

# CONNECTING THREADS: TEXTILES IN CONTEMPORARY PRACTICE

CURATED BY TASNEEM ZAKARIA MEHTA & PUJA VAISH

2 DECEMBER 2018 – 17 FEBRUARY 2019

DR. BHAI DAJI LAD  
MUMBAI CITY MUSEUM  
PRESENTS

# Connecting Threads

Textiles in  
Contemporary Practice



Curated by  
Tasneem Zakaria Mehta  
& Puja Vaish

2 Dec 2018 - 17 Feb 2019

Anita Dube	Manisha Parekh	Rakhi Peswani
Anju Dodiya	Monali Meher	Reena Saini Kallat
Archana Hande	Nilima Sheikh	Shakuntala Kulkarni
Desmond Lazaro	Paula Sengupta	Sharmila Samant
Lavanya Mani	Priya Ravish Mehra	Shezad Dawood
Manish Nai	Pushpamala N	

Anita Dube, Silence (Blood Wedding), 1999. From the collection of Devi Art Foundation. Image courtesy: Devi Art Foundation.

## **ABOUT THE EXHIBITION**

**Participating artists include Anita Dube, Anju Dodiya, Archana Hande, Desmond Lazaro, Lavanya Mani, Manish Nai, Manisha Parekh, Monali Meher, Nilima Sheikh, Paula Sengupta, Priya Ravish Mehra, Pushpamala N, Rakhi Peswani, Reena Saini Kallat, Shakuntala Kulkarni, Sharmila Samant, Shezad Dawood**

The exhibition attempts to trace textile practices, traditions and histories in contemporary Indian Art. It presents contemporary art practices that engage textile as a medium, metaphor or process.

Textile as material has an intrinsic context and meaning. The material's history, its modes of production and its function as a cultural object inform its use in contemporary art practice.

Textiles both as practice and form are inextricably linked to complex histories of legitimation and hegemony, colonial trade, industry, and the freedom movement. It defines culture through the relationship between body and cloth, selfhood, attires and identities and fashion.

Juxtaposed with the Museum's textile collection, the exhibition re-looks at the narratives invoked by a range of contemporary artists. The exhibition seeks to explore these trajectories in the works of artists who have approached the process of art making by engaging 'craft' and 'traditional' practices, to address contemporary concerns. In the choice of material and process, such art practices offer a nuanced understanding of the traditional, the modern and the contemporary creating a palimpsest of readings about the art form.

### **We would like to acknowledge the support of the following galleries:**

Chemould Prescott Road, Mumbai; Guild, Mumbai; Galerie Mirchandani + Steinruecke, Mumbai; Nature Morte, New Delhi, Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi; Akar Prakar, Kolkata

### **We would like to thank the following individuals and institutions who have loaned works for the exhibition:**

Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, New Delhi; Devi Art Foundation, New Delhi; Anandi Mehra, holder of the estate of Priya Ravish Mehra; Ms. Shilpa Kalanjee.

### **About the Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Mumbai City Museum**

The Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum opened to the public in 1857 and is Mumbai's oldest museum. It is the erstwhile Victoria and Albert Museum, Bombay that showcases the city's art and culture through a rare collection of fine and decorative arts that highlight early Modern Art practices as well as the craftsmanship of various communities of the Bombay Presidency.

The Museum was in a derelict condition and underwent a comprehensive five-year restoration by INTACH supported by the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai and the Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation. The project won UNESCO's international Award of Excellence for cultural conservation in 2005. The Museum re-opened in 2008 with an extensive exhibition programme and is committed to promoting contemporary art and culture.

The Museum hosts an extensive exhibitions programme, which explores the importance of the collection and includes a strong focus on contemporary art and culture. The Museum has partnered with several international institutions to showcase artists and exhibitions including the Victoria and Albert Museum, British Library, Solomon R Guggenheim Museum and Museum of Modern Art in an effort to facilitate international cultural exchange.

The Museum's education and outreach programme aims to build and diversify the Museum's audiences. On offer is a rich selection of programmes including film, music and courses and lectures on history of art focused on providing stimulating, participatory experiences that respond to different age, interest and language groups, and recognize a diversity of backgrounds. These experiences are aimed at encouraging critical engagement with Mumbai's history, art and cultural developments.

For more information on Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Mumbai City Museum, please visit:

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/BDLMuseum](http://www.facebook.com/BDLMuseum)

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BDLMuseum>

Website: [www.bdlmuseum.org](http://www.bdlmuseum.org)

E-mail: [enquiry@bdlmuseum.org](mailto:enquiry@bdlmuseum.org)

Telephone: +91 22 23731234

**For Listings**

Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Mumbai City presents ‘**Connecting Threads: Textiles in Contemporary Practice**’, curated by **Tasneem Zakaria Mehta and Puja Vaish**.

**2 December 2018 – 17 February 2019**

**Exhibition Venue:**

The Kamalnayan Bajaj Special Exhibitions Gallery and the Special Projects Space  
Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Mumbai City Museum  
91A Rani Baug, Veer Mata Jijabai Bhonsle Udyan  
Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Marg,  
Byculla East, Mumbai 400027

**Timings:**

10:00 am to 6:00 pm | last entry 5:30 pm  
Closed on Wednesdays and certain public holidays

**For press enquiries, please contact**

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