



Chemould Prescott Road

CONTEMPORARY ART GALLERY

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Seven Minutes of Blackmail

Atul Dodiya

January 17 - February 21, 2019

Seven Minutes of Blackmail, explores Dodiya's affinity towards film, narrating episodic facts as if in film-reels painted in his signature photographic style, where the act of painting is often mistaken for photography. In this exhibition, he pays homage to Alfred Hitchcock, where Atul is seen recreating his legacy through the close watching of the Hitchcock film, *Blackmail*. In this exhibition, Dodiya captures the first seven minutes of the film - the part of the film that occurs within an artist's studio.

There are two parts to this exhibition:

A set of 36 paintings – which could best be read as a 'contact sheet'.

Released in 1929, *Blackmail* is a directorial genius of an eery depiction of effective emotion, impulsive reactions and a chase. The paintings are also testimony to the keen nuances with which Dodiya observes gesture, expression, and bodily movements. Images are shot through the television screen, these images then become the photographs that are used to render his paintings.

However, what one first encounters within the space are large and small cutouts that are shaped as artist palettes. A palette, an oft-used commercial emblem for expressing art, is an intrinsic object in the first part of Hitchcock's '*Blackmail*'. Dodiya uses an oversized palette to create abstract expressionist markings, painterly renderings, Rorschach drawings resembling the mixing of paints as artists do.. An artist thinks countless times before marking the blank canvas with paint. But when the palette becomes his canvas, it becomes a litmus paper for all the permutations and combinations of colours - the palette reckons with the artist's apprehensions of the final strike.

A circadian endeavour of almost two years, in this exhibition, Dodiya takes on the role of a scenographer and cinematographer. He captures the granulated tension of celluloid on canvas whilst decoding psychological games played between the actors. Staying true to the colour palette of the black-and-white era, Dodiya has played with scale aiming to amp up the creative chaos.

Atul Dodiya (b) 1959, Mumbai, India

In 1982 Dodiya completed his B.F.A. at Sir J.J. School of Art, Bombay. He studied at Ecole des Beaux-Arts, Paris in 1991-1992.

He has held several solo exhibitions from 1989 to 2015 with Gallery Chemould / Chemould Prescott Road, Mumbai; Vadhera Art Gallery, New Delhi; Bose Pacia, New York; Singapore Tyler Print Institute, Singapore; Galerie Daniel Templon, Paris; Contemporary Arts Centre, Cincinnati; Dr. Bhau Daji Lad City Museum, Mumbai and Espacio Uno, Reina Sofia Museum, Madrid. In 2001 he had his mid-career retrospective at Japan Foundation Asia Centre, Tokyo.

Selected participations include Century City: Art & Culture in the Modern Metropolis Bombay / Mumbai, Tate Modern, London; Yokohama Triennale, Yokohama, Japan, 2001; New Indian Art: Home - Street - Shrine- Bazaar- Museum, Manchester Art Gallery, Manchester, 2002; Sub Terrain: Artworks in the City Fold, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin; Crossing Generations: Diverge: 40 years of Gallery Chemould, National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), Mumbai, 2003; ZOOM! Art in Contemporary India, Museo Temporario / Culturgest, Lisbon; Indian Summer - La jeune Scene artistique Indienne, Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Paris, 2005; Edge of Desire: Recent Art in India, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth, Asia Society Museum, New York and traveling, 2004-2006; Private / Corporate IV, Daimler Chrysler Contemporary, Berlin, 2007; Documenta XII, Kassel, Germany, 2007; New Narratives: Contemporary Art From India, Chicago Cultural Centre, Chicago, 2007; Horn Please: Narratives In Contemporary Indian Art, Kunstmuseum Bern, Switzerland, 2007; Urban Manners: Contemporary Artist from India, Hangar Bicocca, Milan, Italy, 2007; Chalo! India: A New Era of Indian Art, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, The National Museum of Contemporary Art, Seoul, Essl Museum, Vienna, 2008-2009; 7th Gwangju Biennale, Gwangju, Korea, 2008; 3rd Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art, Moscow, 2009; Paris-Delhi-Bombay, Centre Pompidou, Paris, 2011; Post-Picasso: Contemporary Reactions, Museu Picasso, Barcelona, Spain, 2014; The Seventh Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art (APT7), Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, 2012; Kochi-Muziris Biennale, 2012; Midnight to the Boom: Painting in India after Independence, From the Peabody Essex Museum's Herwitz collection, Salem, Massachusetts, 2013; Experiments with Truth: Atul Dodiya, works 1981 – 2013, National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi, curated by Ranjit Hoskote 2013. 7000 Museums: A Project for the Republic of India, curated by Tasneem Zakaria Mehta, Bhau Daji Lad Museum, Mumbai, India, 2014-15; After Midnight: Indian Modernism to Contemporary India 1947/1997, Queens Museum, New York, USA curated by Arshiya Lokandwala, 2015; Mahatma and the Masters, Galerie Daniel Templon, Paris, France, 2015; No Parsi is an Island, National Gallery of Modern Art, curated by Ranjit Hoskote, Nancy Adajania and Pheroza Godrej, New Delhi, India, 2016; The Journey is the Destination: the Artist Journey Between Then and Now, Jehangir Nicholson Gallery, Mumbai, India, 2016; Stretched Terrains - A String of Exhibitions, curated by Roobina Karode, Kiran Nadar Museum of Art New Delhi, India, 2017; Futures Present, curated by Sathyanand Mohan, Gallery White, Vadodara, India, 2018; The Fragrance of a Paper Rose, Galerie Templon, Paris, France, 2018; Opaque Emblems, curated by Peter Nagy, Nature Morte, New Delhi, India 2019; Absurd is the New Normal, 52nd Annual Exhibition, curated by Nancy Adajania, Birla Academy of Art and Culture, Kolkata, India, 2019; No Place Like the Present, curated by Ranjit Hoskote, Akara Art, Mumbai, India, 2019; Five Seasons (Art Musings 20th Anniversary Exhibition), curated by Ranjit Hoskote, Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai, India, 2019; Vision Exchange: Perspectives from India to Canada, curated by Catherine Crowston & Jonathan Shaughnessy, Art Gallery of Alberta, Canada, 2019.

The artist lives and works in Bombay, India.