

PRESS RELEASE



Group Exhibition at Muziris Contemporary Maps the Evolving Negotiations of Belief in Society

- Muziris Contemporary's upcoming group exhibition *Holding Space* brings together various contemporary artists to explore the terrain of belief and faith, and its continual evolution.
- This exhibition reflects Muziris Contemporary's institutional commitment to invite important discourse about the human condition and pervasive cultural phenomena into the gallery.
- *Holding Space* will open at Muziris Contemporary's Colaba Gallery on Thursday, 11 June, 2026, on Art Night Thursday.

About the Exhibition

Open to public from **12 June 2026, 11AM** / Muziris Contemporary, Colaba, Mumbai

Holding Space is an exhibition that explores the terrain of belief and faith, and its continual evolution. It is a group exhibition featuring the artworks of Jofre Oliveras, Angel Baiju, Anikesa Dhing, Harsimran C. Juneja, Meera George, and Chacko.

The exhibition explores the lived reality of faith as well as its machinery. Every individual's experience of faith is radical on its own, an internal syntax composed of history and revelation. These private convictions configure our public spaces and systems through an inevitable and – at times, overpowering – process of translation. The exhibition situates faith at the threshold between the vulnerability of intimate dwellings and the architecture of today's institutions. The artworks examine faith as a series of negotiations, working through the friction of complex, often conflicting realities that coexist in the same space. Seen together, they renounce a singular decree or narrative; they simply sit alongside each other, with each work conversing in its own distinct dialect, inviting the public into their dialogue. Amidst constant global warfare, escalating polarization, and everyday news of violence, this exhibition invites visitors to step away from rhetoric and pause, in order to engage with the difficult, intentional work of

perspective-taking. It foregrounds the process of revisiting and reflecting on what we hold to be true.

Holding Space reflects Muziris Contemporary's endeavour to contextualise pervasive social and cultural phenomena within the critical framework of contemporary art. By positioning faith as both a historical cornerstone and a facilitator for change in today's age, our aim is to bring important discourse about the human condition out of the abstract and into the physical space of our gallery. The exhibition will open on 12 June, 2026 at Muziris Contemporary, located in Colaba, Mumbai.

*“ We are dedicated to bringing important discourse into our gallery walls. Art is often a mirror for the human experience. With *Holding Space*, we want to pull back the curtain on why we believe what we believe and how we negotiate this belief within the systems we find ourselves. It's an open exploration of how our faith shapes our lives and the need for holding space in the society we live in.*

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

About the Art and Artists



Jofre Oliveras is a Spanish visual artist, researcher, and activist who operates fluidly across disciplinary and geographic boundaries. With academic roots in philosophy, communication, and journalism, he examines public spaces and phenomena, looking beyond the commodification of people to the interactions that happen in our cities, both sanctioned and unsanctioned. Through his work in this exhibition, Jofre challenges the viewer to recognize how violence is mythologized, institutionalized, and even made palatable to the public.

Angel Baiju is a visual artist whose practice explores the intersection of memory and everyday life, seeking to tie ancestral roots with fleeting impressions of the present. In this body of work, she pays a visit to the tender yet unsettling spaces of her childhood, retracing familiar liturgical imagery with a spectral quality to affirm the ambiguity of memory. Angel holds a Bachelor of Visual Arts from MS University, Baroda. She continues to grow her practice within an ever-fluid landscape, guided by the past and the unpredictable flow of life.





Anikesa Dhing's work focuses on a renewed relationship with the material world through aspects of knowledge, perception and memory. With the overwhelming visual she is trying to induce a sense of uncertainty to what we think is 'known' The Object becomes a prime protagonist in a narrative that is non linear and all consuming, and places itself in a position to be looked at and understood. Anikesa graduated from MS University, Baroda with an undergraduate and post-graduate degree in Fine Arts. She currently lives and works in Baroda.

Harssimran Juneja is an artist whose practice explores the impact of societal conflicts on the human condition, navigating the complexities of personal, political, social, and cultural dichotomies. His work combines texts, objects, figurative forms and abstraction to challenge norms and offer spaces for reflection. Drawing primarily from personal observations, his art invites viewers to engage with conflict and its complexities. Harssimran holds an MA in Design Management and Cultures from LCC, University of Arts London.



Chacko is a multidisciplinary artist and designer who blurs the boundary between functional objects and narrative art. Founder of his eponymous Mumbai-based studio and workshop, Chacko treats this space as a canvas for material exploration and storytelling, crafting bespoke furniture, lighting, and lifestyle pieces. With a background weaving through automotive design, installation art, and a firm opinion that the design and the making of a product should happen under the same roof, Chackoshop is a testament to his beliefs.

Born in Chennai, **Meera George** is an artist who hails from Kerala, South India. An alumnus of Delhi college of Art and Kent Institute of Art & Design, UK, Meera predominantly works in mediums of mixed media, installation and performance art that she exhibits internationally. Recipient of eight international grants and residencies, her work is sensitive to cross-cultural feminist issues, at the same time strongly autobiographical through the use of her own body and objects from her culture as actors and props in her works.



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 coddie-wompling 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. Joe has a keen interest in creating new art spaces and introducing new audiences to collecting and learning about Indian art.

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