Avid Learning x Art Musings Gallery present a panel discussion on art as a political tool in the age of social media and information proliferation in the second episode of the Beyond Contemporary Art Series BCA#3

For Immediate Release

"Art begins with resistance - at the point where resistance is overcome."

-Andre Gide
French author and winner of the 1947 Nobel Prize in Literature

Seminal cultural theorist Walter Benjamin first wrote of the political implications of emergent media (namely film) in his groundbreaking essay *The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction* in 1935. He was, perhaps, among the first to open the debate on the consequences of media on cultural goods and argued that with mass reproduction and proliferation of art in the age of new media, public responses to art have become increasingly collective and holds political currency.

We live in the Age of Information with digital platforms increasingly becoming the primary source for knowledge and education. Today, the human experience is largely refracted through the visual which forms the fabric of our everyday lives. Visual culture is inextricably linked to ongoing social, political, psychological, and cultural struggles which occur on numerous ideological fronts and through multiple media.

Art Activism forms the core of the contemporary world, and once combined with the powerful platform that the digital world offers, artists have the power to challenge the status quo and build wider, more inclusive perceptions of the world. Social media is now one of the most widely used forms of conveying a message and is based firmly in the visual realm.

How are artists in the age of social media and information adapting art activism and deploying aesthetic responsibility to react to politicized issues of today like the #Metoo Movement, feminism and gender sensitivity/rights, climate change and environmental responsibility and fake news and electoral manipulations?

Art Musings Gallery and **Avid Learning** present **BCA#3: Art and Politics in the Age of Information,** a panel discussion on the trajectory of political aesthetics and its future in the online space.

The description of the discussion is as below:

Join *Artist* **Ranjit Kandalgaonkar** and *Cultural Theorist,* **Nancy Adajania** in conversation with *Curator, Poet and Cultural Theorist* **Ranjit Hoskote.**

These practitioners and experts will discuss how activist art of today ignites and foster conversations about ongoing creative movements of resistance against existing systems, beliefs and oppressions. They will seek to answer larger questions like: What are the possibilities of systemic resistance in everyday life? Do we now need to move from external forms of resistance like protests and petitions, to an internalised sense of resistance in order to resonate with millennials and future stakeholders?

Read on for more about this unique Series of Discussions:

This talk marks the second episode of the third iteration of Avid Learning's **Beyond Contemporary Art Series. BCA#3** is a series of discussions that will examine art making in today's world of exploding media boundaries, climate change, political upheaval and scientific and technological innovation.

The series continues to extend the invitation to respond to new developments and debates, revolutions and trends, preoccupations and passions of the globalized art world and to reconsider the very fundamental role of art in the world we live in.

Previous iterations of the series probed the condition of the contemporary art through the lens of the Curator, Institution, Artist and Viewer and also looked at Art as Activism, Art and Technology, Art Education and Audience Building.

Beyond Contemporay Art # 3 addresses topics like Art's evolution into a hybrid practice, Art as a political tool in the age of social media and information proliferation, the role of the artist as environmental activist and the updated performative, scientific, activist and conceptual aspects of visual art.

The third edition is presented in conjunction with Art Musings Gallery's ongoing year-long exhibition ***The 20th***- curated by Ranjit Hoskote – that celebrates two decades of the gallery. Art Musings is one of the earliest galleries to have been established in South Mumbai's vibrant, culturally rich Colaba area. *(Rotating Exhibits will be on view between March –December 2019)*

Join us for a fascinating panel that will examine how artists (and Instagram) play a part in securing brighter socio-political, ecological, and evolutionary futures for a more allied world of tomorrow.

Where: 1, Admiralty Building, Colaba Cross Lane, opp. to The Mehta International Eye Hospital, Mumbai
When: Wednesday, 10th July 2019 | 6:00 PM – 6:30 PM – Registrations | 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM – Discussion
RSVP: www.avidlearning.in/ ; prior registration required
Press Email / Call: Ayeshah Dadachanji on ayeshah.avid@gmail.com / +91 9820155297

About the Speakers

Nancy Adajania is a cultural theorist and curator based in Bombay. Her book, The Thirteenth Place: Positionality as Critique in the Art of Navjot Altaf, combines an art historical perspective with a politics of culture approach (The Guild, Bombay, 2016). It presents for the first time an elaborate historical analysis of the little-known Progressive Youth Movement (PROYOM) of the 1970s. She was joint artistic director of the 9th Gwangju Biennale (2012) and she co-curated 'No Parsi is an Island' (National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi, 2016), which retrieves artistic positions that have been marginalised from canonical accounts of Indian art history. Her essays have appeared in various anthologies: The Curatorial Conundrum (Bard/MIT Press, 2016) and Former West: Art and the Contemporary After 1989 (BAK/MIT Press, 2016). She recently edited

the Raza Foundation journal Aroop -- 'Some things that only art can do: A Lexicon of Affective Knowledge', 2017.

Ranjit Kandalgaonkar lives and works in Mumbai and his art practice primarily comprises a lens directed at the urban context of cities. Most of the projects are research-intensive and seek unique interventions to offer new modes of dissemination. They sometimes attempt to unlock historical and contemporary data through placing the work in the context of an unseen social history.His city-related projects include those that map living conditions in current strategies of urbanisation [cityinflux - Gentricity - Stories of Philanthropic Trusts] or speculative histories of reclamation [Isles Amidst Reclamation - 7 Isles Unclaimed]. Modelled Recycled Systems is a long term project recording ship-breaking practices at Alang. A series of works were recently showcased at the Bergen Assembly Triennial - 2016 and a 2nd iteration of shipping infrastructure works were commissioned for Colomboscope - 2019. His grant & awards include Majlis Visual Arts Fellowship, U.D.R.I Architectural Fellowship, Leverhulme Trust Artist Residency, SAI Harvard University Artist residency, Wellcome Trust Seed Award, and a Gasworks Artist Residency.

Ranjit Hoskote has been acclaimed as a seminal contributor to Indian art criticism and curatorial practice, and is also a leading Anglophone Indian poet. He is the author of more than 30 books, including Vanishing Acts: New & Selected Poems 1985-2005 (Penguin 2006), Central Time (Penguin/ Viking 2014), and Jonahwhale (Penguin/ Hamish Hamilton 2018); and the monographs Zinny & Maidagan: Compartment/ Das Abteil (Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt/ Walther König 2010) and Atul Dodiya (Prestel 2014). Hoskote curated India's first-ever national pavilion at the Venice Biennale (2011). He co-curated the 7th Gwangju Biennale with Okwui Enwezor and Hyunjin Kim (2008). He was co-convenor, with Maria Hlavajova, Kathrin Rhomberg and Boris Groys, of the exhibition-conference platform Documents, Constellations, Prospects (Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, 2013). He co curated, with Rahul Mehrotra and Kaiwan Mehta, the exhibition-conference platform The State of Architecture: Practices and Processes in India (National Gallery of Modern Art, Bombay, 2016).

About Partners

Art Musings is one of the earliest galleries to have been established in South Mumbai's vibrant and culturally rich Colaba area. Founded in 1999, well before the emergence of the area's 'gallery district', Art Musings has been a trailblazer both in terms of the artists it represents and the exhibitions it has organised both in its own space and at such major venues as the city's Jehangir Art Gallery. Over the years, Art Musings has nurtured a spectrum of artistic practices, working across generations and choices of medium and vocabulary. It has presented the work of such legendary Indian modernists as SH Raza, MF Husain, FN Souza, KG Subramanyan, Ram Kumar and Satish Gujral, all members of the first generation of post-colonial Indian artists. The gallery has also enjoyed a long-term relationship of collegiality with stellar practitioners of distinctive approaches such as Anjolie Ela Menon, Sakti Burman, Baiju Parthan, Paresh Maity and Jayasri Burman. Art Musings is also proud to be associated with an artist renowned in the domain of global contemporary art, Nalini Malani. Among the younger artists with whom the gallery works are Raghava KK, Shilo Shiv Suleman, Smriti Dixit, Gopikrishna, Maya Burman, Ajay Dhandre and Nilofer Suleman, their trajectories encompassing many diverse directions on the compass of contemporary art. In 2017 Art Musings exhibited the works of Sakti Burman in a retrospective at the esteemed National Gallery of Modern Art in Mumbai, entitled 'In the Presence of Another Sky' featuring over 300 works from the artist's illustrious career, curated by Ranjit Hoskote. In 2006, Art Musings emphasized its commitment to sustaining the knowledge infrastructure of the Indian art scene by inaugurating its publishing initiative, Afterimage, which has for over a decade published a series of high-quality art-historical monographs that are extensively researched,

elegantly written and beautifully produced. These include Sakti Burman: In the Presence of another Sky; SH Raza: Nirantar; SH Raza: Vistaar; Maïté Delteil: Enchanted; Baiju Parthan: A User's Manual, and Baiju Parthan: Re-set. It is the endeavour of the gallery to take the works of the artists it represents to a viewership and a collector base that is spread across Asia, Europe and North America. The gallery recently celebrated their 20th anniversary in February 2019 with an exhibition at the iconic Jehangir Art Gallery featuring works of an inter-generational ensemble of 20 artists who have enjoyed a continuing association with Art Musings.

Avid Learning, a public programming platform and cultural arm of the Essar Group, has conducted over 1000 programs and connected with more than 125,000 individuals since its inception in 2009. Driven by the belief that Learning Never Stops, AVID's multiple formats like Workshops, Panel Discussions, Gallery Walkthroughs, and Festival Platforms create a dynamic and interactive atmosphere that stimulates intellectual and creative growth across the fields of Culture & Heritage, Literature, Art and Innovation. Facebook:www.facebook.com/Avidlearning; Twitter: www.twitter.com/Avidlearning; Instagram: @avidlearning