

Media information
19 December 2025

BMW presents the sixth edition of Kochi-Muziris Biennale.

India's first and largest international exhibition of contemporary art is curated by Nikhil Chopra and HH Art Spaces.

Kochi/Munich. Since its very first edition in 2012, BMW has been an official partner of the Kochi-Muziris Biennale (KMB). For the sixth Kochi-Muziris Biennale, the Kochi Biennale Foundation is curated by Nikhil Chopra with HH Art Spaces featuring 66 artists projects from more than 25 countries. The biennale opened to the public on 12 December 2025 and will last for a period of four months.

Mr. Hardeep Singh Brar, President & CEO, BMW Group India said, "The BMW Group India is proud to continue its partnership with the sixth edition of Kochi-Muziris Biennale, a platform that celebrates creativity, dialogue and new perspectives. Art has the power to inspire progressive thinking, and this partnership reflects our belief in innovation that moves both people and culture forward. The Biennale's spirit of openness and exploration mirrors, BMWs philosophy of redefining possibility, and we are delighted to be a part of a movement that enriches India's cultural landscape."

The exhibition, the largest contemporary art biennale in South Asia and the first of its kind in India, unfolds across 29 venues in Fort Kochi, Mattancherry, Willingdon Islands and Ernakulam. It sits in conversation with a constellation of exhibitions, performances, and discursive programmes which are set in close dialogue with Kochi's unique geographical, social and cultural ecology.

Embracing process as methodology, this edition places 'friendship economies' as the very scaffolding of the exhibition. The curatorial vision acknowledges bodies as a landscape of time, a vessel of labour, joy, and loss, and invites the visitors to think through 'embodied histories' of those that came before us and continue to live within us in the form of cells, stories and techniques.

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

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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 programmes with diverse audiences 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 its profound belief in the power of art and culture to unite and inspire.

About the Kochi-Muziris Biennale

Kochi-Muziris Biennale is India's first-ever biennial of international contemporary art and its story is unique to India's current reality—its political, social and artistic landscape. It began as a government initiative, when the Department of Cultural Affairs of the Government of Kerala approached two artists—Riyas Komu and Bose Krishnamachari—to help organize an international platform for art in India. The challenge was proportionate to the ambition of the project. A biennial had never gotten past the conceptual stage in India before. There was no existing infrastructure necessary for an exhibition of this scale—no spaces and no institutional support structures.

With the support of the government, private patrons, and local businesses the Biennale found spaces and opened them up for art. The Indian art community has been growing rapidly and is emerging onto the world stage, and the international arts community offered their support in sending art and artists to participate in Kochi. Artists became the spokespersons and activists for the biennale.

About Nikhil Chopra

Nikhil Chopra's artistic practice interweaves live art, drawing, photography, sculpture and installations. His performances, largely 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, the 12th Sharjah Biennale, the 12th Havana Biennale; the 2nd Kochi-Muziris

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Biennale and the 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; and 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, returning to India in 2005 with a Master's degree 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, rigor, 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.

The BMW Group's Cultural Engagement, with exclusive updates and deeper insights into its global initiatives can be followed on Instagram at [@BMWGroupCulture](https://www.instagram.com/BMWGroupCulture).

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If you have any questions, please contact:

Corporate Communications

Thomas Girst
BMW Group Corporate and Governmental Affairs
Global Head of Cultural Engagement
Email: Thomas.Girst@bmwgroup.com

Media Website: www.press.bmwgroup.com/global
Email: presse@bmw.de

Richa Sharma
BMW Group India
Press and Corporate Affairs
Telephone: +91 99100 22148
Email: Richa.Sharma@bmw.in

Satchit Gayakwad
BMW Group India
Press and Corporate Affairs
Telephone: +91 95607 25900
Email: Satchit.Gayakwad@bmw.in

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 Städel Invites Frank Stella
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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

Driven by Culture. 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 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 2024, the BMW Group sold over 2.45 million passenger vehicles and more than 210,000 motorcycles worldwide. The profit before tax in the financial year 2024 was € 11.0 billion on revenues amounting to € 142.4 billion. As of 31 December 2024, the BMW Group had a workforce of 159,104 employees.

The economic success of the BMW Group has always been based on long-term thinking and responsible action. Sustainability is a key element of the BMW Group's corporate strategy and covers all products from the supply chain and production to the end of their useful life.

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