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CREATIVE LIFESTY  
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**x ART (/ART)**

**x DESIGN (/D**

**x FASHION (/FASHION)**

**x LITERATURE  
(/LITERATURE)**

**x FILM (/FILM)**

**x LIFESTYLE (/LIFESTYLE)**

**x MUSIC (/MUSIC)**

**x MAGAZINE  
(/MAGAZINE)**

**x ABOUT (/ABOUT-  
PLATFORM)**

**x STORE (/STORE)**

**x LOG-IN (/LOGIN.PHP?  
TAG=SIGNIN)**



Rithika Merchant Saudade, 2020 Gouache, watercolour and ink on paper 19.6 x 25.5 inches

# *Birth of a New World by Rithika Merchant*

The team at *TARQ* presents *Birth of a New World* by Rithika Merchant as part of Mumbai Gallery Weekend. This is her second solo exhibition at *TARQ*, following *Where the Water Takes Us* in 2017. In this new series of watercolours and collages, Merchant focuses on the contemporary moment. With the world around us constantly, and rapidly evolving, the artist looks to a more primordial time, where she begins to search for answers in the stars. She proposes to create paths to a new

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**(Un)containable  
Life**

world, similar to what you would see in an observatory. These works take a holistic view of the universe to try and answer what comes after the Holocene and Anthropocene when the earth started changing in a much more rapid and real way. As she examines what we will be left with, Merchant also questions ideas of achieving Utopia for the universe as we explore space.

Through a combination of watercolour, gouache, ink, collage elements and use of organic shapes and colours, she looks to our collective archives seeking answers to understand where we find ourselves right now, searching for balance and harmony in this modern world. With nature continuing to play a vital role in her works, Rithika invites us to ponder the age-old questions of what is deemed worthy of saving and how do we strike a balance? Is there a possibility of a utopia or are we chasing after the unattainable? What will we take with us and what gets left behind?

### About the Artist

Rithika Merchant (b. 1986) received her Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts from *Parsons - The New School of Design*, New York (2008). Since graduating, she has exhibited her work extensively, including a number of solo exhibitions in India, Spain, Germany, France and the United States. Her most recent solo shows include, *Mirror of the Mind* at Galerie L.J, Paris, France (2019); *Where the Water Takes Us* at TARQ, Mumbai (2017) and *Ancestral Home* at Galeria Bien Cuadrado, Barcelona (2017).

Get to know more about artist Sonia Mehra Chawla's work, which will be displayed at 1x1 Art Gallery, Dubai.

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### TAP 3x

TAP 3x brings eight new curated exhibitions featuring Young Contemporary Artists along with exciting new line up for #TAPTALKS and #TAPLIVE.

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Her recent group exhibitions include a twoperson show *Osmosis* at TARQ, Mumbai, curated by Shaleen Wadhwana (2019); *Spring! A Group Show of Contemporary Drawing* at Galerie LJ, Paris (2019) and *Chloe Couture* at the National Art Museum of Ukraine, Kieve, Ukraine (2019). Other groups shows include *Homo Faber* at The Michaelangelo Foundation, Venice (2018); *Portal* at October Gallery, London (2018) and *Sensorium / The End Is Only The Beginning* Sunaparanta, Goa Centre for the Arts, Goa (2018). She has also collaborated with *Chloé*, a French fashion house on multiple collections for which she was awarded the Vogue India Young Achiever of the Year Award at its Women of the Year Awards 2018. She was also named one of Vogue Magazine's Vogue World 100 Creative Voices. She currently divides her time between Mumbai and Barcelona.

**Courtesy:** Courtesy of Rithika Merchant and *TARQ*

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## An Unfinished Poem by Jogen Chowdhury

Unlike larger compositions, the artist's works are small format, created with consummate skill, whether they are minimalistic outlines or intensely textured.

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## Shailesh B.R.

NOTES TO  
SELF

Exploring  
the artist's  
craft.

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