

Press Release

Muziris Contemporary presents *Who Made the Fire Cracker Red?* – a solo exhibition by Harsimran C Juneja

Muziris Contemporary is pleased to announce *Who Made the Fire Cracker Red?*, a solo exhibition by Harsimran C Juneja, opening on Tuesday, November 11, at the gallery's Colaba space. This marks Muziris Contemporary's third exhibition at its Colaba gallery, ahead of the opening of its second space in Fort Kochi this December. Through this exhibition, the gallery is also delighted to announce its representation of Harsimran C Juneja.

In Juneja's practice, yellow is a living force, a language through which he thinks, feels, and releases. Across his canvases, it breathes in layers both literal and figurative, forming a terrain where conflict, wit, and reflection coexist. It is a hue that reveals as much as it conceals, warm to the eye even when it speaks of unease.

In *Who Made the Fire Cracker Red?*, Juneja turns this amber-hued gaze toward the dichotomies of seeing and being seen, his investigation spanning personal, political, social, and cultural contexts. While his raw, gestural brushwork draws from neo-expressionist and primitivist impulses, his work speaks unmistakably to the complexities of our post-truth, post-pandemic world. The minimalistic landscape of *Bathwick* and everyday scenes like the one in *Prior Park* extend this inquiry into perception. Bathed in yellow, they appear as if viewed through a monochromatic lens that imbues everything with a heightened, dreamlike quality. Like the landscapes, the figures that inhabit this world, often anthropomorphic and charged with emotional intensity, also seem to emerge from that yellow itself – part human, part animal, part phantasm. Text becomes a crucial interlocutor in Juneja's practice, punctuating his canvases with satire and reflection. These 'truisms', terse and self-aware, form a parallel system of meaning, reframing and complicating his visual narratives. *Who Made the Fire Cracker Red?* is both question and revelation. It gestures toward the instability of perception – how we see, what we choose to see, and what remains unseen. In Juneja's hands, yellow becomes a way of thinking, a method of reckoning with the world's contradictions. His paintings function like open circuits, refusing closure or comfort, instead inviting the viewer to look closer, to question and question again, what lies beneath the many layers of yellow and within your own mind.

Rooted in the spirit of dialogue between the ancient and the contemporary, Muziris Contemporary's programming foregrounds contemporary practices that question perception, identity, and the shifting textures of our time. Juneja's exploration of emotion and meaning through the colour yellow resonates closely with the gallery's commitment to artists who use form and feeling as sites of inquiry and transformation.

Exhibition Details

Title: *Who Made the Fire Cracker Red?*

Artist: Harsimran C Juneja

Venue: Muziris Contemporary, Colaba, Mumbai

Opening: Tuesday, November 11, 2025 (Art Night Tuesday)

On View: November 11 – December 31, 2025