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Contemporary art trends and news from Asia and beyond

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Art Radar Asia News scans the global quality press on and offline to bring you selected topical stories about the taste-changing, news-making and the up and coming in Asian contemporary art.

[Indian contemporary art reaches a new stage of development](#)

Posted by artradar on December 30, 2008



TV Santosh

INDIAN ART SHOW

Signs Taken For Wonders: Recent Art from India and Pakistan to January 31 2009

Indian contemporary art is reaching a new audience with large-scale museum surveys such as 'Indian Highway' at London's Serpentine Gallery and 'Chalo! India: A New Era of Indian Art' at Japan's Mori Art Museum. As the Aicon Gallery **Signs Taken For Wonders** show press release points out, this is a 'pivotal moment' when international curators, writers and galleries articulate how, which and whether Indian artists will become part of international art history.

Compared with art scenes in other locations, this new exposure to rigorous and objective criticism is all the more significant for contemporary Indian art which lacks its own museum and curatorial infrastructure. And unlike other emerging Asian markets such as China, there is a limited history of patronage, collecting and connoisseurship. This fascinating cusp for Indian art marks an unusual opportunity for collectors, critics and connoisseurs around the world to assess and shape a response.



Justin Ponmany Salt Friends

The Financial Times says that the two London exhibitions, the Serpentine Gallery's Indian Highway and Aicon's Signs Taken for Wonders, are the UK's most ambitious attempts yet to distil coherence into the chaotic rush of art emerging from the Indian subcontinent.

While some of the artists are in both this show and at the Serpentine (MF Husain, Raqs Media Collective) it is worth visiting both shows which together cover many of the emerging names. At Aicon you will see some of the auction favourites (TV Santosh and Justin Ponmany) as well as up and coming Pakistani art which is absent at the Serpentine . ([Aicon Gallery](#) for more images). Visit the Serpentine to see female artists and video work. These were both given a smidge of approval in a generally bleak review by The Independent.

I thought Nalini Malani had something, painting flights of female figures on clear acrylic panes, where swirling smears of pigment get transformed into snaking bodies - The Independent) and Kiran Subbaiah's brief video, Flight Rehearsals, about an introverted young man climbing the walls of his bedroom, was tight and funny.

More positive reviews are linked below.

Artists included in the Aicon show include MF Husain, Adeela Suleman, Amjad Ali Talpur, Atul Bhalla, Bose Krishnamachari, Chintan Upadhyay, GR Iranna, Justin Ponmany, Muhammed Zeeshan, Raqs Media Collective, Riyas Komu, Sajal Sarkar, Shibu Natesan, Talha Rathore, TV Santosh and Vivek Vilasini.