

VIKRAM DIVECHA

Vikram Divecha (born 1977, Beirut) is a Beirut-born, Mumbai-bred, artist and educator based in the UAE. He holds an MFA in Visual Art from Columbia University and was a participant of the Whitney Museum's Independent Study program. Divecha has exhibited at the 57th Venice Biennale (National Pavilion UAE), 13th Sharjah Biennial, and the Louvre Abu Dhabi. He currently teaches as an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Art and Art History at the New York University Abu Dhabi. Divecha's practice often has a focus on 'found processes' - a term he uses to describe the urban operations he investigates and deploys. Found processes depend on forces and capacities at work within existing commercial and social structures in place in the Gulf region - ranging from municipal gardening, wholesale exporting, railway scheduling, architectural services, demolition, and more. By constantly negotiating with the city for available material, space and expertise Divecha challenges the nature and modes of artistic production - from shifting authorship to collaborators to opening up gaps within urban systems, the changes he initiates are capable of enduring well beyond the time/space framework of what is 'exhibited'. Through these projects, Divecha often returns to themes of transience, time, architecture, migration and labour. Despite interacting with largely invisible systems, his works have a definite materiality and formal rigour. Divecha's engagements translate into conceptual interventions, public and participatory art, installations, moving image, photography, paintings, and drawings. His recent proposal 'Wall House' (2022) envisions transforming demolition refuse into an archive. 'Dohrana' (2021) continues Divecha's sustained collaboration with Sharjah's municipal gardeners, exploring Urdu poetry and choreography within UAE's evergreen landscaping sights. Divecha recently made his curatorial debut with '184' Nails (2022), which unpacks Hassan Sharif's semi-system works in a non-static exhibition. 'Veedu' (2016) an ongoing project investigates the influence of Gulf remittances in Kerala through the lens of gender, masculinity, and architecture.

Divecha's exhibitions include *Icon. Iconic.*, Louvre Abu Dhabi, UAE (2022); *El Dorado*, Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde, Dubai (2022); *Sharbaka: Entanglement/Attunement*, 19 WSN, New York (2021); *Love, Labour, Leisure*, Goethe-Institut, Abu Dhabi (2021); *Conjuncture*, The Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts, New York (2020); *Second Hand*, Jameel Arts Center, Dubai (2019); *Rock, Paper, Scissors: Positions in Play*, National Pavilion UAE, 57th Venice Biennale (2017); *Tamawuj*, Sharjah Biennial 13 (2017); *Co-Lab: Contemporary Art and Savoir-Faire*, Louvre Abu Dhabi, UAE (2017); *Binary States India-UAE*, Kochi (2016); *Dust*, Centre for Contemporary Art, Warsaw (2015). Grants, commissions and scholarships: Sharjah Art Foundation; the Arab Fund for Arts and Culture; Alserkal Avenue; Department of Culture and Tourism Abu Dhabi; institut français; the Salama bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation; Warehouse421; Goethe-Institut. Residencies: Land Art Mongolia; Temporary Art Platform, Lebanon.

EDUCATION

- 2020 Whitney ISP Studio Program, New York, USA (candidate)
- 2019 MFA, Visual Arts (New Genres), Columbia University, New York, USA

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 *Short Circuits*, Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai, UAE
2022 *El Dorado*, Gallery Isabelle, Dubai, UAE
2020 *Towards Opacity*, Gallery Isabelle, Dubai, UAE
2017 *Minor Work*, Gallery Isabelle, Dubai, UAE
2016 *Portrait Sessions*, Tashkeel, Dubai, UAE
2012 *Urban Epidermis*, Traffic, Dubai, UAE

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 *After Rain*, Diriyah Contemporary Art Biennale, JAX district, Diriyah, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Rest, Gallery Isabelle, Dubai, UAE
- 2023 *Gabriel*, *Grey Noise*, Dubai, UAE
And The Mirrors Are Many, Warehouse421, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2022 *Icon. Iconic.*, Louvre Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Portrait of a Nation II: Beyond Narratives, commissioned by ADMAF, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE
On Foraging, Warehouse421, Dubai, UAE
Portrait of a Nation II: Beyond Narratives, Abu Dhabi Festival, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2021 *Sharbaka: Entanglement/Attunement*, 19 WSN, New York University, New York, USA
So Different, So Appealing, Warehouse 421, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Art Dubai, Dubai, UAE
Through the Mesh: Media, Borders, and Firewalls, NeMe Arts Centre, Limassol, Cyprus
On Foraging, UAE Pavilion, Expo 2020, Dubai, UAE
Love, Labour, Leisure, Goethe-Institut, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Abu Dhabi Art, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Spring Time, Palm Trees, Antenna Space, Shanghai
Love, Labour, Leisure, Goethe-Institut, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Out of place, Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde, Dubai, UAE
- 2020 *Conjuncture*, The Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts, New York, USA
When We First Arrived..., Whitman-Walker, Washington DC, USA
- 2019 *How to maneuver: Shape-shifting texts and other publishing tactics*, Warehouse421, Mina Zayed, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Second Hand, Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai, UAE
Art Dubai, Dubai, UAE
Aesthetically Functional Only, curated by Edsel Williams, 1675 Broadway, New York, USA
In Response: Leonard Cohen, The Jewish Museum, New York, USA
Visual Arts MFA Thesis Exhibition 2019, Curated by Regine Basha, Wallach Art Gallery, Lenfest Center for the Arts, Columbia University, New York, USA
Living Room: UIT (Use it together), International studio & Curator programme, New York, USA
- 2018 *Who Are We Now?*, Land Art Mongolia 5th Biennial, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
Feel that other day running underneath this one, Times Sq. Space, New York, USA
First Year MFA Exhibition, Wallach Art Gallery, New York, USA
Frieze New York, New York, USA
(Un)conscious: A series of small serendipities, Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde, Dubai, UAE
Untold Stories Retold, Warehouse421, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2017 *Co-Lab: contemporary art and savoir-faire*, Louvre Abu Dhabi, UAE
Rock, Paper, Scissors: Positions in Play, National Pavilion of United Arab Emirates, 57th Venice Biennale, Italy
Abu Dhabi Art, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Art Dubai, Dubai, UAE
Tamawuj, Sharjah Biennial 13, UAE

GALLERY ISABELLE

إيسابل

- 2016 *Binary States: India – UAE*, Kochi-Muziris Biennale, Kerala, India
March Project 2016, Sharjah Art Foundation, UAE
Domestic Affairs: Reshaped, Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde, Dubai, UAE

- What is it?*, 1x1 Gallery, Dubai, UAE
White Cube... Literally, Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde, Dubai, UAE
- 2015 *Art: Process and Practice*, Warehouse 411, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Dust, Centre for Contemporary Art, Ujazdów Castle, Warsaw, Poland
A Public Privacy, DUCTAC, Dubai, UAE
Accented, Maraya Art Centre, Sharjah, UAE
Art Dubai Radio, Art Dubai, UAE
- 2014 *Turning point*, Tashkeel, Dubai, UAE
Urban Reflections, Cuadro Fine Art Gallery, Dubai, UAE
SIKKA Art Fair, Dubai, UAE
In the Absence of Script, Maraya Art Centre, Sharjah, UAE
- 2013 *SIKKA Art Fair*, Dubai, UAE
Art Nights @ Gate Village, DIFC – Special Exhibition, Cuadro Fine Art Gallery, Dubai, UAE
Here Today – A Record of Urban Impermanence, Cuadro Fine Art Gallery, Dubai, UAE

COMMISSIONS

- 2020 *Dohrana*, Warehouse421, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2017 *Train to Rouen*, Department of Culture and Tourism Abu Dhabi and Institut Français, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Bathing Boulders, National Pavilion of the United Arab Emirates, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2016 *Sweeping*, Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, UAE
Warehouse Project, Alserkal Avenue, Dubai, UAE
- 2015 *U.A.E. (Unlimited Arab Exploration)*, Dubai, UAE
Negative Heaps (of designated waste), H.H. Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan bin Khalifa Al Nahyan, Dubai, UAE
Shaping Resistance, Al Majaz Park, Sharjah, UAE
- 2014 *Differed Cross Section*, Dubai Culture & Arts Authority, Dubai, UAE
- 2013 *Reclaimed Void*, DUCTAC, Dubai, UAE
Degenerative Disarrangement, Dubai Culture & Arts Authority, Dubai, UAE

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2021 Artistic Research Grant, Warehouse421, Abu Dhabi
- 2019 Dean's Travel Fund, Columbia University
- 2018 D'Arcy Hayman Scholarship, Columbia University
Travel fund, Art Jameel
Summer Residency Fund, Columbia University
- 2017 The Salama bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation, Graduate Fellowship
Columbia University, Visual Arts Scholarship
- 2014 *InVisible*, The Arab Fund for Arts and Culture, Dubai, UAE

AWARDS

- 2014 Middle East Emergent Artist Prize

PRESENTATIONS AND TALKS

- 2023 *Creativity and Affinity in Art*, CEPA, Ministry of Economy, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2022 *Seeds, Systems and Ghazals*, Cultural Summit, Abu Dhabi, UAE
The Making Of: Vikram Divecha's Train to Rouen, Portrait of a Nation II, Online
Back to the Drawing Board, Sharbaka, al Mawrid Center, New York University, Online
- 2021 *Labour's Love's Lost*, Goethe Gulf, Alserkal Avenue, Dubai, UAE
Urban Resilience across the Gulf, DXB Studio, Dubai, UAE
Urban Praxis, Artist talks, Sarah Al Mehairi, Online
- 2019 *Phantasmagorias of the Interior*, NYU Seminar, ISCP, New York, USA
Aesthetics of Extraction, GSAPP Incubator, NEW INC, New York, USA
- 2018 *Thinking Collections*, Asia Contemporary Art Week, New York, USA
Gulf Arts and Culture Symposium, The Phillips Collection, Washington DC, USA
- 2017 *UAE's Expanding Ecology of Contemporary Art*, NYUAD, New York, USA
Book Launch, Warehouse Project, Alserkal Avenue, Dubai, UAE
- 2016 *Binary States*, Greenix, Kochi, Kerala, India
Co-Lab, Emirati-French Cultural Programme, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Binary States, Khazzan, Al Khazzan Park, Dubai, UAE
Warehouse Project Talks, Alserkal Avenue, Dubai, UAE
Campus Art Dubai 5.0, Dubai, UAE
Negotiating Spaces, American University of Dubai, Dubai, UAE
Artist Talk, New York University Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2015 *A Public Privacy*, Mashreq Lounge, Art Dubai, UAE
- 2014 *InVisible*, Artist panel, Al Jalila Cultural Center, Dubai, UAE
- 2013 Artist Panel, Art Forum 1, DUCTAC, Dubai, UAE
- 2012 Pecha Kucha Night, Dubai, UAE

PROGRAMMES

- 2016 Tashkeel, Critical Practice Programme
Campus Art Dubai 4.0, Core member
- 2015 The Salama Bint Hamdan Emerging Artists Fellowship
Campus Art Dubai 3.0, Core member
Campus Art Dubai 2.0, Core member
Campus Art Dubai 1.0, Participant

COLLECTIONS

- Art Jameel, Dubai, UAE
Maraya Art Centre, Sharjah, UAE
Private collection of HH Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Abu Dhabi, UAE

RESIDENCY

GALLERY ISABELLE

إيسابل

2018 Land Art Mongolia 5th Biennial, Khentii Province, Mongolia

2014 T.A.P. (Temporary Art Platform), Miziara, Lebanon

PERFORMANCES

2019 *50 Morton*, 50 Morton St, Apt 2F, West Village, New York, USA

2018 *Tease 2*, Prentis Hall, New York, USA

CURATION

2022 *184 Nails*, Hassan Sharif, Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde, Dubai, UAE

PUBLICATIONS AND CATALOGUES

2021 Dima Srouji, Faysal Tabbarah, and Meitha Almazrooei, *On Foraging*, Warehouse421

2017 Tairone Bastien and Vikram Divecha, *Warehouse Project*, Alserkal Avenue
Hammad Nasser, *Rock, Paper, Scissors: Positions in Play*, Mousse Publishing
Warehouse Project, 2017, Alserkal Avenue

2016 *Binary States*, Cultural Engineering

2015 Critiana De Marchi and Mohammed Kazem, *A Public Privacy*, UAE Unlimited
Murtaza Vali, *Accented*, Maraya Art Centre, Abu Dhabi, UAE

2014 *Campus Art Dubai: Served*, Art Dubai