



PR Daroz, *Weathered rock after the rain*, 2018, stoneware

The Indian Ceramics Triennale: **BREAKING GROUND**

31 August – 18 November 2018



Neha Kudchadkar, *Somethingpolis*

The first-ever international ceramics event in India was formally launched on August 2018, by the guest of honour, Sangita Jindal, Chairperson, JSW Foundation at Jawahar Kala Kendra, Jaipur. The triennial has been developed and grown under the advice and experience of Peter Nagy (Director, Nature Morte

Gallery), Ray Meeker (Co-Founder, Golden Bridge Pottery, Pondicherry, renowned artist and educator) and Pooja Sood (Director General, Jawahar Kala Kendra).

An ambitious first, the Triennale has been curated by the Contemporary Clay Foundation, which is an artist-driven initiative by a six-member core team of mid-

career ceramic artists including Anjani Khanna, Madhvi Subrahmanian, Neha Kudchadkar, Reyaz Badaruddin, Sharbani Das Gupta, and Vineet Kacker.

Anjani Khanna, Director, Contemporary Clay Foundation and a member of the Curatorial Team says, "We are delighted to have had a wonderful opening with a huge turnout and are grateful to the artists from around the country and the world for showcasing experiential and experimental work in ceramics, truly breaking ground."

There has been a huge expansion in ceramic art in India and abroad and the idea of representing ceramics in a broader contemporary context has become imperative to express the versatility of a medium in which many artists work. The projects in the Triennale explore themes of scale, site specificity and/or concept through installation, interaction, technology and performance.

Peter Nagy says, "Long relegated to the status of second-class citizen in the world of art, in the 21st century ceramics have taken on a renewed urgency and

Benitha Perciyal, *Let them own their land*, 2018, powdered clay, fire bricks, mixed media





Ramesh Mario Nithiyendran, *Self Portrait Plates*, 2018, glaze and lustre on bisc plates, each ø 27cm



Adil Writer, *A Deserted Barcode*, 2016, unfired clay & acrylic on canvas

relevance in international contemporary artistic practice. Primordial and ubiquitous, earth, dirt and clay speak to the very core of our beings and can spark our most fundamental creative energies. The Indian Ceramics Triennale will highlight the finest practitioners of experimental ceramics working today, those who are expanding our conceptions of an ancient medium claiming its place in the future."

The Indian artists were selected through a nationwide open call and foreign artists through invitation. Stalwarts like P. Daroz and Ray Meeker, along with a diverse group of both emerging or mid-career Indian artists have taken advantage of the unique spatial possibilities offered by the Jawahar Kala Kendra to produce an array of stimulating, thought-provoking works.

The 12 international artists are established, highly respected practitioners and include British art-

ist Kate Malone, co-presenter of the BBC's popular Great Pottery Throwdown, who set up studio at JKK with her team for over a week. Other international artists include Korean artist Juree Kim, former artist in residence at the Victoria and Albert Museum and an exhibitor at the British Ceramics Biennial, internationally recognized Japanese artist Hoshino Saturo, and Ester Beck from Israel who exhibited a performance-based work. Jane Perryman from the UK presented a collaborative project of ceramic and sound while Jacques Kaufmann, the president of the UNESCO affiliated International Academy of Ceramics will create an architecturally scaled work. Jessika Edgar of the US and Danijela Pivašević-Tenner of Germany are also among the invited foreign artists.

Indian Artists include Aarti Vir, Adil Writer, Ajay Kanwal, Anjani Khanna, Antra Sinha, Ashwini

Danijela Tenner, *Do you know, what's behind?* 2018 unfired red terracotta, mixed media





L.N. Tallur, *Man exhibiting Holes*, 2018, terracotta and cement



Ajay Kanwal, *Foot Mat*, 2009, Porcelain



Sharbani Das Gupta, *Xing? Look Both Ways*, 2018, brick, unfired clay, glass lenses

Juree Kim, *Evanescent Landscape-Svarglok*, 2018, Jaipur soil, water, variable size
Evanescent Landscape: Hwiyong video of the process on a loop. Clay, water and video



Bhatt, Ashim Paul, Atita Taware, Benitha Perciyal, Dipali Daroz, Elodie Alexandre, L N Tallur, Madhvi Subrahmanian, Neha Kudchadkar, Nidhi Jalan, P R Daroz, Partha Dasgupta, Priya Sundarvali, Rahul Kumar + Chetnaa, Rakhee Kane, Ray Meeker, Reyaz Badaruddin, Saraswati Renata, Savia Mahajan, Shalini Dam, Shampa Shah, Sharbani Das Gupta, Shirley Bhatnagar, Shitanshu Maurya, Sukhdev Rathod, Triveni Prasad, Vineet Kacker, Vipul Kumar, Vishnu Koller, Thukral & Tagra

International Artists include Barney Hare Duke + Jo Ayre (England) in collaboration with Warli artists Rasika and Ramesh Hengadi, Danijela Pivašević-Tenner (Germany), Ester Beck (Israel), Hoshino Satoru (Japan), Ingrid Murphy (Wales), Jane Perryman (England), Jacques Kaufmann (Switzerland), Jessika Edgar (USA), Jae Joon Lee (Korea), Juree Kim (Korea), Kate Malone (England), Ramesh Mario Nithiyendran (Australia)

Ray Meeker, cofounder, Golden Bridge Pottery says, "For over a decade Indian ceramic artists have been breaking ground around the world - China, Japan, Korea, Australia, Spain, the UK and USA. It's high time to break a bit of ground at home."

SYMPOSIUM

Twelve Indian and international speakers addressed groundbreaking



Thukral and Tagra, *Longing for Tomorrow*, porcelain, drawings on paper



Aarti Vir, *Shadow Crossing*, 2018, woodfired terracotta with slips

developments in ceramic art practice, looking at its interface with technology, design and the sociopolitical fabric during the symposium on 1-2 September 2018. Rajeev Sethi, Director, Asian Heritage Foundation and design master, who curated the largest Indian ceramics installation at the Hyatt Hotel, Chennai, Abhay Sardesai, Editor, Art India magazine, Nancy Adajania, art critic and writer, as well

as artists Kate Malone and Ingrid Murphy were the participants. Building with Fire, a book by Ray Meeker on his experiments with fired houses, will be released at the Triennale.

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

To bring ceramic art and the magic of clay to wider audiences, JKK have partnered with the Akshara Foundation of Arts and Learning, a not-for-profit public trust that aims to integrate arts and education. The schools outreach programme: Arts for All at Breaking Ground envisages a series of artist-run workshops with underprivileged and under-served children from local schools. AFAL is inviting children from the local schools to visit the exhibition and express their creativity in the Clay Room, where they can work hands-on with clay. A number of masterclasses for adults with leading ceramic artists were held this week and more planned throughout the course of the exhibition.

COLLABORATIONS: NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

A collaboration with the British Ceramics Biennial has been set up to develop a continuing reciprocal arrangement between British and Indian ceramic artists. Kristine Michael in collaboration with the Delhi Art Gallery has curated a concurrent exhibition of works by the late Kripal Singh Shekawat, the artist behind the revival of Jaipur Blue pottery. A studio and volunteering programme with students from



Vishnu Koller, *Resonance Tower Phase I* 2018, terracotta, bamboo, paperclay, jute

The Indian Institute of Craft and Design, Jaipur is also in place.

Breaking Ground promises to be an exciting event that sets the ground for a continuing three-year cycle of art shows that celebrate the vast possibilities of the medium of clay.

*Press information:
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