



The Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya &

The Jehangir Nicholson Art Foundation

present

## Mycelial Legacies II

Exhibition of women artists from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Vadodara

Guest curator: Deeksha Nath

9th June - 3rd September 2023



Students at the Department of Painting, Faculty of Fine Arts, MSU Baroda, 1970. Photo: Jyoti Bhatt. Courtesy: Jyoti Bhatt Archive, AAA Collections

**Exhibiting artists:**

Anita Dube, Anjana Mehra, Ayisha Abraham, Gargi Raina, Hema Upadhyay, Jayashree Chakravarty, Jyotsna Bhatt, Kishori Kaul, Latika Katt, Madhurima Patni, Manisha Parekh, Mrinalini Mukherjee, Nasreen Mohamedi, Nibha Sikander, Nilima Sheikh, Pushpamala N., Rakhi Peswani, Rekha Rodwittiya, Shakuntala Kulkarni, Soghra Khurasani, Vasudha Thozhur, Vishwa Shroff

**Director JNAF:** “The Jehangir Nicholson Art Foundation holds in its collection seminal works that reflect the art developments in different regions of the country. We are delighted to invite Deeksha Nath as guest curator to present an exhibition of women artists associated with the Baroda School of art (Fine Arts Faculty, MSU, Baroda). The exhibition features works by 22 women artists drawn from the Jehangir Nicholson collection and others to highlight the many modes, media and concepts of art-making from Baroda. Through this inclusive approach, the exhibition aims to expand the knowledge and understanding of art from Baroda.” - **Puja Vaish**

**Curator’s note:**

The second exhibition in the *Mycelial Legacies* project builds on the collection of the Jehangir Nicholson Art Foundation to bring together paintings, sculptures, ceramics, photographs, installations and videos by 22 artists with affiliations to the Faculty of Fine Arts, M.S. University, Vadodara - an institution that has been one of the wellsprings of contemporary Indian art practice. In doing so the exhibition seeks to codify the contribution of women artists to the development of the Faculty, and to the shaping of its broader influences, and broaden an institutional legacy that has traditionally been signposted in terms of the contributions of its male stalwarts.

What is the nature of this legacy? It is networked, intergenerational, nourishing and insurgent. The alumni network of the Faculty is widespread, a ‘pioneer impulse’ of graduates which kept the institution ‘liberal’ and ‘cosmopolitan’. The Baroda School, a term loosely coined, has been identified by art making levered to a deep knowledge of art history, in an understanding that

rigorous practice and a conceptual framework rooted in the visible and everyday, represented from the vantage of a 'radical subject position', as defined by Prof. Shivaji Panikkar, art historian and former Dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts, are the hallmarks of its artistic pluralism.

In a time when as a society we are on the one hand beginning to revel in the freedom of non-binary identifications and on the other witnessing sites inhabited by women as those of critical resistance, this exhibition looks over 6 decades of innovative and interconnected artistic production by women artists. Neither thematically nor chronologically presented, the works highlight key characteristics of the Baroda School - the primacy of subjective perception, material experimentation, interdisciplinary practice, enthusiasm for the living arts and an emphasised relationship between body and space. Within these broad themes the exhibition explores notions of locational identities and evolution of artistic practice.

The exhibition hosts a curated presentation by the Asia Art Archive in India (AAAI) of archival material of the Fine Arts Fair, which was established in 1961 and became instrumental in fermenting cross-disciplinary exchange, especially with practitioners of living artistic traditions. In inviting AAAI, the Mycelial Legacies project furthers its core objective to collaborate and exchange ideas, material and knowledge towards building a tessellated network on this vast subject matter.

- *Deeksha Nath*

### **About the curator**

Geneva based curator, critic, and educator Deeksha Nath has curated exhibitions for museums, foundations, art fairs and galleries worldwide. An alumna of the Faculty of Fine Arts, Vadodara (1994–1998), she is currently desk editor at Art AsiaPacific, Hong Kong and she sits on the Board of Artreach India.

## **About the collaborators**

### **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya**

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, formerly known as the Prince of Wales Museum of Western India, is one of the premier art and history museums in India. CSMVS celebrated its 100 years' glorious journey as one of the premier, public enlightenment centres of the country on 10th January 2022. This was a landmark moment, not only in the history of the Museum but for the cultural movement of the country. In the last decade the Museum has undergone a profound modernization process with the idea to transform the Museum from a national level repository of antiquities to an institute of international standards. In its Centenary year, CSMVS has put together a list of significant projects and initiatives which will be undertaken in and beyond 2022 to mark this landmark year and moment.

### **Jehangir Nicholson Art Foundation**

The Jehangir Nicholson Art Foundation forms the Modern and Contemporary Wing of the CSMVS Museum where it has hosted regular exhibitions and outreach programmes since 2011.

The JNAF seeks to build a connected research-based framework for its exhibitions, education and outreach programming, bringing the collection into conversation with relevant current local and global art-historical discourses, onsite and online. Through collaborations with international and national institutions and professionals, the JNAF aims to create a platform for diverse interdisciplinary cultural exchange. It is committed to preserving, documenting and updating one of the richest private collections of Art that reflects crucial phases of modern Indian art history.

### **Exhibition Venue:**

Jehangir Nicholson Gallery  
Second Floor, East Wing  
Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya,  
159/161, Mahatma Gandhi Road,  
Fort, Mumbai 400023

Timings:

10:15 am - 6 pm

Open on all days

Museum ticket applicable:

150 INR for Indian adults

35 INR for children ( 5 - 15 yrs)