

VERVE'S GOT THE
NERVE

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AHEAD OF THE CURVE

Be it mosaics or mixed media, experimental video, found objects or photography – these seven rising stars are using mediums and methods at their disposal to tackle social issues and question concepts we often take for granted

AMOL PATIL | *Adventurous Thinker*

For *Impression*, his most challenging creation so far, he sat in one place for three consecutive days while henna was applied to his upper back, followed by an adhesive which was later peeled off to make a 'jacket'. "Like *Impression*, *Detritus* and my series of dust objects were created to make viewers feel disgusted as a response to the visual. Surprisingly, they turned out to be the most appreciated!" says Amol Patil, whose showcase at the Pune Biennale 2017 earlier this year met with rave reviews.

Amol, whose first solo show was held at Clark House Initiative in Mumbai in 2013, is greatly influenced by his grandfather, a *povada* or Marathi spoken-word poet and oral historian on B. R. Ambedkar, and his father, an avant-garde Marathi theatre artiste who staged plays on inequality and mill tragedies that affected local communities. "Even though I knew about these problems as a child, I never thought about them from the perspective I have today. A lot must have changed from then to now, yet justice

is what we all search for through our work." While both have shaped his world view, he also considers Francis Alÿs an inspiration, as well as the works of Roman Ondak. "Alÿs' video and performative works inspire me because of their simplicity and humour," explains the 30-year-old.

Dust particles, spools of hair and household scraps are often his raw materials, and Amol is particularly interested in working with kinetic and found objects. "My recent preoccupation has been to look towards caste and hierarchy within the urban set-up. I begin with documentation and collection of materials that narrate a sense of context," says the Mumbai-based creator. A participant in several artist residencies in the past, Amol is looking forward to exhibiting at The Showroom in London shortly. And what's been his greatest learning as an artist? "That art-making and artworks can be tools to see social formations from various perspectives, which in spite of being local can address global issues."

-HUZANTATA

PRATEEK PATEL



BLUE SHIRT WITH WHITE
DETAILING, FROM SS
HOMME; PANTS, FROM
TOMMY HILFINGER. BOTH
IN MUMBAI. SHOES,
AMOL'S OWN.



SAUBIYA CHASMAWALA | *Meticulous Maker*

Inheriting artistic genes from her maternal grandfather, she spends most of her time in the studio playing around with paper, creating works of art in the process. With a degree in visual arts from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Saubiya Chasmawala has made a name for herself working with scriptures and visual texts. “A major part of my process involves simply recognising the images, stories or symbols and materials that keep recurring in my mind. I begin with that, and the rest follows naturally,” she says about her engagement with the art form.

Starting out as an intern under paper artist Anupam Chakraborty at the Nirupama Academy, Kolkata, Saubiya grew to love the medium, making it a mainstay of her work, that was part of *In Letter And Spirit*, a group show at Tarq last year. “What fascinates me about paper-making is that I can engage with the surface from scratch. It allows me to be spontaneous because of the time constraint. I love to play with paper pulp. There are so many possibilities to explore,” explains the Vadodara-based artist. One who loves cooking, travelling and spending time with her pets, she hopes to someday decorate

her walls with works by Nasreen Mohamedi – “I connect deeply with her sense of the sublime,” she says. Incidentally, Saubiya has been a recipient of the Nasreen Mohamedi Scholarship Award, apart from the Inlaks Fine Art Award which she won last year.

Saubiya doesn’t take the “urge to create” for granted, finding those moments when she’s not inspired to create art truly challenging. Seeking most of her inspirations from her memories, she is now looking forward to a showcase of her latest works at Clark House Initiative in September.

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