**PRESS RELEASE**

**Opening of Gallery XXL’s permanent space in Colaba during**

**Mumbai Gallery Weekend, 2024**

* **After the success of four exhibitions, the gallery finds its home at the Arsiwala Building located in Colaba’s art district**
* **Gallery XXL presents *sans* sentense, opening on January 11 as part of Mumbai Gallery Association**
* **Indian and International urban contemporary artists come together for Gallery XXL’s premier exhibition in Mumbai**

Gallery XXL is pleased to announce the opening of its permanent physical space at No.21, First Floor, Arsiwala Mansion, Wodehouse Road, Colaba, Mumbai – 400005 (Opposite HDFC bank / Chirag Din) on January 11, 2024 which coincides with the Mumbai Gallery Weekend.

Gallery XXL is a new gallery based in Mumbai, India, that represents and showcases post-graffiti and urban contemporary art. With a focus on elevating urban art, Gallery XXL shows a selection of Indian and International artists who are critically reinventing urban art techniques and situating them within a gallery.

Since its launch in February 2023, XXL has successfully completed four exhibitions across various locations. The first preview exhibition titled ‘who are these outsiders?’ took place in New Delhi, powered by India Art Fair’s Young Collector’s Program. This led to the larger show, ‘OUTSIDERS’ which brought together the works of 23 Indian and international artists who have had an immense impact on the urban contemporary art movement globally. Held at the Kalanjee Bungalow, ‘OUTSIDERS’ saw over 10,000 visitors and was featured among many media outlets. The fourth exhibition was in collaboration with Tarq, titled ‘Ephemeroptera: Time After Time,’ a group show featuring three artists from each gallery. And most recently, Gallery XXL presented ‘Clusterflux’ at the recently concluded fair, Art Mumbai.

The name of the gallery came from abbreviating the phrase 'extra, extra, large' and referencing the origin of the word, extra, which means to go beyond. Acknowledging the scale and visuals of urban art which makes it provocative and hard to miss, Gallery XXL becomes an intimate space to engage with an art form that has otherwise been enjoyed from afar.

Led by Joe Cyril (Director, Gallery XXL), with his experience of working with large institutions like Kochi Biennale and Saffron Art, joined hands with Arjun Bahl, Giulia Ambrogi, Thanish Thomas and Hanif Kureshi, the founders of St+Art India Foundation to establish the gallery. St+Art India has been known for supporting urban and street art in the country over the last decade. Their expertise lies in creating unique public art projects and Gallery XXL is an extension of that vision which aims to facilitate gallery representation for urban contemporary artists.

Gallery XXL’s permanent home at the Arsiwala Mansion is a quintessential structure from Colaba which adorns an impressive architecture that blends both the Georgian and vernacular styles. Not only do the high ceilings add to the charm of the Gallery, its arched balconies and large doorways allow the space to be lit naturally through its depth. The doorways have a tympanum and a distinct ventilator above them, while the door shutters appear to have diamond patterns - all unique characteristics of buildings in Bombay. The staircase, battens in the ceiling and the floors transports those who enter the building to the brief Georgian era Bombay witnessed post the 19th century.

The space will open with the exhibition ***sans* sentense** – that speculates the identification with, deduction of and imaginations which emerge from language and its visualisation. A large part of *sans* sentense is XXL’s effort to look at the phenomenon of post-graffiti art and artists who have engaged with the reduction and deconstruction of letters within diverse scripts. In simultaneity, 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. It will present the works of 9 artists: Al Qawi Nanavati, DO, Hanif Kureshi, Khatra, Lakshmi Madhavan, Latheesh Lakshman, Sowat, Tanya George, and Zero.

During the course of the exhibition, Gallery XXL in association with MGW will host programming events giving the audience the opportunity to interact with participating artists and attend workshops, screenings and talks.

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

**Notes**

Gallery XXL moves to its permanent space at the colaba art district.

* After four shows across Mumbai and Delhi, the gallery moves to its permanent home where it will host regular programming.
* Important step towards the introduction of urban contemporary and post graffiti art, an internationally recognized movement shown being shown in India now.
* Its home will be in the heart of Colaba, at the Arsiwala Building
* Opens with a show with Mumbai Gallery Weekend, called *sans* sentense.

After starting this initiative for bringing representation for post graffiti and urban contemporary art, XXL was launched during IAF earlier this year and then done 3 more shows after, survey exhibition of the street art movement at Kalanjee Bungalow, a show with tarq, and finally at the recently concluded art Mumbai. The fifth show titled *sans* sentense will open on January 11, 2024, coinciding with the Mumbai Gallery weekend which takes place once every year.

Nikhil’s points – open windows and tying to the point that the colaba art district is the biggest conglomeration of galleries in the country and present the movement to the area after the success of its prior shows. Saw footfall of 10k+ people with 23 artists across India and abroad.

Information on the exhibition, diverse set of artists, one line on each artist.

Programming around MGW and the exhibition will continue until [end date] and the time and will be announcing the upcoming shows soon on platforms for XXL.