

SNEAK PREVIEW

From Olafur Eliasson's crystal orbs to India's biggest commissioned canvas by Sameer Kulavoor, here's what not to miss at this year's India Art Fair (30 January to 2 February)

▼ IDRIS KHAN ►

British artist Idris Khan's indigo wonders are often born out of laborious acts of layering and repetition. Last year, Khan, represented by Gallery Isa, presented a series of drawings made using rubber stamps, titled *21 Stones*. He returns this year with *The Old Time* (2019), a print that recalls Khan's process of superimposing texts, images and sheet music to create abstract art.



▼ AVINASH KARN

Avinash Karn's contemporary rendition of the Madhubani art form is visually arresting. The iconic Natraj, depicting the magnetic sway of the cosmic dancer, Shiva, has been reproduced across centuries. Represented by Arts of the Earth gallery, Karn, whose fine-lined artworks are often suffused with motifs, paints Natraj on clay coated jute, using Shiva's third-eye and phallic symbolism.

▼ SUDHIR PATWARDHAN ►

Represented by Vadehra Art Gallery, usually the artist's solitary, often male figures are found in the interiority of their middle-class homes. In *Light Rain*, 2019 (pictured) he moves outdoors, where he presents a not-so-stifling, rain-washed cityscape and an autobiographical figure with the characteristic shoulder droop.



▼ VASANTHA YOGANANTHAN

Represented by Jhaven Contemporary, the artist shoots exclusively on analogue. His work is situated at the intersection of documentary, home-grown folklore and fictional retelling, and he often collaborates with traditional artists to achieve deftly hand-coloured photographs.



▲ ANDY WARHOL

For the first time, India Art Fair enthusiasts will get the opportunity to be in presence of the iconic 1979 BMW MI Art Car, which was hand-painted by the legend himself. A spirited mesh of colours, this four-wheeled artwork gives a firm nod to the Warholian palette.



◀ SAMEER KULAVOOR

Sameer Kulavoor's reflections of every day street-life often focus on the otherwise invisible classes—fruit sellers, scavengers, hawkers. For 2020, Kulavoor will design IAF's façade, which will cover three exhibition tents. "Titled *This is Not a Still Life*, it will be India's biggest commissioned canvas yet," says fair director, Jagdip Jaggal.

TEXT: RADHIKA IYENGAR. PHOTOS COURTESY OF (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP) GALLERY ISA; ARTS OF THE EARTH; JHAVEN CONTEMPORARY; SAMEER KULAVOOR; BMW GROUP INDIA; VADEHRA ART GALLERY