

# INDIA AT THE ART BASEL



Art Basel 2018 opened with its 49th edition at Basel, Switzerland, representing 291 galleries and over 4,000 artists from across 30 countries. With the 2018 edition, three Indian galleries are showing emerging and established contemporary artists, taking Indian art a step closer to wider critical acclaim and acceptance.

Experimenter, Kolkata, presents a solo project of Kolkata-based artist Rathin Barman who through a selection of materials conjures models through an architectural reimagining of lived spaces and modern environments, reinstating the measures of the social and political within this familiar environment. As against the volatile nature of migration and a sense of fluid history, these structures remain fixed to preserve the memory of its changing inhabitants and the surrounding landscape.

Gallery Chemould Prescott, Mumbai, is showcasing ten Indian contemporary artists, communicating their vision through a variety of experimental mediums.

Retaining a sense of modernist minimal strokes of the 70s, Anju Dodiya explores domestic mediums and phenomena, where household carpets become her surface to demonstrate the various sourced images that define emotions of the home, the body and its aspirations; what is familiar now challenges notions.

Mithu Sen through a thoughtful execution of art and performance challenges the spectator and the art market by reconstructing her provenance certificate with random details not pertaining to the original and offering her works to interested buyers at discounts from the current market value. With this project, she tries to do away with constructed commercial barriers in the art world.

Varunika Saraf focuses on the increasing violence targeting the social and the historical fabric that otherwise holds together the differences within the country. Faiz Ahmed Faiz's poem *Bol ke lab azaad hein tere* (Speak, your life is still your own) reverberates as she comments on a history that is being rewritten through everyday conspiracies, for the benefit of those who are entrusted with the



([http://artdose.in/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Experimenter\\_N5\\_0184.jpg](http://artdose.in/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Experimenter_N5_0184.jpg)).

Experimenter: Rathin Barman



(<http://artdose.in/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/DSC8171.jpg>).

Varunika Saraf: The Seeker

responsibility to 'cleanse' the nation.

Some other artists present at Art Basel are Atul Dodiya, Bhuvanesh Gowda, Ritesh Meshram, Jitish Kallat, Shakuntala Kulkarni, Gigi Scaria and Desmond Lazaro.



(<http://artdose.in/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Flip.jpg>).

Anju Dodiya: Flip

GallerySKE (Bangalore, New Delhi) presents six artists: Astha Butail, Martand Khosla, Prabhavathi Meppayil, Sunil Padwal, Sudarshan Shetty and Avinash Veeraraghavan.

Sudarshan Shetty delves into a past within the ongoing present, wherein he tries to revive the memory of a mortal life through a material object by reconstructing a past image with material that might have an untold history of its own. The disjunction between the two realities foregrounds the aridity of these thoughts and memories that can only remember but cannot give life to something that is long past gone. These past lives recontextualized, find memorialization in the form of inanimate constructs, deepening the sense of desolation.

Astha Butail, on the other hand, approaches memory through oral traditions that consistently maintains an organic representation of a past, the present and a future. The inadequacy of a structured memory is presented through finely structured windows and frames made of hand-woven muslin and sandpapered brass that performs a palimpsest of intangible memories. The simultaneous arrangement of the many frames and windows reinstates the condition of linear yet overlapping memories.



(<http://artdose.in/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/DSC3150.jpg>).

Mithu Sen: #4 -(un)drawing



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By Shalmali Shetty