-a-painting marvel*](#)

Amidst the constant clamour of constructions, one tends to forget that Mumbai was once an archipelago of seven [islands](#). The Kolis, indigenous inhabitants of these lands and waters, looked after the thriving [ecology](#) for centuries. In