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Kiran Nadar Museum of Art

# KNMA Brings Two Distinct Projects to the India Biennale 2026: *Unsettled Matter/s* at Purana Qila and *VYOM: The Infinite Installation Sky* at Lodhi Gardens

*Two site-responsive presentations bring the KNMA collection and a new sculptural installation into dialogue with Delhi's layered histories, material worlds and changing landscapes.*



Manjunath Kamath, To be continued....., 2019, Painted terracotta, fiberglass and iron.
Image Courtesy of KNMA

**New Delhi, India | 2 Nov 2026** — The Kiran Nadar Museum of Art (KNMA) will present two distinct projects as part of the **India Biennale 2026**, bringing together a group exhibition drawn from its collection and a newly commissioned sculptural installation across two of Delhi's significant heritage landscapes.

At **Purana Qila, KNMA will present *Unsettled Matter/s*, curated by Premjish Achari, Senior Curator, KNMA under the curatorial advice of Roobina Karode, Artistic Director and Chief Curator, KNMA.** *Unsettled Matter/s* is a group exhibition featuring works by 21 artists from the museum's collection. At **Lodhi Gardens, the museum will present *VYOM: The Infinite Installation Sky*, a new 18-foot-high commission by Vishal K. Dhar** that engages with the changing appearance of the sky through sculpture, light and perspective.

The India Biennale 2026, organised by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, will take place from **4 December 2026 to 21 March 2027.** Under the theme *Tat Tvam Asi- Reconnecting in an Age of Distraction*, the 108-day Biennale will transform Delhi into a city-wide cultural platform, bringing exhibitions, installations and public programmes into dialogue with its monuments, museums, galleries and public spaces. Its curatorial premise draws on the Upanishadic insight "You Are That", emphasising the interconnectedness of the self, the surrounding world and the places and communities we inhabit.

KNMA's participation contributes to this wider exploration through two projects that offer different ways of encountering the relationship between contemporary art and its environment.

***Unsettled Matter/s* at Purana Qila**
**Curated by Premjish Achari, Senior Curator, KNMA**
**Curatorial Advisor Roobina Karode, Artistic Director and Chief Curator, KNMA**

At Purana Qila, KNMA presents *Unsettled Matter/s*, a group exhibition drawn from the museum's collection, bringing together sculptural works and video art by artists across generations. Featuring works in bronze, stone, terracotta and synthetic materials, alongside video projections integrated into the historic architecture, the exhibition explores the shifting relationships between material, form, time and place.

*Unsettled Matter/s* presents a landscape of incompletion in which the world remains in a state of becoming. The Earth continues to move beneath the apparent stability of its surfaces; matter resists permanence; and historical narratives remain open to reinterpretation. The exhibition moves away from fixed meanings towards possibilities, considering how materials, forms and histories continue to evolve.

The sculptural works reveal materials in different states of transformation. Clay is pressed, modelled and fired; minerals are extracted and combined with metals; stone resists the artist's intervention; and synthetic materials introduce new possibilities of form and construction. These processes do not simply transform raw matter into definitive objects. Instead, they reveal provisional arrangements within longer material lives, shaped by extraction, labour, technique and time.

The exhibition extends beyond sculpture to include a series of video works projected across the walls and surfaces of Purana Qila, engaging the monument's historic architecture as an active site of artistic expression. One projection will be installed within the semi-open ruins, while another will animate the structures above the cells, introducing moving images into the

site's existing architectural and spatial framework. Through these interventions, the projections create a dynamic interplay between image, space, and material, inviting audiences to experience the monument through new visual and sensory encounters. By bringing contemporary artistic practices into dialogue with the layered histories of Purana Qila, the works explore how the past and present coexist, allowing the architecture to become both a surface for projection and a participant in the exhibition itself.

Across the exhibition, the works reveal an ongoing negotiation between artistic intention and material resistance, where processes of change remain integral to the formation of objects and images. Within Purana Qila, these encounters bring the material lives of artworks into dialogue with the monument's layered histories, opening up new ways of thinking about time, memory and the evolving relationship between art and place.

***VYOM: The Infinite Installation Sky* by Vishal K. Dhar at Lodhi Gardens**
**Commissioned by KNMA**
Curatorial Advisor Roobina Karode, Artistic Director and Chief Curator, KNMA

As a separate project for the India Biennale 2026, KNMA presents *VYOM: The Infinite Installation Sky*, a new commission by Vishal K. Dhar at Lodhi Gardens. Standing 18 feet tall, the installation explores the relationship between sculpture, sky and perception.

Capturing geometric slivers of the sky across its surfaces, *VYOM* transforms with changing light and atmospheric conditions, creating a dynamic visual experience from dawn to dusk. As the sky changes, the installation's appearance shifts, bringing attention to the interplay between the constructed and the natural, the tangible and the ephemeral. The work invites viewers to reconsider the relationship between sculptural form and the seemingly infinite expanse of the sky, revealing how our perception of a space is continually shaped by light, time and the position from which we look.

Set within Lodhi Gardens, a historic landscape known for its architectural remains from the Sayyid and Lodi dynasties, the installation introduces a contemporary intervention into a space where architecture, nature and everyday public life intersect. Surrounded by historic monuments, trees and open skies, *VYOM* creates a dialogue between the enduring presence of the past and the constantly changing conditions of the present. Through this encounter, Dhar's work encourages a renewed engagement with the familiar landscape, transforming the act of looking into an experience of discovery.

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Through *Unsettled Matter/s* at Purana Qila and *VYOM: The Infinite Installation Sky* at Lodhi Gardens, KNMA's participation in the India Biennale 2026 takes two complementary approaches to the experience of art in historic settings. The group exhibition considers how materials bear histories of transformation and how artistic forms emerge through processes that remain open-ended. The new commission explores how light, sky and perspective continually reshape the experience of a sculptural object and its surroundings. Together, the projects extend an invitation to look more attentively at the world: at the materials that constitute it, the histories embedded in its surfaces, and the shifting relationships through which places acquire meaning. In doing so, KNMA brings its collection and commissioning practice into a wider conversation about contemporary art, heritage and the ways in which we encounter the world around us.

**Kiran Nadar, Chairperson, Kiran Nadar Museum of Art (KNMA), said,** "*Art has the power to change how we see the world around us, often allowing us to discover new meanings in places and histories we thought we already knew. Through KNMA's participation in the India Biennale, we are bringing contemporary art into two very different yet deeply evocative settings in Delhi. Unsettled Matter/s, drawn from our collection, reflects on the ever-changing nature of materials, histories and ideas, while Vishal K. Dhar's VYOM: The Infinite Installation Sky invites us to look at the familiar landscape of Lodhi Gardens with fresh eyes. For us, this is an opportunity to make art more accessible, encourage new ways of seeing, and create meaningful connections between artistic practice, our shared heritage and the public*."

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PRESS KIT LINK

**Press Information**

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**Listing Details**

***Unsettled Matter/s***
Venue *:* Purana Qila
Date : 4 December 2026 to 21 March 2027.

***VYOM: The Infinite Installation Sky by Vishal K. Dhar***
Venue *:* Lodhi Gardens
Date : 4 December 2026 to 21 March 2027.

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**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.

www.knma.org