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## PRESS RELEASE

### **TEMPERATURES**

#### ***Interactions with Colour and Form***

- The first solo exhibition of Berlin-based artist Tomislav Topić in India opens on **Saturday, March 1, 2025 at 6 pm** at Gallery XXL
- **TEMPERATURES – Interactions with Colour and Form** will present a new body of work which ranges from oil on canvas and paper, pigment in paper and an installation created from fibre glass, lacquer and steel
- The exhibition evokes gestural marks and remarks that strive, through abstraction – for a moment of truth.

*The state of being tempered in a certain proportion requires a moderation between conditions hot and cold, misty and dry. This moderation when extended through an interaction with colour and form, communicates different observations lucidly as one creates time in any city. These observations carry possibilities of an interplay wherein the warmth and coldness of geographies, temperaments, situations, acts – collapse, collide, come together.*

*With some hues that blot backgrounds, and others which become foregrounds, diverse tones emerge from blending pigments and experiences. Many of them also become an invitation for an affect, while still others seek a moment of becoming a fleeting passerby.*

*Temperatures rise and fall herein to invite temperaments of different kinds.*

Gallery XXL presents **TEMPERATURES – Interactions with Colour and Form**, solo exhibition of Berlin-based artist Tomislav Topić who has been in India since January 2025, inhabiting a residency at XXL's studio in Goa. Opening on **March 1, 2025, at 6 PM** **TEMPERATURES – Interactions with Colour and Form** will showcase a new body of work created by Tomislav in India with mediums that range from oil on canvas and paper, pigment in paper and an installation created from fibre glass, lacquer and steel.

The exhibition puts forth inquiries through observations made by Tomislav through his travels from Berlin to Goa to Mumbai. The attempt is to invoke the viewers to move with his processes: observing surrounding architectures and topographies, inquiring through studies of these observations, interacting with forms and colours through composition, and coming close to different mediums in order to play with materialities, colour and form to ultimately create his works.

With a long practice in public art interventions that include murals, installations, site-specific works, that have defined Tomislav's art all across the world, the artists' observances of sheds made of tarpaulin, corrugated metal sheets, cement blocks, food carts, advertisement boards and vibrant ornamentations and decorations within homes in India, now become inspirations for him to concoct a newer colour palette and recipe for the new body of work. A palette of several gradients, many personal quests – stirred up as strokes are laid, overlaid, painted, repainted while simultaneously the percentage of a tincture is measured to define a particular composition. The travels and observations becoming a sensorial response to what encircles Tomislav's process of art making, translating manifold experiences as well as shades of perceptions to enable an ascension, dissension of temperatures, invoking at times an endeavour for a state of harmony, at other times, a state of complete abandon.

Further, the parallel creation of artworks – in different materialities and mediums – become pivotal points of reflections and objective distancing to create an entry into a tunnel of temperaments wherein each process, every moment creates an influence on one another.

In the confinements of Gallery XXL, **TEMPERATURES**, invites the audiences to experience the cold and warm tones, and what is in between and beyond that, to ultimately evoke gestural marks and remarks that strive, through abstraction – for a moment of truth.

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#### **Address**

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## **Artist Bio**

Born in 1985 in Hannover, Germany, Tomislav Topić is an artist whose practice evokes a comprehensive inquiry into colour and colour theory.

After studying colour design and applied science and art in Germany and the US, his curiosity was piqued by encounters with non-representational and American expressionist art. This combined with a history of being a graffiti writer during his youth, Tomislav developed a consequent agility and rhythmic movement of painting.

His process involves a calculative approach while determining what colour combinations to paint with. His mediums, whether canvas or a wall, diffuse a sharp gestural style of painting with gradients created using a variety of paints.

While painting Tomislav enters a state of deep immersion which is almost like a meditative act of control. The joy found in the process coupled with a search for the unknown remains undefined until the last moment. He notes, "The process is a play between chaos and clarity, between turmoil and ecstasy." He allows his intuition to guide the gestures that make marks onto a surface, colliding two states of being — the child who resists rules and seeks to preserve an untamed sensation and the adult who has absorbed colours, experiences, and moments, now distilling and merging into a united singular expression.

Tomislav's oeuvre as an independent artist and as part of the duo Quintessenz until 2020, he created numerous site-specific installations and murals worldwide. For more than a decade, the artist's work has received increasing international recognition having exhibited his works with ArtNow Gallery, Berlin; DANYSZ Gallery, Paris; Straat Museum, Amsterdam; Foundation Fiminco, Paris, among others.

He has worked across installations and murals in festivals, exhibitions, and artist residencies in multiple countries like Germany, Switzerland, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Greece, Mauritius, Qatar, Georgia, USA, and China, and now comes to India with Gallery XXL for his first solo exhibition in the country.

## **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 presents dynamic negotiations 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 the late 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 Gallery XXL.

## **Team**

Giulia Ambrogi, Arjun Bahl, Thanish Thomas, Vidur Sethi, Sarah Malik, Aarti Jain, Faraz Khan, Akhil Kattamanchi, Vedika Seth, Guru Pednekar, and Babu Gundanoor.

## **Annexures**

The attached annexure includes the artist's portraits, artwork captions and the drive consists of the invite and high resolution images of the artworks. For any more information, please contact [sarah@galleryxxl.com](mailto:sarah@galleryxxl.com).

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