



ANANT ART

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“The Nest” showcases artworks that explore the idea of a *home* from a female perspective

Participating Artists include Bhartti Verma, Dimple Shah, Jitha Karthikeyan, Manju Mohanadas, Moutushi Chakraborty, Nirali Lal, Sonali Laha and Sonatina Mendes

New Delhi, June 12, 2020: ‘The Nest’ is a virtual exhibition that brings together eight women artists from across the country who draw inspiration from their domestic environment and experiences while living in traditional Indian households. The exhibition ends on 12th July, 2020.



Image: Video Still from ‘Stainless Steel Nirvana- Path of Atmanirbhar,’ a performance by Dimple Shah

Presented by Anant Art and curated by Aditi Ghildiyal the exhibition explores the idea of the ‘Nest/Home’ in both its literal and metaphorical contexts. A home is a very intimate space and thus each of us have our own interpretation in regard to it. It has multiple connotations and can be seen as a place of shelter, comfort, security, independence, identity, spirituality, solitude and compromise, entailing individual and shared experiences. The artists draw inspiration from their own dwellings to delve deep into the constitution of an architectural space of a house and its correlation with the woman in it and often, versus it. The exhibition shares perspectives and allows one to think of behaviours and materiality that separates the domestic and the non-domestic.

The exhibition includes an exclusive performance by Dimple Shah titled ‘Stainless Steel Nirvana- Path of Atmanirbhar,’ by Dimple Shah.



Image: 'Impression 1' by Sonali Laha, Tempera on Canvas, 8x10 inches, 2020

“A nest/home is a shelter that one weaves with utmost love and care. How it differs for every woman and how domesticity as an agency yields different narratives. All artists in this exhibition share the tendency of drawing narratives from their domestic environment and thus the exhibition answers many untouched domains of the female consciousness,” says the **curator, Aditi Ghildiyal**.

With each work densely packed with significance, the show offers the viewer an intellectually stimulating experience when it comes to unpacking and interpreting the artist’s vision, and unpeel each layer charged with political/personal meaning, as one goes.

The show will be on view from 12th June to 10th July, 2020 at www.anantart.com.

The Nest – About the Artworks & Artists



‘Through the eyes of the beholder’ by Bharti Verma, Oil on Canvas, 2020

Bharti Verma

The pandemic has compelled us to be stationed inside our homes, raising our lust for the outside world like never before. The separation between interior and exterior spaces had never been more broad and demarcated. In fact, our voyeuristic gaze has escalated such that a passing stranger or vehicle becomes a subject of interest for us. It has also rekindled our survival instinct making us jitter at the sight of another human being!

This searching and enquiring gaze has always been a part of artist Bharti Verma’s works. Her paintings have an immersive quality to them often serenading the viewer into her world. One becomes a participant, wondering through the interiors in her paintings, overwhelmed by the

tactility found in the detailed rendering of objects and surfaces. The interiors show signs of habitation and abandonment, giving us an intriguing glimpse of the outside world, seemingly distant and lustful at the same time.

Born in 1987, Delhi, Bhartti Verma did her Masters and Bachelors in Painting from College of Art, New Delhi (Gold Medalist) in 2012 and 2010 respectively. She has been awarded the Wade Asia young artist award in 2018 and has been part of many residencies including Arts4All in Sanskriti Kendra Anandgram, New Delhi in 2015, Research Grant Scholarship by Lalit Kala Academy, New Delhi 2013-14, amongst more. The artist Lives and Works in Delhi.



Video Still from 'Stainless Steel Nirvana- Path of Atmanirbhar,' a performance by Dimple Shah, 2020

Dimple Shah

'Isolation' and 'repetition' have been considered instrumental in the path towards achieving nirvana. Surprisingly, the global pandemic we are faced with has compelled us to immerse ourselves into this path. Isolated from the world, we are living in our 'nests' that have become protective sanctuaries for us. The act of cleaning— ourselves, our house, clothes or utensils— has become a ritualistic practice. This time has brought us closer to our conscience, giving us an opportunity to introspect our thoughts and actions.

The performance, 'Stainless Steel Nirvana- Path of Atmanirbhar,' by Dimple Shah, will be a part of the upcoming exhibition 'The Nest' curated by Aditi Ghildiyal. This is the artist's effort to portray an uncanny intermingling of circumstances in the recent times. The artist's approach towards her art practice has been very profound, often taking weeks of research to compose her performances. This project has been an outcome of several discussions and brainstorming sessions that took place over the weeks and we dearly hope you will enjoy viewing it as much as we enjoyed putting it together.

Born in Bangalore, Dimple did Post Diploma in Printmaking, Maharaja Sayajirao University, Baroda in 2001 and Diploma in Painting, KEN School of Arts, Bangalore in 1998. She has been awarded India Foundation for the Arts Grant for 560 Public Project in 2014, First Gold Prix in 7th Engraving Biennale, Versailles, France in 2009 amongst many others. She has been part of many international and national residencies and workshops like Afriperforma International Residency, Lagos, Nigeria in 2013 & Glasgow Print Studio, Glasgow, Scotland in 2006. The artist lives and works in Bangalore. <http://www.dimplebshah.com>



'Can one hear the stories of the mind?' by Jitha Karthikeyan, Oil on Canvas, 2020

Jitha Karthikeyan

Jitha Karthikeyan's works stem from her personal experiences thus carry an intimate narrative subjective to a woman's standing in a domestic Indian establishment. The paintings speak directly to their spectator often leaving them rapt by their honesty. Jitha is a thinking artist and has also worked on social issues, identity politics and mundane realities all from a female perspective. Being a self-taught artist makes her journey of self-discovery and transformation into the creative artiste she is now even more interesting.

"Art and life, often concur, differ and intersect in my work, which are an extension of my life and rooted in my private memories and experiences... I recreated the imaginary stories from her delusional mind, with objects that I connected with her existence. Understanding her imagined realities gave fresh perspectives to role reversals, when a mother becomes a child, and that acceptance of changing equations in life is intrinsic to evolving," says Jitha.

Jitha Karthikeyan is a self-taught artist and curator from Kerala, and based in Coimbatore, Tamilnadu. She's had several solo exhibitions including 'what is not', Art Houz Chennai, Art Houz Bengaluru in 2016 and The inheritance of fragilities, Maison Perumal, CGH Earth, Pondicherry in 2015. Her curated exhibitions include 'Diverse Landscapes', show for Hotel Marriott International, Chennai and 'A grain of truth', The Art, Chennai in 2019 most recently.



'Migrant Homes' by Moutushi Chakraborty, Pen and Ink Drawing, 2016

Moutushi Chakraborty

"Every home tells a story.. of tribulations, triumph and memories. This series of drawings in pen and ink is an ode to these memories," says artist Moutushi Chakraborty, whose works reiterate and reinforce the deep-rooted gender discrepancies institutionalised by our society. In this particular series, voluptuous female forms are found to carry the burden of building a home on their shoulders. It depicts these women as strong and fearless figures marching towards fulfilling their commitment.

Women have always been the protagonist in Moutushi's works. In fact the more one explores her works one discovers the dexterity by which the artist has astutely depicted the evolving roles of women over the years. Chakraborty is an avid reader, researcher as well as an archivist of vintage photographs, and her studies form the foundation of her works.

Moutushi Chakraborty did her M.A. Fine Art Print, Wimbledon School of Art, London, UK in 2002, M.A. Fine Graphic Arts, Faculty of Fine Arts, M.S. University, Baroda in 2000 and B.F.A. (Hon) Graphic Art, Kalabhavan, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan in 1998. She received the Commonwealth Fellowship for Arts and Crafts, UK in 2001 and Charles Wallace India Trust Award for Visual Arts, UK in 2001 amongst others. She's had many solo and group exhibitions including *The Homeland* – India International Centre, New Delhi, 2019, *Parables* – visual essays curated by Lina Vincent at Gallery Time & Space, Bangalore and India Art Fair – Engendered Art Gallery booth in 2020. The artist lives and works in Kolkata.



'Kadalinakkare' by Manju Mohanadas, Ink on rice paper, 2020

Manju Mohanadas

Manju's art practice explores the idea of home beyond an address or space. It is a transient map that is constantly drawing connections between cultures, geographies, languages, and collective histories. Having moved homes across multiple cities, the repeated change of environment trigger inquiries into ideas of belonging - to places, spaces and times. In these inquiries surface nostalgia and memory, and a re-look into her personal history and identity with a renewed curiosity.

In her recent series of work done in the traditional sumi ink painting practice in the 'xie - yi' style, Manju explores the medium while also incorporating her native script. Here she attempts to articulate her fluid, unresolved state of being.

Manju Mohanadas (b.1978) completed her M.V.A.(Painting) from the College of Fine Arts, Bangalore. She is the recipient of the 'Chitra Shilpi K. Venkatappa Gold Medal' from Bangalore University (2005) and the 'Kejriwal Award of Excellence' in her M.V.A. course from the College of Fine Arts (2012), Bangalore. She won the merit award at Hui Chun 2020 organised by NAFA, Singapore.

Manju's recent shows include Hui Chun 2020, Lim Hak Tai Gallery, NAFA campus, Singapore (2020), 'Mapping Frontiers', Kalakriti Art Gallery, Hyderabad (2018) and her solo show 'Home is (w)here' at 1Shantiroad Bangalore (2015). She currently lives and works in Singapore.



'Withdrawal Symptoms/ Lockdown Cuckoos' by Nirali Lal, Watercolour on Archival Paper, 2020

Nirali Lal

'Withdrawal Symptoms/ Lockdown Cuckoos' is an ongoing series of portraits by Nirali Lal. These portraits are of women across age groups, comfortably nested in their homes during the lockdown. "Creating human portraits in times such as these allows for a tactile human contact through paints, which is my way of making an intervention or connection when we all are relatively isolated. In a playful way, through virtual liberties, I attempt to touch base with my female friends by recording peculiar exchanges of expressions," says the artist.

Lal likes to refer to the fiery colour palette in her portraits as, 'the Mookoo Effect/Virus,' after her pet rooster Mookoo. Like Covid-19, it too fashions itself as a virus and makes the affected develop red hair and orange eyes.

Born in 1975 in Bangalore, Nirali Lal did her Masters in Fine Arts (M.F.A) specializing in Art Criticism from the MS University, Baroda in 2000 and Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A) specializing in Painting from the Chitrakala Parishath, Bangalore in 1998. Her recent exhibitions include Space Alumini show, Space Studio, Alembic City, Baroda and Actant, Five Million Incidents, Goethe Institut, New Delhi in collaboration with RAQS Media Collective. The artist lives and works in Baroda.



'Impression 1' by Sonali Laha, Tempera on Canvas, 8x10 inches, 2020

Sonali Laha

Nostalgia plays a compelling role in Sonali Laha's paintings. Memories become a muse to her when she picks up the brush. Tracing depths in the vortex of her memory she touches upon those that were silent in response but provoking emotionally. These are the moments that stay for a longer time, moments that leave you numb in anticipation. The women in her paintings are mostly engaged in an introspective gaze within a domestic setting, alone and docile. But these are fleeting moments and the artist does intend them as a marker of a female's vulnerability.

"Through my art, I try to investigate the journey of how body, soul, and space react to various situations in the course of time. My work is inspired very much from self-aesthetics, inner spirituality, meditation and can be considered autobiographical," says Laha.

Sonali Laha has completed her BFA (Painting) from College of Art and Design, Burdwan University and MFA (Painting) S.N School of Fine Arts, Central University of Hyderabad. Her recent group shows include '60th National Exhibition of Art' by Lalit kala Akademi, Delhi in NGMA Mumbai in 2019 and "The Moving Yarns" group show an exhibition of contemporary textile art curated by Palakhi Dass. She was the recipient of Odisha Lalit Kala Akademi All India Emerging Artist Award in 2012. The artist lives and works in Hyderabad.



'Untitled 1' by Sonatina Mendes, Watercolour on Paper, 2020

Sonatina Mendes

"The space of indoors for me is an entire universe that holds within its fold the possibility of so many nuanced connections. As I look at a corner of a wall, a spoon holder or a grater, these images for me become memory fields with a life of their own. And when I choose to interpret them via the medium of paint, they start to speak to me of memories, and the way they physically manifest themselves."

Sonatina sees the spectacular in the mundane and relevance in the inconspicuous objects and corners of her dwelling. These become fascinating avenues of exploration for her artistically. In everyday life, we seem to overlook and take for granted imperative things that make our lives what is it and make us who we are. Observing the artist's works is like embarking upon a spiritual journey, coming across subtle indicators, guiding us to experience zen.

Born in Mumbai in 1983, Sonatina Mendes completed her B.A in painting at the Goa College of Art in 2004 and did a Post Diploma in painting at the Faculty of Fine Art in 2006. During this time, she also studied under the structured guidance of the artist Rekha Rodwittiya. She has had a solo show 'Prelude to an Overture' at Hacienda Art Gallery in Mumbai and has been part of many group shows including 'Ayaaalkar', Gallery White, Vadodara, Curated by Rekha Rodwittiya in 2019 and Serendipity Art Festival, Goa in 2018 recently. She has also attended numerous workshops. Artist lives and works in Baroda.