



Rana Begum installation view. Photo credit Mohammed Chiba, courtesy Jhaveri Contemporary

DESTINATIONS

The 11 best art galleries in Mumbai

Get your fix of modern and contemporary art at these art galleries in the city

BY PRACHI JOSHI
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A spate of new gallery openings, exciting shows by Indian and international artists, and its very own art fair — Mumbai's [art scene](#) has never looked better. This coincides with the recent resurgence of the modern and contemporary Indian art market, recording an astonishing USD 144.3 million valuation in 2022 alone. The inaugural edition of Art Mumbai in November 2023, with more than 50 participating galleries from around the world, only confirmed the city's pole position as India's contemporary art hub. Many of the leading galleries have also banded together to form the Mumbai Gallery Association, which organises the annual [Mumbai Gallery Weekend](#) (usually held in January) and hosts regular events like Art Night Thursdays to further expand the city's vibrant art scene. While most galleries are concentrated in Mumbai's art district spanning Colaba to Fort, a few recent openings in Bandra have further broadened the field. All the galleries listed below are free to enter, making art accessible to everyone, and all works on display are available for sale.

The 11 best art galleries in Mumbai:

Akara Contemporary and Akara Modern



Akara Contemporary - Gallery view

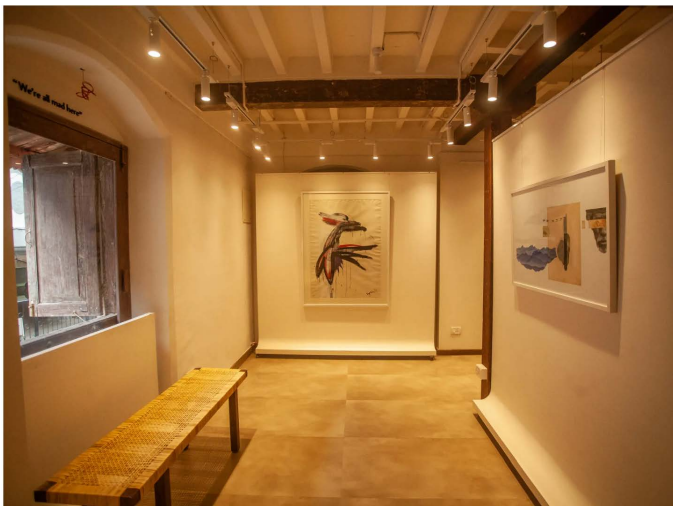
Akara in Colaba operates across two spaces — Akara Modern, one of the leading modern art galleries in India since 2015, and Akara Contemporary, a new platform (opened 2023) for the current and next generation of South Asian and international artists. “Both galleries are hosted in Grade 1 heritage buildings, in art deco and Indo Saracenic structures. We are the only gallery in Mumbai that has a clear bifurcation between our modern and contemporary programmes, having dedicated spaces for each,” says gallery director Puneet Shah. Akara Modern currently has symbolist abstractionist Prabhakar Barwe’s solo show ‘Patterns, Symbols, Objects’ until June 20, which will be followed by Bhupen Khakhar’s solo on July 11. Meanwhile, Akara Contemporary opens ‘Minor Detail’ (an exhibition of works by young contemporary artists) on June 13, followed by a show by Lakshmi Madhavan in August, and architect-sculptor Tarik Currimbhoy’s solo later in the year.

Getting there: Akara Contemporary, 3C Amarchand Mansion, 2nd Floor, 16 Madam Cama Road, Colaba; Akara Modern, 4/5 Churchill Chambers, 1st Floor, 32 Mereweather Road, Colaba

Timings: Tue-Sat, 11am-6.30pm

[Website](#)

Art and Charlie



Art and Charlie - Interiors

Housed in a brick-coloured bungalow in quaint Pali Village, Art and Charlie stands out for its curation of contemporary artists whose visual practices provide new perspectives and voices to societal discourse. “We want to break the idea of fine art being intimidating and expand the existing pool of collectors in the country’s art market today, hence our strategic location in the culturally underserved area of **Bandra**,” says founder Ayesha Parikh. Their current exhibit ‘Three Questions At Once’ curated by Zeenat Nagree, is a dual artist show with Yogesh Barve and Poonam Jain (until June 22). “On June 29, we open with a group exhibit that is a celebration of not-exhibited-before emerging visual art practitioners from India who show so much promise with new voices and exceptional talent,” adds Parikh.

Getting there: 71A, Pali Village, Bandra West; the gallery spans two floors and there’s no elevator

Timings: Wed-Sun, 11am-8pm

Website

Chemould Prescott Road



Chemould Prescott Road - Chemoulding: Framing Future Archives

Established in 1963 (as Gallery Chemould), this is one of the oldest galleries in the city. Creative director Shireen Gandhi carries on her parents' legacy: "I continue to honour my parents Kekoo and Khorshed Gandhi and this space they created when there was no art world, all those many years ago. At any given time, this has been a space, a model, a gallery that speaks of and to contemporary times." Their 60th anniversary show last year — 'Chemoulding: Framing Future Archives' curated by Shaleen Wadhwa — was an intergenerational celebration that reflected on the gallery's public institutional role. The exhibition connected the Indian Art Movement and its relationship with Mumbai, with India, and the rest of the world. The gallery is currently closed as they participate in Art Basel in Basel, and will reopen in July with a new show.

Getting there: 3rd Floor, Queens Mansion, G Talwatkar Marg, Fort

Timings: Mon- Sat, 10am-6pm

Website

DAG 1 & 2



■ DAG - Caption "Installation shot at ■ DAG 1"

Established in the national capital in 1993, DAG (Delhi Art Gallery) is one of India's most respected art institutions. DAG Mumbai's galleries at The Taj Mahal Palace are beautifully designed to reflect an experiential ethos and make art-viewing a pleasure. "We treat the two galleries as separate entities so the look and feel changes with the exhibitions. DAG 1 is mostly used to exhibit prominent works from the gallery collection for which the wood-panelled interiors are especially suitable. This small jewel-like gallery is what museums ought to be like," says DAG's CEO and managing director Ashish Anand. Currently on view are works of European artists as well as Indian modernists including the Progressives, which will be followed by a curated selection of iconic pre-modern and modern Indian art from the gallery collection. At DAG 2, 'The Babu & the Bazaar' is a significant show of Early Bengal paintings and Kalighat *paats* (until June 29). Coming up next is an homage to Gogi Saroj Pal with 'Mythic Femininities'. At the end of the year, DAG will celebrate F. N. Souza's centennial birth anniversary with an exhibition pairing him with his fellow modernist, Avinash Chandra (Oct-Dec).

Getting there: The Taj Mahal Palace, Apollo Bunder Road, Colaba

Timings: Mon-Sat, 11am-7pm

Website

Experimenter Colaba



Raehika Khimji, Cutting Into Space, Experimenter - Colaba, Mumbai, 2023. Installation view - Courtesy Experimenter

One of Kolkata's foremost galleries, Experimenter opened its Mumbai outpost in 2022 on the first floor of a restored 19th-century building in Colaba. The gallery represents some of the most critical and celebrated contemporary artists worldwide and is known for presenting an ambitious and challenging contemporary visual arts practice programme. "The gallery is deeply located in the contemporary moment, a moment which finds itself fractured across many fronts, whether it is socio-economic or political. The exhibition programme and the artists the gallery represents embody our time," say gallery directors Prateek and Priyanka Raja. Upcoming exhibitions include a two-person exhibition by Vikrant Bhise and Pushpakanthan Pakkiyarajah (Jul-Aug), Bhasha Chakrabarti's solo (Sept-Oct), and a solo by Christopher Kulendran Thomas (Nov-Dec).

Getting there: 1st Floor, Sunny House, 16/18 Merewether Road, Colaba; gallery is on the first floor and there's no elevator

Timings: Tue-Sat, 10.30am-6.30pm

Website

Gallery XXL



Gallery XXL - Follow the Bunny

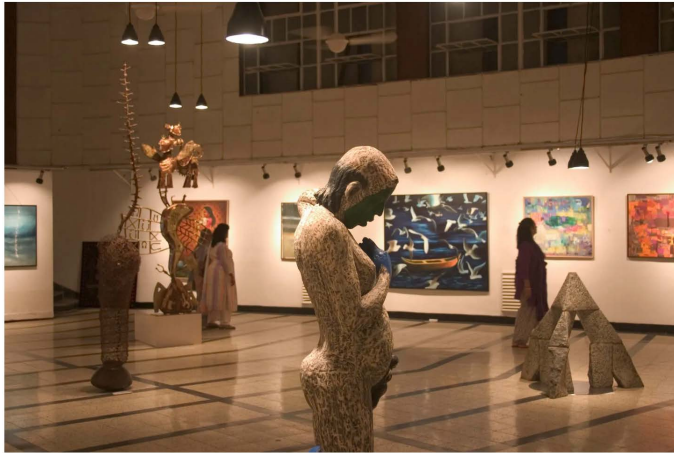
Opened in 2023, this is one of the newer galleries in the city with a particular emphasis on highlighting the international street art movement. “We try to push the boundaries with each exhibition, be it the inclusivity of the artists we show or the kind of audiences we welcome,” says gallery director Joe Cyril. Case in point is the recently-concluded ‘Follow the Bunny’, Japanese American artist AIKO’s first solo exhibition in India. “The variety of mediums — like Bombay street signs and a selection of hand tufted rugs that were on display — opened a new avenue of discovery for both AIKO and the XXL team,” adds Cyril. Their current show ‘Witness and Evidence: deliberations on ruins by Sajid Wajid Shaikh and Jofre Oliveras’ explores historical losses and future ruins in times of conflict (until June 30).

Getting there: 21, Arsiwala Mansion, Nathalal Parikh Road, Colaba; gallery is on the first floor and there’s no elevator

Timings: Tue-Sun, 11am-7.30pm

[Website](#)

Jehangir Art Gallery



Dino#ia Photos / Alamy Stock Photo

Since 1952, the venerable Jehangir Art Gallery has been at the forefront of the development of contemporary Indian art. Its modernist architecture is also eye-catching, with a wavy cantilevered entrance welcoming you in. The gallery hosts a wide range of exhibitions from paintings and photography to print-making and ceramics. The gallery is a great place to discover new and upcoming artists as well as interact with the art fraternity. Jehangir Art Gallery has seven exhibition spaces — at present, the Hirji Jehangir Art Gallery is exhibiting paintings by artist Chandranath Das while Exhibition Gallery 4 is showing ‘Trimbakam Yajamahe’, a collection of paintings by Upasna Tripathi. From June 12 to 17, the gallery will present ‘Beyond Tradition’, a 10-artist group show that focuses on Indian traditional art forms such as Bengal Kalighat paintings, Pattachitra from Odisha, Gond and Bhil paintings from Madhya Pradesh, and more.

Getting there: 161B, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Kala Ghoda, Fort

Timings: Mon-Sun, 11am-7pm

[Website](#)

Jhaveri Contemporary



Muhammed Cader, ‘Island in the sky’. Installation view, Courtesy Jhaveri Contemporary

The view of the Gateway of India through its windows may be distracting, but this expansive, light-filled gallery matches it with an eclectic programming calendar that focuses on often overlooked artists from the South Asian diaspora. “The gallery stands out in its elegant presentations and commissioning of new writing around artists,” says founder Amrita Jhaveri. On show currently is sculptural and photographic artist Yamini Nayar’s second solo exhibition, ‘Ouroboros’ (a snake biting its own tail). The New York-based artist uses this symbolism of the cyclical renewal of life, death, and rebirth as a metaphor for her own creative process. The exhibition continues until June 15.

Getting there: 3rd Floor, Devidas Mansion, 4 Merewether Road, Apollo Bunder, Colaba

Timings: Tue-Sat, 11am-6.30pm

[Website](#)

Nature Morte



Nature Morte - Installation shot

Nature Morte, a Delhi institution and one of India’s leading galleries for contemporary art, opened its Mumbai gallery in early 2024. The high-ceilinged space in a [historic](#) art deco building was inaugurated with a Subodh Gupta exhibition, followed by a solo exhibition by Italian artist Lorenzo Vitturi. The current exhibition ‘Parallel Cities II’ (until July 6) is a group exhibition by Stefano Arienti, Mayank Austen Soofi, Dayanita Singh, and others that draws inspiration from Calvino’s visionary narrative. “Each artist featured in this exhibition offers a unique perspective, weaving together diverse mediums and conceptual frameworks to invite viewers into a kaleidoscopic exploration of the human condition,” says co-director Aparajita Jain.

Getting there: Dhanraj Mahal, Block A, 3rd Floor, Apollo Bunder, Colaba

Timings: Mon-Sat, 11am-7pm

[Website](#)

Sakshi Gallery



Established in 1986, Sakshi Gallery is one of the country's premier galleries, having showcased landmark exhibitions of Indian art all over the world. It is known for its strong repertoire of Indian and international artists as well as for introducing and supporting emerging Indian artists. One of the recent notable exhibitions was a mid-career retrospective of Rekha Rodwittiya who is known for her allegorical and metaphorical narrative [paintings](#). "It was truly exciting to rediscover works from her college days, the scale of her paintings as well as the varied mediums that she had worked in," says gallery director Geetha Mehra.

Getting there: 3rd Pasta Lane, Colaba

Timings: Mon-Sat, 11am-6pm

[Website](#)

TARQ



Tarq Facade ● Prachi Joshi

After nine years at its iconic Colaba space, TARQ moved to a gorgeous red brick building in Fort in 2023. In this larger space, the gallery continues to encourage engagement and collective growth of young contemporary artists, collectors, critics, and art enthusiasts. "Our programming and events that include workshops, walkthroughs, discussions, screenings, [poetry](#) reading, and much more, are thoughtfully structured to bring a wider audience to step into the gallery and engage with the works on display," says gallery director Hena Kapadia. An upcoming exhibition will celebrate its 10-year milestone with works by 14 artists that reflect TARQ's dedication to fostering creative partnerships and pushing boundaries in contemporary art.

Getting there: KK (Navsari) Chambers, Ground Floor, 39 AK Nayak Marg, Fort

Timings: Tue-Sat, 11am-6.30pm

[Website](#)