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TARQ has collaborated with Pritam Arts to turn the gallery into a print lab, which will see 14 artists exhibiting seven screen prints

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Fort based art gallery TARQ has put together an exhibition titled 'Overlaps'. On display here is an untitled collaborative work by Soghra Khurasani and Saju Kunhan. (Image courtesy: Special Arrangement)

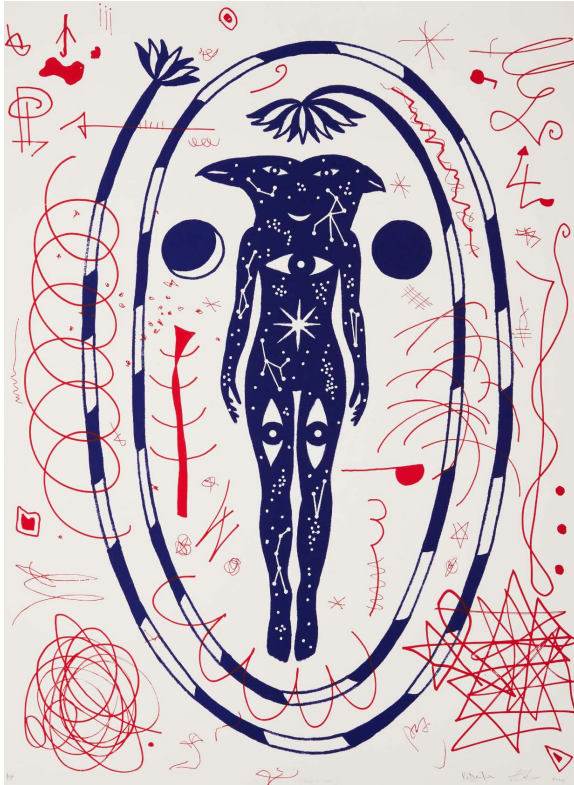
**Written by Samriddhi Singh Mahar**

To mark their 10th anniversary, Fort-based art gallery TARQ has put together an exhibition titled 'Overlaps'. It features seven screen prints, each made by two artists in collaboration with each other, allowing for the blending of their distinctive art practices, styles, and techniques, thereby creating new narratives.

For this, the gallery invited 14 artists and asked them to work together, leading to unique pairings such as Boshudhara Mukherjee, recipient of the Inlaks Foundation Award, whose practice lies at the intersection of painting, weaving and installation art, joined forces with award-winning film director, writer and photographer Ronny Sen.

Sameer Kulavoor, known for his mixed media installation at [Mumbai Urban Arts Festival 2022-23](#), teamed up with Vishwa Shroff, co-founder of SqW:Lab, whose practices are firmly rooted in drawing, with a proclivity towards architectural

forms. While most of the works had one artist working per screen, leading to a print with one layer per artist, they worked together on both layers, leading to a complete culmination of their creative vision.

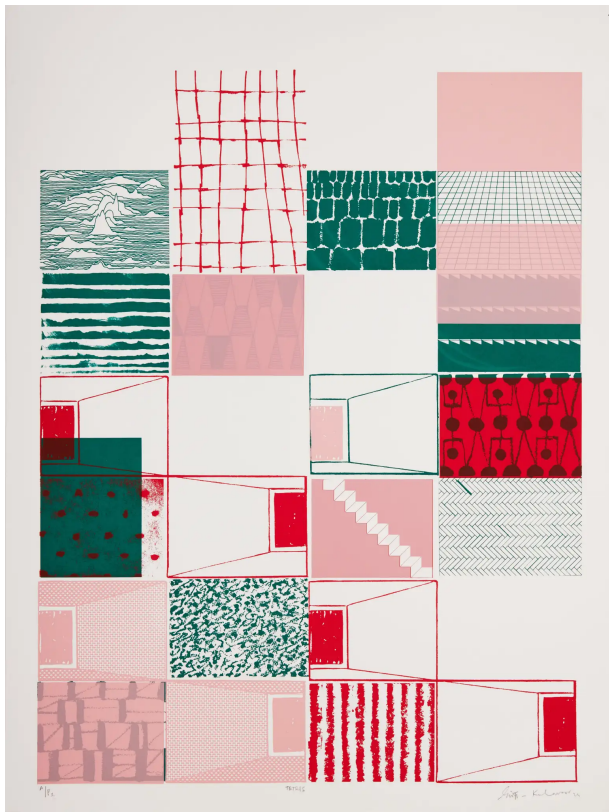


Artwork titled 'She's a Witch' by Areez Katki and Rithika Merchant. (Image: Special Arrangement)

The pairing was done in a manner that allowed them to harness synergy while retaining their creative ideals. The final artworks ranged from ideas of city and space to nature. The portfolio was produced by the artists at TARQ as a part of their annual Artist Weekend, during which the gallery was converted into a Print Lab by Pritam Arts.

“While the artists might have had different art styles, their manner of practice was similar,” shared Rithika Merchant, recipient of the Sovereign Asian Art Prize 2021, who collaborated with artist and writer Areez Katki, whose practice dwells around conceptual and material-based intersections. The duo created “She's A Witch”. Calling it a harmonious collaboration, she added, “We didn't have a lot of conflict but we would often debate. Artists often work in a vacuum and have to debate with themselves on what they wish to put forward, which can be isolating. This exhibition allowed two artists to engage with each other outside their regular practices.”

A great deal of back and forth took place between the artists as they decided the colours, layering of imagery, themes, and overall look of the pieces. Screen print titled 'The Great Indian Bustard' by Nibha Sikader and Garima Gupta saw the coming together of Gupta's passion for the environment with Sikader's fascination for nature, her medium of choice being paper.



Artwork titled Tetris by Sameer Kulavoor and Vishwa Shroff features unique geometric and architectural elements. (Image courtesy: Special Arrangement)

The artwork combines the sound wave of the Bustard's call with a deconstructed image of the bird, whose population has plummeted because of their collisions with electrical lines in Kutch and Thar. The work speaks of how such ecological issues seem unheard of by those who can prevent them.

Pratap Morey, a distinguished artist who received the La Critique award at Salon des Réalités Nouvelles, France (2012), worked with Phillippe Calia, who primarily uses photography and video to explore the politics of memory, to put together an artwork that looked like a photograph with print on top but that was not the case. "This piece has a background that looks like a photograph, but it actually is a two-tone print. It took a lot of effort to reproduce a photograph-like background," he shared.

*This show is on display till July 20*

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