

Approaching Abstraction

Works from the Herwitz Collection

Featuring Ranbir Kaleka, Manisha Parekh, S.H. Raza, G. R. Santosh, and Vijay Shinde

February 7th, 2015 – March 11th, 2015

Press Preview & Opening Reception: Friday, February 13th, 6:00pm – 8:00pm

35 Great Jones St., New York NY 10012

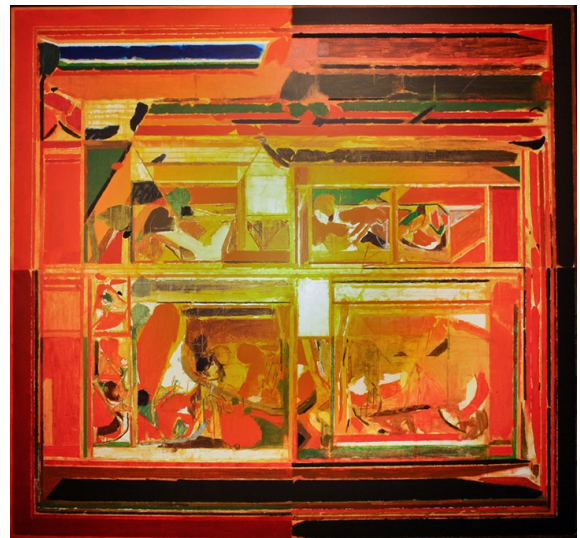
Aicon Gallery, New York is pleased to present ***Approaching Abstraction***, an exhibition surveying the crucial shift from figuration to abstraction in modern Indian art. The exhibition celebrates the pioneering vision of **Chester and Davida Herwitz**, and the central role they played in supporting Indian abstractionists throughout the 1970s and 80s and features works by Ranbir Kaleka, Manisha Parekh, S. H. Raza, G.R. Santosh, and Vijay Shinde, all from the renowned Herwitz Collection

G. R. Santosh initially trained in painting, weaving and papier-mâché, but then won a Government of India scholarship to study Fine Art at the M.S. University, Baroda. He held his first solo show in 1953 in Srinagar, and since then has been exhibited in international shows including the Sao Paulo Biennale (1969,1972), Triennale-India (1968, '78), 'Contemporary Indian Art', National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi (1984), and 'Neo-Tantra Art', U.C.L.A., Los Angeles (1986). He received the National Award in 1973, and Padma Shri in 1977, and won the Artist of the Year Award in New Delhi in 1984.

S. H. Raza is one of India's most renowned and celebrated modernist painters. As one of the finest living members and founders of India's post-independence Progressive Artist Group, Raza's lifetime of work spans over six decades and traces his deeply personal exploration of abstraction throughout the course of Indian modernism. He has participated in numerous exhibitions, including the Sao Paulo Biennale in 1958, the Biennale de Menton, in France in 1966, 1968 and in 1978, and Contemporary Indian Painting, at the Royal Academy in London, in 1982. He was conferred the Padma Shree Award by the President of India in 1981, and the Padma Bhushan in 2007.

Ranbir Kaleka received a five year diploma in Painting at the College of Art at Punjab University as well as a Master's degree in Painting from the Royal College of Art in London. He has held teaching positions for fine art at Punjabi University as well as the Delhi College of Art. The artist's work has been widely exhibited in India and abroad with his most recent solo and group shows including MediaArtLab in Moscow, in 2011; Prague Biennale 5, in 2011; 'Finding India, Art for the New Century' at MOCA Taipei, in 2010; a multi-media installation commissioned to the permanent collection of the Spertus Museum, Chicago, in 2007; the Sydney Biennale, 2008.

Manisha Parekh, having well known painters Manu and Madhavi Parekh for parents, grew up surrounded by paints and brushes. She formalized her artistic upbringing with her studies in painting at the Faculty of Fine Arts at M.S. University in Baroda, and at the Royal College of Art, London on an INLAKS



S. H. Raza, *Rajasthan I*, 1982, Acrylic on canvas, 60 x 60 in.



Vijay Shinde, *Untitled*, 1988, Mixed media on paper, 28 x 22 in.

scholarship. Today, Parekh has several of her own exhibitions under her belt, whether of her minimal, skillfully executed works in ink and gouache, her intricate layered pieces on board, or her more ambitious works in the area of conceptual, site-specific installations.

Vijay Shinde studied art at Sir J J School of Arts, Mumbai 1982. Since then, he has had over 22 solo shows along with many prestigious group exhibitions including the inaugural show of Gallery Tao in January 2000 along with artists like S H Raza, Prabhakar Kolte, Sujata Bajaj, and Anant Nikam. He has won prominent awards like the National Award Lalit Kala Academy, New Delhi in 1984, Biennale Award, Bharat Bhavan, Bhopal in 1986, Fellowship – Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi 1987, Maharashtra Gaurav Puraskar, State Government of Maharashtra, 1990 Senior Fellowship Award, Government of India, and New Delhi in 2000.

Please contact Aicon Gallery (Andrew@Aicongallery.com) for more information.