

## **Experience Art Beyond the Canvas with the Air India Maharaja as the Muse at the National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai**

For ages, art has been a crucial component of human civilization, acting as a platform for individual expression, social commentary, and emotional connection. The canvas, a flat surface where artists create their dreams, has traditionally been linked to art. However, when art goes beyond the canvas, it redefines artistic expression. It liberates artists and allows them to explore new territories and engage with their audience in innovative and immersive ways.

### **For Immediate Release:**

Art transcends boundaries and captures the essence of diverse cultures. While paintings have long been regarded as the epitome of artistic expression, there exists a world of creativity that extends far beyond this medium. This interplay between imagination and craftsmanship forms the core of the Air India art collection, one of the most diverse repositories of art forms and creative vision.

National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), Mumbai, **Ministry of Culture, Government of India**, and **Avid Learning** present **Art Beyond the Canvas**, an exciting panel discussion celebrating the multifaceted nature of art on the occasion of **Maharaja's Treasure: Select works of art from the famed Air India collection** – an exhibition at the **National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), Mumbai**. A diverse group of creative minds from different realms of art including *Co-founder and Chief Curator, St+art India Foundation and XXL Collective, Giulia Ambrogi, Artistic and Cultural Curator, Srila Chatterjee, Ceramic Sculptor and Co-Founder-Director, Contemporary Clay Foundation, Anjani Khanna, and Gallerist and Owner, Pundole's Dadiba Pundole* will be in conversation with the moderator, *Researcher, Arts Educator and Curator Shaleen Wadhwa* to discuss the timeless appeal of art.

This is **Avid Learning's** first event in a planned series of three, in collaboration with the ongoing exhibition at the **National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), Mumbai**. Prepare to be captivated as the experts embark on a journey that delves deeper into the extraordinary masterpieces that lie beyond the traditional confines of a frame, preserving the essence of moments gone by.

Whether you are an art connoisseur, a collector, or simply curious about art and creativity, this is an event not to be missed.

### **Event Details:**

**When:** Thursday, 15th June 2023

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

**Where:** National Gallery of Modern Art, Sir Cowasji Jahangir Public Hall, Fort, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400032

**RSVP:** [www.insider.in](http://www.insider.in)

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### **About Speakers:**

**Giulia Ambrogi** is a contemporary art curator. With a Master's in History of Contemporary Art and Management of Cultural Heritage, she started her career at the contemporary art Museum - MAXXI, in Rome. Subsequently, she committed herself to spreading the culture of public and urban art, with a focus on the Italian and Indian landscape. She curated and initiated a few Street Art festivals in Italy and in 2014, she co-founded St+art India Foundation - India's first platform for urban contemporary art. In 2018 she co-founded XXL Collective - an international creative agency that curates experiential art events for leading global brands as well as site-specific art interventions in private spaces. She has been lecturing at several universities both in Italy and India and has been invited as a speaker in TED X talks, TV shows and relevant conferences around the themes of public art and smart cities.

**Srila Chatterjee** spent 25 years helming Highlight Films, which nurtured and furthered many a successful career in cinema, fashion, production and set design. She works now at the intersection of art, design, craft and fashion: has curated the Kala Ghoda Arts Festival in its early years, co-founded blueFROG - the iconic music space, co-founded a furniture and craft-based concept store (Baro) where she curated a year-long art and cultural calendar and created an iconic brand. In 2020 she founded Baro Market, a very successful brand (both online and at special markets) where “authenticity” is the key to the small brands, artists, craftspeople and designers from all over the country who are showcased. Her newest passion is 47-A, the design gallery she has co-founded in the historic village of Khotachi Wadi in Bombay, where she is responsible for programming six shows a year.

**Anjani Khanna** studied ceramics with Ray Meeker at the Golden Bridge Pottery in Pondicherry and apprenticed with master potter Ray Finch in the UK during the late 1980s. Anjani is co-founder co-curator of the Indian Ceramics Triennale and director of the Contemporary Clay Foundation and a member of the International Academy of Ceramics, Geneva. She is a recipient of a number of awards and fellowships, including grants from the India Foundation for the Arts, a Senior Fellowship from the Government of India and several awards from the Prafulla Dahanukar Foundation. Anjani most recently was on the curatorial committee of the British Ceramics Biennial 2021. She was recently invited to speak at the annual NCECA conference in Cincinnati, USA.

**Dadiba Pundole** remains one of the most respected gallerists for Modern Indian Art. He is well known for his in-depth knowledge on the Modernists including Akbar Padamsee, S.H. Raza, Ram Kumar, M.F. Husain and V.S. Gaitonde. Pundole Art Gallery began representing these artists in the 1960s and added a new generation of artists when Dadiba took over the gallery in 1991. Dadiba was a consultant at Sotheby’s for their Modern Indian Art sales from 2005 to 2010 before opening Pundole’s, the auction house, in 2011. Pundole’s are well known for their auctions of Modern and Classical Indian Art as well as Estate sales that span several categories within the Decorative Arts. He is currently on the advisory board of the Jehangir Nicholson Art Foundation, and he has also served on the advisory board of the National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai.

**Shaleen Wadhwa** is an independent award-winning arts educator, researcher, and curator bringing audiences closer to South Asian history, art, heritage, and culture. Academically trained in Art History (SOAS, London) & Cultural Heritage Law (UNESCO, Geneva), her research has been showcased through The Unfiltered History Tour by Vice World News UK at the British Museum, London, and it bagged 12 awards at the Cannes Lions Festival (France) - a first time ever for India. Currently, she is based in Bombay and is curating the 60th-anniversary exhibition of Gallery Chemould Prescott Road.