

LATITUDE 28

A Gallery for Contemporary Arts and Ideas

Bhavna Kakar

Presents

When is Empathy too much?

**Abhishek Narayan Verma | Al-Qawi Nanavati | Shalina Vichitra |
Yogesh Ramkrishna**

Venue: Gallery Latitude 28, F-208, Lado Sarai

Curated by Shubhani Sharma and Indira Lakshmi Prasad

Exhibition dates: 26th October until 30th November 2020

Timings: Monday to Saturday, 11am to 7pm

This exhibition will mark the beginning of Lado Sarai Art & Design Week, 2020.

Curatorial Premise

I fear that we are beginning to design ourselves to suit digital models of us, and I worry about a leaching of empathy and humanity in that process. – Jaron Lanier, excerpted from *You Are Not a Gadget*, 2010

In this age of pandemic, as our physical engagement with the world has declined, we have increasingly relied on the unending media deluge of audio-visual information to connect with the outside world. Our window into the events and happenings of the outside world has become the screens of our devices. Our locus of understanding has been shifting away from the physical world in steady increments over the two decades, and with the advent of lockdown this phenomenon has exponentially exacerbated.

When is Empathy too much? refers to the inevitable saturation point that we all know too well, as the virtual domain becomes another phantasmagoria of the modern age. This exhibition calls attention to the changing nature of our perception of the world, the changing perception of the self, the sensory shock of digital overload and how this affects our emotional engagement with works of art.

All the artists address empathy, and by extension connection/disconnection, adaptation/maladaptation in various different ways; the personal, the social and the political. The exhibition explores the notion of art as a conduit to empathetic engagement, revealing the human experience behind the works.

About the Exhibition:

Bhavna Kakar presents *When is Empathy too much?* co-curated by Indira Prasad and Shubhani Sharma, a group exhibition exploring notions of empathy (and lack thereof) in our society following the post-pandemic digital expansion. With its second physical exhibition since the lockdown began, Gallery Latitude 28 continues its commitment to emerging artists, contextualizing their works alongside established artists.

ABHISHEK NARAYAN VERMA uses imagery in his paintings, drawings and prints which have continuously stemmed from his own history, derivative of his physical and mental status in this constantly changing and demanding society. His works revolve around ideas of dysfunctionality, the strange logics of irrational behavior rising from anxiety which he injects in his characters. The familial, social and political collide in dramatic settings where the lighting also becomes hallucinatory. There is satirization of situations, of characters and of himself where the insecurities of existence morph into an ironical, laughable identity.

AL-QAWI NANAVATI explores ideas of repetition in meditation and its effects on the mind along with loss and the huge pit it leaves behind. Her mother's passing has been at the center of her art practice since 2018 and it has resulted in her inventing a language to speak to her late mother. Her works explore this in forms of letters and other objects made using her mother's possessions.

SHALINA VICHITRA's work is about addressing, experiencing, and decoding characteristics of living situations. Personal associations, emotions, existence, identities become part of a larger issue and address the conflict and contradictions of urban living situations and a constant struggle to decode reality and "the other reality". The individual is a part of a whole populace and the entity she refers to is a speck of this macrocosm. Metaphors for her images come from the Earth, aerial mappings, the urban sprawl, constructed spaces, maps, geographic images, symbols and architecture.

YOGESH RAMKRISHNA's practice includes printmaking, drawing, installation and includes different levels of interactivity. His works exhibit his own perspective towards the current socio-political condition, cultural propagandas and post-truth era behaviors of society. The visual content of his works becomes dramatic, comic-like, stylized, mythically charged and sometimes, to an extent, erotic.

About the curators:

Shubhani Sharma has a Masters in curatorial practice from Bath Spa University, she has an interest in curatorial activism and environmental art. She has been involved in the field and curated events in Bath, UK. She has been involved in various projects in museum's in the UK to promote her creative practice in curating. She has also been involved in XR group and curated with the UK Extinction Rebellion team in the city of Bath. She is currently working as a Programme Coordinator at Latitude 28.

Indira Lakshmi Prasad is an artist and writer from Coventry, UK. She has a BA (Hons) in Fine Art from De Montfort University, Leicester, UK after which she received her MA in Visual Arts Practice from Ambedkar University, New Delhi. She has been independently practicing as an artist (across mediums of sound, sculpture, performance and illustration) and coordinating creative events in both the UK and India for the past five years. She is currently working as Assistant Manager at Gallery Latitude 28.

About Latitude 28:

Since its inception in 2010, Gallery Latitude 28 has been promoting creative dialogue and presenting dynamic exhibitions that focus on contemporary art from South Asia. Gallery Latitude 28 has become synonymous with cutting edge art from the region, seeking fresh perspectives and innovative thinking in its attempt to stimulate interest in new waves of art-making. The gallery provides a horizontal environment where younger artists are encouraged to contextualize and experiment with medium, material and institutional critique. The gallery has supported works of several South Asian artists and their alternative display practices that could further the understanding of contemporary art. Keeping with its wider role as an institution dedicated to the arts, Gallery Latitude 28 paved the way for an active collaboration between artists from Iran, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and India through its curated shows and outreach events. The gallery, thus, continues to work towards making art accessible and inclusive to larger public and attempts to enrich their experience of viewing and engaging with art and is an incubator for the same in the white cube of its distinctive gallery space.

Gallery Latitude 28's vision is shaped by its Founder/Director, Bhavna Kakar, who has over a decade's experience as a curator, editor and art consultant.

For more information on Gallery Latitude 28 please visit:

Website: <http://www.latitude28.com>

Email: latitude28@gmail.com

Tel: +91 11 46791111

Address: F - 208, First Floor, Lado Sarai, New Delhi - 110030