

NEWS

Explore a city-wide celebration of contemporary art with 66 artists across 10+ venues and 15+ events

Conceived as a platform for dialogue, discovery and exchange, Contemporary Now brings together India's leading galleries in a shared presentation of contemporary art.

by **Staff Writer** | August 1, 2026



What began as a collaborative curatorial initiative has evolved into one of the country's most exciting recurring art platforms, fostering meaningful connections between artists, galleries, and audiences.

The third edition of Contemporary Now, taking place from 8-25 August 2026, is its most ambitious yet, transforming Chennai into a vibrant destination for contemporary art through an expansive programme.

The exhibition will take place across two floors of Lalit Kala Akademi, with partner programmes unfolding across venues throughout Chennai. Together, the programme brings India's leading galleries and cultural organisations into dialogue through exhibitions, panel discussions, artist walkthroughs, open houses, and workshops.

The third edition brings together seven leading galleries: Ashvita's, Chemould Prescott Road, Chatterjee & Lal, Experimenter, Project 88, TARQ and Vadehra Art Gallery.

At the centre of the exhibition is the curatorial theme Practices in Continuum: Tracing the Present.

Bringing together 66 artists across seven leading galleries, the exhibition is built around continuity: of gallery programmes, artistic inquiry and evolving bodies of work. Each artwork is presented not in isolation, but as part of a wider conversation that has been shaped over years of research, experimentation and curatorial commitment.

The gallery becomes the first point of context, offering a lens through which an artist's practice can be understood. From there, the artwork unfolds as an expression of larger questions: of memory and migration, ecology and materiality, politics and identity, language and lived experience. To collect such a work is to collect more than an image or an object; it is to engage with an artist's way of thinking and with the ideas that define our present.





City-wide Programming includes:

- **Open House**
Ashvita's Archival and Conservation Centre
- **Continuiverse: Sculptures** by C. Krishnaswamy
Preview presented at Ashvita's Campus.
- **In Dialogue with Nature: Limited Edition Photographs & Portfolios**
Presented by Chennai Photo Biennale Foundation and WWF-India, supported by Pheroza Godrej and Tarana Sawhney.
- **I Have a Dream**
A studio exhibition by George K, curated by Jaiveer Johal and presented by Apparao Galleries.
- **Madras Abstraction**
Presented by Gallery Veda.
- **Masters in Madras**
Presented by Apparao Galleries
- **How Long Will We Live? Or When Will We Die?**
Featuring a walkthrough with artist K. Benitha Perciyal at Ashvita's

The 66 participating artists include Amitesh Shrivastava, Anita Dube, Anju Dadiya, Anpu Varkey, Areez Katti, Arshi Irshad Ahmadzai, Ashwini Bhat, Astha Butail, Atul Dadiya, Ayesha Sultana, Aziz Hazara, Bhasha Chakrabarti, C. Krishnaswamy, Chanakya School, D.L.N. Reddy, Desmond Lazaro, Dhruvi Acharya, Faiza Butt, G. Gurnathan, Garima Gupta, Gigi Scaria, Hemali Bhuta, Jagannath Panda, Jagath Ravi, Jasmine Nilani Joseph, Jitish Kallat, Jaya Mukerjee Logue, Julien Segard, K. Benitha Perciyal, Khageswar Rout, Lavanya Mani, Maanas Udayakumar, Mahesh Baliga, Minam Apang, Mithu Sen, Mohit Shelare, Moumita Das, N.S. Harsha, Natasha Preenja aka Princess Pea, Nikhil Chopra, Nityan Unnikrishnan, Parag Tandel, Parul Thacker, Prabhakar Pachpute, Prajakta Potnis, Pratap Morey, Pushpakanthan Pakkayarajah, Radhika Khimji, Raghava KK, Rajen, Raqs Media Collective, Reena Saini Kallat, Saju Kunhan, Sakshi Gupta, Sameer Kulavoor, Sandeep Mukherjee, Shailesh B.R., Shakuntala Kulkarni, Sheetal Gattani, Shrimanti Saha, Soghra Khurasani, Soumya Sankar Bose, Tallur L.N., Thukral and Tagra, Varunika Saraf and Vishwa Shroff.

The exhibition offers an invitation to look more closely, to think more deeply, and to recognise contemporary art as an evolving record of the times we inhabit. Through its expanded city-wide programme, Contemporary Now extends this invitation beyond the exhibition space. Across 20 days, audiences will be able to engage with contemporary art through exhibitions, conversations, artist-led encounters, workshops and open houses, creating multiple points of entry into the ideas and practices shaping contemporary art today.

With its third edition, Contemporary Now continues to expand the conversation around contemporary art, offering a dynamic snapshot of the ideas, concerns and creative energies shaping the present moment.

About Contemporary Now

Contemporary Now brings together India's leading galleries in a shared presentation of contemporary art in Chennai, India. Conceived as a platform for dialogue, discovery and exchange, Contemporary Now brings together diverse artistic voices, practices and perspectives from across the country.

Event: Contemporary Now - Edition III
Theme: Practices in Continuum: Tracing the Present
Dates: 8 August - 25 August 2026
Venue: Lalit Kala Akademi, Chennai, with partner programmes across 10+ venues in the city
Participating Galleries: Ashvita's, Chemould Prescott Road, Chatterjee & Lal, Experimenter, Project 88, TARQ and Vadehra Art Gallery
Artists: 66 artists

TAGGED: Art Exhibition

ARCHITECT
and INTERIORS INDIA

Subscribe to our Newsletter

Email

Subscribe

Others

About Us
Contact Us
Privacy Policy
Terms of Use
Media Pack
Subscription

Sections

Projects
People
Insights
Products
Events

Sister sites

Construction Week Online
Commercial Design
Digital Studio India
Healthcare Radius
ProAV Innovate

Follow Us



Hotelier India
Manufacturing Today India
Logistics Outlook
Masala

