



# ARTS ILLUSTRATED



*Sculpture and text by Riyas Komu*



# India Art Fair

FEBRUARY 2 TO FEBRUARY 5, 2017, NEW DELHI

At the heart of South Asia's arts infrastructure is the India Art Fair (IAF), a leading platform for modern and contemporary art. Needless to say, the fair's ability to generate new opportunities and its exclusive position as a portal into the South Asian cultural landscape has not gone unnoticed. This September, the MCH Group – the organisation that hosts around 90 exhibitions across the world, including the globally leading Baselworld show and the Art Basel in Basel, Miami and Hong Kong – joined Angus Montgomery and founding director Neha Kirpal as co-owners of the IAF, as their first step in creating a portfolio of prominent regional art fairs around the world.

Building on the success of the 2016 edition, the 9th edition will see the return of *Platform* – a significant section at the fair that was designed to provide an opportunity for the best of the established and emerging South Asian galleries, artists and artist collectives to exhibit on a recognised international platform. IAF will also feature an exciting range of national and international exhibitors from South Asia, the Middle East, Europe and the United States, representing a breadth of contemporary art practices, such as painting, sculpture, new media, installation and performance art.

*Institutional*, introduced last year to expand the fair's programming, will see continued participation from private museums and art foundations presenting curated elements of their programme or collaborations with artists commissioned for the fair, including the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art and FICA. Floodlight Foundation is set to present a new series of video installation works created by artist and filmmaker Owais Husain. In the two-piece series, *Mythology of Choice*, digital imagery is encased within plastered steel trunks, representing storehouses of memory – a continuation of the recurring 'house' theme seen in Husain's work (*Heart of Silence*, 2015; *For every horizon you leave behind*, 2016). The 2017 edition will also unveil a new curated space, *Vernacular in Flux*, curated by Dr. Annapurna Garimella, showcasing vernacular art with

a focus on Gond, Madhubani and Mysore painting.

The *Speakers' Forum*, a much sought-after aspect of the fair, is set to examine diverse topics such as *New Directions*, which will assess current gallery models in an era of change; *The Future of Museums*, which will discuss the changing roles of museums; *Emerging Networks in South Asian Art*, which will examine art histories of the subcontinent; and a series of *Collector Conversations*, which will facilitate intimate conversations with collectors around the globe while providing a glimpse into their private collections.

Providing a platform for deeper exploration of the varying fair sectors and their cultural content, the IAF promises to bring together artists, curators, patrons and professionals engaged within the arts, exploring themes of access, integration and cultural discourse across South Asia and their significance beyond.



William Havell, **Peshwa's Palace, Pune**, Watercolour on paper, 13.4" x 18.3", Image Courtesy of Swaraj Art Archive

Anila Quayyum Agha, **All The Flowers Are For Me**, RED Laser cut stainless steel and bulb, 60" x 60" x 60", 2016, Image Courtesy of Aicon Gallery and the artist

C. Douglas, **Mirror**, Acrylic on Canvas, 77" x 53", 2007. Image Courtesy of Art Houz Gallery and the artist.

F. N. Souza, **Man and Woman Laughing**, Oil on Masonite, 60" x 48", 1957, Image Courtesy of DAG Modern.





PUBLISHED BY VINCENT ADAIKALRAJ AND OWNED BY VINCENT ADAIKALRAJ AND PUBLISHED FROM  
#127, TTK ROAD, ALWARPET, CHENNAI -600018 AND PRINTED BY SRINIVASAN K AT SRIKALS GRAPHICS  
PRIVATE LIMITED, #5 BALAJI NAGAR, 1<sup>ST</sup> STREET, EKATTUTHANGAL, CHENNAI - 600032. EDITOR - NIHARIKA PERI  
RNI reg no. TNEG/2013/51944

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Who is outside  
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of repentance

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