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Containing Multitudes: Four Decades of Representing Bombay in Art

by

Shri Girish Shahane

Date: Monday, 17 December 2012

Time: 5.30 pm

Venue: Lecture Hall, Building No. 5, IGNCA, 11 Mansingh Road,
New Delhi – 110 001



Abstract

Modernism and the metropolis are strongly linked, and Bombay, the city associated with India's first fully fledged modernist art movement, has been represented consistently in painting and sculpture for well over a century. The connection between art and city was cemented in the 1970s, when painting began exploring specific social and political issues in opposition to the early modernist preference for universalist images. In later years, Bombay's status as centre of India's entertainment industry fed into the artistic imaginings of it. Over the past decade, the city's built form and colonial history have drawn the attention of artists. The talk will cover the shifting image of Bombay by focusing upon the work of Gieve Patel, Sudhir Patwardhan, Pushpamala, Atul Dodiya, Jitish Kallat and Nikhil Chopra, while also alluding to some of their contemporaries.



Girish Shahane has degrees in English literature from Elphinstone College, Bombay University, and Oxford University, which he attended as a Rhodes Scholar. He was editor and later consulting editor of *Art India* magazine. He has written on visual art, film and cultural politics for leading publications, and contributed columns to Time Out and Yahoo! India. He has lectured at institutions like the NGMA and NCPA in Bombay, the Indian School of Business in Hyderabad, the Tate Modern in London, and the Art Institute of Chicago. He is on the faculty of art history courses run by Bhau Daji Lad Museum and Jnanapravaha. Exhibitions curated by him include *The Presence of the Past* (NCPA, Bombay, 1998); *Art/Technology* (Max Mueller Bhavan Gallery, Bombay, 2000); *Legacy: A-vanguard* (Gallery Threshold, Delhi, 2010); and *Home Spun* (Devi Art Foundation, Gurgaon, 2011). He is currently Director - Art of the Skoda Prize for Indian Contemporary Art.

