

October 26, 2017

‘Guns & Roses makes an arty comeback in Mumbai’

By Devanshi Shah

Chatterjee & Lal invites patrons to escape into a narrative about the duality and purpose of art.



Karachi-based Adeela Suleman's series plays on the dichotomy of violence and beauty by painting the vistas of Northern Pakistan directly on to sharpened, weighty meat cleavers. Featured here: I will meet you by the water – 12

Not a rock music inspired art show, Guns & Roses is the result of an international collaboration between Mumbai-based art gallery, Chatterjee & Lal, and New York-based Aicon Gallery. The theme revolves around expressions of duality, juxtaposing the contrasting aspects of cruelty and beauty; violence and celebration; chaos and order.

While the work featured in Guns & Roses deals with dualism, the overtures from the exhibit speak to a vast audience. A corresponding exhibition will be hosted by Aicon in 2018 in New York.



Sujith S. N., Untitled 3

In a world where our news reflects a sense of chaos, intolerance and violence, this exhibition seeks to understand how and if it is possible for artists to express something more than despair. The New York gallery specifically patronizes and offers a global platform for artists from south Asia, Middle East, and the diaspora communities to showcase their work. Guns & Roses is no different, gathering some of the most prolific contemporary artists from the subcontinent.

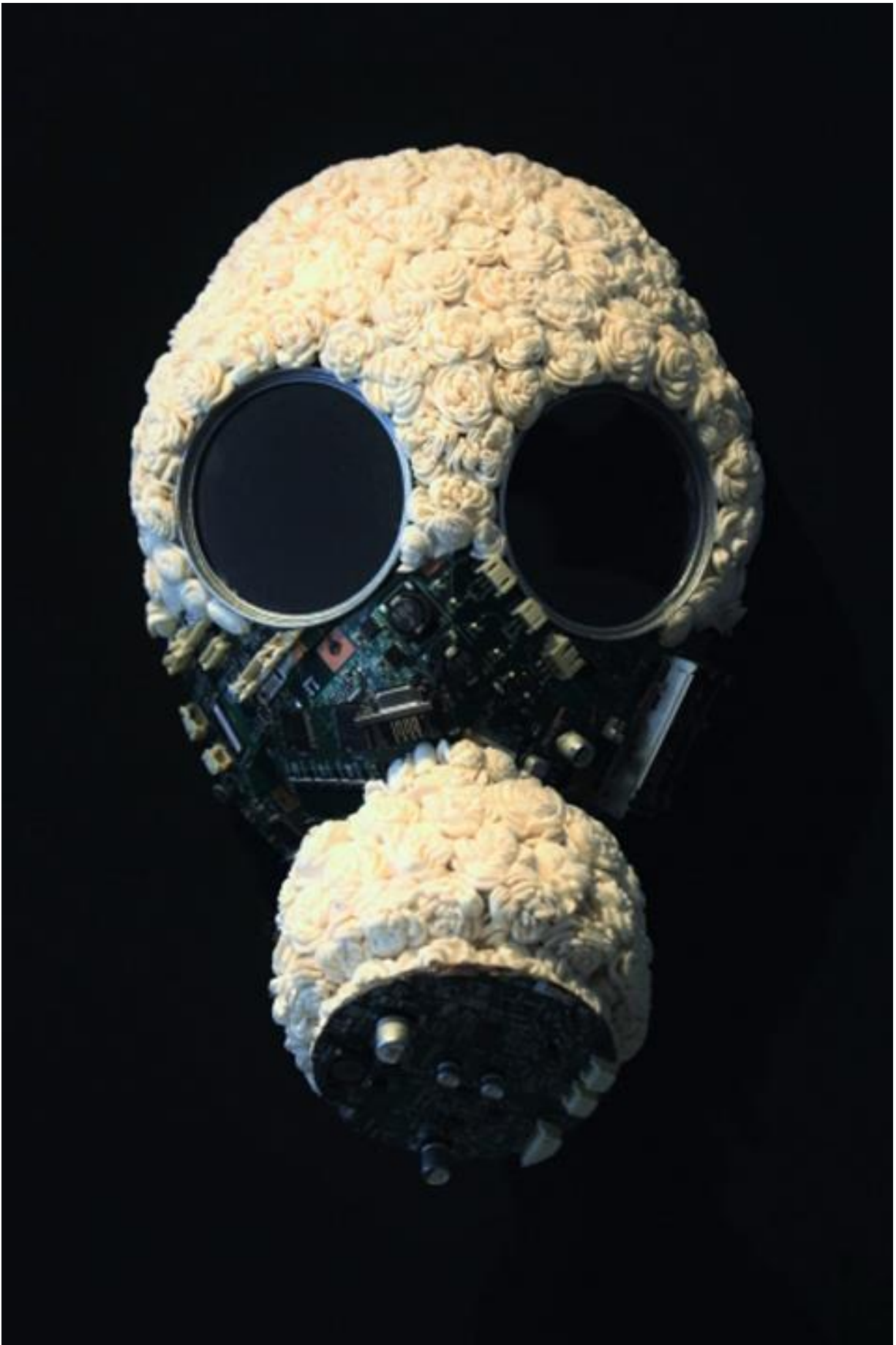
Jagannath Panda's eagle returns, expressing the anxieties of displacement and alienation. He contrasts this with the majesty of nature and reflects on the rapid changes of his environments, not just in his local area of Gurugram but within India as a whole.

Promotesh Das Pulak's sculptural pieces embellish combat equipment with wedding décor—quite literally portraying guns and roses, as ceremony and war. As is the case with all participating artists, Pulak's work is a strong take on the political state of the artist's home country, Bangladesh. Brooklyn-based artist Salman Toor's work is chaotic and surreal. The grotesque nature of the situations he portrays blurs the lines between caricature and identity politics.

Karachi-based Adeela Suleman's series plays on the dichotomy of violence and beauty by painting the vistas of Northern Pakistan directly on to sharpened, weighty meat cleavers. These landscapes stage some of the most macabre scenes and the sharp edges of the cleavers highlight just that.



Jagannath Panda, Untitled, 2016



Promotes Das Pulak, Encapsulated 4, 2016, Shola flowers, circuit board



Karachi-based Adeela Suleman's series plays on the dichotomy of violence and beauty by painting the vistas of Northern Pakistan directly on to sharpened, weighty meat cleavers. Featured here: I will meet you by the water – 8



Sujith S. N., Untitled 6

Guns & Roses asks viewers to reflect on the power of our biases, while painting a grim picture of the results. The artwork encapsulates the impact of a society that's given into its inherited attitudes. While believing to be working towards a more ideal world, the show warns of the dangers concealed in plain sight, like the knife hiding in a panorama, or wars masquerading as celebration.

Highlighting unexpected congruencies, Guns & Roses sheds light on the existence of multiple modernisms and nuanced parallel narratives within our collective society.



Salman Toor, *Humiliated Ancestor 2*

The exhibition also feature works by Saks Afridi, Anila Quayyum Agha, Jagannath Panda, Promotesh Das Pulak, Revati Singh, Sujith S.N., Adeela Suleman, Abdullah M.I. Syed, and Salman Toor. There is also an untitled abstract by S.H. Raza.

Guns & Roses will be on view at Chatterjee & Lal, Arthur Bunder Road, 1/18, Floor 1, Kamal Mansion, Mumbai – 400005 between October 27 and November 1, 2017.