



Ram & Sita by Artist K. Venkatappa, Wash and Tempera on Paper

CULTURE & LIVING

## 9 new art shows in India we're excited about this July

Celebrate nature, indigenous artists and hand-spun textiles with this month's line-up of exhibitions across the country

BY HUZAN TATA  
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If you're wondering how to spend your [rainy days](#), heading to the warmth of the galleries hosting new art shows in India is a great idea. Mumbai's Art Musings gallery is showcasing *Visages* featuring works by Baiju Parthan, Paresh Maity, Raghava KK and more till 31<sup>st</sup> July while MAP Museum's *Visible/Invisible* celebrates the best of women in art. Here's our pick of other exhibitions you should catch this month:

### ***Destination India: Foreign Artists in India 1857–1947*** at DAG, New Delhi



Hugo Vilfred Pedersen, The Taj Mahal

The years between 1857 and 1947, while a tumultuous period marked by colonisation of the subcontinent, also saw an influx of artists who were intrigued by the land, its people and its culture. Seeking to capture India on canvas, several artists from Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Denmark and France visited and brought to life their artistic renditions of South Asia. DAG's unmissable showcase of these artworks that explores this narrative of foreign perspectives of India also gives viewers a glimpse of life, art, culture and history of that era seldom seen before.

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*On view at DAG, 22A, Janpath Road, Windsor Place, New Delhi from 13<sup>th</sup> July to 24<sup>th</sup> August 2024*

## ***Minor Detail at Akara Contemporary, Mumbai***



Mehak Garg, Untitled, Oil on Paper, 22 x 30 inches (each), Diptych, 2024

There's no place like home but today, 'home' can be so many different things, from that embrace of your partner to spaces that bring you true solitude. As part of this exhibition, four contemporary Indian artists showcase their ideas of home, intimacy, personal space and the emotional aspects of domestic life. Featuring works by Saanthy Bulchandani, Shyamli Singhal, Mehak Garg and Anirban Mishra, the show will encourage viewers to reflect on their own ideas of home and belonging.

*On view at Akara Contemporary, 3C Amarchand Mansion, 16 Madam Cama Road, Colaba, Mumbai until 20<sup>th</sup> July 2024*

## ***Ganga by Yusuf Arakkal and Shibu Arakkal Sandeep & Gitanjali Maini Foundation, Bengaluru***



Mallaah

If there is a natural resource that would symbolise India, it would arguably be the Ganga River. It holds cultural, spiritual, religious and aesthetic significance for all those who visit its banks. This unique exhibition that brings together artworks by father-son duo Yusuf and Shibu Arakkal, showcases the beauty of the Ganga in all its glory. While the late Yusuf Arakkal's evocative paintings bring out his philosophical connection with the Ganga, Shibu's photographic series *Mallaah*—named after the boatmen who ferry people across the sacred river for generations—aims to understand the lives of these men who traverse these waters daily.

On view at Sandeep & Gitanjali Maini Foundation, Mezzanine Level, 38 Maini Sadan, 7th Cross Lavelle Road, Bengaluru until 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024

## ***Yali* at 47A, Mumbai**



This one is for aficionados of all things textile design. Yali, a platform that hosts projects developed post research by The Registry of Sarees, is hosting an exhibition celebrating handwoven and hand-spun garments, each one a class apart in its intricacies. Tracing India's design histories and movements, the exhibit also aims to showcase the influence of hand-spun fabrics on India's fashion consciousness. "At a time when slow fashion and 'handmade' has come to be the hallmark, looking back at how they came to be is the best way to truly understand, and strive for, where they can go..." says Srila Chatterjee in her note on the show.

On view at 47A, Khotachwadi, Girgaum, Mumbai from 12<sup>th</sup> July to 4<sup>th</sup> August 2024

## ***What the Camera Didn't See and Bhuri Bai My Life as an Artist* at Tri Art & Culture, Kolkata**



Bhuri Bai, Untitled, 2018 (Acrylic on handmade paper)

The Museum of Art & Photography (MAP) in Bengaluru brings to Kolkata two exhibitions that showcase new renditions of traditional Indian artmaking



techniques. *What the Camera Didn't See* includes works created by Alexander Gorlizki in collaboration with master miniature painter Riyaz Uddin of the Pink City Studio, blurring the boundaries between miniature painting and photography to transform images of royalty and culture into vibrant scenes. On the other hand, *Bhuri Bai – My Life as an Artist* also presented in collaboration with MAP Academy showcases the Padma Shri recipient's creations. Globally recognised as one of the nation's most popular Bhil artists, Bhuri Bai's artworks traverse her journey from her small Adivasi community to becoming a world-renowned artist.

*On view at Tri Art & Culture, 53/2/2 Hazra Road, Ballygunge, Kolkata until 21<sup>st</sup> July 2024*

## ***Overlaps at Tarq, Mumbai***



Areez Katki and Rithika Merchant

Based in the heart of Mumbai's art district, Tarq brought in its milestone 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. To celebrate this feat, the gallery presents a monumental exhibition featuring prints created by seven pairs of artists, namely Pratap Morey and Philippe Calia, Boshudhara Mukherjee and Ronny Sen, Garima Gupta and Nibha Sikander, Areez Katki and Rithika Merchant, Soghra Khurasani and Saju Kunhan, Sameer Kulavoor and Vishwa Shroff, and Savia Mahajan and Parag Tandel. Featuring engaging, experimental and unique prints that delve into ideas of city, landscapes, nature and abstraction, the artworks encourage dialogue and represent the gallery's motto of art being accessible to all.

*On view at Tarq, KK (Nasari) Chambers, 39 AK Kayak Marg, Fort, Mumbai until 20<sup>th</sup> July 2024*

***Pensive Moonsby Bholanath Rudra and The  
Salts of Many Seas by Ali Akbar PN at Emami  
Art, Kolkata***





Acrylic on canvas (53 x 50 cm), Ali Akbar

The moon is that eternal symbol of romantic nights, the darkness' only light, and an object of intrigue for many. Exploring the night sky's most celestial object through his paintbrush, artist Bholanath Rudra offers an expanded view of nocturnal forest landscapes through his canvases in *Pensive Moons*. The gallery's second solo show by Vadodara-based artist Ali Akbar PN focuses instead on oceans and histories of changing water bodies and lands and their effect on socio-politics across the subcontinent. Featuring paintings, photographs, sculptures, digital prints, a video and a book, *The Salts of Many Seas* traverses memory, identity and global historical narratives to make for a thought-provoking exhibition.

*On view at Emami Art, 777, Anandapur, Adarsha Nagar, Kolkata until 20<sup>th</sup> August 2024*

## ***Chitrakavyam Ramayanam* at NGMA, Mumbai**



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This special exhibition at the NGMA brings onto one platform artistic representations of the Ramayana, from paintings, textiles and sculptures to shadow puppets and immersive installations. Including paintings by artists of the Bengal School who synthesised traditional sensibility with Japanese techniques, *Chitrakavyam Ramayanam* also features prints by Chittoprasad Bhattacharya as well as Madhubani works of Inderkala Devi and Bacho Devi. The exhibition also brings to viewers glimpses of narrative art forms by indigenous cultures including Bhils, Gonds, Baigas, Santhals, Korkus and Khasis. Gondi paintings and Phadchitras from Mewar along with contemporary sculptures complete the monumental showcase.

*On view at NGMA, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Kala Ghoda, Mumbai until 7<sup>th</sup> August 2024*

### ***Past in Perspective: Practices from Bengal at Akar Prakar, New Delhi***



The printing press was introduced to India by colonial settlers in Goa in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century. The print industry soon expanded to Calcutta under British rule, with the erstwhile capital becoming a printing hub in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Soon, the Bichitra Club was founded by the Tagore family as a studio for artists, and many soon joined the fold to experiment with the printmaking medium. This exhibition, featuring creations by artists including Rabindranath Tagore, Mukul Dey, Chittoprasad, Benode Behari Mukherjee, Ramkinker Baij, KG Subramanyan, Gopal Ghose and Nandalal Bose among others, explores their distinct artistic practices and showcases how printmaking became a medium of fine art in the culturally rich Bengal.

*On view at Akar Prakar, D 43, Block D, Defence Colony, New Delhi until 27<sup>th</sup> July 2024*