

PRESS RELEASE*

Asian Contemporary Art Fair New York 2007
November 8 – 12, 2007
Pier 92

Aicon Gallery will present at New York's first Contemporary Asian art fair. This new event aims to foster more knowledge and familiarity with contemporary Asian art. It will also congregate some of the most esteemed Asian art dealers and collectors with the general public. Additionally, a guest-curated exhibition and scholarly lectures will proceed as a critical compliment to the fast growing market.

Aicon's booth will showcase contemporary masters as well as emerging artists: T.V. Santosh, Jayashree Chakravarty, Iranna G.R., Adip Dutta, Rathin Kanji, Debnath Basu and Yogesh Rawal.

T.V. Santosh's techni-color paintings of cybernetic forms evoke postmodern political inquiry. The city becomes the site and source, presenting concerns around the self and the mass, the space and the environment. The deep cynicism of media-derived images is further inverted by his use of photonegative saturation. His work exploits the media's disconnection and explores the politics of urban culture. Santosh was born in Kerala and received his Bachelors in painting from the Visva Bharati University at Shantiniketan (1994) and his Masters in Art from the MS University in Baroda (1997). He exhibited in his first solo show at the Faculty of Fine Arts in Baroda that same year. He also exhibited in the 'One Hand Clapping / Siren' at the Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai in 2003, and the 'Unresolved Stories' at Nature Morte, New Delhi in 2004 and at the Grosvenor Gallery in London in 2005. He has been part of several group shows in the United States, India, Germany and Portugal including Kaam – ten contemporary artists from Mumbai and Baroda at Aicon in 2005. Santosh lives and works in Mumbai.

For **Jayshree Chakravarty**, the image is no longer representational. It has become an indicator, no longer a thing in itself, but a sign. The textures are gestural marks; the configuration of such indicators, signs and marks, in finite space functions as a sign of something significant. That significant something is always a concept thought up by the artist herself. In fact, from the closing years of the 1980s into the 1990s, the autobiographical mode, such as reminiscences, increasingly became center-stage in painting. In her painted landscapes, Jayshree fuses her experience of travel through geographical space with wanderlust.

Iranna G. R. is interested in exploring the antithesis - the inherent dualities of the world, and translating an internal landscape onto the canvas. He also speaks of the influence of Buddhist art on his work. In his youth, he studied in a Gurukul (a system of education where the student resides with the teacher) and lived in an ashram for almost seven years. A strong connection to his cultural roots figures in his work. He began painting in oil, and later expanded his range of medium. He now works primarily with tarpaulin. Iranna received his Bachelors in Painting from College of Visual Art, Gulbarga, in 1991 and his Masters in Painting from College of Art, New Delhi (1994). Between 1999 and 2000 he spent two years in-residence at the Wimbledon School of Art in London. Iranna's first solo show was in 1992, at the College of Visual Art, Gulbarga. His work has been exhibited several prestigious spaces including the Delhi Art Gallery and Jehangir

Art Gallery, Mumbai, in 1995, In the Shadow of Buddha at Gallery Martini, Hong Kong in 1999; Wimbledon School of Art, London in 2000; Maulana Azad Centre for Indian Culture, Cairo in 2000, and The British Council and The Guild Art Gallery in 2001. Iranna has also participated in several group shows including at the Chitra Kala Parishad, Bangalore in 1990; School's Gallery, Amsterdam, Holland in 1995; Vedanta Art Gallery, Chicago, U.S.A. in 1998; 'Icons of the Millennium' at Gallery Lakeeren, Mumbai in 1999 and 'Black and White' at Art Today, New Delhi in 2000. Iranna has received national and international recognition throughout his career. His awards include the MF Husain and Ram Kumar selection award at 'In Search of Talent' by Vadhera Art Gallery, New Delhi in 1993 and a National Award from the Lalit Kala Academy in 1997 and the AIFACS Award, at the show '50 years of Art in Independent India' in New Delhi.

Adip Dutta is a practicing resident in Kolkata. His work comprises of sculptural and/or installational explorations of biography and the archive. His arrangements include sculptures, sculptural objects, drawings, photographs and scripts. Adip also writes on post-Independence Indian art with special reference to the debates around globalization. In connection to this, he was invited by the Goethe Institut in Germany to attend Documenta 11 in Kassel, in 2002. Dutta completed his MA in Sculpture from Rabindra Bharati University and is currently a member of its Faculty of Visual Arts. Select participations and recognitions include Rabindra Bharati Annual Exhibition Award for Sculpture - 1998, 2000; Charles Wallace Scholarship – 2002; Designer, Dhokra casting workshop, Craft Council of West Bengal; Surveyor, Craft Council of West Bengal; Associate Contemporary Istanbul Art Fair, Gallery ArtsIndia- 2006.

Rathin Kanji work references contemporary urban life, the human interface with technology and modern cultural tensions between East and West, tradition and modernity, language and image, culture and commodity. His work addresses themes common to the new generation of artists working today: the ever-quickening pace of urban life, the never ending barrage of information and media that characterizes the modern experience, the loneliness brought on by advancing technology, and the tensions between East and West, tradition and modernity, language and image, culture and commodity as popular culture becomes a truly global phenomenon. Kanji received his Bachelors in painting from Visva Bharati University in Santiniketan, West Bengal, and Masters from the Gulbarga University in Karnataka, India. In 2004, Kanji was a visiting Fulbright Scholar at the University of Michigan. Among other awards, he has received the Vermont Residency Fellowship, (2004), the Junior Research Fellowship from the Government of India (2000) and the H K Kejriwal Fellowship (2001). He has participated in over sixty group shows in India, the UK, Singapore, Bangkok, and the United States and has had over nine solo shows in India, Bangkok and the U.S. Kanji's work is featured in several collections.

Debnath Basu was born in Howrah, West Bengal, in 1961. He completed Master of Visual Arts from Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata. He lives and works in Howrah. Select shows include: Pundole Art Gallery, Mumbai – 1995; Graphic Expressions, Cymroza Art Gallery, Mumbai; Chennai; New Delhi; Kolkata- 2000; Pundole Art Gallery, Mumbai- 2001; Kapital and Karma – Recent positions in Indian Art, Kunsthalles Wein, Austria- 2002; Gallerie 88, Kolkata- 2003; 2005 - 'New Wave in Bengal Art' at Gallery Akar Prakar, Kolkata- 2005; 'Art of Young Bengal' at Gallery Akriti, Kolkata- 2006; 'Shadow Lines' at Vadhera Art Gallery, Kolkata- 2006. Select participations and recognitions include: Kanoria Centre for Arts, Ahmedabad-1989-90; Junior Fellowship,

Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India- 1992-94; Fine Arts Fellowship, Vikram Sarabhai Foundation- 1993-95.

Yogesh Rawal's works encompass fascinating collages, sculptures, prints and painted wooden surfaces. "My works stem from personal conversations with myself", says Rawal. Much of these dialogues are internalized and finally expressed through paintings. Yogesh feels that art teaching often misses out on some of the fundamentals of art practice. Light is one such 'fundamental' on which Yogesh dwells at length. Much of his etchings have evolved from the study of light.