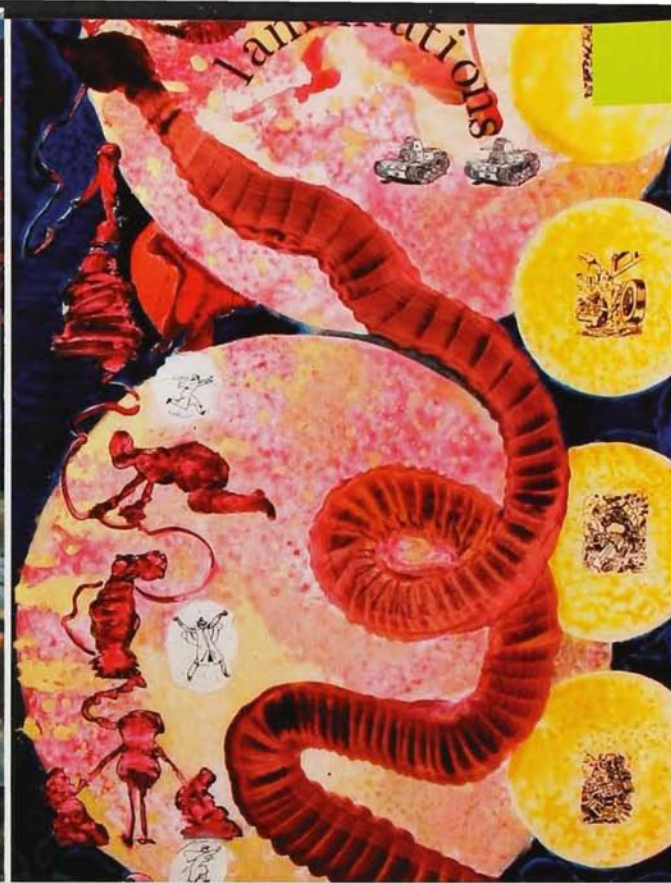
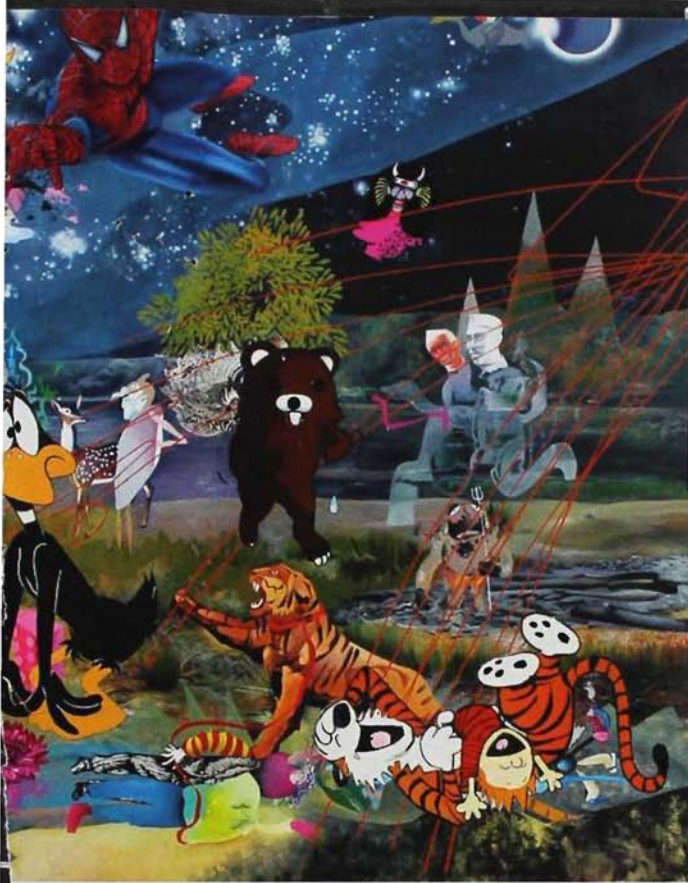




**Gallery recommends:** Younger artists such as Raghava

**Biggest challenge:** Placing artists in important collections and guiding collectors carefully.





Picture Courtesy: Art Musings, Mumbai



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# Gallery Maskara, Mumbai

**T**

The first time one noticed Abhay Maskara, the affable curatorial director of the six-year-old gallery, was at the 2013 edition of India Art Fair, when he stood patiently describing the taxidermy art work of Shine Shivan to all and sundry. This year, he did not have to try too hard, though, as collectors and art lovers are becoming more and more open to a multi-disciplinary and global approach to arts. That is what the gallery specialises in ever since it was set up in 2008, and Maskara is content to bring art that “fuels critical dialogue, collaboration, and public engagement”. “Its mandate is to exhibit and promote art of the present,” he says.

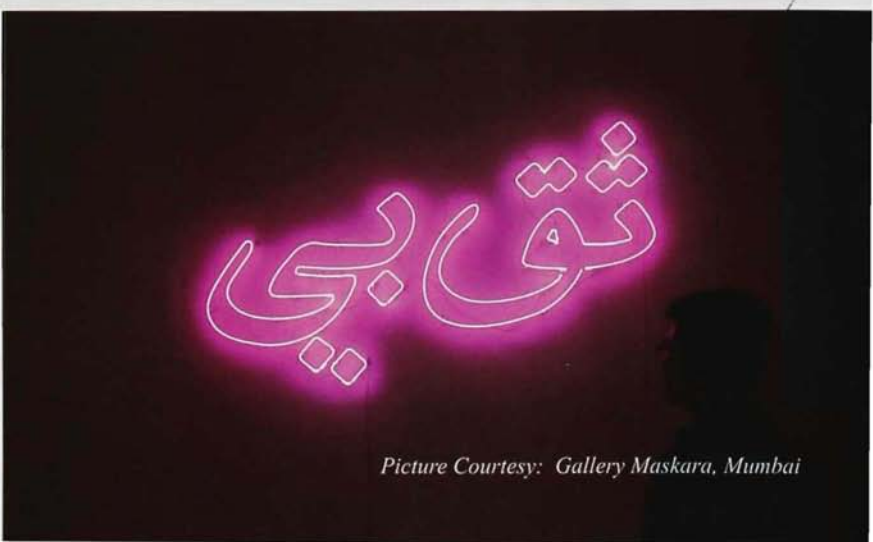
**Visit the gallery for:** If you dig art that is not for the faint hearted, Shine Shivan is your best bet. Known mostly for sculptural works, usually made in taxidermy, used fabric, dentures, pearls, semi-precious stones and thread, Shivan's work is certainly for the connoisseur. Other artists the gallery promotes are T. Venkanna, Narendra Yadav, Ruben Bellinkx and Max Streicher, all of whom have achieved critical acclaim and commercial success both internationally and in India. Prices range from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 50 lakh. **Milestone shows:** T. Venkanna's Panchamahabuta in 2013, Narender Yadav's Brought Up As A Rabbit in 2012 which was a tongue-in-cheek commentary on human conditioning, Ruben Bellinkx's seven simultaneous films in The Trophy in 2011 and Max Streicher's show titled Ashwamedh in 2011 in which two sculptures, each measuring 30 feet, filled the gallery space and captured viewers' imaginations.

**Next big show:** Gallery show titled Devoir de Memoire in Brussels.

**Biggest collector:** Max Modesti

**Gallery recommends:** Priyanka Choudhary, Prashant Pandey, Meenakshi Sengupta, Aaditi Joshi and Roshan Chhabria, for being impactful, newer voices on the art scene.

**Biggest challenge:** To stay true to the gallery program without any compromise.



Picture Courtesy: Gallery Maskara, Mumbai



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*Picture Courtesy: Chemould Prescott Road, Mumbai*

# Chemould Prescott Road, Mumbai



There can be no greater vindication for a gallery's success than crossing the Golden Jubilee mark. Established by Kekoo and Khorshed Gandhi in 1963 as Gallery Chemould, the gallery celebrated its 50th anniversary last year. In 1988, Gandhi's daughter, Shireen took over as the director of the gallery, and in 2003, it was rechristened Chemould Prescott Road. Says Shireen Gandhi, "Chemould was started as one of the first commercial galleries which promoted contemporary artists from India, when there were hardly any galleries in the country. It continues to show young and mid career contemporary artists that have been on the map, both nationally and internationally."

**Visit the gallery for:** Name a contemporary artist and Chemould has them all. "We have a large stable of artists who range from their 30s to their 70s," Gandhi says. Among the senior lot, pick up a Bhupen Khakhar from here. Like your art more avant garde? Jitish Kallat, Atul Dodiya, Reena Saini Kallat, Anju Dodiya, Mithu Sen, Gigi Scaria, Tushar Joag, Shilpa Gupta are some of the younger artists who regularly show with the gallery.

**Milestone show:** Aesthetic Bind, curated by Geeta Kapur, is a collection of five museum-style exhibitions, each having a distinct theme. Subject of Death was in memory of the leading contemporary artist, Bhupen Khakhar, Citizen Artist: Forms of Address was an exhibition about artists as citizens, Phantomata looked at the use of the automatic/phantom machine that artists use within their practice, Cabinet Closet Wunderkammer looked at the notion of the curiosity cabinet and Floating World which addresses the artist's sense of the ethereal.

**Biggest collector:** Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, New Delhi.

**Gallery recommends:** Watch out for Sushanta Mandal, an artist who works almost like a scientist. "His work is quiet and utterly beautiful. He is not a painter nor a sculptor but a fine object maker who also works with the found image and object," says Gandhi.

**Biggest challenge:** Being able to engage and sustain collectors within India.





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# Sakshi Gallery, Mumbai

At a time when most art businesses in India were family run and subsidized, Sakshi Gallery started as a professional endeavour that was run on commercial lines under a corporate umbrella. Started by Geetha Mehra in 1983, it was India's first multi-location gallery with branches in Chennai, Bangalore and Mumbai. In 1989, it was consolidated under one roof in Mumbai; all of 10,000 square feet, making it the largest private gallery in the country. Over the years, it has been the platform for many art debutants and has supported some of India's leading and senior artists like M.F. Husain, Ram Kumar, F.N. Souza, K.G. Subramanyan, Nalini Malani, Akbar Padamsee, Jehangir Sabavala, Ghulam Mohammed Sheikh and Jogen Chowdhury to name a few.

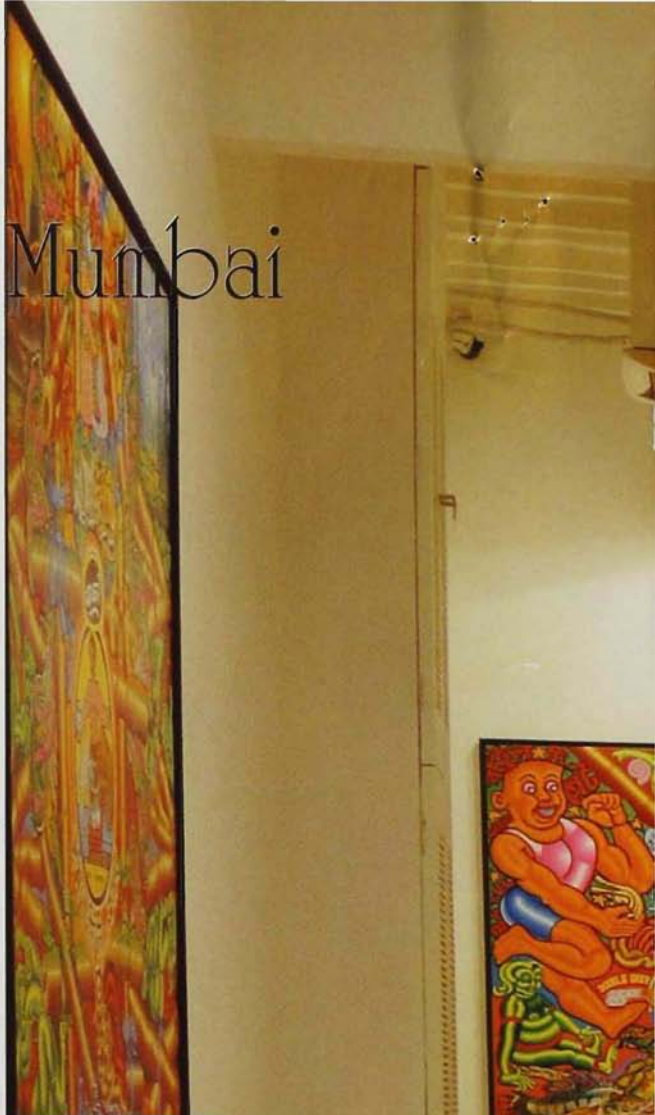
**Visit the gallery for:** Surendran Nair, Rekha Rodwittiya, Valay Shende, Vasudha Thozur, Vivek Vilasini, Remen Chopra, Dhruva Mistry and Manjunath Kamath.

**Milestone shows:** Landscapes curated by Lakshmi Lal in 1990, Millennium curated by Yashodhara Dalmia in 2000 and View from the Edge curated by Sanjay Kumar in 1991.

**Next big show:** A solo show by American artist Waswo X Waswo.

**Gallery recommends:** Schon Mendes for his energy.

**Biggest challenge:** Widening patron base.





*Picture Courtesy: Sakshi Gallery, Mumbai*



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# Akar Prakar, Kolkata



The vision that propelled Abhijit and Reena Lath to start Akar Prakar in the summer of 2004 was to show museum quality art. It is also perhaps the only gallery to have both indoor and outdoor spaces, and is not a generic white-cube space. "We wanted to showcase significant artists who have been practicing modern and contemporary art; paintings, sculpture and alternative art," says Abhijit Lath, who has hosted shows of national treasures like Nandalal Bose, Benodebehari Mukherjee and Ramkinkar Baij. The gallery also believes in a further outreach and produces catalogues and books along with their shows, apart from publishing Art Varta, a bi-annual art magazine.

**Visit the gallery for:** The stalwarts, Prodosh Dasgupta, Gopal Ghose, Meera Mukherjee, Paritosh Sen, S. H. Raza, Ganesh Haloi, Jayashree Chakravarty and K. S. Radhakrishnan.

**Milestone shows:** Enduring Legacy in 2011 to celebrate the 150th year of Rabindranath Tagore, Remembering Meera Mukherjee in 2012, Contours and volumes to commemorate the 100th birth anniversary of Prodosh Dasgupta and 80th of Sarbari Roy Choudhury in 2012 -13, A Jubilant Quest for the Chromatic to mark 100 years of Gopal Ghose in 2012-13 and Shabd-Bindu – Recent work by S H Raza in 2013.

**Next exciting project:** Showing at the Berlin Biennale that opens in May and a solo of Debanjan Roy who deals with issues of consumerism and ecological local waste. Collector base: Indian and international collectors and museums.

**Gallery recommends:** Debanjan Roy. "He's got talent, is sincere and dedicated to his art and practice, has been consistent and is above all, creative," says Lath.

**Biggest challenge:** To create a larger audience for arts.





# Tasveer Gallery, Bangalore

**P**hotography may have its highs every now and then, but it has largely remained on the fringes of mainstream Indian contemporary art. While one found an occasional inclusion of lens-based media in gallery shows, a gallery dedicated to photography was rarely found. Tasveer ably filled that gap when it made a dramatic entry into the art market with Raghu Rai's nudes in 2006. Conceptualised by Abhishek Poddar, Shalini Gupta and Naveen Kishore, Tasveer is now one of the main photography venues in India with its primary space in Bangalore, and additional spaces in Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and Ahmedabad.

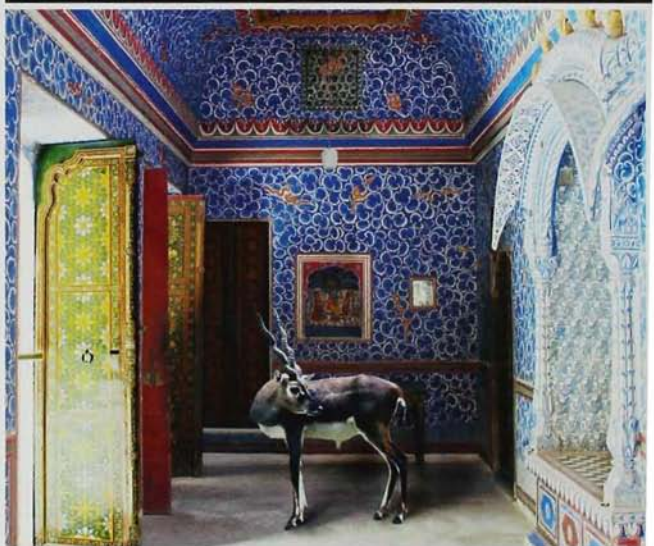
**Visit the gallery for:** Indian photography tends to be very reasonably priced as the market is still developing here, so you can still pick up work by some of the most influential photographers; Raghu Rai, Jyoti Bhatt, TS Satyan, for example, at very reasonable prices. Tasveer represents an entire range of price points, from Rs. 50,000 till Rs. 30 lakhs.

**Milestone shows:** In November 2013, Tasveer was the only South Asian gallery selected for Paris Photo, an international fairs dedicated to the photographic medium, where it showcased Derry Moore, Maimouna Guerresi and Karen Knorr alongside prominent Indian photographers Jyoti Bhatt and Vivek Vilasini. Karen Knorr, India Song, inspired from Knorr's visit to Rajasthan, has been shown globally at museums and art fairs, Subjects & Spaces, Women in Indian Photography, a rare exhibition that showcases the portrayal of women in Indian photography from the 1850s to the 1950s.

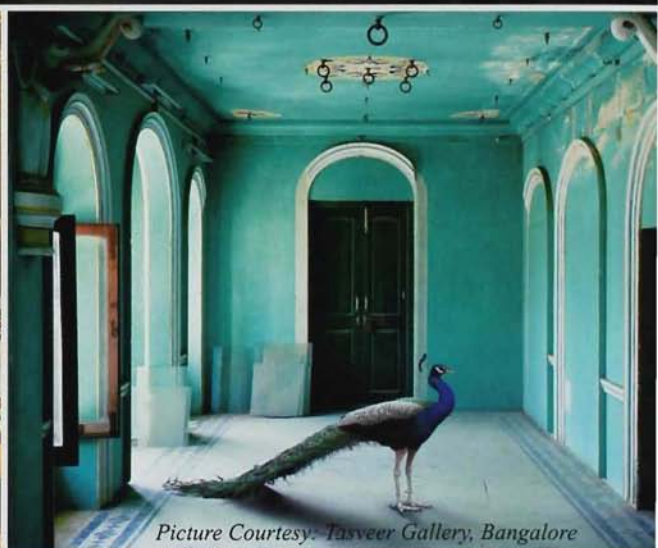
**Future shows:** A new and unseen large project by Saibal Das, a project by leading fashion photographer Tarun Khial and a new series by German photographer Karl Blossfeldt, a world-renowned photographer recognised for his extensive and unique collection of photographic plant portraits.

**Gallery recommends:** Jyoti Bhatt. "He is one of the most important modern photographers in India, and an important modern artist, yet unsung. We think this will happen, and therefore now is good time to collect," says the gallery spokesperson.

**Biggest challenge:** To develop a bigger audience for art and photography, not just for the elite, but for ordinary people as well.







Picture Courtesy: Tasveer Gallery, Bangalore



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Picture Courtesy: Vadehra Gallery, New Delhi





# Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi

**I**f Subodh Gupta is the poster boy of Indian contemporary art then Arun Vadehra most certainly is its revered guardian. While newer galleries are still coming to terms with the importance of public outreach programmes, Vadehra Art Gallery, since its inception in 1987, has been in the forefront of incisive art publications and educational programmes. “We have published fourteen books which have been made in close collaboration with the artists. Since 2009, we have instituted a collaboration with international major Prestel to publish monographs on Indian artists. Three books have resulted so far, on artists Shilpa Gupta, Sunil Gupta and Atul Dodiya,” says Parul Vadehra, who with her sister-in-law, Roshni has now become the face of the gallery. It also goes to the credit of Vadehra Art Gallery to have paved the way for an active collaboration between private and public art sectors. In the mid-1990s, for instance, the gallery organised retrospectives with the government-run National Gallery of Modern Art of senior artists Ram Kumar, Raghu Rai, Devyani Krishna, A Ramachandran and SH Raza, and more recently, a major exhibition of Atul Dodiya in 2013.

**Visit the gallery for:** A Ramachandran, Ram Kumar, SH Raza, Rameshwar Broota, Arpita Singh and Gulammohammed Sheikh who show exclusively with the gallery. Younger names like Atul Dodiya, Shilpa Gupta, Nalini Malani, Jayashree Chakravarty and Anju Dodiya are also part of the gallery collection. Since 2006, the gallery has also shown international artists including Picasso, Francis Bacon, Lucian Freud, Yoko Ono and Wolfgang Laib.

**Future shows:** It is a busy season ahead with the gallery planning shows of Anju Dodiya, A Ramachandran and Arpita Singh, as well as group shows including one curated by Yashodhara Dalmia and a photography show curated by Sunil Gupta.

**Gallery recommends:** Watch out for Atul Bhalla, an artist and environmental activist who frequently combines photography, installation, sculpture, video and performance in his work and Paribartana Mohanty, a young Delhi-based artist whose paintings are especially beautiful, often stylised portraiture set in a formal studio setting.

**Biggest challenge:** Increasing awareness and cultivating more collectors.





*Picture Courtesy: Galerie Mirchandani Steinruecke, Mumbai*



# Galerie Mirchandani Steinruecke, Mumbai



## T

Two astute minds are often better than one. Established in 2006 by the mother-daughter duo of Usha Mirchandani and Ranjana Steinruecke, the gallery is located in a prime spot right behind the iconic Taj Mahal Hotel. Mirchandani had been dealing in art since 1989 and her daughter was the owner of an art gallery in Berlin. "Our vision was honed by a great deal of looking and then more looking. Both of us having lived in New York and travelled in Europe, knew what to look for in a painting or a video," says Mirchandani.

**Visit The Gallery For:** The trio of Manish Nai, Ratheesh T and Varunika Saraf. While Nai is known for deft handling of material, Ratheesh is a painter who combines the skill of being poetic while addressing conceptual concerns. The youngest of the lot, Saraf is a Ph.D student whose approach combines the history of miniatures with contemporary issues.

**Milestone shows:** Touched by Bhupen in 2014 showcasing work by 25 artists honouring Khakhar on his tenth death anniversary, shows by international artists like Kiki Smith from America and Jonathan Meese from Germany in 2008, Dayanita Singh's photographs in black and white in a show titled Go Away Closer, 2007 and Singh's 'blue' works in Blue Book in 2009. Come summer, and you can head to another edition of one of the most awaited art offerings from the gallery. Titled Art for Young Collectors, previously held in 2012 and 2013, the show brings young artistic talent to the attention of young collectors.

**Small is Big:** As its next big show, the gallery is presenting C.K. Rajan's small canvases. "He is making tiny canvases which link back to paintings he used to make on the back of opened out cigarette packs." And a photography show curated by Ram Rehman in October/November which will focus on new talent.

**Collector base:** Young, new collectors like Tarini Jindal and Cecilia Morelli and seasoned ones like Harsh Goenka.

**Gallery Recommends:** Arun K.S., Vinod Balak and Abul Hisham, the last two from Kerala – all new, emerging names worth collecting.

**Biggest challenge:** Managing resources efficiently. And, the age-old challenge of finding artists with a spark.





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