

## Press Release

# The Sculpture Park at Madhavendra Palace, Nahargarh Fort, Jaipur Fourth Edition: January 28<sup>th</sup> to December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024

Curated by Peter Nagy



### **Artists exhibiting:**

**Avantika Bawa (USA/India), Sudipta Das (India), Nandan Ghiya (India), Bhuvanesh Gowda (India), Murari Jha (India), Megha Joshi (India), Vineet Kacker (India), Suhasini Kejriwal (India), Per Kirkeby (Denmark), Riyas Komu (India), Alicja Kwade (Germany), Martha-Marie LeBars (France)**

### **Opening on Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> from 3 to 6pm.**

The Saat Saath Arts Foundation, in collaboration with the Government of Rajasthan, is proud to present the Fourth Edition of the Sculpture Park at Madhavendra Palace, Nahargarh Fort, Jaipur. Curated by Peter Nagy, the exhibition presents the three-dimensional works of artists within the courtyard and apartments of the 19th Century Palace, constructed within a 17th Century Fort. Indian and international artists will present works which challenge our conceptions of what sculpture is, moving away from conventions and exploring a wide variety of materials, subjects, and approaches. In some cases, artists have created new site-specific works inspired by and responding to the architecture of the palace and the context of Jaipur, while other artists have chosen works to display within the elaborately decorated spaces of the palace to bring new perspectives to their creations, which are most usually displayed in the white box spaces of museums and art galleries. In all cases, a dialogue is created between a historical structure, being its own hybridized confection, and contemporary art; enriching the experiences of all visitors to Nahargarh Fort while promoting the reinvigoration of India's heritage culture.

You can follow The Sculpture Park on Instagram at [@thesculptureparkjaipur](https://www.instagram.com/thesculptureparkjaipur) and the website is [www.thesculpturepark.in](http://www.thesculpturepark.in). For more information or press photos please contact [info@naturemorte.com](mailto:info@naturemorte.com).

## **Participating Artists**

### **Avantika Bawa**

Created especially for Madhavendra Palace, Bawa's installation is titled *A Pink Scaffold in the Pink City*. The work is a continuation of The Scaffold Series, which the artist began in 2012 and has spanned several formats and locations including the first at Gallery Maskara, Mumbai (2012) to the most recent at University Galleries, Normal, Illinois, USA (2023). The installation is built from clusters of scaffolding, painted in bright pinks and turquoise. Bawa takes mass-produced utilitarian elements and creates a sculpture that acts as a frame for the architecture of Madhavendra Palace. The work evolves from a tradition of geometric abstract painting and Minimalist sculpture, articulating an international language in materials sourced locally in India.

Born in Ootacamund, Tamil Nadu, Avantika Bawa received her BFA from the MS University in Baroda in 1995, her MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 1998, studied at the Skowhegan School of Art in Maine in 2008, and is currently a Professor of Fine Art at the Washington State University in Vancouver, Washington, USA. She has held more than 35 solo shows of her work since 1995 including at the Portland Art Museum (Portland, Oregon); Saltworks Gallery (Atlanta, Georgia); Pepper House (Kochi, Kerala); Lalit Kala Akademie (New Delhi) and the Columbus Museum (Columbus, Georgia). She has created site-specific installations for a wide variety of locations in India and the United States, from the Rann of Kutch in Gujarat to a shopping mall in Seattle.

Bawa's installation is possible with support from The Oregon Arts Commission, The Ford Family Foundation of Oregon, Washington State University, and Blueprint 12 of New Delhi.

### **Sudipta Das**

Sudipta Das' practice revolves around the tenacity, fragility, and importance that paper has in the lives of people and how it shapes their identity. She transforms paper into figurative sculptures and is inspired by the Dakjee doll-making technique, which she learned during her residency in Korea in 2017. From migrations both forced and voluntary to climate change, to recording historic events and the diaspora, the artist touches upon the calamities that befall those in transience as they seek refuge after having lost all they ever had and all they have ever known. Born in Silchar, Assam in 1985, the artist takes inspiration from her own life and family. Sudipta completed her BFA and MFA in Painting from Kala Bhavana, Santiniketan in 2009 and 2011, respectively. She lives and works in Baroda.

Her work is included at the Sculpture Park with the support of Latitude 28, New Delhi.

### **Nandan Ghiya**

Born in 1980 and a native of Jaipur, Nandan Ghiya explores the disjunction between various forms of image-based media. His mixed media works reveal an understanding of the function that photographs play in defining our perception of cultural and collective narratives. In juxtaposing found studio portraits alongside digitally manipulated images, Ghiya examines how advances in media-based technologies define our contemporary modes of perception while also threatening genealogies of rich indigenous histories. While Ghiya's works have always involved collage and assemblage, these new works in three-dimensions recycle elements from furniture and architecture, some directly quoting the wall paintings of the Madhavendra Palace, which he visited frequently during his childhood. The artist speaks of "the deluge," both in terms of the digital overload that is overwhelming us and the aggressions of a real estate market that is having an adverse effect on the architectural heritage of Rajasthan. Solo shows of Ghiya's works have been mounted by Exhibit320 in New Delhi, Sakshi Art Gallery in Mumbai, and 10 Chancery Lane Gallery in Hong Kong.

His work is included at the Sculpture Park with the support of Exhibit 320, New Delhi.

### **Bhuvanesh Gowda**

The sculptures of Bhuvanesh Gowda oscillate between the figurative and the abstract in a quest to locate the unknown and the infinite within a material context. Merging traditional methods with the modern, contemporary concepts with the classic, he seeks to encapsulate a range of philosophical markings – drawn from a reading of spiritual texts, living traditions, and quantum physics. In his artistic practice, Bhuvanesh adopts a stringent process of observing, collecting, and transforming material

(mostly salvaged wood from dismantled houses or found in the forest) into tangible constructs, imagined structures, and symbolic resonances. Born in Kadaba, Karnataka in 1976, Gowda received his BFA from the Chamarajendra Academy of Visual Arts in Mysore in 1999 and his MFA from Jamia Millia Islamia in New Delhi in 2003. He has had two solo exhibitions of his work at Chemould Prescott Road in Mumbai (2012 and 2016) and one at The Birla Gallery, Mumbai in 2007. He lives and works in Navi, Mumbai.

His works appear at the Sculpture Park with the support of Chemould Prescott Road, Mumbai.

### **Murari Jha**

Murari Jha is a visual and performance artist based in the New Delhi suburb of Noida. His multimedia practice explores the personal as political, the psychological processing of everyday socio-political occurrences, the transformation of the body by the environment, and the temporal regimes it occupies. Jha creates enigmatic objects in a variety of materials and his sculptures resemble common objects found in daily life, yet their resemblances are fleeting and elusive. A conversation between these small-scale sculptures develops during the exhibition, allowing the viewer to reimagine their own sensorial experiences and memories. Jha was born in 1988 and brought up in Maunbehāt, Bihar. He completed his BFA from Patna University in 2010 and then his MFA from BR Ambedkar University, Agra in 2012.

His works appear at the Sculpture Park with the support of Nature Morte, New Delhi.

### **Megha Joshi**

Megha Joshi was born in New Delhi in 1973 and studied Sculpture at the Faculty of Fine Arts, MS University, Baroda. She spent 10 years as a Set Designer and Art Director for film and television, with over seventy projects to her credit, before returning to a fulltime art practice in 2008. Since then, she has participated in numerous group shows and residencies, both nationally and internationally, and created works in a very wide diversity of materials. For the Sculpture Park, she has created an installation made entirely out of sticks of incense. She bundles these together, playing with contrasting colors, to create structures which resemble the growth of crystals or perhaps aquatic plants. Without a preconceived composition, the end result responds to the architecture and decorative painting of the space, creating a harmonious fluidity.

Her project at the Sculpture Park is supported by Studio Art, New Delhi.

### **Vineet Kacker**

Vineet Kacker was born 1965 in Delhi received his Bachelor of Architecture degree from the School of Planning and Architecture in New Delhi. He trained in ceramics, first with Mansimran Singh at Andretta in Himachal Pradesh and then at the Golden Bridge Pottery in Pondicherry under Ray Meeker and Deborah Smith. Apprenticeships with British potters Alan Caiger-Smith and Sandy Brown with support from Charles Wallace Fellowship, McKnight Artist Residency at the Northern Clay Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota and at the Anderson Ranch Arts Center in Colorado on a Fulbright Travel Grant, followed in quick succession. Informed by his formal training in architecture and inspired primarily by Indian sources (particularly the landscape, art and iconography of the Himalayas) much of his work reverberates around the sacred and the meditative. Frequenting iconic images in low relief, etched with textural and calligraphic markings, his variably shaped ceramic objects reflect a cosmic poise. Kacker juxtaposes the ancient against the contemporary, the ceremonial against the ordinary, often combined in his work wherein rough textures and dry glazes contrast with traditional glazes as he uses multiple techniques on a single piece: wheel throwing, hand building, and plaster molds. The artist lives in Delhi and works from his studio in the suburb of Gurgaon.

His works appear at the Sculpture Park with the support of Nature Morte, New Delhi.

### **Suhasini Kejriwal**

Suhasini Kejriwal lives and works in Kolkata, India, where she was born in 1973. She received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Parsons School of Design in New York and a Masters of Fine Arts degree from Goldsmiths College, London. Her technique synthesizes the disciplines of painting, drawing, photography and collage into a cohesive whole. Kaleidoscopic and bordering on the psychedelic, Kejriwal's works revel in minutiae, overflow with information, and convey multiple viewpoints simultaneously. Her sculpture entitled "Monument" of 2014 presents the strictly geometric form of a

pyramid comprised of facsimiles of a wide variety of objects: from toys, fruits, and vegetables to household trash and building materials.

Solo exhibitions of Kerjriwal's works have been held at Gallery SKE, Bangalore (2004), Nature Morte, New Delhi (2005, 2007, 2014, 2020), Chemould Prescott Road, Mumbai (2008), the Anokhi Museum, Jaipur (2009), Galerie Christian Hosp, Berlin (2010). She was a visiting fellow at the South Asia Institute at Harvard University in 2020 and contributed works to the Frieze Sculpture Park in London in 2023.

Her work appears at the Sculpture Park with the support of Nature Morte, New Delhi.

### **Per Kirkeby**

Per Kirkeby (1938-2018) was born in Copenhagen, Denmark, where he lived and worked. Kirkeby studied Natural History at the University of Copenhagen from 1957 to 1964 and from 1962 he was a part of The Experimental Art School in Copenhagen. He was appointed Professor at the State Academy of Fine Arts Karlsruhe, Germany in 1978 and at the Städelschule in Frankfurt am Main, Germany in 1989.

Per Kirkeby is primarily known as a painter who worked in a style that hovered between abstraction and impressionistic landscapes. Kirkeby made his first brick sculptures in 1966 and thereafter developed these works in several directions. Many of the brick sculptures have been built in public spaces, either placed in urban scenarios, in parks, or sometimes in landscapes far from civilisation, and have been exhibited widely in museums across Europe. For Jaipur, we have recreated two works: "Edinburgh" from 1985 and "London" from 1986 (the works were usually titled according to the city they were created for). Both are symmetrical structures, inhabiting the interior courtyards of the corner apartments, uniting angular and arched forms, balancing between horizontality and verticality. They are examples of what Kirkeby called "transparent forms": a structure that can be looked through and therefore also includes the space surrounding it.

Kirkeby's brick sculptures are represented in several important museum collections worldwide, notably the National Gallery of Denmark (SMK) in Copenhagen and Tate Modern in London. The works by Per Kirkeby have been realized with the collaboration of Galleri Susanne Ottesen of Copenhagen on behalf of the Estate of Per Kirkeby, with generous support provided by Ny Carlsbergfondet. The works are dedicated to the memory of Jill Silverman van Coenegrachts, who initiated the process of exhibiting them at Madhavendra Palace.

### **Riyas Komu**

Born in Thrissur, Kerala in 1971, Riyas Komu is a multi-media artist whose works draw energy from the social movements and political events of his times, reflecting primarily upon issues like violence, conflict, or displacement. His body of work is a part of the broader narrative of the construction and dismantling of the artistic influences of the society we live in. Having earned both his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees of Fine Art from the JJ School of Art in Mumbai, he was one of the co-founders of the Kochi Muziris Biennale as well as the director of programmes for the Kochi Biennale Foundation, developing projects focussing on art education in India.

His work at the Sculpture Park, entitled "Ballad of the Distracted vs Cult of the Dead and Memory Loss," from 2009, is as dramatic and complex as its title suggests. Fused together from a variety of materials (wood, metal, plastic, rubber, burlap sacks, and a car engine), it is part monster, part machine, seemingly overwhelmed by the image of itself. The artist says the work was inspired by his life as a migrant from Kerala in the megalopolis of Mumbai, particularly the slum colony in the suburb of Borivali. Here, Komu witnessed the daily struggles of the poor who attempt to both subsist and persist against the backdrop of the city, with its claims of a being the glorious superpower of the Subcontinent.

His work appears at the Sculpture Park with the support of The Guild, Alibhag.

### **Alicja Kwade**

Alicja Kwade was born in 1979 and now lives and works in Berlin. In the past decade, she has become known internationally for sculpture, expansive public installations, film, photography, and works on paper that challenge scientific and philosophical concepts by dismantling the boundaries of perception.

Kwade has exhibited widely at institutions including Louisiana Museum, Humlebæk, Denmark; Whitechapel Gallery, London; MIT List Visual Arts Center, Cambridge, MA; Hamburger Bahnhof –

Nationalgalerie der Gegenwart, Berlin; Espoo Museum of Modern Art, Espoo, Finland; and Haus Konstruktiv, Zurich. Over the past years, she has increasingly worked in the public realm, creating vast installations that respond to the architecture and the natural phenomena of various sites. In 2019, Kwade was commissioned to create a monumental installation for the rooftop of the Metropolitan Museum in New York. For her 2022 installation *Au Cours Des Mondes* in the Place Vendôme, Paris the artist created a dialogue between natural stone globes affixed to endless concrete stairs and a set of natural stone spheres. Both works explored our place in the world, underlying mechanisms of power, and our relationship to knowledge thereof. Other notable installations include a 2022 participation at Desert X AIUla in Saudi Arabia and an acclaimed presentation at the 57th Venice Biennale Viva Arte Viva in 2017. Her works are part of numerous public collections, such as the Centre Pompidou, Paris; Hirshhorn Museum, Washington; LACMA - Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles; Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek; Mudam - Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean, Luxembourg; and mumok - Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig, Vienna.

Her work, created especially for the courtyard of Madhavendra Palace, is supported by the RMZ Foundation, India and Nature Morte, New Delhi.

### **Martha Marie le Bars**

Martha Marie le Bars is a French artist who was born in 1994, received her BFA (in 2017) and MFA (in 2019) degrees from the ESANM in Nantes, France, and resides in Paris. For the winter of 2023-24 she is a resident of Nila House in Jaipur, sponsored by the French Cultural Institute in India as part of the Villa Swagatam program. Her project for the Sculpture Park recycles old saris into braided ropes, accompanied by forms made from ceramic, glass, and metal that have been inspired by traditional Rajasthani jewelry. She has been directly inspired by the palettes of colors found in the wall paintings of Madhavendra Palace and her installation will foreground both architecture and textiles as vessels of memory and heritage. The artist has mounted solo shows of her work previously in both Marseille, France and Milan, Italy.

The work of Martha Marie le Bars is at the Sculpture Park with the support of Nila House, Jaipur and the French Cultural Institute, New Delhi.

### **The Curator**

Peter Nagy (born 1959, USA) is a graduate of Parsons School of Design in New York with a BFA in Communication Design. He was co-founder of Gallery Nature Morte in New York's East Village in 1982, where it continued until 1988. Active as an artist in the 80s, he has been based in New Delhi since 1992, where he resurrected Nature Morte in 1997, championing young Indian artists and experimental art forms. Since then, Nature Morte has become one of India's most prominent commercial galleries, representing many of the most important Indian artists who have come into prominence since the 1990s. Nagy created The Sculpture Park at Madhavendra Palace in 2017 along with Aparajita Jain, the founder of the Saat Saath Arts Foundation.

### **Saat Saath Arts Foundation**

The foundation was started by Aparajita Jain (born 1980, Kolkata, India) in 2010, envisioning it as a not-for-profit initiative meant to foster a platform for creative dialogue between Indian artists and the international art world. The foundation has received international acclaim for its Curatorial Research Grant program, conceived along with Diana Campbell, artistic director of the Dhaka Art Summit, which endows international curators with resources to extend their research on the Indian art scene, thus nurturing a vital exchange of knowledge between India and the rest of the world. The first recipients of the grant, Laura Raicovich (Director of Global Initiatives, Creative Time, NY), Mari Spirito (Founding Director of Protocinema, Istanbul/New York), Lauren Cornell (Curator, 2015 Triennial, Digital Projects and Museum as Hub), and Dr. Helen Pheby (Senior Curator, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, UK) visited India in 2013 and 2014. The foundation helped customise their itineraries to suit their research interests, while providing them with resources to ensure an efficient and productive trip. In 2015, Catherine David (Deputy Director, Centre Pompidou, Paris) and Dieter Roelstraete (at the time on the team of dOCUMENTA14) were awarded the grant to nurture their ongoing research on contemporary Indian artists. The foundation also supports exhibitions by Indian artists, most recently responsible for the mounting of Jitish Kallat's poetic piece, *Covering Letter*, at the CSMVS (formerly the Prince of Wales Museum) in Mumbai and the exhibition "Matter," featuring the work of Bharti Kher at Vancouver Art Gallery. SSA launched the Sculpture Park at Madhavendra Palace, Nahargarh Fort, Jaipur in collaboration with the Government of Rajasthan in 2017.

