

Here's How The Art World Is Coping With The Covid-19 Lockdown

By **Ojas Kolvankar** (https://www.grazia.co.in/Author/Ojas-Kolvankar) | May 7, 2020

With important events in the annual art calendar, be it exhibitions, art fairs, or open studios of the residencies, getting cancelled, artists and galleries are taking over digital media platforms to showcase their work



For a long time, the art world has maintained exclusivity, catering only to the insiders, critics, patrons, media, and buyers. Since the pandemic has brought everything to a standstill, some galleries have moved away from their physical white-cube spaces which would ordinarily be populated with socialites clinking wine glasses to social media platforms such as Instagram.

First up, Carpe Arte, a youth group that aims to increase accessibility to art spaces, is adapting to the changing times. The Mumbai-based group which organises guided walkthroughs on Art Night Thursdays (monthly show opening night in Mumbai) is now hosting live sessions via their Instagram account to give a virtual tour of galleries to art enthusiasts. Further, after realising the struggles of independent, up-and-coming artists, they have been helping them raise funds by selling their artworks through their feed. In the same vein, a newly founded collective, Art Chain India through their peer-support policy ensures that the artist community self-sustains each other. The initiative supports budding creatives who could stop practicing and consider switching careers during such financially challenging times.

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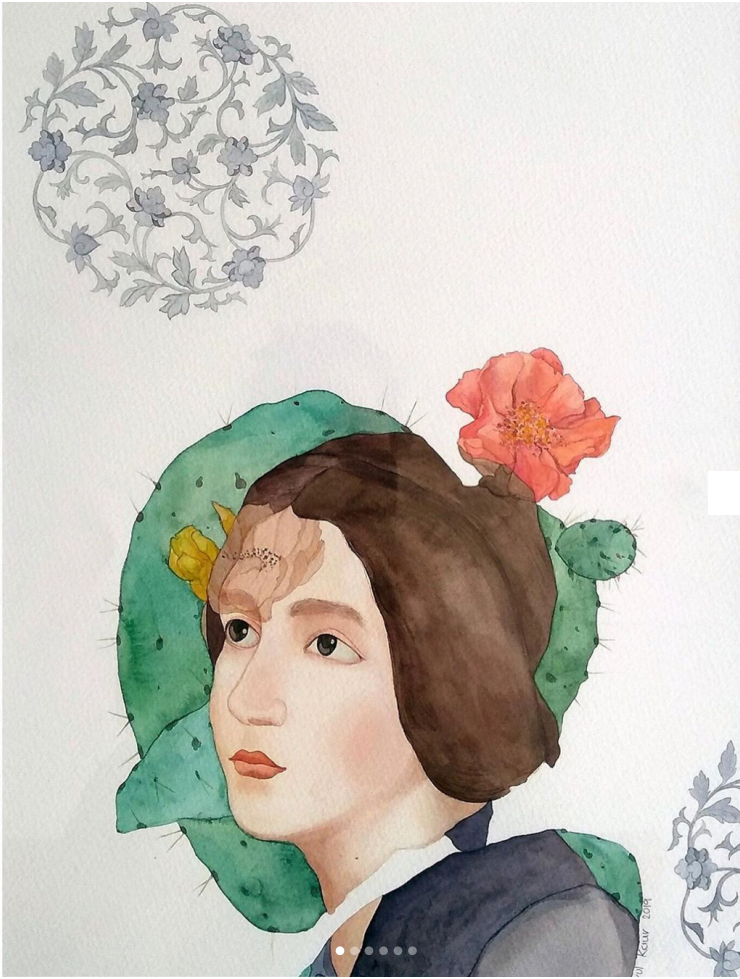


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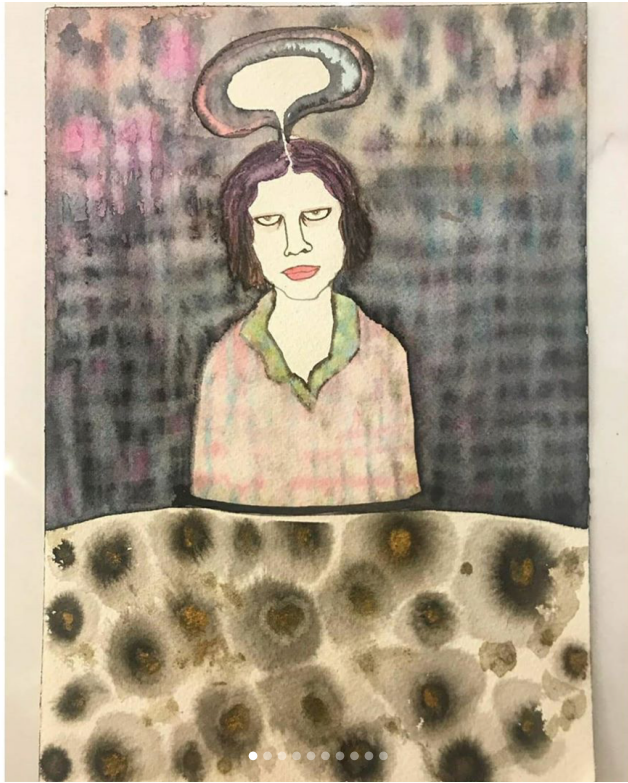
Joining forces with these efforts is artist Dhruvi Acharya who, decided to donate the proceeds of her ongoing digital show at Chemould Prescott Road titled 'Painting in the Time of Corona' to those affected by the Pandemic. The funds raised through her water colour artworks will be given to Covid-19 relief not-for-profits like Aangan, Karwaan-E-Mohabbat, and daily wage earners. Acharya's art reflects daily life under lockdown.

"Turning to her studio has always been a great source of comfort to Dhruvi. And it is amazing to see how beautifully she has chosen her medium to seek refuge and make peace with these uncertain times," adds gallerist Shireen Gandhi.



chemouldprescottroad
11.9k followers

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Similarly, other art galleries too are resorting to online viewing rooms to showcase their exhibits. For instance, Tarq's new group show 'Resurgence' looks at environmental degradation, healing in both urban and rural spaces, while acknowledging the stillness and uncertainty that surrounds us. Aaditi Joshi, Ronny Sen, and Sameer Kulavoor are part of the nine artists presenting in the show. All artworks in the exhibit are artists' responses to the current time. Case-in-point: Kulavoor's 'Blued' series, an illustrated documentation of the use of *Taad-Patri* (tarpaulin sheets). "There is an optimistic tone in his works wherein they focus on how there is a delicate balance between humans and nature. In this show, the sentiment of *Jugaad* and making the best of a situation resonates with Sameer's work.

The blue of a tarpaulin is a common sight in urban metros in India. It is commonly seen at the street-side makeshift shops as a base to display their wares and keep them safe from the dirt on the roads. It is also used for waterproofing and wind-proofing, and thus can be seen covering the houses of the poor and the rich. During monsoon, the city often seems like a sea of cobalt blue due to the excessive use of Tarps" mentions the gallery's Instagram post describing the artist's work." adds the gallerist.



tarqmumbai
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Jhaveri Contemporary was in the middle of its four-week showcase of late artist Mrinalini Mukherjee's bronze sculptures and etchings when the nationwide lockdown was announced. Following this, the gallery had to move the exhibition online. The same works were scheduled to be displayed at the Art Basel in June, marking the gallery's first participation at the leading art fair. "A happy throwback to our first exhibition with Mrinalini in 2013 at JC Krishna Niwas, Walkeshwar (where the gallery was previously located). She 'approved' of the display (even sang its praises in secret) but lamented that we didn't have a larger space to show her more ambitious work. I think she'd be horrified by the idea of online viewing rooms and virtual viewings, but then again, pleasing Dillu was never easy." adds gallerist Amrita Jhaveri remembering the late artist.



jhavericontemporary

Krishna Niwas, Walkeshwar Road, Mumbai 400 006

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Galerie Mirchandani + Steinruecke and Kiran Nadar Museum of Art are using this time to reflect on their practices and own body of work. The gallery pulls out material from memorable studio visits and research trips before they opened the physical space in 2006. Their ongoing Summer Salon is a collection of these selected works sourced during those years, which continue to influence their curatorial vision. Kiran Nadar Museum of Art on the other hand, which marks ten years since its inception, has launched a digital video archive of their previous exhibitions, symposium, artist's lectures, and conversation. They upload new videos on the museum's YouTube channel twice a week.



galeriemirchandaniSteinruecke
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