



Elements in Mythology

14 Dec 2019 — 18 Jan 2020 at the Gallery ARK in Vadodara, India

25 DECEMBER 2019



Installation Shot, Various Artists, Courtesy of Gallery Ark

Gallery Ark (Vadodara) opened Elements in Mythology, a group show exhibiting the works of Ira Chaudhuri, Jyotsana Bhatt, Madhvi Subrahmanian, Reyaz Badaruddin, Savia Mahajan, Vineet Kacker and Vinod Daroz. The exhibition was inaugurated by Geneva-based ceramic artist Jacques Kauffman, who will be working on a private commission in Vadodara. The preview was also attended by some of the leading artists in the city including Indrapramit Roy, Vasudevan Akkittam, Ghulam Mohammed, Nilima Sheikh and Rekha Rodwittiya. In the midst of the busy preview evening, Gallery Director Nupur Dalmia said - "We're delighted to have such a strong curation of artists for this show. Each of them has a definitive practice and with this show, the endeavour is to highlight the diversity of practices around ceramics."

Elements in Mythology is Gallery Ark's eleventh show and is a part of the gallery's broader vision to create a dynamic, state of the art space to promote contemporary Indian art in the heart of Vadodara. In keeping with the gallery's fresh approach to curation, this exhibition has been conceptualised to bring together a varied range of artistic expressions, from the work of senior artists such as Jyotsna Bhatt and Ira Chaudhuri, who have been integral in spearheading the evolution of ceramics in the Faculty of Fine Arts at M.S. University of Baroda, to the Mumbai-based Savia Mahajan, whose in-depth and experimental approach to ceramics has won her international acclaim.

Storytelling and myths form a vital part of the spirit of the exhibition with each artist presenting a new approach to the timeless human instinct of sharing narratives. Madhvi Subrahmanian, for example, has created personalised Mappa Mundi, referencing the ancient technique of mapping from medieval Europe to create her own "maps" that chart her travels between Mumbai and Singapore, the two cities that she calls home. Architect turned ceramic artist, Vineet Kacker (pictured left) presents a series that references spiritual thought, sampling and remixing old texts, icons and imagery into new visual works that are accessible without being populist, and symbolic without being derivative.

Architect and Interiors
26 December 2019 | Circulation:
You don't want to miss 'Elements in Mythology'

ARCHITECT and INTERIORS INDIA



26 Dec 2019

You don't want to miss 'Elements in Mythology' - a group show of ceramics at Gallery Ark

The show reflects the gallery's broader vision to create a dynamic, state of the art space to promote contemporary Indian art in Vadodara.

Gallery Ark (Vadodara) is presenting a stellar show called Elements in Mythology, a group show exhibiting the works of Ira Chaudhuri, Jyotsana Bhatt, Madhvi Subrahmanian, Reyaz Badaruddin, Savia Mahajan, Vineet Kacker and Vinod Daroz. The exhibition carries a strong focus on ceramics and pottery, with a range of diverse styles highlighting the myriad ways the medium of clay can be interpreted.



Images from L to R: Savia Mahajan, Liminal Entry 2; Savia Mahajan, Liminal Entry 20; Images courtesy of the artist, Gallery Ark and D&G; Madhvi Subrahmanian, Stack and other (Image Island). Image courtesy Gallery Ark.

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Commenting on the exhibition's focus on ceramics, Gallery director Nupur Dalmia says, "Gujarat lies within the peripheries of the ancient Indus Valley civilization and archaeological sites here have revealed samples of pottery traditions almost 4000 years old. This show is our tribute to this long history we live with and carry forward. Age-old ceramic and pottery techniques have been reinterpreted with ingenuity of the artists. We look forward to rounding off what has been a special year for Gallery Ark, with this wonderful selection of artists."

Exhibition Details

Elements in Mythology

Dates: 14 December 2019 - 18 January 2020

Venue: Gallery Ark, Vadodara

Timings: Monday to Saturday | 11 AM - 7 PM

Entry: Free

Architectural Digest
29 December 2019 | Circulation:
Vadodara: The group exhibition of ceramics and pottery

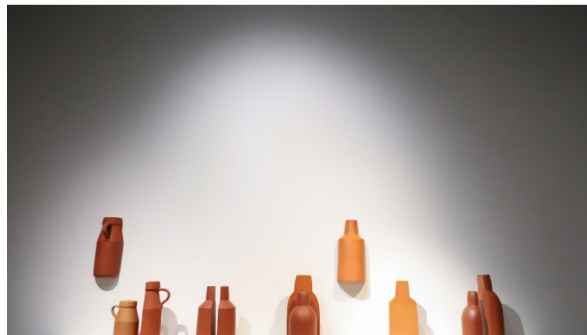
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ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST

Vadodara: This group exhibition of ceramics and pottery focuses on the medium of clay

This Vadodara-based Gallery Ark's eleventh show has seven artists coming together to celebrate the art form of ceramics

f t p e | Deepali Singh | PUBLISHED: DEC 29, 2019 | 08:00:32 IST | Gallery Ark, Vadodara



The exhibition aims to seek out artists who use ceramics in distinct ways

Ceramics and pottery are the focus of Vadodara-based Gallery Ark's ongoing 11th show, Elements in Mythology. A varied range of artistic expressions culminate in works by some of India's leading contemporary artists working with the medium of clay. The group show, curated by Gallery Director Nupur Dalmia, has works by celebrated artists such as Jyotsana Bhatt, Ira Chaudhuri, Madhavi Subrahmanian, Reyaz Badaruddin, Savia Mahajan, Vineet Kacker and Vinod Daroz.

Talking about the theme and the process of curation, Dalmia says that in their last couple of shows, their focus has been on the engagement with materials in the process of art making. "Keeping this motivation close to our vision, we hoped to seek out artists who use this rather difficult medium of ceramic in ways very distinct from each other, to bring to one's notice the numerous possibilities," she says. The push behind the show, she admits came from her mother and co-founder of the Gallery, Seema Dalmia, and her long-lasting desire to showcase Ira and Jyotsana's work. "The desire was to celebrate them both to start with, the others were later identified as per the show theme," says Dalmia.

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Installation shot, Reyaz Badaruddin. Photo courtesy Gallery Ark

Material Nature

For internationally-acclaimed artist Savia Mahajan, who is based in Mumbai, the theme of the exhibition found resonance with her work. "It was the statement 'histories in clay remain in some form of eternity, even when the art work has become dust, a part of earth will always have purpose in archaeology'. This resonated deeply with the process and what I look to explore in my work. Ruins are not an end but a starting point for me. An object, a living being or an entire civilisation turning to residue or dust and then its transition into entity—such notions and questions of eternity and temporality are always at play in my practise," she says.

For one of her works, Dreamlet, which is a part of the show, Mahajan has taken an actual pillow, emptied the original cotton fibres and filled it with porcelain, paper fibre and a loofah that has been dismembered to reveal its fibres. "Dreamlet is my interpretation of a short dream between sleep and wakefulness. When the 'pillow' is fired at a high temperature, all that remains is the markings and traces of the materials that were along with imprints from the hands of the maker. The material itself is ephemeral, but its story carries on, embalmed in porcelain," she elaborates.

For Baroda-based ceramic artist Vinod Daroz, this exhibition gave him the opportunity to showcase his work in the city after seven years. "The theme of the show itself resonates with how processes in ceramics are so elemental. Ancient scriptures and mythological texts about creation talk about the five elements, which is exemplified in the making of ceramics," he says.

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Lithified Lives, Savia Mahajan. Photo courtesy Gallery Ark

Permanence

Senior artist Jyotsana Bhatt, who is counted among one of India's greatest ceramic artists says it is an honour for her to be displaying her work alongside artists she admires. For somebody who has been dabbling with the art form for more than 50 years, the artist's love for the medium is undiminishing. "I work with many mediums but this has many qualities which fascinate me. It's the earliest medium used by traditional potters, it is easily available and you can mould it any way you want. Unless and until you throw it, it's almost permanent. That is how we have known our history, through terracotta and ceramics," she says.

Elements in Mythology runs till January 18, 2020 at Gallery Ark, Vadodara