

Media Information

November 27, 2024

BMW is official partner of the sixth Kochi-Muziris Biennale.

Nikhil Chopra with HH Art Spaces announced as the new curatorial team.

Munich/Kochi. Since its very first edition in 2012, BMW has been official partner of the Kochi-Muziris Biennale (KMB). For the sixth Kochi-Muziris Biennale, the Kochi Biennale Foundation is proud to announce Nikhil Chopra with HH Art Spaces as the new curatorial team. The biennale will open to the public on 12 December 2025 for a period of four months.

The selection of the curator was made by a committee of eminent Indian and international art world figures (Shanay Jhaveri, Dayanita Singh, Rajeeb Samdani, Jitish Kallat and Bose Krishnamachari). The announcement was made by the Chief Minister of Kerala, the honorable Pinarayi Vijayan in Kerala's state capital, Thiruvananthapuram in the presence of the curator and key representatives of KBF.

Nikhil Chopra: "The very edge of the peninsula of the Indian Subcontinent is the setting for an international contemporary art exhibition. Perhaps the most international corner of the world, Kerala is where boats from distant lands have harboured to trade and exchange aspects of the human legacy in the form of objects, edibles and consumables for thousands of years. I along with my team HH Art Spaces find myself with the incredible task and humbling privilege of bringing sixty contemporary artists and artistic practices from India and the world into the present, to ignite conversations about being human; poetic and political, in a place where the ancient, the modern and the contemporary have always been in critical dialogue with each other, with the desire to turn ideas and knowledge into wisdom."

Bose Krishnamachari, President of Kochi-Muziris Biennale:

"We are thrilled to announce Nikhil Chopra and HH Art Spaces as the curators for the Kochi-Muziris Biennale 2025. Their deep-rooted commitment to the arts, along with their visionary approach to curating, will undoubtedly shape a remarkable chapter for the Biennale. Nikhil's unique perspective, paired with the creative energy of HH Art Spaces, promises to bring fresh dialogue and innovative perspectives to this global platform. We look forward to witnessing the transformative experience they will create for artists, audiences, and the community alike."

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BMW Group India Cultural Engagement

Since its inception, BMW India has participated in leading cultural engagements across the country. In 2007, two BMW Art Cars created by world renowned artists Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein were presented at the Jehangir Art Gallery in Mumbai. BMW Art Cars by Andy Warhol, Jeff Koons, Sandro Chia and Cesar Manrique have been exclusively showcased at various editions of the India Art Fair. "The Future is Born of Art" is a unique initiative by BMW India and India Art Fair which aims to propel emerging Indian artists and further BMW Group's commitment to promote art, sustainability, and innovation. In 2012-13, the innovative BMW Guggenheim Lab came to India. Based at Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum and conducted at six different sites in Mumbai, the lab organised six weeks of free programme with diverse audience and communities addressing the challenges and conditions of the urban city.

Since 2012, BMW has partnered with the Kochi-Muziris Biennale, the contemporary art exhibition, which brings international artists to India and creates a global platform for Indian artists. This vital and dynamic partnership has been instrumental in shaping the Biennale into a global cultural landmark. BMW Group's continued commitment, even in uncertain times, highlights the profound belief in the power of art and culture to unite and inspire.

"The pandemic posed unprecedented challenges for the arts community worldwide. The BMW Group's unwavering support during this period was a testament to their dedication not only to the Kochi-Muziris Biennale but to the resilience of the arts," said a spokesperson of Kochi Biennale Foundation. "We are deeply grateful for their belief in our vision, which enabled us to continue nurturing creativity and collaboration even during those trying times."

For questions please contact:

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About Nikhil Chopra

Nikhil Chopra's artistic practice interweaves live art, drawing, photography, sculpture and installations. His performances, in large part improvised, dwell on identity and its construction, autobiography and authorship, the pose and self-portraiture. Nikhil combines everyday life, memory and collective history; daily acts such as eating, resting, washing and dressing, in tandem with the act and discipline of making large scale drawings in situ become the process of making an artwork.

Nikhil's works have been included in major exhibitions including Documenta 14, 12th Sharjah Biennale, 12th Havana Biennale; 2nd Kochi-Muziris Biennale and 53rd Venice Biennale amongst others. He has also shown works and performed at the Gropius Bau, Berlin; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Museum of Science and Industry, Manchester; New Art Exchange, Nottingham; , SFMOMA, San Francisco; Artsonje, Seoul; Museum of Contemporary Art, Yinchuan, China; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Astrup Fearnley Museum, Oslo, Norway; Indian Highway, Serpentine Gallery, London, UK; Carriageworks, Sydney; Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, New Delhi.

Nikhil Chopra was born in Kolkata in 1974, and lives in Goa where he runs HH Art Spaces with partners. After studying at the Faculty of Fine Arts at Maharaja Sayajirao University of Vadodara, India, the artist continued his studies in the United States in 2003 to return to India in 2005 with a Masters from Ohio State University.

About HH Art Spaces

HH Art Spaces, Goa, was founded in 2014 by Nikhil Chopra and Romain Loustau, both live art and performance artists. HH Art Spaces is a movement, and currently includes the shared vision, voices, rigors, and energies of a collective of artists and cultural practitioners. Key founding and partner members of the organization are: Madhavi Gore, Shivani Gupta, and Shaira Sequeira Shetty.

HH Art Spaces fosters an ethos of collaborations, residencies and interdisciplinary exchanges within art and culture; and has worked with artists and organizations locally, regionally and internationally.

Over the years, HH Art Spaces has developed a rich archive of visual, sonic, installation, and live art and performance work, in South Asia. HH Art Spaces promotes artists and produces exhibitions and artist residencies, talks and workshops, in contemporary and traditional artistic practice-based research, bridging transdisciplinary practices through collaborations and partnerships. HH is a hub and a laboratory for artists and curators to investigate and explore new forms and approaches within arts and cultural practice.

HH Art Spaces has forged partnerships with established art collectives and prominent cultural institutions, like: The Tetley Museum, Leeds, UK; The Tate Modern, London, UK; Fondazione Elpis, Milan, Italy; Britto Arts Trust, Dhaka, Bangladesh; Kochi-Muziris Biennale, Kochi, India; Dhaka Art Summit, Dhaka, Bangladesh; Chatterjee & Lal Gallery, Mumbai, India; Chemould Prescott Road Gallery, Mumbai, India; KHOJ International Artists' Association, New Delhi, India; Inlaks Shivdasani Foundation, New Delhi, India; India Art Fair, New Delhi, India; Theertha International Artists' Collective, Colombo, Sri Lanka; Serendipity Arts Trust, New Delhi/Goa, India; Magnetic Fields Festival, Rajasthan, India; Sunaparanta Centre for the Arts, Goa, India; and Japan Foundation, Alliance Française, Canada Council for the Arts, British Council, Pro Helvetia, and the Ontario Arts Council.

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About Kochi Biennale Foundation

KBF was established in 2010 as a non-profit, charitable trust in Kochi, Kerala to promote art, culture, heritage and education. It was founded by artists for artists. Amongst its mandates is to support emerging practices, platform a diversity of voices and building alternate infrastructures to promote art, culture and music. The Kochi-Muziris Biennale, our flagship event, is the largest exhibition of contemporary art in South Asia. Besides the biennale, the Foundation is also engaged in public programmes, education, conservation of heritage properties and monuments and the upliftment of traditional forms of art and culture.

About Kochi-Muziris Biennale

Kochi-Muziris Biennale is India's first biennale of international contemporary art and one of the largest exhibitions in Asia. The Kochi-Muziris Biennale draws on Kerala's rich multicultural history, layered with diverse colonial influences - Portuguese, Dutch, and British, and brings to these the ancient lore of the fabled Chera harbour of Muziris, where Christian and Muslim merchants from the West and traders from the Far East exchanged goods and ideas.

The Kochi-Muziris Biennale seeks to invoke the latent cosmopolitan spirit of the modern metropolis of Kochi and its mythical past, Muziris. Its intentions are to create a platform to introduce contemporary international visual art, theory and practice to India; showcase and encourage debates on new Indian and international aesthetics and enable a dialogue among artists, curators, and the public.

BMW Group Cultural Engagement

State Opera for all Gerhard Richter **CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP** Kochi-Muziris Biennale
BMW Art Cars Ólafur Elíasson Art Basel Max Hooper Schneider Städels Invites Frank Stella
BMW Art Club **INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE** Art D'Égypte Cao Fei Esther Mahlangu
Zaha Hadid Les Rencontres d'Arles Jeff Koons India Art Fair **LONGEVITY** Julie Mehretu
PARTNERSHIP BMW Open Work by Frieze Andy Warhol Lu Yang Preis der Nationalgalerie
Samson Young Bavarian State Opera **CREATIVE FREEDOM** BMW Young Artist Jazz Award
Ken Done **INTERACTION** Premio de Pintura Gallery Weekend Berlin Art Market Budapest
Paris Photo Leelee Chan Art Dubai **SUSTAINABILITY** BMW Photo Award Leipzig
Teatro alla Scala BMW Classics Jenny Holzer BMW Art Guide by Independent Collectors

Why Culture? Why not! Culture is knowledge, a sanctuary of beauty and depth, of meaning and peace. An inspiring escape. Tranquil at best, even unsettling sometimes. As a corporate citizen, the BMW Group takes social responsibility seriously, as part of which it has been involved in hundreds of cultural initiatives worldwide for over half a century, in the fields of contemporary art, music and film as well as in design. As a long-term partner, creative freedom is key – and as essential for groundbreaking works as it is for major innovations within a business enterprise like ours.

Further information: www.bmwgroup.com/culture and www.bmwgroup.com/overview
Instagram: [@BMWGroupCulture](https://www.instagram.com/@BMWGroupCulture)
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The BMW Group

With its four brands BMW, MINI, Rolls-Royce and BMW Motorrad, the BMW Group is the world's leading premium manufacturer of automobiles and motorcycles and also provides premium financial and mobility services. The BMW Group production network comprises over 30 production sites worldwide; the company has a global sales network in more than 140 countries.

In 2023, the BMW Group sold over 2.55 million passenger vehicles and more than 209,000 motorcycles worldwide. The profit before tax in the financial year 2023 was € 17.1 billion on revenues amounting to € 155.5 billion. As of 31 December 2023, the BMW Group had a workforce of 154,950 employees.

The success of the BMW Group has always been based on long-term thinking and responsible action, from the supply chain through production to the end of the use phase of all products.

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