

to Make a Home with You



Aksh Diwan Garg
Deepak Dhiman
Lakshya Bhargava
Namrata Arjun
Zoya Lobo

Curated by **Mihir Thakkar**

APR

05

6 PM – 9 PM

Preview

On view till 31st May 2025

ART+CHARLIE

A QUEER LITTLE HISTORY OF ART

to Make a Home with You



What defines a house and how, amidst a fractured world, does it blossom into a home?

For many of us navigating the landscape of queerness, a home becomes a safe haven when one is enveloped by understanding. Where personal journeys find strength in solidarity, reinforcing the confidence that was often denied to our preceding generations. With support and acceptance received through friendship, our desired present is moulded. This exhibition explores the human need for a place of acceptance, equally sought by us and our allies, a space where neglected feelings can find shelter. The artists in this exhibition reflect on the simple, yet powerful need for comfort and belonging, even if that comfort is imperfect. The warmth found in shared spaces has inspired the creation of this exhibition, where identifiable stories and expressions find contentment and celebrate the complexities of our queer life.

In this gentle exploration of what it means to feel truly proud, you will find works that resonate with a spectrum of aesthetic and thematic consideration of what it means to be seen, to be heard, to belong and to build a home together. It's an attempt to share the tender support I've found in my own friendships. Friendship, in its embrace, cradles us and allows us to shine as our truest selves. This show aims to highlight those special connections—those dear friendships—that enrich our human experience.

Curatorial Note by **Mihir Thakkar**

to Make a Home with You



आखिर वो कौन सी घड़ी है जब चार दीवारें मिलकर एक मकान बन जाती हैं, और इस बिखरी हुई दुनिया में, एक मकान कब चार दीवारों से बढ़कर, एक घर बन जाता है?

हममें से कई लोगों के लिए, जो इस क्वीयर संसार की गलियों में अपने आप को ढूँढ रहे हैं, घर वहीं होता है जहाँ हमें पूरी तरह समझा और अपनाया जाता है। जहाँ अपनेपन की छाँव में सफर आसान हो जाता है, और वो हौसला मिलता है, जो हमसे पहले गुज़रे साथियों को नकारा गया। जहाँ हमदिली, दोस्ती से मिला सहारा और स्वीकृति हमारे आज को वैसे ही बनाते हैं, जैसे हम चाहते हैं। हर इंसान, चाहे हम हों या हमारे संघर्ष-साथी, एक ऐसी जगह चाहता है जहाँ उसे अपनाया जाए, जहाँ वह अपनी सच्चाई के साथ जी सके, और उसके दबे जज़्बात भी खुलकर साँस ले सके। यह प्रदर्शनी इसी तलाश का बयान है। यहाँ कलाकार अपनापन और सुकून की सरल, लेकिन गहरी ज़रूरत को दर्शाते हैं, भले ही वह सुकून गुनगुनासा ही क्यों न हो। इस प्रदर्शनी की प्रेरणा उन घरों से आती है, जिनकी बुनियाद सह-अस्तित्व से गुँथी हो, जिनके आंगन में फैली आशनाई की कोमल धूप में हर पहचान, हर जज़्बात सज सके, और जहाँ हमारे क्वीयर जीवन की अनगिनत विविधताएँ अपनी अनगिनत गिरहों संग लहराकर खिल सकें।

यह एक कोशिश है यह समझने की कि पूर्ण स्वीकृति और सच्चे अभिमान की चमक वास्तव में कैसी होती है। यहाँ आप ऐसी कलाकृतियाँ पाएँगे जो विविध कलात्मक अभिव्यक्तियों से हमें यह दिखाने की कोशिश करती हैं कि कैसा महसूस होता है पूरी सच्चाई के साथ पहचाना जाना, अपनी बात खुलकर कह पाना, अपनी जगह ढूँढ पाना, और वहाँ साथ मिलकर एक घर बना पाना। एक प्रयास है मुझे मिले सौहार्द और सहारे को साझा करने का, जो मुझे अपने साथियों से मिला है। दोस्ती, हमदिली हमें थामती है, अपनाती है और हमारी असली पहचान को सँवारने और निखरने देती है। यह प्रदर्शनी उन्हीं गहरे रिश्तों - उन नायाब साथियों के साथ - की झलक दिखाती है, जो हमारे जीवन को अर्थ देते हैं और उसमें नए रंग भरते हैं।।

Translation by **Aditya Jadhav**



Aksh Diwan Garg
(he/him)

A visual artist from New Delhi, India. He renders oil and acrylic in dense, bold strokes, using vivid and rich tones. These artistic choices combine to bring focus to his paintings' narrative: Semi-autobiographical self-portraits, in gender neutral personas, depicted in scenarios imagined through his life experiences.

Garg's sensitive portrayal of human postures, facial expressions and hand gestures brings his figurative characters to life. Styled in strong and groovy attires, hairstyles and jewellery, they flaunt their identity with sensuality. They are unmistakably fearless and independent, each asserting a rightful place in society. The characters and the domains they inhabit are born of Garg's observations of his milieu, and are expressed with flourishes of his own beliefs, personality, fantasies and story-telling. Being in this reverie connects Garg to his inner psyche, and liberates him to depict the beautifully ambiguous brown culture as he perceives it. Garg, who also practises film-making and photography, has done Bachelor in fine arts from College of Art, New Delhi.



Aksh Diwan Garg
Mosquito bite 2025
Oil on canvas
24 x 38 inches



Aksh Diwan Garg
Is this seat taken 2025
Oil on canvas
40 x 50 inches



Aksh Diwan Garg

The rumour was true 2025

Oil on canvas

40 x 50 inches



Deepak Dhiman is a visual artist from Panchkula, Haryana. His artwork is a fusion of his personal experiences, reflecting a deep understanding of the human emotions. In 2017 he completed his bachelor degree and in 2021, he completed his master's degree in painting from the Government College of Art in Chandigarh. He has further honed his skills and expanded his knowledge in the field of painting. Currently, Deepak is based in Chandigarh, India. The intention of his practice is self-awareness of a person's psyche. He would like to create an environment where people would engage themselves into someone's space, which is somehow, somewhere they've dealt with. All the pressure weather it's family's or the outer world, creating anxieties. He wants to create an idea of one's struggle of life, self-acceptance, and self-awareness of controlling their own move for life. His work is release of his emotions.

Deepak Dhiman
(he/him)



Deepak Dhiman
Outcome-ing /
shredded skin 2025
Mixed media on canvas
+ velvet sculpture
60 x 72 inches



Deepak Dhiman
Outcome-ing /
shredded skin 2025
Mixed media on canvas
+ velvet sculpture
60 x 72 inches



Deepak Dhiman

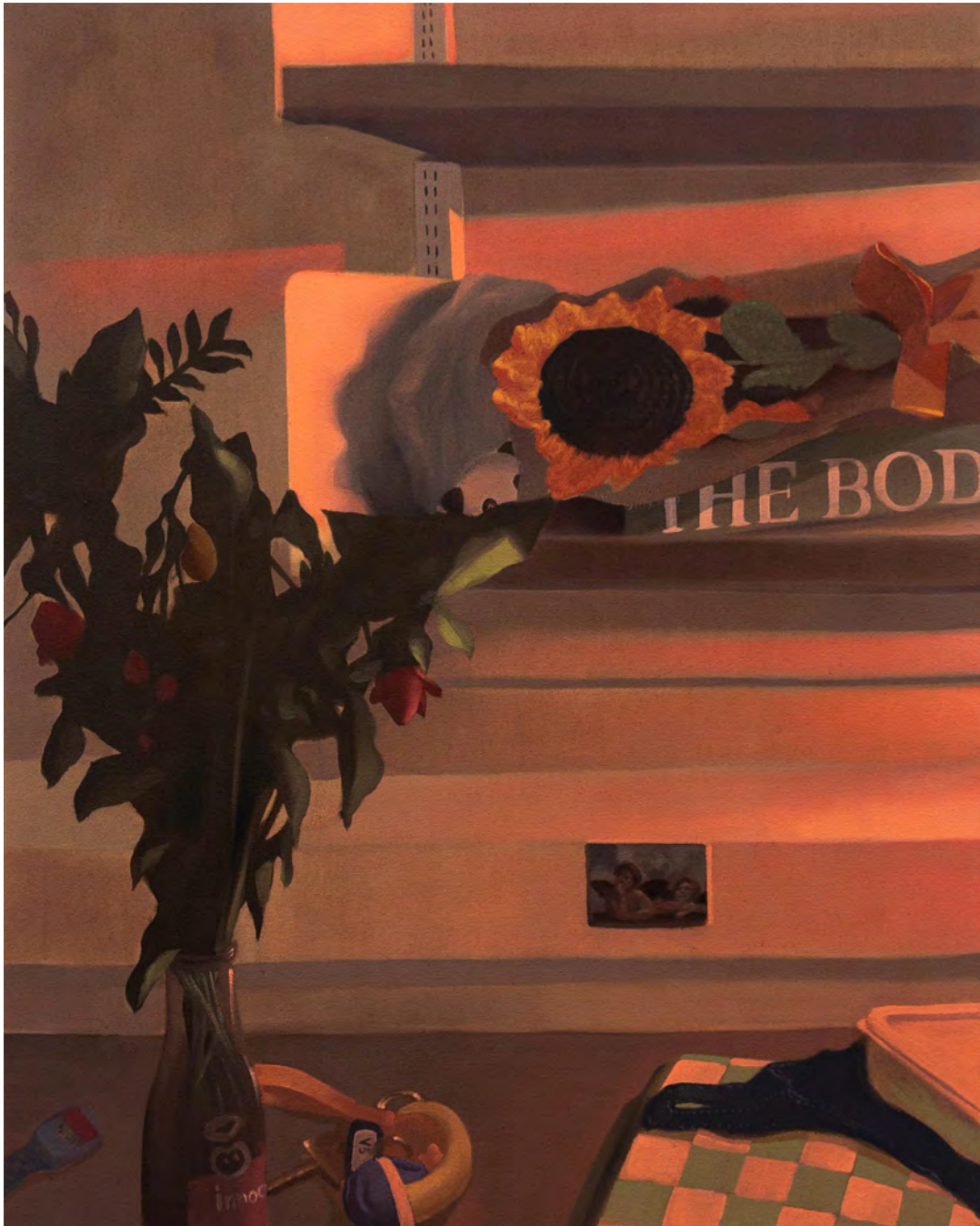
We thrive seeing you
live 2025

Mixed media on canvas
60 x 72 inches



Lakshya Bhargava (he/him) is an artist from Ghaziabad, who completed his bachelor's in visual arts at Bengaluru School of Visual Arts, Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath in 2022. His work delves into themes of Identity, Joy, Queer Friendships, Love, exploring their existence. Primarily working with painting and drawing, He takes inspiration from his conversations and experiences with his queer friends/chosen family and revisiting childhood memories. Lakshya was recently awarded the Elizabeth Greenshield grant (2024) and the Tata Trust National Kochi Muziris Students Biennale Award (2022). He is currently based in London pursuing his master's in fine arts at the Slade School of Fine Arts, UCL.

Lakshya Bhargava
(he/him)



Lakshya Bhargava
Quite Touch 2025
Acrylic on canvas
30 x 23.6 inches



Lakshya Bhargava
Spring Onions 2025
Acrylic on canvas
36 x 30 inches



Lakshya Bhargava
Morning Bed 2025
Acrylic on canvas
36 x 30 inches



Lakshya Bhargava
After Wash 2025
Acrylic on canvas
36 x 30 inches



Namrata Arjun
(she/they)

Namrata Arjun graduated with an MFA in Painting from the Milton Avery Graduate School for the Arts at Bard College, New York (2023), and was a Young India Fellow at Ashoka University (2016-17). In 2019, they were awarded a residential scholarship at Adishakti Laboratory for Theatre Arts & Research by the Viennese art factory baseCollective (Böhler/Granzer) in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of the Republic of Austria for arts-based-philosophy, which culminated in a field performance. Their work has been featured as part of group exhibitions including BluePrint12's Platform at the Delhi Contemporary Art Week 2021. Their first solo exhibition *_ontological striptease_* opened in August 2022 at BluePrint12, as part of Delhi Art Week in collaboration with Artsy. In 2023, they were commissioned to create a permanent video installation for the Bangalore International Airport (T2). They have also held curatorial, research and administrative positions at the Devi Art Foundation (2017-19) and the Museum of Art and Photography, Bangalore (2020-21). They are currently represented by gallery Art Exposure, Kolkata.

Namrata Arjun works with re-orienting memory, and the neuroqueering of historical and cultural references through the autobiographical. In the process, they surface neurodivergent perspectives, engage thick/queer/crip time and push back against inherited disappearances within/through figurative painting. By painting their own (normatively read as "female") body in the first-person perspective, they position their body/vantage point as a personal framing device, (re)producing images/conventions that normalise neuroqueer perspectives/depatriologize unmasked neurodivergent spatialities/temporalities. Time is rendered as non-linear/layered/nested-within-itself, while the ground is reconfigured into a vibrant/perpetually-shifting/animate negative/in-between space (dis)oriented by multiple perspectives. They conflate categories of subject/object, centre and margin/periphery, alternating between (gender) dysphoria and (neuroqueer) joy by grappling with family photographs, images re/constructed from dreams/mythological texts/rituals/gestures from living performance traditions, and colonial archives, engaging in a politic of pushing back against inherited disappearances to implicate/include the viewer.



Namrata Arjun
Arrival (after masaccio)
2025
Oil on linen
60 x 48 inches



Namrata Arjun

Differently gendered
unconscious / the
queer limit of memory
2025

Oil on canvas

18 x 14 inches



Namrata Arjun

Differently gendered
unconscious / the
queer limit of memory
2025

Oil and acrylic on
canvas

18 x 14 inches



Namrata Arjun
Neuroqueering 2025
Oil on linen
18 x 14 inches



Namrata Arjun

Differently gendered
unconscious / the
queer limit of memory
2025

Oil on canvas

18 x 14 inches



Zoya Thomas Lobo is India's first transgender photojournalist, model, and influencer. She holds the title of Miss Vivacious Trans Women 2024 from PANACHE RUNWAY. Her work has been recognized with awards from the Bombay News Photographers Association and the Fatima Bi Savitribai Phule Award, honoring her fight against societal stereotypes. A seasoned speaker, Zoya has delivered three TEDx talks at IIM and two Josh Talks. Currently, she freelances with the a Marathi newspaper and the Police Chitrat Hindi newspaper. In addition to her journalism, Zoya is employed as a front office executive at Morningstar in Navi Mumbai Vashi, where she is the company's only transgender employee in that role.

Zoya Lobo (she/her)



Zoya Lobo

Untitled (edition of 5)
2024

Photographs on semi-
archival paper

12 x 18 inches



Zoya Lobo

Untitled (edition of 5)
2024

Photographs on semi-
archival paper

12 x 8.5 inches



Zoya Lobo

Untitled (edition of 5)
2024

Photographs on semi-
archival paper

12 x 18 inches



Mihir Thakkar is a Mumbai-based professional with architectural training and a deep-rooted passion for the arts. This interdisciplinary background informs his approach to art production and management, allowing him to navigate the complexities of creative practice with both technical acumen and artistic sensitivity. Mihir's expertise lies in supporting emerging artists. He possesses a keen understanding of their creative processes, coupled with a strong grasp of the contemporary art market. This enables him to provide insightful guidance and foster sustainable careers for the artists he works with. Currently, Mihir is the Programme Director of Space Studio, an esteemed art residency in Baroda India. He also actively engages as a freelance consultant within the South Asian arts community. With a growing interest in curatorial practice, Mihir is embarking on a new chapter, exploring the possibilities of shaping and presenting compelling artistic narratives. *To Make a Home with You* exhibiting at Art and Charlie marks Mihir's curatorial debut.

Mihir Thakkar (he/him)

PLEASE NOTE:

1. All art is signed by the artist
2. All art is accompanied by a physical certificate
3. Packaging + Shipping cost are borne by the purchaser
4. No returns on art sales