

Conversations on Tomorrow

Ali Kazim · Anju Dodiya · Atul Dodiya · KM Madhusudhanan · Mithu Sen · Mrinalini Mukherjee · Prabhakar Pachpute · Radhika Khimji · Simryn Gill

Sadie Coles HQ, 1 Davies Street, London W1

11 May – 18 June 2022



- A group of leading Indian galleries come together for the first time for a collaborative exhibition in London
- Initiative reflective of industry-wide desire for meaningful partnerships
- Show presents leading artists from South Asia and its diaspora

For the first time, four of India's most prominent galleries – Chemould Prescott Road, Mumbai; Experimenter, Kolkata; Jhaveri Contemporary, Mumbai; Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi – will come together during London Gallery Weekend for a collaborative exhibition, Conversations on Tomorrow, hosted by Sadie Coles HQ. As galleries increasingly move towards partnerships and international dialogue, the exhibition arose from early meetings of the International Galleries Alliance.

Driven by a desire for meaningful and sustained collaboration, the galleries – each based in one of India's major cities – will present a nuanced picture of art from South Asia and its diaspora. Co-curated, the exhibition brings together nine leading artists, including, Atul Dodiya, Mrinalini Mukherjee, Mithu Sen and Prabhakar Pachpute. Encompassing multiple mediums, the unique exhibition presents a diverse body of works that speak to the ever-dynamic concept of global South Asia and all its complexity.

Amrita Jhaveri, Co-Founder of Jhaveri Contemporary, said:

“Conceptualising this exhibition has brought us closer together as galleries working in different cities across India. During periods of intense isolation this has been a wonderful gift”

Prateek Raja, Co-Founder of Experimenter, said:

“London Gallery Weekend synergises galleries across the city with their programming and for us this was an opportune moment to celebrate this unique project that speaks to the power of conversation, camaraderie, genuine collaboration and of course Sadie's generosity in hosting all of us.”



Chemould
Prescott Road

experimenter

JHAVERI CONTEMPORARY



VADEHRA
ART GALLERY

Roshini Vadehra, Director of Vadehra Art Gallery, said:

“It is exciting to have the opportunity to exhibit in London at the ever inspiring Sadie Coles HQ space, in collaboration with colleagues from India. This project brings together some great synergies amongst gallerist peers, as well as artists from South Asia. We look forward to presenting an excellent exhibition of artists across generations exploring topical issues through various mediums and visuals.”

Shireen Gandhi, Director of Chemould Prescott Road, said:

“One of the great learnings from the time we have lived through is inclusiveness. What Sadie Coles has offered 4 Indian galleries through this collaboration is an unprecedented act of generosity. We would not only wholeheartedly reciprocate this, but this has in turn also opened itself to a chain of possible collaborations!”

Notes to Editors

Chemould Prescott Road

Established by Kekoo and Khorshed Gandhi in Mumbai in 1963, Chemould is one of the first exhibition spaces in India focusing on modern and contemporary art, that presents works by the country’s most prominent artists across interdisciplinary and experimental mediums. Through its online viewing rooms, artist projects and significant presence in global art fairs and programs, Chemould is also at the forefront of international art platforms.

Since its inception, Chemould has pioneered the early careers of today’s leading artists including S. H. Raza, Tyeb Mehta, Bhupen Khakhar, Atul Dodiya, Anju Dodiya and L.N. Tallur among others. Through its institutional collaborations, Chemould has coordinated the mid-career retrospectives of artists like Jitish Kallat at the National Gallery of Modern Art Delhi (2017), NS Harsha at the Mori Art Museum (2017) and Mehlii Gobhai at the National Gallery of Modern Art Mumbai (2020). In conjunction with its exhibitions, Chemould shares the visionary work of its artists with audiences worldwide through the production of catalogues, artists books, editions and monographs; providing insights and unique access to their oeuvres. Now in its fifth decade, Chemould plays a vital role in India’s contemporary art landscape: the gallery holds a robust program, and supports and showcases the careers of some of the most influential contemporary artists and estates from across the country.

Experimenter

Experimenter was co-founded by Prateek & Priyanka Raja in 2009 in Kolkata, India. With a multidisciplinary approach, the gallery is an incubator for an ambitious and challenging contemporary practice. The program represents some of the most critical contemporary artists worldwide. The program, rooted in dialogue and dissent, is considered to be a ‘pace-setter’ for its region, and extends from exhibition-making, to knowledge creation, through regular talks, performances, workshops and through its much acclaimed, annual curatorial intensive – Experimenter Curators’ Hub. A second, more ambitious space was added in 2018, marking a deeper inquisition into the gallery’s realm of interest.

The gallery attempts to expand the scope contemporary practice beyond the ambit of its expected role. In 2016, its artist-book publishing wing was launched followed by the Experimenter Learning Program in 2018 which enables learning in fields of contemporary and performing arts, curatorship, film, writing, language and social culture. In 2019, Experimenter Outpost, an iterative exhibitions program outside the physical gallery temporarily inhabiting disused, characterful spaces was formed. 2020 marked the beginning of Experimenter Labs an inclusive, experimental and multi-dimensional online platform in addition to the onsite gallery programming.



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Jhaveri Contemporary

Jhaveri Contemporary was formed in 2010 by sisters Amrita and Priya with an eye towards representing artists, across generations and nationalities, whose work is informed by South Asian connections and traditions. The gallery's dedication to original scholarship, engendered through its carefully crafted shows, is one of the many ways it distinguishes itself. Entwined with this philosophy is another guiding principle: showcasing the heterogeneous practices of long-celebrated luminaries as well as emerging talents, often in generously interrogative conversations. With a focus on mining lesser-known art histories, Jhaveri Contemporary facilitates dialogue between artists, curators and historians to add to the wider field of art. Estates served by the gallery include Mohan Samant, Mrinalini Mukherjee, Anwar Jalal Shemza.

Amrita and Priya have produced landmark projects such as Anish Kapoor's first-ever public exhibition in India in 2010. The sisters are published authors and, in 2005, they collaborated on the seminal guidebook, 101: A Guide to 101 Modern and Contemporary Indian artists. Jhaveri Contemporary's gallery space in Mumbai is on the third floor of a heritage building that overlooks the iconic Gateway of India from its balconies.

Vadehra Art Gallery

Representing a roster of artists across four generations, Vadehra Art Gallery was established in 1987 with a passion to pioneer Indian art as a conduit of cultural celebration, intellect and value in the public milieu. A confidante to art history and a paladin to contemporary art, the gallery supports a vibrant and flourishing ecosystem that at its center heroes the artist and their work.

Vadehra Art Gallery's active and comprehensive programming takes the form of carefully curated and frequent exhibitions at two prominent locations in Delhi, alongside art events, book publishing engaging conversations and a growing digital platform, including virtual exhibitions and an online shop. With a maturing global presence, the gallery continues to present curated projects at prestigious art fairs across the world, including the Frieze fairs in London and New York, and Art Basel in Basel and Hong Kong, among others.

About International Galleries Alliance

International Galleries Alliance is envisioned to be a professional collaborative alliance between art galleries, building on the shared values, non-hierarchical partnerships, and non-centric programming that aims to represent the complexity of the contemporary art trade. Through a non-profit association within a global multi-generational arts community, IGA creates new possibilities for support. With an online summit and chat forum, IGA offers a space for its members to access and share information, enabling collegiate dialogue and providing opportunities for mutual learning. IGA looks to empower its members to respond to evolving virtual and physical contexts, working together to nurture creative environments that challenge dominant models and cultivate a positively plural and diverse gallery world.

Image credit: Anju Dodiya, *Epilogue*, 2018. Watercolour and charcoal on fabric combine stretched on padded board. 47 x 34 x 2.5 in / 119.4 x 86.4 x 6.4 cm. © The Artist, courtesy the artist and Vadehra Art Gallery.

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experimenter

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