Kiran Nadar Museum of Art

October / 2026



Where Love Finds Form

Love speaks in many voices, from the longing of a lover to the surrender of a devotee, from the tenderness between friends to the dedication of a *shishya* to a *guru*. It calls to us, fearlessly or subtly, through a gesture, a rhythm, or a story handed down through generations.

Across India's artistic traditions, love has found expression through poetry, music, dance, literature and narrative. While theatre, music and dance have different vocabularies, they are linked through the body, rhythm, storytelling and emotion. It is this ability of the arts to articulate the many dimensions of human experience and make us feel connected that the KNMA Annual Festival seeks to celebrate.

Over its past three editions, the festival has explored theatre, music and now dance, each through the perspective of a curator deeply engaged with their form. As performing artists, writers, thinkers and teachers, they bring a distinctive gaze and sensitivity to their chosen art forms. Kirtana Kumar, T.M. Krishna and Leela Samson have each imagined the festival to make it more than a presentation of performances. Each year, the festival celebrates a different performing art form, bringing artists and audiences together in a shared space to experience the richness and diversity of Indian performing arts. The curatorial approach considers the larger idea: how the works converse with one another, how they relate to the theme within which they are presented and what they say when placed together.

Discover the full article on LinkedIn

What's On



Walkthrough

Curator-led Walkthrough
In-Rhythm & Inheritors of Earth

Every Saturday
KNMA, New Delhi

Join us every Saturday for a curated walkthrough of the two exhibitions, led by curator Aditi Ghildiyal. Discover the artists, ideas, and key details to look out for as you take a closer look at the works and explore new ways of experiencing the exhibitions.

All Ages I Art Enthusiasts I Ticketed

Book Now



Event

KNMA Dance Festival
The Call of the Beloved

15 Oct - 18 Oct 26
Sunder Nursery, Delhi

Prem. Anurag. Viraha. Bhakti.
Love has many voices. Across India, it has found expression in dance, music, poetry and mythology, taking many forms across traditions and generations. This October, following editions that explored theatre and music, the KNMA Dance Festival: The Call of the Beloved, curated by Leela Samson, brings together artists and traditions from across

India.
Through movement, rhythm, gesture and narrative, the festival explores the many ways we seek, surrender to and experience the beloved.

16 years & above I Dance I Ticketed

Book Now



Workshop

Saturday Family↓ Workshop

Weaving Geometry
In-Rhythm Featured Event

17 Oct 26
KNMA, New Delhi

Bring your friends and family for a hands-on exploration of lines, patterns, and geometry. Inspired by the works of Nasreen Mohamedi and Bice Lazzari, alongside the intricate patterns of Islamic jaali architecture, experiment with paper weaving to create geometric compositions through repetition, rhythm, and structure.

All Ages I Beginner I Ticketed

Book Now



Talk

Networks of Exchange
European and Nawabi Patrons and Collectors in 18th-Century Lucknow

17 Oct 26
KNMA, New Delhi

Join Dr Malini Roy as she explores the art and visual culture of 18th-century Lucknow, shaped by exchanges between Nawabi and European patrons, artists, and collectors. The talk will be followed by a conversation with author Ira Mukhoty, delving further into the distinctive cross cultural influences that defined this courtly culture.

14 years & above I Talk I Free Admission

Register Now



Workshop

Art Hours↓

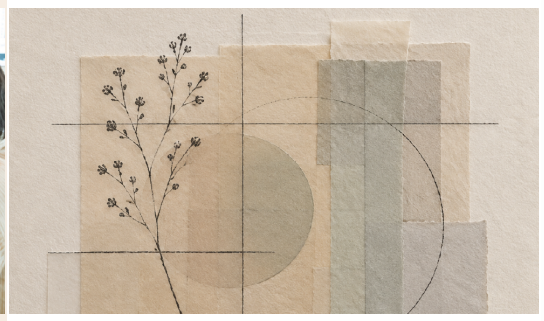
KNMA Art Hours at Aerocity
In collaboration with India Experiences & GMR Aerocity

24 Oct - 25 Oct 26
UTSAV The Square, GMR Aerocity, New Delhi

Experience art in a new way through a series of three family and artist-led workshops designed for creative exploration and hands-on engagement.

Art Enthusiasts I Ticketed

Book Now



Workshop

Saturday Family↓ Workshop

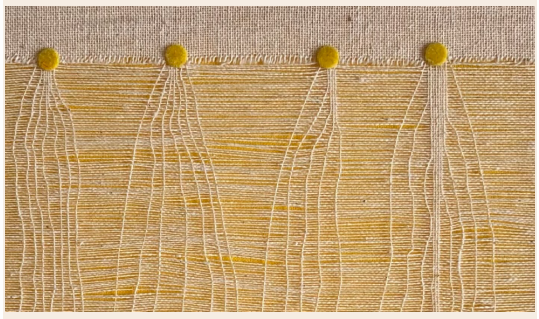
Structure Within Nature
In-Rhythm Featured Event

24 Oct 26
KNMA, New Delhi

Bring your friends and family for a hands-on workshop inspired by the works of Nasreen Mohamedi and Bice Lazzari. Explore overlapping forms, repetition, and abstraction as you transform observations of nature into dynamic compositions.

All Ages I Beginner I Ticketed

Book Now





Workshop

Artist in me↓

Space in Between
In-Rhythm Featured Event

24 Oct 26
KNMA, New Delhi

Join artist Jaimini Jariwala for an experimental workshop exploring line, space, and form through the act of removing threads from cloth. Unravel, trace, and reimagine familiar patterns as you discover how absence and negative space can become a form of drawing.

16 years & above I Art Enthusiasts I Ticketed

Book Now

Event

Cine Paradiso↓

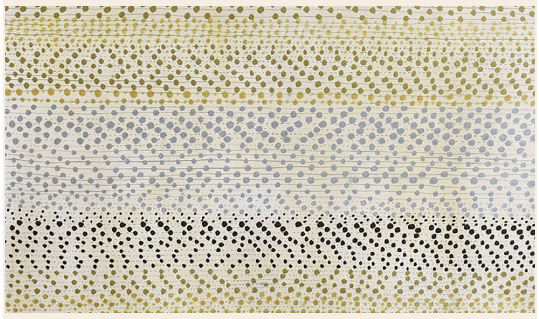
अवार नवार छोरियां /Every Now and Then Girls...

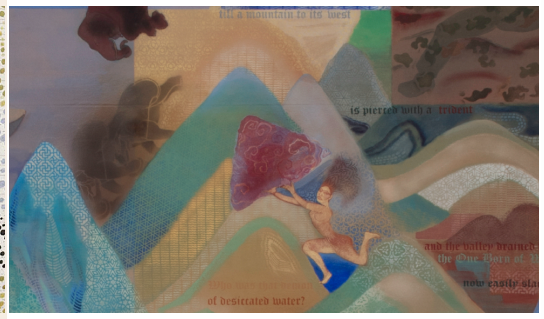
24 Oct 26
KNMA, New Delhi

Join us for the screening, followed by a conversation with Shefalee Jain, Shivi Bhatnagar and Lokesh Khodke, moderated by Neha Zooni Tickoo, Curator, KNMA. Adapted from a Rajasthani folktale, the film follows the story of two girls, told through non-human narrators. Weaving together stories of women's friendships, the film challenges patriarchal norms and imagines equal futures.

16 years & above I Film Screening I Free Admission

Register Now





Workshop

Artist in me↓

Dots and Lines
In-Rhythm Featured Event

31 Oct 26
KNMA, New Delhi

Join artist Sarita Chouhan to explore dots and lines through movement, stillness, and playful drawing exercises. Drawing from the practices of Nasreen Mohamedi and Bice Lazzari, discover how simple marks can create rhythm, structure, and movement in space.

Art Enthusiasts I Ticketed

Book Now

Exhibition

Nilima Sheikh: Fractured Skies
Curated by Roobina Karode & Cara Manes
Organized with MoMA, New York

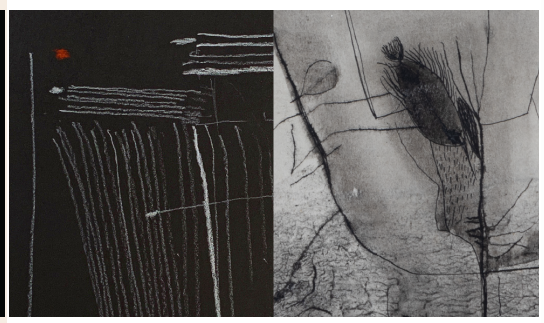
27 Sep 26 - 13 Jun 27
MoMA, New York

For over five decades, Nilima Sheikh has painted the stories history leaves behind.
The exhibition brings together works from Sheikh's sustained engagement with Kashmir, offering a new audience an opportunity to encounter this significant part of her practice. Alongside works spanning more than two decades, the presentation includes a new body of paintings, commissioned by KNMA, extending Sheikh's exploration of what it means to bear witness.

MoMA I Scroll Painting I Ticketed

Know More





Exhibition

Nalini Malani - Of Woman Born
Curated by Roobina Karode
A Collateral Event of Biennale Arte 2026

09 May - 22 Nov 26

Exhibition

In-Rhythm: Bice Lazzari and Nasreen Mohamedi
Curated by Andrea Anastasio & Roobina Karode
In collaboration with the Italian Cultural Centre

Magazzini del Sale, Venice

Of Woman Born, curated by Roobina Karode - newly commissioned for the Museum, is an immersive animation chamber that invites viewers to reconsider fixed geopolitical imaginaries and to ask: For whom is history written? What might maps, myths, and futures look like if redrawn from the perspective of those who survived the violence of war?

Venice Biennale I Animation I Walk-In

Know More

09 Sep - 22 Dec 26
KNMA, New Delhi

Between repetition and difference, rhythm emerges. KNMA presents *In-Rhythm*, bringing together the works of Italian artist Bice Lazzari (1900–1981) and Indian artist Nasreen Mohamedi (1937–1990), two artists who never met yet developed strikingly resonant approaches to abstraction across different geographies and histories. Working at a time when modernist discourse remained largely shaped by male experience, both artists pursued independent visual languages grounded in discipline, repetition, and sustained attention.

Art Lovers I Abraction I Walk-In

Know More





Exhibition

Inheritors of Earth
Curated by Premjish Achari

09 Sep - 22 Dec 26
KNMA, New Delhi

Have you ever considered that we might be looking at plants all wrong? This new exhibition, offers a whole new perspective on the way we see the living world around us. Bringing together artists who look at plants as something beyond how we use them, consume them or simply look at them. Through their practice they invite us to consider plant-life as they exist alongside ours, with their own rhythms, histories and ways of being. Because this earth was never ours alone. It is a shared inheritance, and perhaps it is time we looked at it that way.

Multimedia I Phytosensitivity I Walk-In

Know More

Exhibition

Pata Dekhabo
Shall I show you a Pata?
In collaboration with the DLF South Court Mall & Nexus Select CityWalk

22 May - 22 Nov 26
Next to Apple Store, Nexus Select CityWalk

An exhibition bringing together picture-making traditions from Bengal and Jharkhand through narrative scrolls and single-format images spanning three centuries. Featuring works from pattachitra and Santhal traditions, it explores how storytelling, performance, ritual, and everyday life intersect within these living practices.

Art Passage I Pattachitra I Walk-In

Know More

From the Collection



Surendran Nair, *Tathaagata Tathagata Thatha-Gaatha, The Wounded Majesty or the Anatomy of Fate "Coockoonebulopolis"*, Oil on canvas, 2008, Collection: Kiran Nadar Museum of Art

Coockoonebulopolis is a series of paintings Surendran began working on in 1999. The series loosely refers to a utopia, a 'nebulous city of cuckoos' that provided him with the perfect theatrical backdrop to examine and reflect on the difficulties of negotiating secularism as a concept and practice. His painting titled as *Tathaagata Tatha-gata Thatha-Gaatha, The Wounded Majesty or the Anatomy of Fate* is a later work from this series, which examines the riddle in the context of the towering figure of Mahatma Gandhi. A figure resembling a young Gandhi supports a large mountain on his umbrella, appropriating the story of Lord Krishna raising the Mount Govardhan on his finger during an apocalyptic situation. It seems as if the weight of the future rests on him. On this allegorical Govardhan, there are clearly identifiable religious and non-religious images of monuments such as Humayun's Tomb and the Bahai Lotus Temple. Some of them represent the State, and each strand of the umbrella is delicately balanced with mundane objects from a broom, a slipper, temple bell to a weaver bird's nest. The young man dressed in white as a modern deity also refers to Gautam Buddha, addressing the past, present and future all at once. Tathaagata is a term that Buddha uses to refer to himself, tatha-gata as the one who has thus gone and tatha-agata, the one who has thus come.

Born in Onakkoor, Kerala in 1956, Surendran Nair graduated in painting from College of Fine Arts, Trivandrum, in 1982, and studied printmaking from M. S. University, Baroda, in 1986. His works are coded with fabular narratives, hybrid characters, riddles, allegories and visual translations of popular and regional proverbs. He brings together the literary sensibility of a writer, wry humour of a political commentator and the imagination of a visual artist. His protagonists are archetypal beings that rouse curiosity and charm the viewer who might even be unacquainted with his art practice. His works are held in public and private collections, including the National Gallery of Australia, Australia, Queensland Art Gallery, Australia, Fukuoka Asian Art Museum,Japan, The National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi, and KNMA, New Delhi, India. In a career spanning four decades, Nair has had numerous solo and group exhibitions in India and internationally. Selected exhibitions include *Jigsaw, Fragments of Chronicles*, Art Alive Gallery, 2022-23; *Sighting: Out of the Wild*, Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, Noida, India, 2019; *New Configurations: Vignettes from the Collection in Recent Years*, Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, Noida, India, 2019; *Cuckoonebulopolis: (Flora and) Fauna, Aicon*, New York, USA, 2017; *Spatial Arrangements of Colors, Lines, Forms and Desires*, Sakshi Gallery, Mumbai, India, 2015 and *Surendran Nair: Drawings, Print and Watercolours (1970s-1990s)*, Kiran Nadar Museum of Art (KNMA), New Delhi, India, 2015, amongst other.

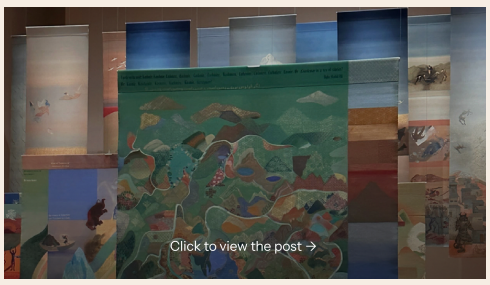
The artist lives and works in Baroda.

View Collection

Community@KNMA

KNMA Through Your Eyes: We love seeing how you experience KNMA - whether you're creating those amazing reels or just tagging us when something interesting catches your eye.





We loved these moments from @swasti.sneha and @shreshisinghstudio at KNMA. Got a moment of your own? Tag us using #MyKNMAMoment — you might just get featured next!

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