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## PRESS RELEASE

### Gallery XXL Opens its Permanent Space in Colaba, Mumbai

Following four curated exhibitions in Mumbai and New Delhi, Gallery XXL finds its permanent space at Wodehouse Road located in Colaba's Art District and opens with the exhibition **sans sentence on January 11, 2024 during the Mumbai Gallery Weekend**. Bringing together Indian and International contemporary artists, the exhibition presents **artworks by 9 artists** with a curation that invites explorations on language and its visualisation.

#### Opening of the Permanent Space

Gallery XXL is pleased to announce the opening of its permanent space at 21, Arsiwala Mansion, First Floor, Wodehouse Road, Colaba, Mumbai - 400005 on January 11, 2024. Bringing the global movement of urban contemporary and post-graffiti art to Colaba, Mumbai, the gallery's permanent space is housed in a building where Georgian and vernacular architectures converge – resonating with the spirit of the gallery that activates, connects and expands diverse practices which occupy the studio and the street.

#### **sans sentence**

##### **About the Exhibition**

Launched in early 2023 with a survey exhibition titled OUTSIDERS, Gallery XXL introduced urban contemporary art to the Indian cultural landscape and brought together 23 Indian and International artists whose practices span from the studio to the street. Now, coinciding with Mumbai Gallery Weekend (MGW), Gallery XXL is opening its space with the exhibition **sans sentence**.

The show speculates the identification with, deduction of and imaginations that emerge from language and its visualisation. With artworks from **Al Qawi Nanavati, DO, Hanif Kureshi, Khatra, Lakshmi Madhavan, Latheesh Lakshman, Sowat, Tanya George, and ZERO**, the exhibition is an inquiry on freedom of (and from) different modes of expression as one investigates the relationship of the ineffable, the body and time with the conception and perception of language.

A large part of the exhibition is extending from Gallery XXL's effort in presenting Indian and International artists who are critically reinventing urban art techniques and situating them within a gallery space. In this sense, this exhibition is an effort to also look at the phenomenon of post-graffiti art and artists who have engaged with the reduction and deconstruction of letters within diverse scripts. The exhibition opens up questions surrounding the politics of language and examines its role in shaping the social fabric, prodding deeper into what defines the form, the lack and the surplus in different spoken, written, visual and body languages.

#### **Programming**

Gallery XXL in association with MGW will host programming events – inviting audiences to interact deeper with the exhibition and participating artists.

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#### Address

21, Arsiwala Mansion,  
First Floor, Wodehouse Road,  
Colaba, Mumbai – 400005

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info@galleryxxl.com



## SCHEDULE

### Live Performance by Noni-Mouse

January 11, 8pm

### Materialities of Personal Memories : A conversation between Al-Qawi Nanavati and Lakshmi Madhavan

January 12, 6pm

### Walk with Walkitecture Around Colaba

January 13, 7:30am

## About the Gallery

Established in 2023, Gallery XXL is an urban contemporary art gallery based in Mumbai, India. The gallery represents and showcases a roster of Indian and international artists whose practices are rooted in a variety of disciplines that broaden the understanding of established categories and catalyse diverse exchanges through processual exhibitions, treating the gallery as a fluid institution which negotiates and presents newer challenges to the idea of a 'white cube.'

With its name echoing Jean-Michel Basquiat's city walk from Downtown 81 (Dir. Edo Bertoglio,) when he described his medium as "extra large," Gallery XXL extends a desire for imaginations to be XXL, an abbreviation for 'extra, extra, large' and brings it to the city of Mumbai in order to examine the ambitious scale of visuals and conversations prevalent in urban art.

Arjun Bahl, Giulia Ambrogi, Thanish Thomas and Hanif Kureshi, the founders of St+Art India Foundation joined hands with Joe Cyril (Director, Gallery XXL) to start the space-time for Gallery XXL. Founded in 2014, St+Art India has been supporting street art in the country through public art projects. With the experience of creating artistic interventions in public as well as private spaces coalescing in order to widen engagement with urban art, aesthetics and culture work in the Indian context, St+art extends its vision to facilitate institutional representation for urban contemporary artists through exhibitions at the newly founded Gallery XXL.

## Team

Giulia Ambrogi, Hanif Kureshi, Arjun Bahl, Thanish Thomas, Joe Cyril, Sarah Malik, Vidur Sethi, Mihir Thakkar, Maria Talib, Akhil Kattamanchil, Vivek Gupta, Faraz Khan, Diya Sood, Gaurav Kaushik, Ashu Khanna, Babu Gundanoor, Bhola Prasad, Samiul Haq Khan and team.

## Annexures

The [two attached annexures] include artist bios and artwork captions. The drive link includes folders with the invite, high resolution artwork images and profile images of artists. For any more information, please contact [sarah@galleryxxl.com](mailto:sarah@galleryxxl.com).

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