

**INDIGO
ART
MUSEUM**





INDIGO

[NOUN]

/ˈɪn.dɪ.gəʊ/

Indigo is the colour of the deep midnight. It is a combination of deep blue and violet that holds the attributes of both these colours.

The story of natural indigo is a rich tapestry interwoven with threads of history, culture, science, and politics. More than just a colour, it embodies a legacy of innovation and experimentation. Dating back over 6,000 years, it stands as one of humanity's oldest dyes, bridging the gap between nature and artistry, tradition and innovation.

Its allure lies in its multifaceted nature, symbolizing royalty and spirituality in some cultures while representing rebellion and identity in others. Indigo transcends time, seamlessly weaving together the past, present, and future, leaving an indelible mark on the fabric of human experience.

INDIGO DYE

[NOUN]

/ˈɪn.dɪ.gəʊ/

A dye that is beyond its colour that puts mystic in everything it comes in contact with.



Indigo Art Museum: A Beacon for everything Indigo

The Indigo Art Museum unveils the rich tapestry of indigo dye, delving deep into its fascinating history and celebrating its global influence on trade, cultural exchange, and artistic expression. Through art, design, research, education, and immersive experiences, the museum ignites a passion for indigo, fostering appreciation for its enduring legacy and limitless creative potential. More than a historical archive, the museum brings indigo's legacy to life, sparking conversations and encouraging innovation. This unique focus on a single material – indigo – reveals its incredible versatility and vast expressions, transforming it from a distant memory into a vibrant, ever-evolving exploration. The museum isn't just about the past; it's a dynamic space for experimentation, ensuring indigo's legacy remains a vibrant thread in our cultural tapestry.



What We Do?

We are a unique world museum in Ahmedabad establishing India's most comprehensive collection of Indigo artworks.

We exist as a living museum such that artisans, artists, designers and technologists work together to showcase the past, the present and the future of the indigo dye.

We offer an experimental space, a laboratory of ideas and practices and a platform to all makers for exploration of indigo beyond just textiles through innovation and creativity.

We foster an environment of co-creation and knowledge exchange through collaborations and public programs.

We trace the artistic journey of indigo, from traditional techniques perfected over centuries to contemporary masterpieces pushing the boundaries of creative expression. The Indigo Art Museum offers a glimpse into the enduring power of this remarkable dye.



Arvind Mills 1930s, Haresh N Parmar

Arvind: A legacy steeped in Indigo

Arvind's story is deeply intertwined with indigo. Arvind is a pioneer of indigo-dyed denim production in India (becoming the world's third-largest producer by 1991) and a witness to the rich history this dye holds.

Indigo's significance extends far beyond its vibrant hue. As a material, natural indigo captures the vast linkages of regional and international trade since Harappan civilization to the present, and in India, its story is intricately woven with India's fight for freedom. The Indigo Revolts, sparked by unfair treatment of farmers during colonial rule, became a pivotal chapter in our independence movement. Arvind's own history reflects this connection. Founded in solidarity with Gandhi's Swadeshi movement, Arvind has always championed Indian-made, high-quality textiles – a commitment that continues to define Arvind today.



“With this museum, we hope to recreate its magic and also showcase the hues and striations of indigo, there by expanding our legacy into new narratives and newer frontiers.”

SANJAY LALBHAI

Chairman and Managing Director of Arvind Ltd.

From Ancient Dye to Modern Muse

The Indigo Art Museum delves into the fascinating story of indigo, tracing its journey from its origins to its role in global trade routes and its symbolic significance in various cultures. to experimentation and exploration. The museum envisions itself as a “living museum”, a laboratory of ideas and practices that that offers a glimpse into the enduring power of this remarkable dye through explorations with indigo in various materials in its modern context. The permanent collection of the Museum in Ahmedabad features installations, sculptures and paintings by acclaimed artists from across the globe including Amit Ambalal, Annie Morris, Idris Khan, Alwar Balasubramaniam, Manisha Parekh, Nalini Malani, Aboubakar Fofana, Alicja Kwade, and Shihoko Fukomoto, among others.



Lalbhai Estate

Nestled amidst towering trees and verdant gardens, the Kasturbhai Lalbhai Museum complex comprises meticulously restored structures by renowned architect Rahul Mehrotra and his team. The primary edifice, a colonial mansion erected in 1905, serves as a sanctuary for over a millennium of Indian artistry.

Curated with discernment, the eclectic array on exhibit reflects both art historical significance and personal predilections, preserving the essence of familial heritage. Paintings spanning diverse traditions and styles grace the walls, from Persian and Mughal to Deccan, Pahari, and Rajasthani schools, alongside Tibetan Thangkas, Company School portraits, and modernist masterpieces from the Bengal School. Sculptures in stone, metal, wood, and Bidri bear witness to centuries of craftsmanship.

Adjacent, the Claude Batley house, erected in the 1930s, houses the Indigo Art museum and its collection. Respectful of its historic charm, a contemporary glass gallery seamlessly integrates, providing additional exhibition space. Completing the ensemble, a quaint amphitheatre With an array of diverse events planned year-round, the aim is to cultivate a dynamic and inviting atmosphere, enticing visitors to indulge in a cultural feast.



The Foundation

A Commitment to Heritage and Innovation

Located in Ahmedabad, the museum's location reflects Arvind's deep roots in India's textile industry. Indigo has been instrumental in Arvind Limited's growth story. This museum represents Arvind's commitment to not only preserving the traditional art of indigo but also fostering its evolution in the modern world.

The Indigo Art Museum initiative is supported by the Arvind Indigo Foundation, a not-for-profit institution established in 2021 to promote and preserve the history, culture, and art of Indigo and other natural dyes and promote innovation and experimentation through their use in contemporary art and design.

Exploring a whole new universe of Indigo



ABOUBAKAR FOFANA

Bamako, Mali

Linen, Denim and Indigo

His work reflects the living materials he uses, harnessing their cycles of birth, life and decay, and the seasonal rhythms of nature. The dye colour a visible imprint of these natural cycles, while the most challenging part of his work is understanding and working with the living things to allow these colours to become visible.



'Divine Sky'



'Midnight in Bamako' by Aboubakar Fofana





ALICJA KWADE

Berlin, Germany

Stone, Felt and Natural indigo

Alicja is a Polish artist based in Berlin, delves into time, space, and perception through sculptures and installations. She manipulates materials like wood and marble, exploring relativism and illusion. Kwade's works provoke viewers to question reality by employing mirroring and repetition. Her muse is the void, inspiring sculptures that delve into the concept of 'nothingness as real.' Intellectual and inquisitive, her art springs from continuous questioning and research. In the "Indigo" exhibition, her installation "Skyground" utilizes marble, felt, latex, and indigo, resembling an inverted sky as the indigo seeps into the marble, transforming its nature. Her art is both intellectually stimulating and visually captivating.



'Skyground'



ALWAR BALASUBRAMANIAM

Tirunelveli, India

Resin, paint and Indigo

His works exist not as end results, but as moments extracted from a larger process—traces that imply not only past or present, but life that will continue. The natural world occupies a central role in all these six works of Bala—not only as subject matter or material, but also as collaborator in their creation.





'Lines of the Waves' By Alwar Balasubramaniam





AMIT AMBALAL

Ahmedabad, India

Wire mesh, Fabric, Resin and Indigo

Amit Ambalal's passion for the arts extends to historical research and a deep interest in the Nathdwara School of Painting, influencing his own work. With over 40 solo exhibitions worldwide, his pieces grace prestigious collections like the National Gallery of Modern Art, Delhi, and the British Museum, London. Amit, honored with awards such as the Civitela Reneieri Foundation Fellowship and the 'Gaurav Puraskar,' resides and creates in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India. One of his remarkable artworks, "Birds of a Feather Flock Together," showcases the versatility of indigo, blending fabric, wire mesh, and resin to evoke the intellect and movements of crows, a recurring fascination for the artist.





ANNIE MORRIS

London, UK

Carved foam plaster and Natural indigo

Morris wanted to dissect the colour Indigo and create a sculpture harmonious within its form and colour, in its deconstruction of the colour it asks the question 'what is indigo!?' Creating a colour-filled language using repetition as a device to compose intensely worked sculpture that is emotionally charged.





ASIF SHAIKH

Ahmedabad, India

Silk, Pashmina, Beetlewings and Natural indigo

A globally renowned multidisciplinary embroider practicing design and embroidery employing strikingly elegant and meticulous craft techniques on cloth. Through this craft practice Asif has been supporting long held traditions and its artisans. The Indigo Art Museum exhibits two of his exquisite works. The first artwork depicts the iconic jail of Sidi Sayyed Mosque embroidered using Aari chain stitch technique with indigo dyed silk yarn and hand woven silk-linen. While the second is a Zardozi embroidery artwork in indigo dyed silk yarn & pashmina, featuring beautiful iridescent beetlewing art.





BASED UPON

London, UK

Bronze and Indigo

They present a parched landscape of cracked earth cast in opulent bronze with indigo patina, highlighting impermanence while the idea of beauty in it, remains perennial.





BHAGYASHREE SUTHAR

Vadodara, India

Natural indigo pigment, Pen and Ink on paper

Through her works she lays out a Utopian, fantastical world brought to life through her fluid designs blended with fractal geometry based on symmetrical patterns found in nature and Fibonacci sequence which pose as a reflection of her own self.





G R IRANNA

Bijapur / Delhi, India

Charcoal, Gold dust and Natural indigo

Iranna's subtle treatment of quasi-abstract form is suggestive of his affinity to attempt to understand the impermanence of life around. This evokes a human vulnerability defining the very fragility of life. His fascination with ash stems from everyday ritual and also, of what ash represents in itself.





GREGOR HILDEBRANDT

Berlin, Germany

Recording tapes, media and Indigo

For Hildebrandt, the cassette tape as artistic medium, especially in its original function of storage medium, fulfils an important function: it enables the artist to add a further “invisible” dimension to his pictures. Playing with perception in this way is a major characteristic of his work; the picture is completed in the head of the viewer. He employs the material of his every-day environment without aesthetic or theoretical inhibition and playfully links aspects of conceptual art and minimal art with his personal life and experience of pop culture.



'Indigo Night'



HANSIKA SHARMA

Ahmedabad, India

Fabric and Natural indigo

Trained as a textile designer, her work is abstract and often representing states of being. Along with cloth she also works on paper using indigo dye and other materials. The idea behind the artwork was to capture the brilliance of this color and affirm its life-giving qualities through the image of the tree, which in itself is a life-giving force. Hansika worked with local artisans to weave in traditional design practices into this image of the tree. The work is done on indigo dyed linen fabric and with thread, dyed silk yarn, paint and indigo.



'Trees of Life'



IDRIS KHAN

London, UK

Ink, Glass and Natural indigo

Considered one of the foremost contemporary artists in the world Khan works through a variety of media that includes photography, video and sculpture, his work is connected through his intricate process of layering multiple images. He draws inspiration from diverse sources like the history of art, music as well as to some of the most significant philosophical and theological texts.





KAVIN MEHTA

Ahmedabad, India

Wood, Stone and Natural indigo

A practicing artist, architect and material researcher, his practice revolves around understanding the nature of materials and expressing them through the language of space, light and colours.







MANISH NAI

Mumbai, India

Aluminium, Jute and Natural indigo

Nai's abstraction is quite distinct: not merely an abstraction, but abstraction that is produced paradoxically by compression in an excess. His endeavours focused on exploring the pictorial and proto-sculptural dimensions of a given raw matter.







MANISHA PAREKH

New Delhi, India

Paint, paper and Natural indigo

Manisha equates her process with that of creating a musical composition “The work started with big heavy notes and soon started getting touched with small movements and variations. The surface was built with shades of the pigment with surprises as it bleeds with the water. Active with the web of patterns in places and silent in parts.” Transcending in to five pieces that speaks about ‘this amazing blue’.



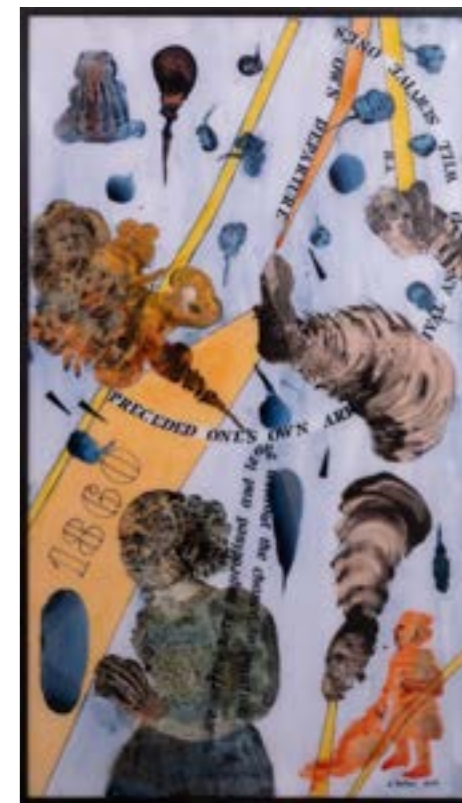
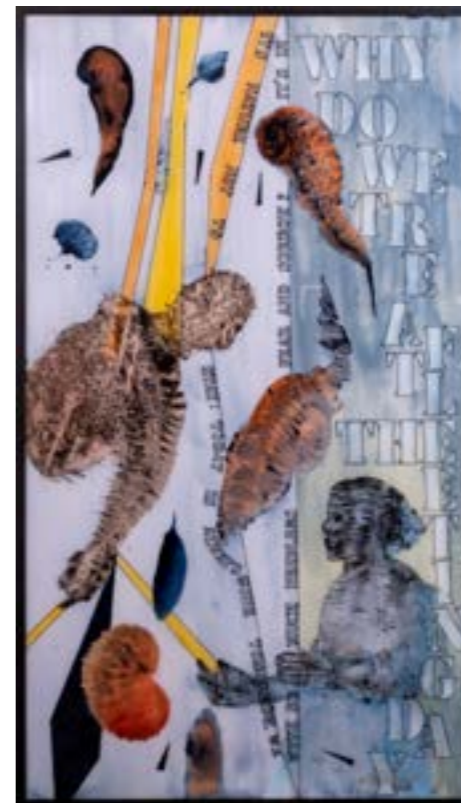


NALINI MALANI

Mumbai, India

Paint, paper and Natural indigo

Born amidst India's Partition, Nalini Malani's global travels and Parisian studies influenced her multidisciplinary art. She feared rising orthodoxy in India, inspiring innovative theater productions blending video with other materials. Honored with prestigious awards, including an Honorary Doctorate in Fine Arts and the Fukuoka Arts and Culture Prize, Malani crafts a new language for contemporary expression. Her immersive art, combining video and shadow plays, epitomizes her quest for meaning and imagination. Despite cultural shifts, Malani continues to reference Bombay, reflecting her artistic ethos. Her legacy resonates, challenging societal norms and enriching the global art scene with her distinctive voice.





NIBHA SIKANDER

Mumbai, India

Paper and Natural indigo

“Nature construct -deconstruct”, is set of select 36 works from her ongoing series reflecting her surrounding environment and her relationship with nature and its creatures like birds and insects, which she has been studying for last few years.



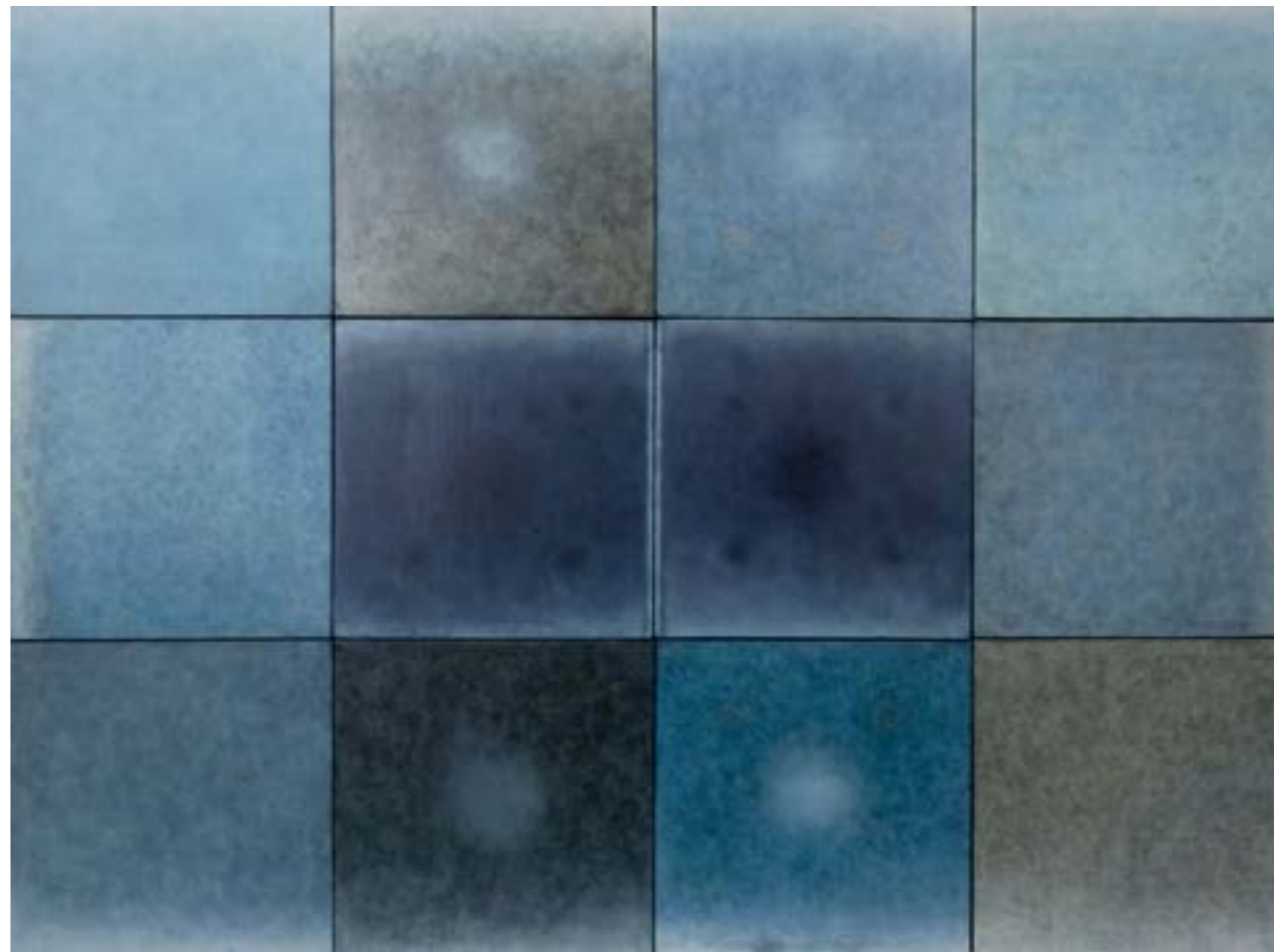


PANDIT KHAIRNAR

Mumbai, India

Acrylic and Natural indigo

He uses layer upon layer of oil paint to create evocations of fascinating shades of light like silent music. Through his paintings, he describes his memories spent in idyllic fields and attempts to recapture that point between twilight and dusk when the light changes in a few seconds and the open sky is a hue of myriad colours, intangible and mystic.





PARESH PATEL

Gandhinagar, India

Ashavali brocade and Natural indigo

Paresh practices and preserves the Ashavali brocade a specialty of Ahmedabad region and named after Ashaval, the ancient name of the city. It is part of Gujarat's rich textiles heritage that weaves its stories around birds singing, animals dancing and flowers blooming. In the early fifteenth century when Ahmed Shah took over Ahmedabad or as it was called Ashavali.





PRIYA RAVISH MEHRA

Delhi, India

Fabric Paper-Pulp, Indigo

Mehra (1961- 2018) was a Delhi-based textile artist and weaver, researcher and designer. In her artistic practice she would blend different materials such as paper, pulp, plant fiber, discarded cloth pieces into a seamless whole. Mehra had explored abstraction, staying true to her roots and interests in cloth and natural pigments like indigo. She used paper pulp, gauze, fabric and indigo to create abstract contemplations that are also concrete visual examples of the intricate and captivating power of cloth, fiber and pigment. Her work gives us the sense that she was paying homage to nature and natural processes.



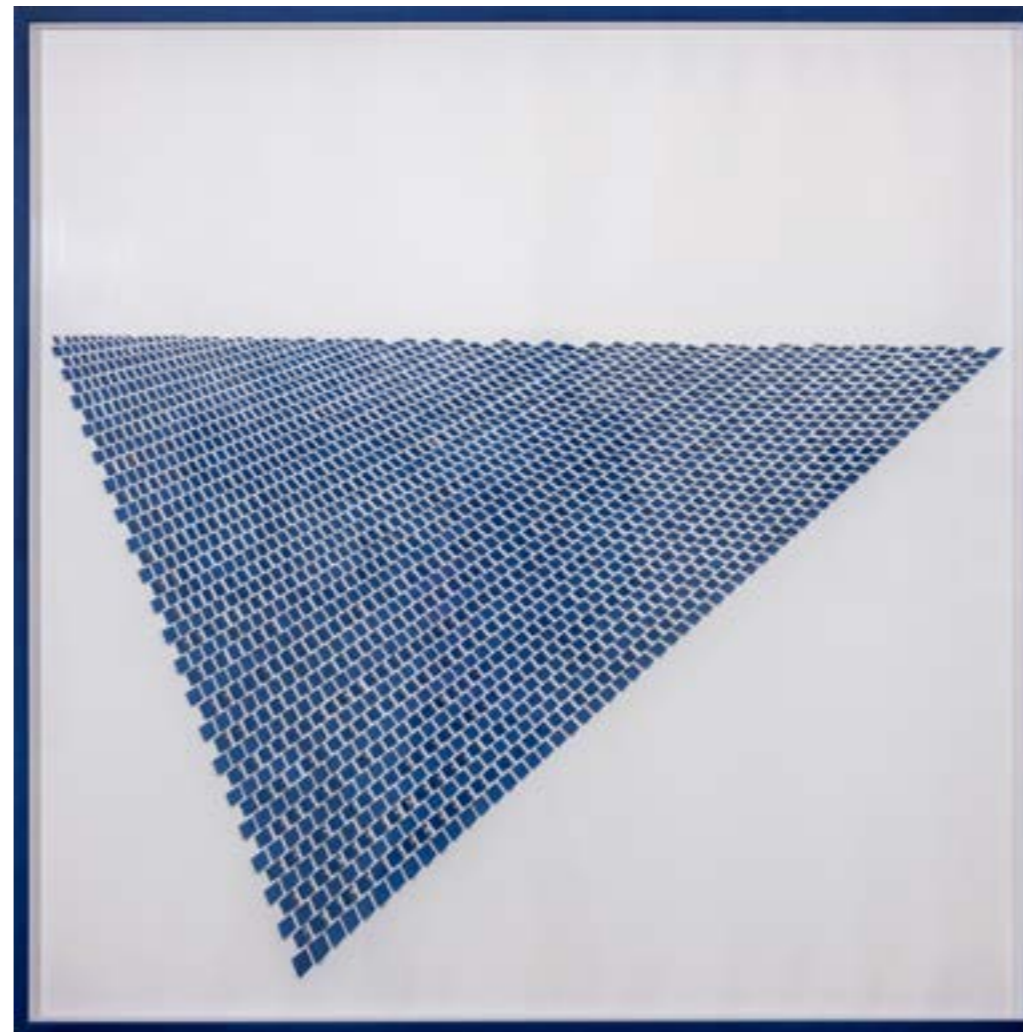


SACHIN TAKEDE

Delhi, India

Paper and Natural indigo

The artist calls the current work made for the exhibition 'The Shadow'. The work is made up of an intricate design of indigo dyed paper cut to create a play of light and shadow as well as color and geometry. According to the artist the 'Shadow' of non-existent structures is manifested in blue, as he wishes to interpret the essence of shadow in his own way. The Light and the Shadow have always been essential elements of his art.





SHIHOKO FUKOMOTO

Kyoto, Japan

Linen and Natural indigo

Fukumoto's work has a sublime quality that is a result of years of experience with cloth and natural pigment that inspire awe and take the viewer to a sort of serene and other worldly place. The Indigo Art Museum showcases her beautiful work "Time Space" in double linen cloth with gradation dye. The waves in the textile can be felt as if they are moving when you move alongside the work and the ethereal white gives it a transcendent presence.



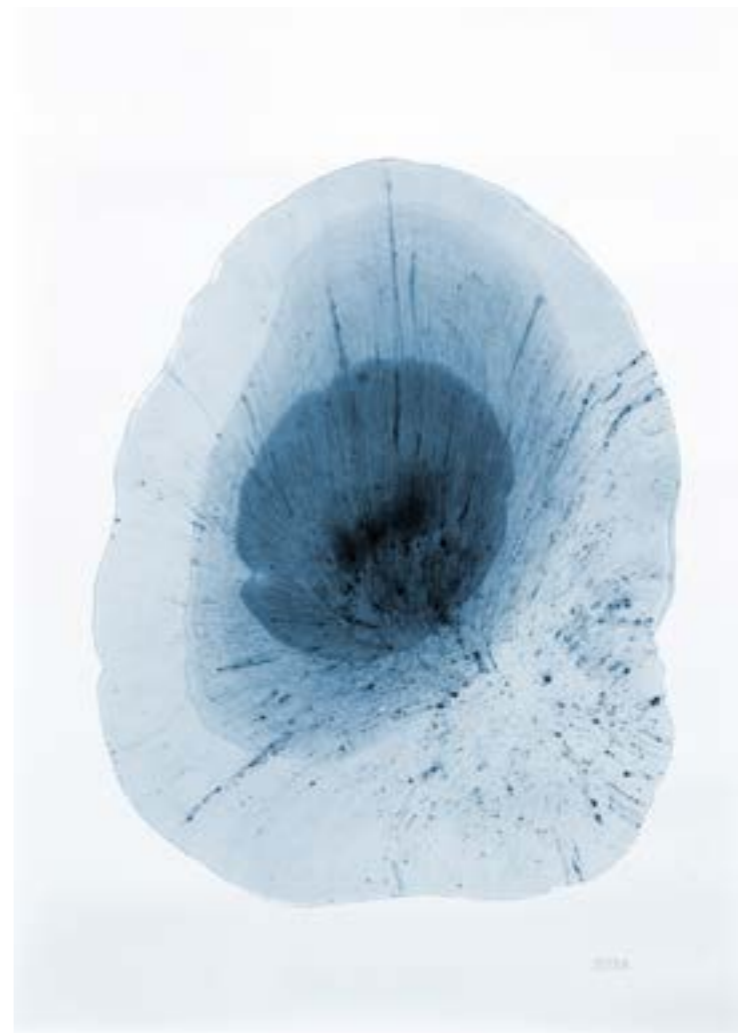


SHOLA CARLETTI

Pune, India

Natural indigo pigments and Epoxy

Shola was born in 1966 in Pesaro, Italy, seeks to transcend traditional canvas limitations by emphasizing form without boundaries and removing frames. Her work delves into the process of soul searching, aiming to strip away ego and conditioning to reveal essential human qualities. For her, painting is a personal quest to reach the essence of being, where embellishments are shed, and shapes transform into formless entities. Using thick epoxy resin and acrylic, she highlights the essence of indigo in her artwork, allowing the colour to flow naturally. Indigo, to her, is the hero, and she eliminates all else to illuminate its essence.





TANYA GOEL

New Delhi, India

Paint on canvas and Natural indigo

Her works are notable for their exploration of a rigorous abstraction that is deeply invested in the process of their creation. Her inaugural art piece for the Indigo Art Museum charts the rise and fall of the global sea level, disrupting the static field of horizontals.





VIPUL MAHADEVIA

Ahmedabad, India

Fabric, Khadi, Jute, Silk, Paper and Natural indigo

(1960-2022) A designer by profession he had a special inclination towards denim. His journey with Arvind started in 1986, Vipul considers the kimono as the best apparel there is. The Kimono showcased are results of explorations that include the first attempt at making paper into apparel, khadi denim and jute infused with hand dyed indigo.





Natural indigo dyed Kimonos by Vipul Mahadevia



VYOM MEHTA

Ahmedabad, India

Aluminium, and Natural indigo

Born in 1985, in Ahmedabad, India, Vyom is a sculptor. He looks at the world through a macro lens, though the individual perception of each work becomes personal and defined. Scale is very important in his work, the proportions are such that it emphasises our own physicality. And so while engaging with his work the focus becomes inward, forcing us to become aware of our own bodies, our own scale, in reference to everything around.



Aboubakar Fofana | Alicja Kwade | Alwar Balasubramaniam | Amit Ambalal

Annie Morris | Asif Shaikh | Based Upon | Bhagyashree Suthar | G R Iranna

Gregor Hildebrandt | Hansika Sharma | Idris Khan | Kavin Mehta

Kirit Chitara | Manish Nai | Manisha Parekh | Meesha Holley | Megha Todi

Nibha Sikander | Nalini Malani | Pandit Khairnar | Paresh Patel

Priya Ravish Mehra | Sachin Tekade | Sheetal Gattani | Shihoko Fukomoto

Shola Carletti | Tanya Goel | Tarun Tahiliani | Umang Hutheesing

Victoria Andrejeva | Vipul Mahadevia | Vyom Mehta



The Indigo Art Museum invites artists, designers, artisans, weavers, dyers, historians, storytellers, explorers and creative minds from all fields to collaborate with us and experience the legacy of indigo. Immerse yourself in the fascinating story of this remarkable dye, discover its history, explore its artistic possibilities, and ignite your



INDIGO ART MUSEUM

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For Collaboration : connect@indigoartmuseum.org

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I AM
LIVING
DYEING
BUBBLING
BREATHING