

CHALO! INDIA: A NEW ERA OF INDIAN ART

22 NOVEMBER (SAT), 2008 – 15 MARCH (SUN), 2009 MORI ART MUSEUM

The Mori Art Museum is pleased to present its 5th anniversary exhibition, "Chalo! India: A New Era of Indian Art," bringing together 27 artists / artist groups from cities throughout India such as Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore and Vadodara. Contemporary art in India has been the focus of much international attention recently, and this exhibition examines its latest movements, including those in painting, sculpture, photography, and installation.

"Chalo!" means "Let's go!" in Hindi. The exhibition invites viewers to journey through the latest trends in India's art, constituting an unprecedented opportunity to gauge Indian society as it is today and the future. It is a metaphorical expression for Indian society in the midst of a great transition, for a world shifting its focus to India, and for the dynamism of contemporary Indian art as it emerges onto the international stage. "Chalo" also implies movement, fluidity, formlessness, and transcendence of borders.

After the country gained independence in 1947, India's art exhibited an aesthetic influenced predominantly by Western Modernism and a homegrown form of expression linked with the process of building a national identity. However, over the last 60 years, the nation's art has gradually come to tackle potentially controversial topics – such as sexuality – and also to incorporate political and critical ideas. Since the 1990s, developments such as globalization, the expansion of the art market, and the emergence of a younger generation of artists have led to the creation of a diverse and dynamic art scene, the likes of which have never been seen in the country.

"Chalo! India" examines the way that Indian artists use their keen insights and increasingly free spirits to question the reality and age in which they live, taking their themes from familiar objects and ideas in daily life and society – often as though to transform them into a theater of life. The exhibition introduces over 100 works, predominantly new or recent, and features pop and colorful paintings brimming with an urban awareness. There are also interactive works of media art, drawing on state-of-the-art technology that befits an IT giant. The exhibition also includes sociological research projects that utilize data and information about contemporary India, which can be described as a "thinking architecture." Divided into five sections – "Prologue: Journeys," "Creation and Destruction: Urban Landscape," "Reflections: Between Two Extremes," "Fertile Chaos," "Epilogue: Individuality and Collectivity / Memory and Future," viewers experience extensive diversity in the works, and are drawn into a consideration of the many different facets making up contemporary Indian society, including its urbanization and new lifestyles, its dreams, its disparities and its contradictions, all of which are highlighted as the backdrops of these art works.

"Chalo! India: A New Era of Indian Art," is one of the largest exhibitions of Indian contemporary art ever held in Japan. It provides an opportunity to experience avant-garde artistic expressions that are not yet commonly known outside of the country. In the past, discourse on India has tended to center around its history dating back to time immemorial, its Gods and devotion, its musical Bollywood movies, and its newly-discovered economic promise. These ideas are no longer sufficient to fully explain the complex and dynamic present-day India. Come face-to-face with the real and new energy of India — Chalo! India.

*This exhibition will tour to ESSL MUSEUM in Austria.

Organizers: Mori Art Museum, The Yomiuri Shimbun

Institutional Support by: Indian Embassy, The Japan-India Association

Corporate Sponsors: KAJIMA CORPORATION, Sony Corporation, TOPPAN PRINTING CO., LTD., TOYOTA MOTOR CORPORATION, SHINSEI BANK, LIMITED, MITSUI & CO., LTD., Nucleus Software Exports Ltd, DAIKIN INDUSTRIES, Ltd., HCL Japan Limited, MindTree Limited., Oracle Financial Services Software Limited, UTI Mutual Fund, Wipro Limited

Support by: Japan Airlines, Nicolas Feuillatte, BOMBAY SAPPHIRE, India Center Foundation

Exhibition Curator: Miki Akiko (Guest Curator, Mori Art Museum)

Mori Art Museum: Roppongi Hills Mori Tower, 6-10-1 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-6150 Japan Tel: 03-5777-8600 (Hello Dial) Website: www.mori.art.museum

Hours: 10:00 - 22:00 (Tue: 10:00 - 17:00) Open until 22:00 on 12/23(Tue), 12/30(Tue). *Admission until 30 minutes before closing. Open everyday.

Admission: Adult: ¥1,500 University/Highschool student: ¥1,000 Child (4 years of age to Junior Highschool): ¥500

*Ticket also valid for Tokyo CityView observation deck (Tokyo CityView opening hours differ from those of Mori Art Museum)

Advanced ticket sales: Available through Ticket Pia (P-code: 688-304)

Adult: ¥1,200 University/Highschool Student: ¥900 Child (4 years to Junior Highschool student): ¥500

Press Images: Images are available on our website.

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Pushpamala N.

The Native Types - Lakshmi (After Oleograph from Ravi Varma Press, Early 20th Century)

2001 C print on metallic paper 61 x 50.8cm

Courtesy: Nature Morte, New Delhi and Bose Pacia, New York

Photo: Clare Ami

PRESS RELEASE

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MORI ART MUSEUM

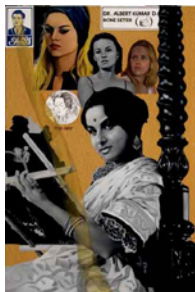
MORI ARTS CENTER

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS *27 artist-groups to total; listed in an alphabetical order

A. Balasubramaniam	(1971, Bangalore)	N. S. Harsha	(1969, Mysore)
Sarnath Banerjee	(1972, Delhi)	Pushpamala N.	(1956, Bangalore)
Krishnaraj Chonat	(1973, Bangalore)	Jagannath Panda	(1970, Delhi)
Nikhil Chopra	(1974, Mumbai)	Justin Ponmany	(1974, Mumbai)
Atul Dodiya	(1959, Mumbai)	Ashim Purkayastha	(1967, Delhi)
Shilpa Gupta	(1976, Mumbai)	Raqs Media Collective *	(1992, Delhi)
Subodh Gupta	(1964, Delhi)	Gigi Scaria	(1973, Delhi)
Tushar Joag	(1966, Mumbai)	Nataraj Sharma	(1958, Vadodara)
Anant Joshi	(1969, Mumbai)	Gulammohammed Sheikh	(1937, Vadodara)
Ranbir Kaleka	(1953, Delhi)	Kiran Subbaiah	(1971, Bangalore)
Jitish Kallat	(1974, Mumbai)	Vivan Sundaram	(1943, Delhi)
Reena Saini Kallat	(1973, Mumbai)	Thukral & Tagra	(1976 / 1979, Delhi)
Bharti Kher	(1969, Delhi)	Hema Upadhyay	(1972, Mumbai)
Prabhavathi Meppayil	(1965, Bangalore)		

*Formed by 3 members in 1992

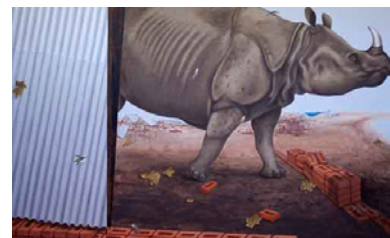
REFERENCE IMAGES



Atul Dodiya
Charu from Saptapadi: Scenes from Marriage (Regardless)
2004-06 Enamel and synthetic varnish on laminate
c.183x122 cm Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi



Hema Upadhyay **Ladki Number One** 2001
Gouache, acrylic, dry pastels and photographs on paper
121.9x91.4 cm Collection of Ms. Sree Goswami



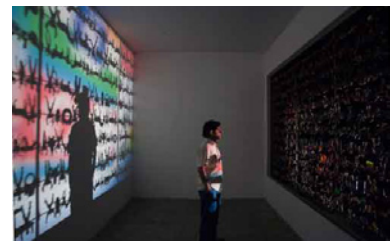
Jagannath Panda **The Being**
2008 Acrylic, fabric, glue on canvas
213x304 cm Courtesy: Nature Morte, New Delhi



Subodh Gupta **Bullet** 2007
Life-sized Royal Enfield Bullet: brass, chrome
c.110x225x75 cm



Shilpa Gupta **Untitled (shadow 3)**
2007 Interactive video Installation



Anant Joshi **Navel One and the Many** 2007
Plastic toys, stainless steel, razor blades, 2 OHPs, motor, acrylic sheet, regulator et al.
Multimedia installation
Courtesy: The Artist and Chemould Prescott Road, Mumbai



Gulammohammed Sheikh
Kaavad: Travelling Shrine (Home) 2008
Room with folding doors and 'walls' (made of boards mounted on steel structure enclosing an inner chamber) painted in acrylic, oil and partially in gouache with melamylne lamination, brass strips, digital print on paper and vinyl, electric lights and others
244x782x732 cm
Installation View: Exhibition Hall of the Faculty of Fine Arts, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara
Photo: Manish Mehta



Bharti Kher **The Skin Speaks a Language Not Its Own**
2006 Fiberglass and bindis 167.6x152.4x457.2 cm
Queensland Art Gallery
Purchased 2007. Queensland Art. Gallery Foundation
©Bartholomew/Netphotograph.com



Thukral & Tagra **Phantom IX-B**
Oil and acrylic on canvas.
182 x 367cm
Courtesy: Nature Morte, New Delhi

Press Images: Images are available on our website.
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 PUBLIC PROGRAM
Session**“21st Century India and the Process of Transformation”**

*Japanese-English simultaneous interpretation

Since the 1990s, India has seen rapid acceleration in economic development and integration into the global economy. In addition to growth in many industry sectors, including information technology, there have been great changes in urban life. For this session, we welcome art critics from Japan and abroad, along with the Raqs Media Collective, which has utilized extensive research data and advanced networking techniques to cast a critical eye on contemporary Indian society. Discussion will focus on the current state of the Indian society and the art scene.

Panelists: Deepak Ananth (art historian, critic), Raqs Media Collective (artists), Ushiroshoji Masahiro (Professor, Faculty of Humanities, Kyushu University), Nanjo Fumio (Director, Mori Art Museum), Miki Akiko (Curator, “Chalo! India”)

Date: 14:00-16:00 Monday, 24 November 2008**Venue:** Tower Hall, Academyhills 49, Mori Tower 49F**Organizers:** Mori Art Museum, Academyhills**Capacity:** 300 (bookings required)**Admission:** Adult: 1,000yen Student & MAMC Member 500yen**Artist Talk** *Japanese-English simultaneous interpretation

After a general introduction to contemporary Indian art by leading critic Geeta Kapur, several Indian artists will discuss their own work.

Speakers: Geeta Kapur (art critic, independent curator), N.S. Harsha (artist), Tushar Joag (artist)

Date: 14:00-16:00 Saturday, 22 November 2008**Venue:** Gallery 1, Mori Art Museum**Capacity:** 80 (bookings required)**Admission:** Free with admission to exhibition

* Due to the changes in circumstances, Shilpa Gupta will not be participating in the program.

* Speakers are subject to change without notice.

Bookings: Bookings can now be made on the Mori Art Museum website.

www.mori.art.museum

Enquires: Public Programs, Mori Art Museum

Tel: 03-6406-6101 Fax: 03-6406-9351

E-mail: ppevent@mori.art.museum

Lecture series “Discover India”

*Japanese-English simultaneous interpretation

No.1 “Lifestyle and Society in Contemporary India: Observations of the Urban Landscape”

Since the opening of India's economy to the global market in 1991, Indian urban society has undergone a tremendous transformation. Within that process, people's lifestyles have also changed significantly, and in some areas, social problems have emerged. Author of "Nakamura no bosu (Bose of Nakamura-ya)" and "Indo no jidai (The age of India)," Nakajima Takeshi, is joined by Yahagi Tamon, who designed these books, for a photographic presentation exploring the current state of India - Keeping in focus the serious problems that have emerged with its increased affluence.

Date: 19:00-21:00 Monday, 15 December, 2008

Lecturers: Nakajima Takeshi (Associate Professor, Hokkaido University Public Policy School), Yahagi Tamon (painter / book designer)

Venue: Auditorium, Academyhills 49, Mori Tower 49F**Organizers:** Mori Art Museum, Academyhills**Capacity:** 150 (bookings required)**Admission:** Adult 1,000yen Student & MAMC Member 500yen**No.2 “Dhoom! India: Thinking about the cool youth of today”**

Along with religion, philosophy and traditional forms of lifestyle, the new faces of India - information technology, the stock market, low-cost cars, biotechnology - are impressing people the world over. Now these new concepts of "Indian-ness" are inspiring a contemporary culture that is fresh and cool. We explore fashionable Indian society and culture, from film and literature to the spiritual realm and contemporary art. Chalo! Dhoom India (Let's go! - To cool India!).

Date: 19:00-21:00 Friday, 23 January, 2009

Lecturer: Sekiguchi Mari (Modern Indian Studies, Asia University, Editor of “India Tsushin”)

Venue: Auditorium, Academyhills 49, Mori Tower 49F**Organizers:** Mori Art Museum, Academyhills**Capacity:** 150 (bookings required)**Admission:** Adult 1,000yen Student & MAMC Member 500yen**No.3 “India through the Eyes of an Artist”**

Koganezawa Takehito is an artist who makes video works as he travels through various regions of the world, including Japan, Berlin and Greece. After showing the work he made in India in 2007, he will discuss his experiences of India, in which he stayed to create a work in 2007.

Date: 19:00-21:00 Tuesday, 27 January, 2009**Lecturer:** Koganezawa Takehito (artist)**Venue:** 53F Gallery 1, Mori Art Museum**Organizer:** Mori Art Museum**Capacity:** 80 (bookings required)**Admission:** 500yen (exhibition ticket required)

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PRESS RELEASE**プレスリリース**


CATALOG AND RELATED INFORMATION

CATALOG

“Chalo! India: A New Era of Indian Art”

Softcover B5 wide
Bilingual (Japanese/English)
294 pages
¥2,940 (incl.tax)
Publisher:
Mori Art Museum

**ORIGINAL POST CARD**

10 variations / ¥157 (incl.tax)

**ORIGINAL PINS**

11 variations
*Price to be determined



T-shirts and other original goods are available at the Museum shop.

Enquiries: Mori Arts Center Museum Shop:
Tel: 03-6406-6270 E-mail:shop@macmuseumshop.com Web: www.macmuseumshop.com

"CHALO! INDIA" X ROPPONGI HILLS SPECIAL COLLABORATION WITH RESTAURANTS

To coincide with “Chalo! India,” Mori Art Museum will hold a special collaboration with “DIYA INDIAN RESTAURANT” and “Shinjuku Nakamura Indian curry restaurant Roppongi Hills,” offering a limited time collaboration menus.

Dates: 1 December, 2008 to 15 March, 2009

“DIYA INDIAN RESTAURANT”

Area: Hillside B1F Hours: Lunch 11:00 - LO16:00 / Tea 16:00 - LO18:00 / Dinner 17:00 - 23:00(LO22:00) TEL: 03-6438-1177

“Shinjuku Nakamura Indian curry restaurant Roppongi Hills”

Area: WestWalk 5F Hours: 11:00 - 23:00 (LO22:30) TEL: 03-5772-5455

RECIPROCAL DISCOUNT CAMPAIGN WITH “WHEN LIVES BECOME FORM” MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART TOKYO

Visitors to the “Chalo! India” exhibition will receive a 20% discount on admission fee on presentation of a used ticket from “When Lives Become Form” exhibition (22 October, 2008 - 12 January, 2009) at the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo.

Likewise, visitors to “When Lives Become Form” will receive a 20% discount on admission on presentation of a used “Chalo! India” exhibition ticket from the Mori Art Museum.

Further information about “When Lives Become Form” <http://www.neo-tro.com/>

Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo Tel: Hello dial 03-5777-8600 Web: <http://www.mot-art-museum.jp/english/>

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