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Mumbai Gallery Weekend 2024: Everything You Can't Miss Out On

By Nida Naeem | January 11, 2024, 15:59 IST

Mumbai Gallery Weekend is back, and set on expanding the scope for our critical engagement with the arts

Art enthusiasts in Mumbai have a lot to look forward to in January and we are particularly stoked about the return of Mumbai Gallery Weekend (MGW). From established names like Chemould Prescott Road and DAG to newer outfits like Gallery XXL and Method Juhu, the 34 participating galleries are set to open new shows at the same time, inviting visitors old and new to immerse themselves in a weekend of art appreciation and cultural dialogue. Slated from January 11-14, this year's edition also includes a series of immersive experiences ranging from panel discussions and workshops to screenings and performances. Shireen Gandhi, this year's spokesperson for MGW and Director at Chemould Prescott Road, says, "Imagine a city like Bombay, which until 2007 had a meagre 3 to 4 galleries – the impact, as much as the existing galleries tried, would have been minimal. Today we have close to 35 spaces each having its own personality. Think then of the gallerists as 'characters' and the artists as 'performers'. What it brings is a mix of personalities that bring together entirely new and varied experiences. How immersive or interactive depends on the audience's will to engage. But what is there is the variety and the choice that allows for audiences to determine what they would like to take away. Something like a Mumbai Gallery Weekend truly gives Bombay's receptive and enthusiastic audiences an extremely healthy dose of the art tonic."



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MGW has also partnered up with Art And Wonderment to conduct curated walkthroughs covering all galleries and off-site spaces spanning Colaba to Juhu (register here: <https://forms.gle/vH3jjX9xbQB55xUh6>). Conducted at different time slots from January 12-14, the gallery hops are free for all to attend, adding an extra layer of accessibility in order to demystify the world of modern and contemporary South Asian art.

Gandhi elaborates, "Art & Wonderment's consistent efforts to broaden art conversations and access in the city aligns perfectly with MGW's mission to build a wider audience for art in Mumbai. Alisha [Sadikot] and Nishita [Zachariah] bring to MGW an expertise in planning and hosting art walks - which includes everything from painstakingly mapping routes and walk times between galleries to their absolute, untiring and contagious excitement for all the art on view!"



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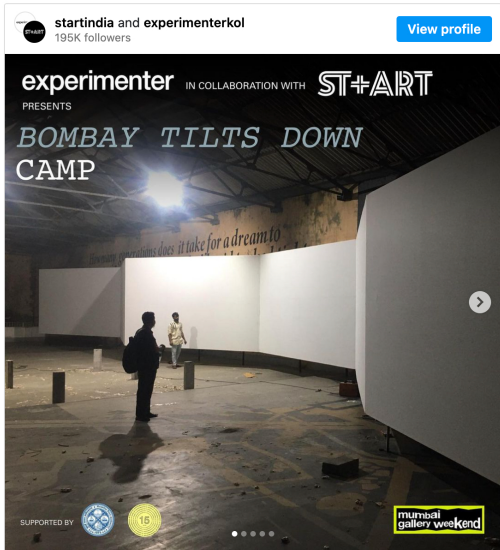
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Whether you decide to join in on the art walk or wish to explore at your own pace, here's our pick of the not-to-be-missed exhibitions and programmes at MGW this year.

Bombay Tilts Down

WHERE: Sassoon Docks, Colaba

WHEN: 7-8 PM on January 12 and 6-7 PM on January 13



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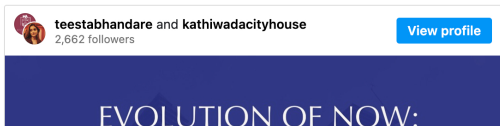
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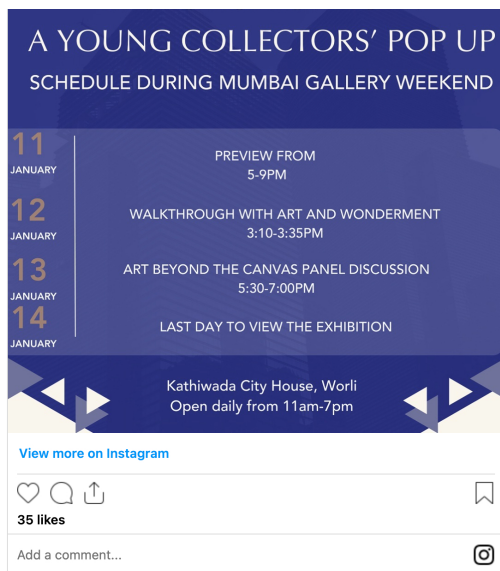
Bombay Tilts Down is an immersive video projection that goes beyond the passive act of 'watching' to demand that you read, listen and see as well. Previously shown at Kochi Biennale, the film will be mounted as a guided 'tour' in three acts by CAMP ft. Tushar Adhav (Bambo) at Sassoon Docks. Speaking of the experimental nature of the film, Gandhi elaborates, "*Bombay Tilts Down* is a 7-channel video installation that runs on loop. The 7 screens zig zag and cover more than a hundred feet. Yes, you can say it's a new form of cinema. CAMP's work is usually seen in large public venues or in museums/Biennale settings. We have been very keen to show it to audiences in its home city, and Sassoon Docks is the ideal public venue for its display. St+art India and Experimenter were happy to co-present the work and bring it to Mumbai this new year during Mumbai Gallery Weekend."

Evolution Of Now

WHERE: Kathiwada City House, Worli

WHEN: 11-7 PM on January 12 (Exhibition continues through 21st Jan 2024)





In order to cultivate a more fertile environment for art collectors, a Young Collectors' Pop Up Exhibition has been curated by Teesta Bhandare and Art Garde. *Evolution Of Now* features artists with diverse aesthetics and approaches, who respond to socio-political stimuli through lived experiences. The participating artists include Purvai Rai, Ritu Agarwal, Shaji Appukkuttan, Kaushik Saha, Prityaanshi Aggarwal, Srishti Dass, Meera George, Dheeraj Yadav, Akshata Mokshi and Vijaya Chouhan. "The programme creates multiple avenues of engagement and exploration for young patrons. It involves an exhibition with 8 contemporary artists showcasing works from a variety of mediums and styles that cater to a wide range of tastes. This curation has been done intentionally to allow young patrons the opportunity and better understand their own artistic preferences. Additionally all the works displayed are at accessible price points. There is also a panel discussion with industry leaders from art, fashion, and architecture to create awareness about the many manifestations of art," shares Gandhi.

Curatorial Futures: Art Foundations in the UAE

WHERE: Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, Fort

WHEN: 12 PM on January 13

This is a series of talks at the CSMVS museum supported by India Art Fair at the CSMVS Museum Open-Air Amphitheatre. MGW TALKS is a signature event which brings individuals from various fields together; in the past these conversations have discussed the future of museums, corporate collections, a European gallerist's journey becoming the starting point of an art scene in China, and even a 3-day seminar on the contemporary history of art movements through a western lens.

Panelists this year include Dawn Ross, Nawar Al Qassimi, Sabih Ahmed and Vaidehi Savnal who will unpack regional dynamics and the future plans of UAE's contemporary art institutions. Gandhi adds, "For this year's edition, we decided to focus on the Middle East as the two cultures are so intertwined with the movement of its people between the Gulf and India. Additionally, the focus in the the Middle East has often been on South Asian art - whether it is through exhibitions, biennales, or as in the case of Sharjah Biennale, the selection of Natasha Ginwala, originally hailing from India to be one of the curators for the next Sharjah Biennale. So why not reverse the tables to bring a bit of the Middle East into India? It felt like a pertinent moment to be able to tell the story of a place that was once barren of an art scene has now exploded into one that is only growing and might come to become one of the epicenters given how strategically it is placed geographically."

Materialities of Personal Memories

WHERE: Gallery XXL, Colaba

WHEN: 6 PM on January 12



This conversation between artists Lakshmi Madhavan and Al-Qawi Nanavati will delve into how they draw from their personal archives and translate these threads into tangible artworks. Nanavati is a printmaker whose work is influenced by meditation, repetition and the aftermath of loss, while Madhavan examines the intimate relationship between the body and textile as she contemplates identity and belonging. Both artists are also a part of the group show at Gallery XXL titled 'Sans Sentence'. The gallery's focus on urban contemporary and post-graffiti art means that other artists who are a part of the show include boundary-pushing practitioners like Hanif Kureshi, DO, Khatra, Tanya George, Sowat, Zero and Latheesh Lakshman.

Line Of Fire by Nikhil Chopra

WHERE: Chatterjee & Lal, Colaba

WHEN: 12-5 PM, on view till February 28



Multi-format artist Nikhil Chopra returns to Mumbai after 5 years with 'Line Of Fire'. Chopra, whose work spans performance, painting, drawing, sculpture, and photography, wields the body as both a tool and canvas for art. His live performance for 'Line Of Fire' occurred over a duration of 4 hours at 47-A Design Gallery on January 10. Starting January 11, he will present drawings of the sea and moody cloudscares, ranging from the monumental to the intimate, at C&L.

When The Moon Is Nine Months Full by Seema Kohli

WHERE: Tao Art Gallery, Worli

WHEN: 11 AM - 7 PM, on view till February 11



Seema Kohli's large-scale paintings are trained towards the underbelly of gender and the shadow side of mythological representation in this solo show curated by Shaunak Mahbubani. Working with a range of materials such as wood, bronze and canvas, Kohli builds on her lineage of eco-feminism, birthing what author Ursula Le Guin termed 'her third self'.

As The Chin Melts On Your Knee by Areez Katki

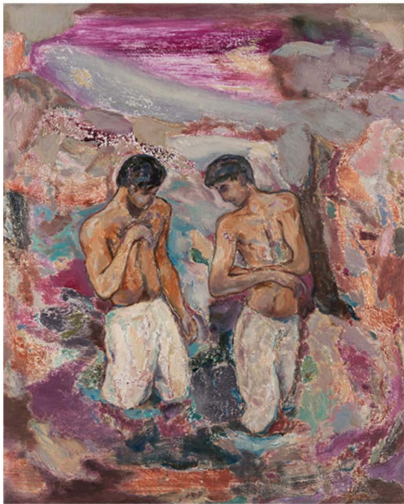
WHERE: TARQ, Fort

WHEN: 10 AM - 6 PM, opens on January 11



Artist Areez Katki brings together works developed over 3 years using found cloth, clay, pigment and paper as he navigates conceptual and material-based intersections. Grounded in a queer-trans existence, his practice seeks to promote collective care, the act of eating together, and dialogue with the arts ecology. 'As The Chin Melts On Your Knee' explores the various elements that form Katki's engagement with histories of loss and displacement.

NAKHRA: Towards Sacred Sensuality by Kuldeep Singh
WHERE: Chemould CoLab, Colaba
WHEN: 12 - 6 PM, opens on January 11



Artwork by Kuldeep Singh

Kuldeep Singh creates what he calls 'choreographic paintings', building on his oeuvre after attending CoLab's 2023 summer residency. 'NAKHRA' is a series of 'Neo [queer] Ragamala' oil paintings that map Odissi dance movements through delicate geometric patterns. This body of work launches inquiries into the line between visual art and movement, and the politics of sensual and spiritual homo-eroticism.

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