

HOME > ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN > ARCHITECTURE

Mumbai: Vishwa Shroff's 'Folly Measures' explores the architecture of inhabited spaces

This is the artist's seventh solo exhibition and is presented by TARQ, Mumbai. It will be on view till February 28

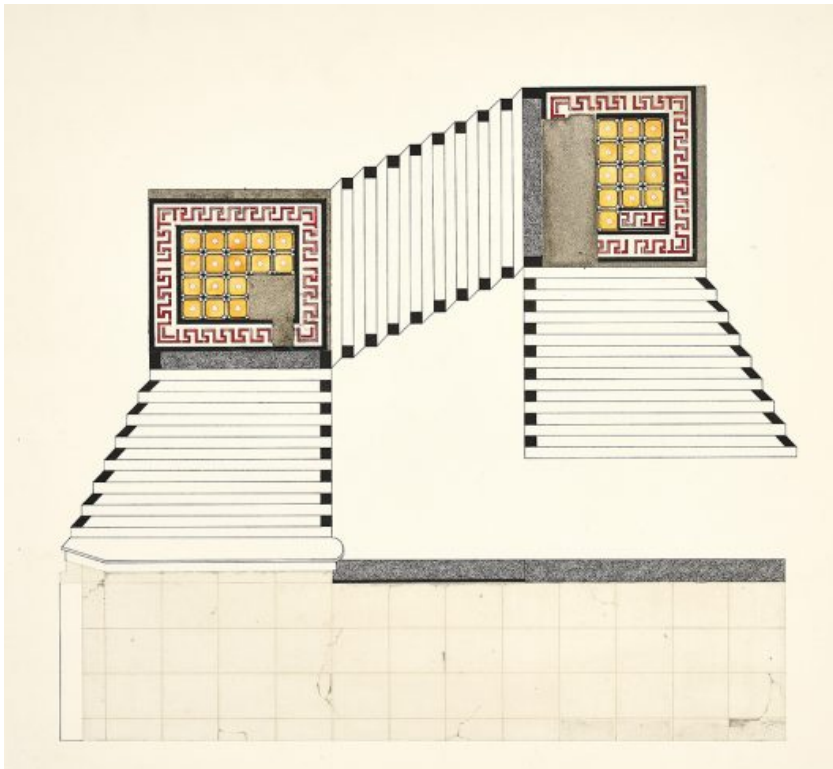
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Photo Courtesy of Vishwa Shroff and TARQ



'Folly Measures' by Vishwa Shroff is the artist's seventh solo exhibition

With six solo exhibitions and multiple group exhibitions to her credit, Vishwa Shroff's works have garnered her considerable acclaim in the art industry. Besides this, she has also participated in numerous residencies, talk series and workshops. Having shifted to Mumbai just over a year ago, Shroff's most recent and seventh solo exhibition is an attempt at showcasing the realities of the built structures around us, how the aspect of time and our usage affect their physical and spatial qualities. Titled, 'Folly Measures', this exhibition is on view at TARQ till February 28 and is accompanied by an essay written by Veeranganakumari Solanki, a Mumbai-based independent curator, researcher and writer.

otherwise tend to overlook. A simple act of documenting buildings, or rather certain portions of it, allow her to strongly convey ideas of agedness, materiality, exclusion, encroachment and

communicating her primary intention to showcase the effect of man's relationship with the spaces he inhabits and uses. Drawings reflecting window pane details, speckled cracked floors and more, give a renewed perspective to the same spatial features we might normally disregard. One also notices that the drawings have been left unfinished and contain blank spaces. These blank patches are intentional and suggestive of portions of the structure she couldn't document, owing to restrictions in accessing the spaces or other visual obstacles. The buildings documented by her are from South Mumbai, most being from the Colaba area and two buildings from London. "I choose the buildings to document based on where I am walking most and this tends to be within cities. Moreover, I am interested in observational discoveries that one makes, and the thoughts provoked by these rather than in historical structures. The fact that time markers are abundant on older buildings is just the way it is; some things need to have existed long enough for it to develop these markings. I also find myself increasingly interested in the domestic experience, how we live, how we navigate homes and neighbourhoods and what we find there," says Shroff.

buildings. She goes to the extent of painting each individual tile, some even showing speckles in the flooring. A correct representational technique becomes a critical factor for an artist to be able to communicate his or her thought process and ideas effectively and in this series, instead of opting for a plain 2d or 3d architectural drawing, Shroff decided to attribute them with a slight sense of distortion. “To me, the very potential to document a visual experience through a drawing is interesting. The way in which we experience our lived environment or spatiality is intriguing. We don’t look straight...even when we stand still, our eyes wander. I have been looking at the methods employed by architects, furniture makers, toy makers, manga artists and artists (or drawers as I like to call them) to explore the ways in which such eye wandering and movement can be represented. The decisions of manipulation or distortion are informed by both, the historical methods and by the way in which I am gallivanting through the city or the building,” she explains.

1/8



Vishwa Shroff, Bombay

The ‘Partywall Bombay Series’

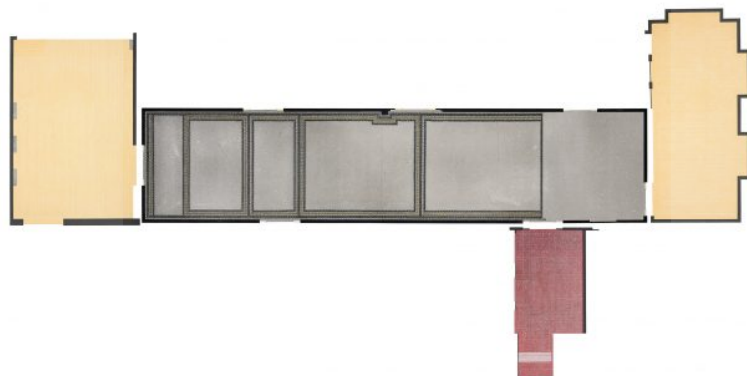
Shroff puts forth the very same ideas in her ‘Partywall Bombay Series’ as the other series in the exhibition, but through the depiction of building facades. She skilfully captures the materiality of the structure on paper using only watercolour, graphite and ink. As Solanki mentions in her catalogue essay, “Party Walls, are one of the earliest forms of time documentation for the artist. They resonate the markings of elements that were once present and are now no longer there...The



*Bombay Series, 5, 2019,
Watercolour, Graphite and
Ink on Paper, 25 x 21
inches*

'As Time Goes By' and 'Everyday Rossana'

The drawings in both these series take the form of 2d plans. The two buildings documented in 'As Time Goes By' are located in London. Shroff has taken the effort to paint every tile and on closer inspection, one can notice how she has even portrayed cracks in the flooring. The drawings in 'Everyday Rossana' depict various spots in Shroff's own studio and essentially draw focus on how man naturally responds to and interacts with his immediate surroundings.



'Folly Measures' is on view at TARO, Mumbai, till February 28, 2020.



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