

A PLACE TO BEGIN



ARTI KUMARI DINDI PRAVEEN SAGAR DIYA MEHTA
FIDA PARVEEN M D MUSTHafa NEHA DEY SAYURI BHANAP

Some artistic practices reveal themselves immediately. Others ask to be encountered over time.

A Place to Begin brings together seven artists whose works have been followed through studio visits, degree exhibitions, conversations and the slow, sustained act of looking. Rather than seeking thematic cohesion, the exhibition brings together practices selected for the integrity of their individual trajectories and the distinct ways in which they engage with material, process and image.

There is no shared subject here, nor a common aesthetic. Instead, each artist arrives at a singular way of seeing. Archive photographs are reconfigured into installations that question memory and repetition. Drawing becomes a means of tracing ecological intervention. Windows, drapery and domestic architecture unfold as quiet studies of light and perception. Cyanotypes transform the everyday into acts of remembrance. Figuration reflects inherited social histories, while textiles and watercolour dissolve into expansive landscapes. Across painting, drawing, photography, installation, printmaking and textile-based processes, the works resist easy categorisation while remaining deeply attentive to the possibilities of their chosen mediums.

What emerges is not a portrait of a generation, but a gathering of practices that affirm the richness of contemporary art lies in its plurality. Each work proposes its own pace, its own language and its own relationship with the world. Together, they invite a slower encounter, one that values observation over immediacy and sustained practice over certainty.

Archana Sapra
Curatorial Director

Pooja Bahri
Artistic Director



Arti Kumari

Arti Kumari from Bihar, has an M.V.A. in Painting and Expanded Media from the Sarojini Naidu School of Arts and Communication, University of Hyderabad (2026), after completing her B.F.A. in Painting from Indira Kala Sangit Vishwavidyalaya, Khairagarh (2024). Her recent exhibitions include the Hyderabad Literary Festival (2026) and the Hyderabad Metro Art Fest (2025). She has also participated in a group exhibition at Lalit Kala Academy, Bihar (2018). Working across painting, drawing, and mixed media, her practice investigates memory, identity, and the emotional resonance of everyday visual culture.

"My work begins with family albums from Indian middle-class homes, treating them as personal archives through which I examine belonging, identity, and the quiet politics of domestic life. By cutting, folding, and repeating photographs, I transform familiar images into fragmented sculptural forms where memory becomes unstable and meaning remains in flux. I am interested in the gaps between what is visible and what is concealed, reflecting on kinship, gender, and inherited family structures. For me, the album is never a fixed record but a space where memory and belonging are continually shaped, disrupted, and reimagined."



Detail

Untitled
Archive photo
Varied sizes
2026

Arti Kumari



Untitled
Archive photo, folded structure
16.5 x 19.6 inches
2026

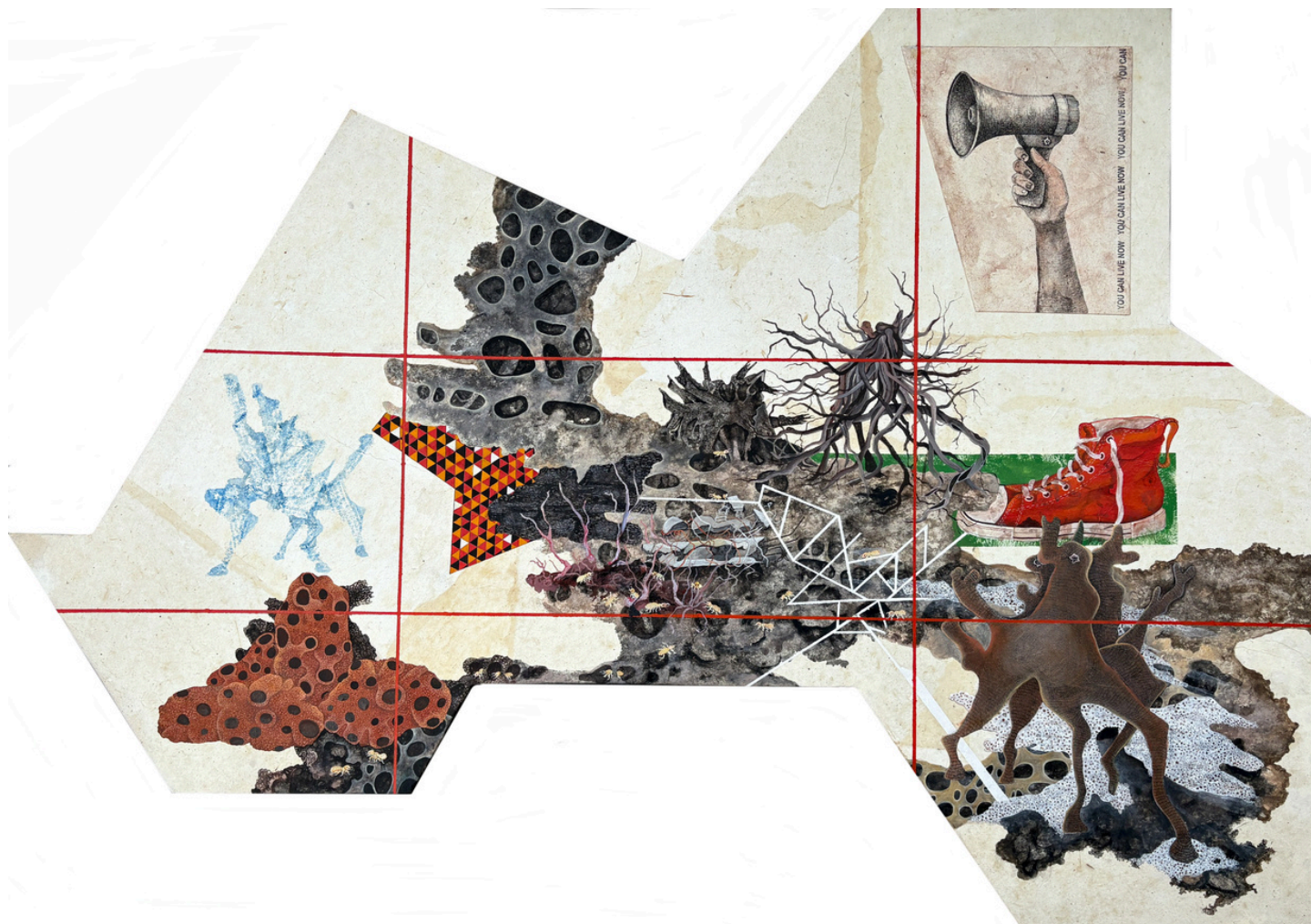


Dindi Praveen Sagar

Dindi Praveen Sagar, a practicing artist from Hyderabad completed his M.F.A. (2025) and B.F.A (2023) from Jawaharlal Nehru Architecture and Fine Arts University. His recent exhibitions include Pedagogy as Practice (2026), the Students Biennale (2025–26), the A4A Virtual Residency Open Day (2026), and the A4A Virtual Residency (2025). He was shortlisted for the 34th Ravi Jain Memorial Foundation Award (2025) and has participated in Lonely Planet – 2 (2024), the Arthshila Residency at Parivartan, Bihar (2024), and the ASLI Art Fair (2023, 2024). He received the Third Cash Award at the All India Art Competition and Exhibition – 6th Edition (2024) and the Best Painting Award at Banyan Hearts, JNAFAU (2023).

"My practice examines the complex relationship between human intervention, ecological systems, and social crises through drawing, painting, and mixed media. Using fragmented forms and imagined landscapes, I reflect on environments transformed by urbanisation, pollution, and excessive consumption, with the Musi River in Hyderabad serving as a recurring point of departure. I am interested in the tensions between human progress and ecological collapse, imagining speculative futures where nature reclaims spaces shaped by anthropogenic activity. Through abstraction and material experimentation, I seek to create works that invite reflection on environmental loss, systemic inequities, and our shared responsibility towards the worlds we continue to reshape."

Dindi Praveen Sagar



What Remains After Us?
Mixed media on rice paper mounted on canvas
35 x 48 inches
2026

Dindi Praveen Sagar



Who will Eat this Banana?
Mixed media on rice paper mounted on canvas
34 x 48 inches
2026

Dindi Praveen Sagar



Can Decay Bloom?
Mixed media on rice paper mounted on canvas
32 x 44 inches
2026



Datura Speaking?
Mixed media on rice paper mounted on canvas
24 x 36 inches
2026



Diya Mehta

Multidisciplinary artist, **Diya Mehta** from Udaipur, completed her M.V.A. (2026) and B.V.A. (2024) in Painting from the Faculty of Fine Arts, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda. Her recent presentations include the Degree Show and the Nasreen Mohamedi Scholarship Display at MSU Baroda (2026), Afterlife series at P. D. Dhumal, Uttarayan Art Foundation, Vadodara (Part of their private collection), Blue Horizon at Arushi Art Gallery, New Delhi (2025), and the AAGAM Preview Show (2025). She received the Kalpana Reddy Memorial Award for the Annual Display (2024) and the Incubator Grant by artist Gargi Raina (2024).

"My work reflects on the quiet negotiations between care, loss, and endurance, exploring how traces of lived experience remain within the body and the spaces it inhabits. Through visuals, I investigate the tension between presence and absence, where familiar interiors become sites of memory rather than documentation. I see healing not as resolution, but as an ongoing process, allowing forms, surfaces, and atmospheres to hold what cannot be fully spoken while inviting viewers into moments of slow reflection and shared vulnerability."

Diya Mehta



Terminal Quiet
Acrylic on canvas
54 x 48 inches
2026

Diya Mehta



Battlefield
Acrylic on canvas
17.5 x 28 inches
2025



Fida Parveen

Fida Parveen from Kerala, completed her M.V.A. in Printmaking and Expanded Media at the Sarojini Naidu School of Arts and Communication, University of Hyderabad (2026), after completing a B.F.A. in Painting from the College of Fine Arts, Kerala University, Thiruvananthapuram (2024). She is a recipient of the Kerala Lalithakala Akademi Scholarship for Art Students (2025–26), the K. Karunakaran Memorial Scholarship (2024–25), and participated in the Bengaluru Print Exchange International (2025). Her recent exhibitions include the M.V.A. Final Display (2026), Unshelving Memories at the College of Fine Arts Gallery, Thiruvananthapuram (2026), Grey – Metaphor – Still – Transition at the Hyderabad Literary Festival (2026), the Hyderabad Metro Art Fest (2025), the Kerala Lalithakala Akademi State Exhibition, Monsoon Art Fest, Degree Show, SEE – Annual Show, and MAZHAYE (2024).

“My practice explores architecture as a repository of memory, emotion, and lived experience. Through printmaking, artist books, installations, and photographic processes, I investigate how built spaces shape our perceptions of intimacy, solitude, belonging, and community. Folding, layering, and assembling visual fragments become ways of tracing domestic rhythms and collective histories, revealing architecture as something that is continually inhabited, remembered, and transformed. I seek to create works that encourage viewers to reflect on their own relationships with the spaces they occupy and the memories those spaces continue to hold.”

Fida Parveen



Untitled
Cyanotype and mirror
5 x 6 inches each (Set of 24 pieces)
2026

Fida Parveen



Layers of Memories
Cyanotype and acrylic sheet
12 x 10 x 15 inches
2026



M D Musthafa

M. D. Musthafa from Telangana, completed his M.V.A. in Painting at the Faculty of Fine Arts, Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda (2026), after B.F.A. in Painting from Jawaharlal Nehru Architecture and Fine Arts University, Hyderabad. His recent exhibitions include the Master's Final Display at MSU Baroda and Necropolis of Remains at Priyasri Art Gallery, Mumbai (2026), supported by India Art Fair as part of Mumbai Gallery Weekend. He has also exhibited at Priyasri – The Artist's Studio and the Master's Midterm Show (2025), and the ASLI B.F.A. Final Display (2024). His work is held in the collections of the Mothadaka Foundation, ARK Baroda, and other private collections. He received the Nasreen Mohamedi Display Award (2026) and the Runner-up Prize from the India Government Mint, Hyderabad (2022).

"My practice examines the contradictions embedded within contemporary labour, questioning why those who sustain the modern world often remain unseen. Rooted in observations from my hometown of Palem, Telangana, I explore how class, caste, religion, and social hierarchies quietly shape everyday experiences of the working class. Through multidisciplinary processes, site-based research, and fragments of Urdu resistance poetry, I seek to make visible the overlooked realities, lived experiences, and forms of resilience that persist beneath dominant narratives of progress, productivity, and equality."



Detail

Ye Vo Sahar To Nahin (Ye Daagh Daagh Ujala by Faiz Ahmad Faiz)
Bamboo, watercolor on paper, and carved excerpts
18 x 132 inches
2026



Tazad
Terracotta mural
17.5 x 11.5 inches | 14.5 x 12 inches
2026



Talaash - e - Raahat
Oil on canvas
27.5 x 54



Intezar
Acrylic on canvas
48 x 36 inches



Dastarkhwan
Watercolor, ink and gouache on paper
21 x 27 inches



Neha Dey

Neha Dey from Kolkata, completed her M.F.A. in Painting from Government College of Art and Craft, Kolkata (2025), after B.F.A. in Painting from Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata (2023). In 2025, she participated in the Summer Illumination Residency at Dotwalk Ajitara Art Residency, Delhi, and exhibited in New on New · Edition 2 at ChampaTree Art Gallery, New Delhi; A Rising Tide: Women Artists from the Alkazi Collection at Art Heritage and Shridharani Gallery, New Delhi; The Stillness That Spoke (079 Stories, Ahmedabad); In The Small, Infinite (Method Art Space, Mumbai); and the 58th Annual Exhibition of Birla Institute of Art and Craft, Kolkata. She received the Certificate of Merit at the 159th Parampara Annual Exhibition (2024) and the Young Artist Scholarship from the Ministry of Culture (2023).

"I explore how memories connect to people, places, and the environments we inhabit. Drawing from changing landscapes, familiar neighbourhoods, and experiences of home, I create imagined spaces where nature and fragments of urban life coexist. Through drawing, painting, handmade paper, textiles, and soft sculptural forms, I seek to evoke love, loss, longing, resilience, and adaptation. Rather than offering fixed narratives, I invite viewers to bring their own memories into the work, allowing ordinary places to become shared spaces of reflection and emotional connection."

Neha Dey



Between Moments
Acrylic and Nepalese paper on paper
15 x 20 inches
2026



An Ambience of Toys I
Acrylic and Nepalese paper pasted on cloth
20 x 40 inches
2026

Neha Dey



Where Time Settles
Acrylic and pen on paper
45 x 24 inches
2026



Sayuri Bhanap

Sayuri Bhanap, a visual arts practitioner based in Hyderabad. She completed her M.V.A. in Painting and Expanded Media from the Sarojini Naidu School of Arts and Communication, University of Hyderabad (2026), B.F.A. in Painting from Jawaharlal Nehru Architecture and Fine Arts University (2024). Her recent exhibitions include the M.V.A. Final Display at the University of Hyderabad (2026), Celebrating the Soul at the State Gallery of Art, Hyderabad, and the All India Art Competition and Exhibition (2025). Earlier presentations include State of Joy at the State Gallery of Art (2024), the JNAFAU Final Display, The Art Society of India Annual Art Exhibition (2022), and Colours of Independence: 75 Years of Art organised by The Bombay Art Society (2021). She was recognised as a Top 48 awardee and recipient of the Mazda Art Grant (2024) and received the Kondapalli Sheshagiri Rao Student Excellence Award (2023).

"My practice emerges from an inquiry into ecopsychology and the fragile relationship between natural ecosystems and built environments. The recurring motif of the window reflects human occupation and its impact on the landscape, while embroidery and appliqué become gestures of mending, remembrance, and care. Through slow, tactile processes and layered compositions, I examine the tension between the freedom of nature and the constraints of urban life, creating spaces that invite empathy for the more-than-human world and the traces of ecological loss we continue to leave behind."



Anthropic Rhapsody
Embroidery, applique and painting on cloth
35 x 38 inches
2026



Detail

Consumer Concurrence
Tie-dye, embroidery, applique and painting on cloth
74 x 10.2 inches
2026



Established in 2016, ChampaTree Art Gallery is a contemporary art space in New Delhi committed to presenting artists across generations, mediums and geographies. The gallery supports practices that reflect material sensitivity, visual clarity and a sustained engagement with contemporary artistic concerns.

ChampaTree's programme brings together exhibitions, curated presentations, artist conversations and collector-focused initiatives, creating a space where artists, audiences and collectors can engage with art in a meaningful and accessible way. Its approach is closely connected to the ethos of *Art For Art Foundation*, the not-for-profit initiative that has long supported artists through mentorship, dialogue and opportunities for professional development.

The name ChampaTree draws from the champa tree, a symbol of growth, resilience and renewal. It reflects the gallery's belief that artistic practices, when nurtured with care and seriousness, can develop into forms of lasting cultural value.

Through its exhibitions and initiatives, ChampaTree Art Gallery continues to build a platform that is thoughtful, inclusive and rooted in the evolving landscape of contemporary art.

24th July to 14th August 2026

All days except Sundays and public holidays

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