

Avid Learning x Art Musings Gallery present a panel discussion on hybrid art practices to launch the Third Edition of AVID's Beyond Contemporary Art Series #BCA#3

For Immediate Release

"The voyage of discovery lies not in finding new landscapes, but in finding new eyes."

- Marcel Proust

Traditionally, media and material in which an art work is executed determines its categorization, value and nomenclature. Painting or photography, sculpture or performance art, video or installation, have all been principally considered by their medium. These lines are becoming exceedingly blurred with contemporary innovations as artists find hybrid ways to respond to a world facing hybrid and complex situations. Artists need a wider register from which to respond to issues like climate change and sustainability, rapidly shifting populations and mass immigration, geopolitics, Anthropocene activity and industry, the explosion of information, technological advancement, artificial intelligence and even outer space colonization.

How are artists responding to these changes, and what purpose does art serve now and in the future?

Now more than ever, artists are blending media, exploding classifications and crossing and pushing boundaries to make art objects, experiences or statements that truly transcend media. They are trans-media. The notion of transmedia art opens up the possibility to free the artwork from its medium and materiality, to enter a mutable, constantly re-negotiated realm of meaning. It crosses different media to effect various kinds of interaction scenarios and experiences with its users, audiences and art institutions. Is this new art practice different from multimedia art? How?

Art Musings Gallery and **Avid Learning** present **BCA#3: Art as Generator of Hybrid Practices**, a panel discussion on aesthetic, intellectual and material interventions and innovations in art practices today and of the future.

The description of the discussion is as below:

Join *Textile and Multimedia Artist* **Smriti Dixit** and *Trans-Media Artist*, **Baiju Parthan** in conversation with *Curator, Poet and Cultural Theorist* **Ranjit Hoskote**.

These practitioners will discuss how they are pushing the bounds of representation within the context of their practices while maintaining the hand of the artist. They will also discuss contemporary art's renegotiation with material, the truth and the relevance of perspective.

Read on for more about this unique Series of Discussions:

This talk marks the beginning 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 Contemporary Art # 3 will address 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 the meaning and treatment of material in contemporary art and beyond.

Where: 1, Admiralty Building, Colaba Cross Lane, opp. to The Mehta International Eye Hospital, Mumbai

When: Wednesday, 22nd May 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: Ayesah Dadachanji on ayeshah.avid@gmail.com / +91 9820155297


About the Speakers


Baiju Parthan is a pioneer of new media art in India, his earliest hybrid works combining online and offline technologies dating back to 1999-2000. An inter-media artist, he works simultaneously with painting and digital technology-based installation art. His oeuvre focuses on the collisions and intersections between world-views founded on opposed ideologies, and the effect that these processes have on our consciousness and existence. Human history, to Parthan, is an anthology of the trajectories, traces, and debris left behind by such collisions and intersections. Parthan's shapes his vocabulary from symbols drawn from ritual, iconography and alchemy, elements culled from metropolitan graffiti and computer games, and archival as well as contemporary photographic images. He brings these together into immersive, multi-layered experiential dreamscapes. In the digital realm, he explores the constantly mutating interstices where virtual and real bleed into each other, obliging us to consider new definitions of the human/ cyborg subjectivity. Through computer-generated virtual objects presented in video installations, large-scale prints on metallic surfaces, and lenticular prints, Parthan critiques high technology and its pervasive re-configuration of our lived reality. Parthan has participated in many landmark exhibitions including *Kapital und Karma* (Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna, 2002) and *Under Construction* (Japan Foundation, Tokyo, 2002), and has held many solo exhibitions including *Source Code* (2006) and *Necessary Illusions* (2016) at Art Musings, Mumbai. Two books have been published on his work: *Baiju Parthan: A User's Manual* (Afterimage, 2006) and *Baiju Parthan: Reset* (Afterimage, 2016).

Smriti Dixit graduated with a BFA from the Maharaja Sayajirao University, Baroda, and is a classically trained vocalist. Dixit has long been committed to processes of recycling in her art, incorporating textile materials, found objects, plastic price tags and other elements of the detritus of everyday life into her art-works. She insists in giving visibility to the techniques and processes of women's work, to labour that has long been rendered invisible in patriarchal systems of production, which remain premised on an artificial division between the home, regarded as domestic (female) space, and the workplace, sacralised as the proper context for (male) work. Dixit uses the techniques of stitching, embroidery, knotting and quilting. Her materials are chosen from fabrics and plastics of varying colour and texture. The cosmic drama of birth, dying and regeneration are performed through her artistic activity and its outcomes, and the space that it occupies and extends even as it extends itself. Smriti Dixit's site-specific installation, 'Web', is installed at the Jaya He GVK New Museum/ Airport Art Project. Dixit has participated in a number of exhibitions in India, the UK and the USA. Her solo shows at Art Musings include 'Exile from Symmetry' (2007), 'Feasting and Fasting' (2012) and 'Memory of Red' (2015). She has presented solo projects with Art Musings at the India Art Fair, New Delhi (2013, 2014). Among her international exhibitions are 'Stitching Together' at Aicon Gallery, Palo Alto (2006), and a solo at the Galerie Stephan Witschi, Zürich (2014). She participated in the Bharat Bhavan Biennale (2010, 2016). Her installation, 'Hibiscus River', was featured in the 2018 edition of the Serendipity Art Festival in Goa. She has received the S H Raza Award for Art (2004) and the Pollock Krasner Grant (2013). The artist lives and works in Mumbai.

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).

ART MUSINGS 







BEYOND CONTEMPORARY ART SERIES
Convened by Ranjit Hoskote #3

Image Credit: Maite Delteil, Nilofer Suleman and Paresch Maity

Art as Generator of Hybrid Practices

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Date: Wednesday, 22nd May 2019
Time: 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM: Registrations | 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM: Discussion
Venue: Art Musings, 1 Admiralty Building, Colaba Cross Lane, Mumbai - 400 005
RSVP: www.avidlearning.in (Prior registration required)

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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, Paresch 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