Press Release

India's first contemporary Sculpture Park now open to the public

The Hon'ble, Vasundhara Raje inaugurates The Sculpture Park at Madhavendra Palace, Jaipur

December 11, 2017: The Sculpture Park at Madhavendra Palace, Nahargarh Fort, Jaipur was formally launched by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Vasundhara Raje on Sunday 10 December 2017. Through a unique collaboration between the Government of Rajasthan, Saat Saath Arts and a number of corporate sponsors, Madhavendra Palace has transformed into India's first contemporary Sculpture Park, exhibiting a range of top Indian and international contemporary artists.

The launch of The Sculpture Park commenced with a walk through for the press by curator Peter Nagy. The Hon'ble chief minister of Rajasthan, Vasundhara Raje arrived in the evening and officially inaugurated the event with a speech which emphasized the importance of the initiative and thanked the team of Saat Saath Arts and the officials who supported this project. Her speech was followed by Malvika Singh, Full-time member, Chief Minister's Advisory Council (CMAC), Government of Rajasthan, Peter Nagy, curator and Aparajita Jain, founder and director of Saat Saath Arts. The Hon'ble, Vasundhara Raje was given a walk of through of The Sculpture Park by Peter Nagy where the artists were present. A Performance by The Kutle Khan Project took place at the palace later in the evening. Some of the other key individuals who attended the opening were Smt. Krishnendra Kaur (Deepa), Minister, Art & Culture, Archaeology & Museum, Tourism, Civil Aviation, Rajasthan, Nihal Chand Goel, additional chief secretary, Tourism, Art and Culture, Rajasthan, Punit Goenka, MD & CEO of Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd, Shreevar Kheruka, CEO, Borosil Glass Works Ltd, Sangita and Tarini Jindal, JSW Foundation, amongst many others.

The Sculpture Park at Madhavendra Palace, Nahargarh Fort has turned the palace into an art gallery with sculptures by top Indian and international artists displayed both in and outdoors. The exhibition includes artworks by 15 Indian and 9 international artists and is curated by Peter Nagy, Director of Nature Morte Art Ltd. The works will be on display until November 2018. Artists include Arman | Huma Bhabha | James Brown | Stephen Cox | Anita Dube | Vibha Galhotra | Vikram Goyal | Subodh Gupta | Evan Holloway | Matthew Day Jackson | Hans Josephsohn | Jitish Kallat | Reena Saini

Benitha Percyai, Let them own their land, 2017
“For many years now, people have been coming to this beautiful palace - they come, they look and go away, but to keep this space living, it is important to merge it with today and if people are able to get to the works, where their imagination can be captured, where things can take off, where things can happen within these beautiful walls, I think it’s a privilege for someone like me to allow it to happen. For Jaipur, it is a great privilege to be able to see these international artists. I would like to thank Peter Nagy, Aparajita Jain, Shreyasi Goenka, the wonderful artists that are displaying here and everyone involved in making The Sculpture Park a reality” - The Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Smt. Vasundhara Raje

“For most of my career as a gallerist and curator, I have been trying to break away from the white-box exhibition space. With this project, I am able to indulge my passions for art, architecture and decor into a marvellous synthesis of the past and the present.” - Peter Nagy, Curator, The Sculpture Park at Madhavendra Palace, Nahargarh Fort

“Our initiative aims to promote India’s growing interest in contemporary art and culture whilst also embracing its important heritage. The Sculpture Park at Madhavendra Palace is a true amalgamation of the best of India’s past and present, made possible through a unique collaboration between the public and private sector. Saat Saath’s endeavour has always been to showcase India’s prowess in contemporary art, and to that end, we are thrilled to be able to bring this initiative to the public.” - Aparajita Jain, Founder & Director, Saat Saath Arts

Prashant Pandey, Yellow, 2012

“The Sculpture Park at Madhavendra Palace, Nahargarh Fort, Jaipur will be the first of its kind where an Indian state has collaborated with a non-profit organisation to support contemporary art. We are thankful to the Government of Rajasthan for this alliance and are certain that it will set a great example on how imperative public-private partnerships are in the promotion of public art. I am honoured to be a part of this initiative and thankful to everyone who is involved.” - Shreyasi Goenka, Content Editor DNA & Co-Director Saat Saath Arts

This partnership is a first of its kind where the Government has collaborated with a range of corporate sponsors and private individuals to bring a contemporary edge to India’s heritage properties, with the purpose of boosting national and international cultural tourism and visitors to the site. Eminent individuals from leading corporations supporting the project include - Shreyasi Goenka, Content Editor DNA & Co-Director, Saat Saath Arts; Shreevar Kheruka CEO, Borosil Glass Works Ltd; Siddharth Jain, Owner and Director, INOX Group; Pirojsha Godrej, Executive Chairman, Godrej Properties Ltd.; Ajay Kalsi, APTARA; Vishal Mehta, Managing Director, Rosy Blue, Dr. Swati Piramal, Vice Chairperson, Piramal Enterprises Ltd., Sangita Jindal, Chairperson, JSW Foundation; Tarini Jindal, Director, JSW Foundation and Mayank Singhal, MD & CEO, PI Industries. Specialists on board include, AMITY as Education Partner, Conde Nast as Lifestyle Media Partner, Famous Studio as Technology Partner, Google Arts & Culture Lab as Technology Partner, Grant Thornton as Accounting and Compliance Partner, IFFCO Tokio as Insurance Partner, Khaitan & Co. as Legal Partner, Navsoft as Technology Partner, Percept as Event Partner and Star Worldwide as Logistics Partner.
Many renowned international galleries have also come forward to support this initiative by lending the artworks including Hauser & Wirth, London, Salon 94, New York, Xavier Hufkens, Brussels, Sikkema Jenkins & Co., New York and Livingstone Gallery, The Hague.

Under the leadership of the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, the Hon’ble Vasundhara Raje, Rajasthan is evolving new, innovative art spaces, engaging artists, curators, institutions and transforming the milieu of the city. Historically the heart of Rajasthan’s arts and culture, Jaipur has changed the paradigm and enhanced the city’s connection to culture, heritage and visual aesthetics showcasing traditional and contemporary visual culture, embracing international artists and creating new. Now increasingly regarded as a catalyst for cultural intermingling within India and across the world, Jaipur is on a global art map and seeks to establish itself as a centre for artistic engagement in India by drawing from the rich tradition and culture from all over the world. The state’s cultural tourism has had a great impact after adopting the contemporary culture and supporting a series of cultural events like the renowned Jaipur Literature Festival and an international photography festival Jaipur Photo. In collaboration with eminent professionals from diverse fields, the state also supports various contemporary visual arts, photography and music. The Sculpture Park at Madhavendra Palace, Nahargarh Fort, is a great example of a public-private initiative and will encourage the Government to support contemporary art in India.

Aparajita Jain, Founder and Director of Saat Saath Arts, The hon’ble Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Vasundhara Raje and Peter Nagy, curator of The Sculpture Park in front of Prashant Pandey’s artwork, Peace, 2015
Saat Saath Arts
The Saat Saath Arts Foundation supports international exchange between India and the rest of the world through the visual arts and education initiatives. Founded in 2010 by Director Aparajita Jain, it is a non-profit initiative, with headquarters in New Delhi and working with museums and galleries across the world. In addition to progressing the Saat Saath Curatorial Research Grant, the foundation also supports and raises additional funds for exhibitions which include Indian artists in international institutions.

The foundation has received international acclaim for its Curatorial Research Grant program, conceived by Aparajita and Diana Campbell Betancourt, artistic director of the Dhaka Art Summit. It endows international curators with resources to extend their research on Indian art practitioners, thus nurturing a vital exchange of knowledge between India and the rest of the world. The first recipients of the grant, Laura Raicovich (Director of Global Initiatives, Creative Time), Mari Spirito (Founding Director of Protocinema Istanbul/New York), Lauren Cornell (Curator, 2015 Triennial, Digital Projects and Museum as Hub), and Dr. Helen Pheby (Senior Curator, Yorkshire Sculpture Park) visited India in 2013 and 2014. The foundation helped customize their itineraries to suit their research interests, alongside providing them with resources to ensure a convenient and productive trip. The extensive studio visits helped the curators select Indian artists to showcase their art in their various institutional programs. In 2015, Catherine David (Deputy Director, Centre Pompidou) and Dieter Roelstraete (currently on the team of Documenta 14) were awarded the grant to nurture their ongoing research on contemporary Indian artists. The foundation also supports shows by Indian artists, most recently it was responsible for the mounting of Jitish Kallat’s poetic piece, “Covering Letter”, at the CSMVS (formerly the Prince of Wales Museum) in Mumbai, and “Matter” featuring the work of artist Bharti Kher at Vancouver Art Gallery, which was the result of a research trip funded by the organization. The Sculpture Park at Madhavendra Palace, Nahargarh Fort, is something that aligns with the society’s intent and hence will be backed with the capital support raised by the foundation.

Aparajita Jain, Founder & Director, Saat Saath Arts, has been the director of Saat Saath Arts since its inception in 2010. She has also been the co-director of Nature Morte since 2012, when she bought a controlling interest in the leading contemporary art gallery, assimilating into its nest some of the artists represented by Seven Arts Limited, the gallery she previously owned that focused on discovering young talent, among whom was Asim Waqif, who, in 2016, was awarded India Today Art Award for Emerging Artist of the Year. Nature Morte, along with Jhaveri Contemporary, also won Solo Exhibition of the Year for the co-curated retrospective, Transfigurations, featuring the work of Mrinalini Mukherjee. Aparajita sits on the board of Tate’s South Asian Acquisition Committee and is, along with her husband, Gaurav Jain, a founding/council member of Harvard University’s South Asia Arts Council, representing Bangladesh, India and Pakistan, established to connect South Asia’s curators, museum administrators, artists and art educators with Harvard faculty. She is also a patron of India’s very first biennale, the Kochi-Muziris Biennale. She was listed as one of 50 iconic Indian gallerists by Platform magazine and, besides being featured, played an active role in the Vogue Women’s Empowerment Campaign. She was also listed as one among eight influential women in the Indian art world by ARTSY and as one of 30 influential women in the art world by ELLE magazine.

Peter Nagy, Curator, The Sculpture Park at Madhavendra Palace, Nahargarh Fort (born 1959, USA) is a graduate of Parsons School of Design in New York City. From 1982 to 1988 he ran Gallery Nature Morte in New York’s East Village, at which time he also pursued a career as a successful artist. His works have been exhibited at international institutions such as the Centre Pompidou in Paris, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, and Tate Modern in London, among others. Based in New Delhi since 1992, he went on to establish Nature Morte there in 1997, which has become synonymous with a generation of artists who have taken Indian art to the international stage. Having lived and worked in India for more than twenty years, Nagy conceived of The Sculpture Park at Madhavendra Palace, Nahargarh Fort, to bring together contemporary and traditional arts and to explore alternative contexts. He will act as the Chief Curator and Exhibition Designer of the annual project.

Shreyasi Goenka, Content Editor DNA & Co-Director, Saat Saath Arts, was inducted into the Saat Saath Arts society as a Co-Director in 2017. She is the Content Advisor at DNA. With her sharp acumen in the realm of news and entertainment, Shreyasi has spearheaded the launch of DNA in New Delhi, apart from conceptualizing and implementing the brand’s market penetration strategy & repositioning campaign. Wife of Mr. Punit Goenka, MD & CEO, ZEE Entertainment, Shreyasi also plays a key role in brand ZEE’s association with world renowned intellectual properties like ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival. Shreyasi maintains a keen interest in the field of History, Performing Arts, Music and Dance and is also an avid collector of contemporary art.