

PRESS RELEASE

Muziris Contemporary brings Matthanchère Summer Salon to Kochi Post Biennale Buzz

- Muziris Contemporary aims to be a hub of contemporary art for Kochi with year-round exhibitions and programming.
- Muziris Contemporary announces the Matthanchère Summer Salon in Kochi, a curated showcase of contemporary art, focused on building an art market for the regional audience.
- The Matthanchère Summer Salon will open at Muziris Contemporary's Kochi Gallery on Sunday, 17 May, 2026, and remain on view for two months.

About the Exhibition

Opening: 17 May 2026, 11AM | [Muziris Contemporary](#), Kochi, Kerala

Following the resounding success of the 6th edition of the Kochi-Muziris Biennale, Kochi's art scene continues to thrive with the opening of Matthanchère Summer Salon at Muziris Contemporary, Kochi. This marks the gallery's second exhibition in the city, underscoring its dedication to showcasing contemporary art practices to audiences across India and internationally.

True to its name, the exhibition captures the season's buoyant moods. Curated to evoke the spirit and ephemerality of summer, it brings together contemporary artworks that revel in this energy, capturing the play of light and shadow, the ubiquitous presence of pedestrians with umbrellas, clear blue skies and timeless nights, and an abundance of harvest and bloom. It features the multidisciplinary art practices of Mansoor Mansoori, Latheesh Lakshman, Digvijaysinh Jadeja, Raj Chowdhury, and Sabiha Dohadwala, juxtaposing suprematist forms resonant with the Biennale's landmark visual identity with intricate textile and paper creations, while radiant pastels and nighttime scenes dissolve boundaries between day and dusk, inviting viewers to engage with the varying moods of summer amid the city's layered histories.

Matthanchère Summer Salon is being exhibited at our Kochi gallery, nestled in an old pepper warehouse in Jew Town, retaining its historic character with terracotta-tiled floors and soaring ceilings. A stone's throw away from the Paradesi Synagogue, the space hosts curated exhibitions and traveling shows from across India for South Indian audiences. It also features an en suite 600 square feet viewing room introducing artists' practices for collectors, curators, and patrons who wish to engage with works beyond our current exhibition in Kochi. It stands as our commitment to build a stronger art market and foster institutional support for the region's art scene, and ensure that the Biennale city sustains its art fabric beyond the landmark event through year-round programming, ensuring that art collectors, visitors, and tourists alike can seamlessly add contemporary exhibitions to their itinerary.

Ideally suited to emerging and seasoned collectors, the exhibition introduces mid-career artists to South Indian audiences, opening doors for local audiences to practices typically reserved for the galleries of metropolitan cities. The exhibition will formally open in Muziris Contemporary's Kochi Gallery on **Sunday, 17 May** and remain on view for the next two months.

About the Artists

Mansoor Mansoori is a visual artist working with painting, video, photography, printmaking and immersive light installations. His artworks focus on the vulnerable human presence in imaginary landscapes, showcasing nighttime scenes through space and shadow. The paintings tend towards figurative style in visual idiom and the painting in its entirety are very atmospheric, catching the mood of the landscape through the sensitive depiction of space, light and architecture. Mansoor has completed his BFA from the M S University Baroda and then went on to complete his MFA from the Shiv Nadar University, Noida.

Latheesh Lakshman is a Kerala-based artist whose visual practice is rooted in the craft traditions of his region, particularly the goldsmith community's legacy. With formal training from the College of Fine Arts, Thiruvananthapuram, and over two decades in the advertising industry, Latheesh brings a refined visual language shaped by both local sensibilities and global aesthetics. His works often fuse minimal illustration, typography, and pattern to create playful yet incisive reflections on contemporary culture. Latheesh has been a key figure in shaping the visual identity of the Kochi-Muziris Biennale. His work has earned him several accolades, including the Cannes Lions (2011), Transform Dubai (2018), and YCN London (2007).

Digvijaysinh Jadeja is a visual artist working with painting and printmaking. His work explores the overlap of memory, dreams, and reality, creating figurative narratives and atmospheric landscapes that reflect personal and collective experiences. He has exhibited widely, including his solo show Perception of Realities at the India International Centre. He completed his MFA in Printmaking (2023) and BFA in Painting (2021) from MSU Baroda. He has been awarded the MacDowell Fellowship (2024) and received the Prof. V.S. Patel Gold Medal and C.R. Das Gupta Memorial Gold Medal for excellence in Printmaking.

Sabiha Dohadwala is a textile artist whose practice navigates the liminal spaces between memory, materiality, and temporality. Her work engages with the ephemerality of memory; those transient, fragmented flashes of places once visited, now reconstituted in abstract, dreamlike reveries. In her hands, the act of weaving becomes a means to mediate between presence and absence, permanence and decay. Dohadwala has completed her BFA in Fiber and Material Studies at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, 2018. Her works have been exhibited in group shows at India Art Fair, New Delhi (2025), Gallery XXL, Mumbai (2024), Space 118, Mumbai (2024), Art Mumbai (2024), and Melbourne Museum (2023), among others.

Raj Chowdhury is a visual artist based in West Bengal whose artworks are a representation of his own passionate pursuits as an adolescent. Marked by realism, influenced heavily by

elements of emotion, nature, and mood, he became increasingly inclined towards surrealism and abstract realism. His paintings express the idea of Romanticism in various ways, reflecting his self-written poetry describing his ideas and dreams. Raj has participated in various solo and group shows, including at Si Bumbai, Kala Ghoda, Mumbai, 2020, Kolkata Centre for Creativity, Kolkata, 2022, and Laxmi Studio, New Delhi, 2022.

“ *The work reflects that suspended feeling of being between places, where time feels unclear and moments stretch beyond their actual duration. I was also thinking about the stillness of a moment that may exist only for less than a second before disappearing. The vastness of the landscape became psychologically overpowering, holding all these fragments together within one space.*

– **Digvijaysinh Jadeja**, on his triptych *Timeless Glimpses*

“ *Returning to Kochi post-Biennale feels electric. Like Venice, Kochi as the Biennale city requires sustained programming, and the Summer Salon, our second exhibition with many more to come, seeks to strengthen the regional art fabric for ongoing engagement. Our mission remains to bridge artists with discerning audiences, fostering a deeper appreciation for contemporary art in India and beyond.*

– **Joe Cyril**, Founder and Gallery Director, Muziris Contemporary

About the Gallery and Founder

Muziris Contemporary is a South Asian art gallery with permanent spaces in Colaba and Fort Kochi-Mattancherry, and an artist residency in Vagamon, a hill station in the Western Ghats of Kerala. The gallery seeks to create a space rooted in identity yet contemporary in spirit, serving as both a platform and catalyst to bring underrepresented art movements, voices beyond the fine art world, and narrative based contemporary practices from the region to the larger art market and beyond.

With a growing presence across key cultural locales, Muziris Contemporary showcases both emerging and established artists, fostering conversations on how cultural histories and influences continue to shape and expand contemporary art practices in the country. Through its curated exhibitions, the gallery proposes to be a space for engagement, discovery and learning for coddiwompling travellers and new collectors alike.

Joe Cyril is a gallerist and art advisor whose experience spans the commercial, grassroots, and institutional ends of the art world. With a breadth of experience across the primary and secondary markets, he has played a pivotal role in shaping new creative economies in and around south asian art and its markets.

He was part of the founding team of the Kochi-Muziris Biennale and has held leadership roles at Saffronart, India's leading auction house as well as serving as the founding director of Gallery XXL, India's first gallery dedicated to street art. Joe has a very keen interest in creating new art spaces and introducing new audiences to collecting and learning about Indian art.

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