

KNMA Announces *Inheritors of Earth*, Exploring Plant Life as Protagonists in a Shared World



Sandeep TK

Colorized scene from *Kadal Paranjath or As Told By the Sea*, 2026, film.

Screenplay and direction: Sandeep TK. Cinematography: Sheethal NS, Vyshakh Thaliyil.

Editor: Noufai Salih. Sound: Nandagopan P. UPM: Savinay Shivadas.

Press Kit

New Delhi, 31 August 2026: The Kiran Nadar Museum of Art (KNMA) announces *Inheritors of Earth*, opening to the public at KNMA, New Delhi, on 9 September 2026. Moving away from minimalistic expressions of human emotions, the exhibition, curated by Premjish Achari, Senior Curator, KNMA, invites us to consider the world through a vegetal lens, exploring plant life as protagonists in a shared world: presenting them as agents beyond human perspectives of function, aesthetics, or ecological concern.

Echoing Vaikom Muhammad Basheer's *Bhumiyude Avakashikal* (1977), which imagines humans, flora and fauna as equal co-custodians of the planet, the exhibition considers plant life not as a passive backdrop to human experience, but as a parallel, entangled world with its own rhythms, histories and forms of resilience. It opens possibilities for unlearning the transactional ways in which we usually approach plants, encouraging us instead to dwell with their worlds, observe their temporalities and allow their rhythms to enter the texture of artistic practice.

Bringing together paintings, photographs, drawings, videos and installations, the exhibition traces themes of growth and decay, rootedness and migration, memory and ecological change. The artists move beyond simply representing plants to develop what the exhibition describes as a *phytosensitive* approach, one that brings a patient and meditative sensibility to looking, attending to plant temporalities, displaced organic matter and the histories carried through botanical migrations. Together, these practices invite us to look with plants rather than merely at them, reconfiguring our imagination towards coexistence, humility and a renewed sense of shared inheritance.

Premjish Achari, Senior Curator, KNMA said, *“This exhibition places plant life at the centre of its inquiry, moving beyond conventional representations of plants as passive elements of the landscape. Inheritors of Earth brings together artworks that engage with mangroves, forests, plantation crops, and urban trees as living entities shaped by histories of labour, caste, ecology, and care. The exhibition invites us to reconsider our relationship with the vegetal world and to recognise plants as co-inheritors of the earth, with histories and forms of agency that exist alongside our own.”*

The exhibition also brings together contributions that extend its immersive and interdisciplinary character, including poetry and audio narration by Manuel Mata, a seating installation by Sweetie Chakma, soundscape design by Ben Goldfarb, booklet design by Aranya Sengupta, and a reading room with a special selection of works from Shared Ecologies’ archive.

Listing Details:

Inheritors of Earth

Preview: 8th September 2026

Open to Public: 9th September 2026 onwards

Where: KNMA DLF South Court Mall, Saket

Admission Fee: Free (Museum visitors are requested to register at the reception upon arrival)

For media inquiries, interviews, or further information, please contact:

Amrita Kapoor, DGM - Media and PR, KNMA

M: +91 9818058964

Email : amrita.kapoor@knma.org

Notes to editor

About Kiran Nadar Museum of Art (KNMA)

Founded in 2010, the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art (KNMA) is India’s leading private museum of modern and contemporary art from South Asia. A non-commercial, not-for-profit institution supported by the Shiv Nadar Foundation, KNMA presents exhibitions, commissions, performances, and public programmes that connect visual and performing arts with broad audiences. Through its wide-ranging learning and community initiatives, KNMA works to expand access to the arts and foster deeper engagement with modern and contemporary practices. KNMA is currently under construction on a new purpose-built campus in New Delhi that will significantly expand its exhibition, performance, and learning capacities. Conceived as an interdisciplinary cultural center, the new building will enable more ambitious artistic production, cross-disciplinary collaboration, and public programming, strengthening the museum’s role as a leading cultural platform in India and internationally.

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