

Kiran Nadar Museum of Art's new exhibition features a panoply of works by 21 artists
Mirror/Maze: echoes of song, space and spectre

New Delhi, 2 November 2023: Kiran Nadar Museum of Art presents a new exhibition titled '*Mirror/Maze: echoes of song, space and spectre*' that brings together works of 21 artists from the Museum's diverse collection. The show opened to public on Thursday, October 27 and will be on display at KNMA, Saket till December 25, 2023

This exhibition owes its stimulus to artists and the provocations they present through their distinctive forms of practice, initiating a re-thinking about art and its presence in our lives. Their self-willed journeys draw us into the worlds they create through 'affect states' of sound and silence, meditation and labour, stillness and action, emptiness and fullness; at times, taking us to the edge. Disrupting the sense of space/place, de-stabilising the notion of a fixed image, accelerating and slowing down the experience of time, they raise our consciousness towards the complicatedness of the everyday along with the lingering fear of the unknown.

Curated by Roobina Karode (Director and Chief Curator, KNMA) with Avijna Bhattacharya, Debashree Banerjee, Madhurima Chaudhuri and Agastaya Thapa, the exhibition allows the viewers to engage a wide spectrum of artistic experiences, from drawing, paintings and sculptures to digital presences, AI and computer-generated images and computer coded hyper realities.

Roobina Karode, Director and Chief Curator, KNMA, mentions:

"Artworks displayed in this exhibition from the KNMA collection, are being brought to public viewing for the first time. The nature of this exhibition is experiential; in the form of a space-maze, the viewers move through long corridors that open into dark spans and illuminated areas juxtaposing painted images and simulated hyper-realities, beauty and brutality, unregistered presences in photographic images and the poetics of memory and afterlife of performance-based art. It raises provocative questions with no easy or definite answers, asking the viewers to make their own meanings as well. It offers magical encounters with the meticulousness of their craft and enchantment with technology, but most importantly, their creative energies that translate into enduring acts of resilience, quiescence and reflection, and of intimate experiences, alluding to the precariousness of life and our being".

One is drawn into the moving narrative around an enduring but difficult relationship (**Dayanita Singh** and **Mona**), a life of self-imposed exile and utopian desire (**Raqib Shaw**), a seeking for resurrecting our lost rhythms with Nature (**Jayashree Chakravarty**) an awakening to meditative repetitions in music (**Sonia Khurana**), and re-purposing of domestic utensils of daily use into an object of contemplation (**Subodh Gupta**). **Ranbir Kaleka's** *Not Anonymous Waking to the Obscure Fear of a New Dawn*, a single channel video projected on six planes defies a single point of reference and highlights an existential crisis in an increasingly hostile world. **Raqib Shaw's** unique technique of painting, with enamel and acrylic on birch wood, with intricate detailing using a porcupine quill, creates a dazzling pictoriality addressing the dualities of life, combining the real and the imaginary

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highlighting alienation, loss and a journey unknown. **Sonia Khurana's** double channel video *Somnambulist's Song*, intersperses the opposing experiences of sound and silence. **Anish Kapoor's** huge disk titled (Red no.2 mix to Black Mist) mysterious and precise, real but unreal, full but empty all at the same time, confounds the idea of space and object, and the experience of the aural and the ocular.

The viewers will also get to witness **Gauri Gill's** *Re-memory*, an evocative series with 54 black-and-white photographs that capture unregistered presences, overlooked details of the mundane and urban spaces, without people, indicating absence and a poetics of space. Conversing with Gauri's black and white photographs, **Dhruv Malhotra's** colour pigment print series; *'Sleepers, After Dark Trilogy'* draws our attention to the under belly of the city at night, when it is without noise, traffic, people and the chaotic pace of the day. It draws our attention to poignant images of sleepers/ sleeping figures on benches in public spaces such as parks, under the flyover, deserted after-party places and monuments. **Rashid Rana's** installation *Desperately Seeking Paradise* disrupts the idea of a stable reality, creating a maze out of a familiar image of a city's skyline, playing on optical illusion and deception as we move around the work. **Arun Dev's** meticulously painted enigmatic doorways and psychedelic architecture takes us to mysterious or spaces of an alternate world. **Nikhil Chopra's** *Broken White* presents the afterlife of his performance in Paris in 2010, through the accessories, drawings, photographs that create a memory-site within the exhibition space, adding another layer to the performance.

Martha Fiennes' extraordinary film *Yugen* is a combined effort of the artist's creativity working in sync with the computer coder's actions, creating constantly evolving labyrinths and taking us through the surreality of time and space to a world that can only be experienced in the realm of art.

Sheba Chhachhi's multi-part installation *'Winged Pilgrims: A Chronicle from Asia'* is a work that has evolved out of years of research, that then translates itself into an assembly of visual images that slow the viewer down in a quiet ambience, to meditate on migration, displacement, impact of globalisation and the unresolved friction between tradition and modernity. In an intimate corner in another space, **Rohini Devasher's** *Terrasphere*, which would demand mindfulness to notice subtle changes occurring in the image-field or the cosmos of the earth. **Jayashree Chakravarty's** hand-made suspended form titled *Nest*, created out of organic material such as jute rope, coconut fibre, dried leaves, seeds, stained with coffee and tea resonates the interiors of the body or a mind maze, echoing simultaneously the instinctive play of line and mass in nature.

There are works that allude to spectres and apparitions, to human mortality and pain. **Bikash Bhattacharya's** motif of the 'doll' standing, hanging or abandoned in the deserted city of Calcutta, in the wake of war and violence takes us into an eerie setting. **Marina Abramović's** film *'Seven Deaths of Maria Callas'* a performative adaptation of iconic character such of Desdemona from Othello by Shakespeare or Carmen by Georges Bizet, originally sung by Callas, is a moving rendition on the fate of women in the narratives woven together. Using her body as the medium of her art and expression, Abramovic is recognised for the intensity of her performance-based practice, but also for her grit and risk-taking approach, while testing the limits of her mind and body to transcend fear and mortality.

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Participating artists

Anish Kapoor | Arun Dev | Bikash Bhattacharjee | Dayanita Singh | Dhruv Malhotra | Gauri Gill | GR Iranna | Harshit Agrawal | Jayashree Chakravarty | Marina Abramović | Martha Fiennes | Neha Choksi | Nikhil Chopra Ranbir Kaleka | Ragib Shaw | Rashid Rana | Rohini Devasher | Sheba Chhachhi | Shezad Dawood | Sonia Khurana | Subodh Gupta

[Link to press pack](#)

Visiting the exhibition

Open to public: From 27 October 2023

Venue: KNMA, Saket

Timing: 10:30 A.M - 6:30 P.M

The museum is closed on Monday and all public holidays

Admission to exhibitions is free

Note to Editors:

About Kiran Nadar Museum of Art:

Kiran Nadar Museum of Art (KNMA) opened its doors to the public in January 2010. It is a pioneering private museum of Modern and Contemporary art in South Asia, with two spaces located in New Delhi and Noida. It is a not-for-profit institution with an extensive and creative engagement with exhibition-making, educational and public-focused programs, and publications. Through its rigorous and multiple programs, KNMA emphasises its commitment to institutional collaborations and support-networks for artists and creative communities, while extending its reach to diverse audiences. The Museum houses a growing collection of more than 10,000 artworks from South Asia, with a focus on the historical trajectories of 20th century Indian art, alongside the experimental practices of young contemporaries. KNMA was established through the initiative of art collector and philanthropist Kiran Nadar and is supported by the Shiv Nadar Foundation. KNMA is geared to open its new stand-alone museum building in the NCR in 2025.

www.knma.in

Ongoing exhibitions at the Museum:

At KNMA, Noida

Prussian Blue: A Serendipitous Colour that Altered the Trajectory of Art

19 September 2023 - 10 December 2023

Guest Curator - Dr. Arshiya Lokhandwala