

**Religare Art presents “LOOKING GLASS”: The Existence of Difference**

**October 1 – October 31, 2010**

**September 30, 2010, New Delhi:** Religare Art, a part of Religare Enterprises Limited (REL), a global financial services group presents a seminal art exhibition - **Looking Glass: The Existence of Difference**, curated by independent art critic and curator - Gayatri Sinha.

The exhibition will open at the Religare Art Gallery on October 1, 2010 and will remain on view till October 31, 2010. Artworks will be on view at three other venues along Kasturba Gandhi Marg - The American Center, The British Council and Goethe - Institut/ Max Mueller Bhavan. These three cultural institutions have come on board in a supportive and collaborative capacity in recognition of the significance of this exhibition for the Indian Art Movement and to extend its footprint and outreach on the global fora.

Commenting on the collaborative aspect of the exhibition, **Mr. Mukesh Panika, Director, Religare Art** said, *“At Religare Art, we have always believed in the notion of an ‘art and cultural collaborative’ that pulls together like-minded people and organizations. We are delighted that this show had the power and the presence to pull these three organizations of immense cultural significance together to extend whole-heartedly their locations and support for the purposes of this exhibition. It is our sincere hope and belief that in time to come, this exhibition with its associated events and activities will be seen as an important landmark in the ongoing journey we call the Indian Art Movement.”*

This exhibition brings together the works by 20 Indian contemporary artists who define a generation in contemporary art practice in India. The participant artists are Baiju Parthan, Jayashree Chakravarty, Surendran Nair, Pushpamala N., N.N. Rimzon, Anita Dube, Nataraj Sharma, Atul Dodiya, Sudarshan Shetty, Bose Krishnamachari, Anju Dodiya, Subodh Gupta, Shibu Natesan, T.V. Santhosh, NS Harsha, Bharti Kher, Jagannath Panda, Riyas Komu, Jitish Kallat and Shilpa Gupta.

This exhibition will also encompass the launch of a book titled *Voice of Changes - 20 Indian Artists*. The book documents the art practices of each of the individual 20 Indian contemporary artists through essays written by both Indian and international writers. The writers have been drawn from multiple disciplines such as art history, social anthropology and museum studies, who are significant scholars in their own right. The writers have a shared interest in recent curatorial and critical work in India and South Asia. Each essay comprises about 4000 to 5000 words of text followed by a 1000-2000 word question and answer session with the artists. Every essay is supported by six to eight images. Edited by Gayatri Sinha the book is being published by MARG publications through the support of Religare Art.

Elaborating on the concept, Curator of the show, **Gayatri Sinha** said, *“How has the artist in India responded to the rigors of change in the last decade? Expanding art circuits, the influence of the market and exhibiting sites and volatile social concerns have radically changed the art world. In turn the artist has reinvented myths and symbols, appropriated technologies and drawn multiple disciplines into art practices. The nature of art, ranging from spectacle to social mission – has fundamentally changed the way art is made and seen.”*

*This exhibition presents fragments from a generation that has ridden this crest of change. Their approach ranges from the formal and conceptual to biographies of micro narratives and social invective to a cool take on the object world. Archives, popular culture, residual images from the public domain are appropriated, through acts of mimicry, performance and the retelling of stories. Issues of class and consumption, and geographical mapping become some of the terms of address. This generation, the fourth and fifth since Independence, articulates the anxieties of our time and contextualizes the role of the artist within shifting contexts.”*

A seminar titled: *When the ties that bind unravel: Art Practices in an Age of Cultural Relativism* will be held on the 28<sup>th</sup> October 2010 and 29<sup>th</sup> October 2010 at the British Council. This seminar is intended to enable a discourse around the core ideas behind the project and the show. The speakers are drawn from within the international arts fraternity and through the active support and participation of all institutions involved in this collaborative.

### **Notes to Editors:**

#### **About Religare Art**

Today's complex market structures have spun art out of the cocoon of mere aestheticism into a more rooted role as a recognized financial asset, a derivative with immense powers of wealth generation, equal to those of any brick and mortar industry. Given this base, it is now for the greater public-driven organizations concerned with the well being of art, to ensure that all the diverse dimensions of art are nurtured and given the right exposure, so that art permeates completely into the societal fabric and enriches a wider consciousness.

Religare Enterprises Limited ("REL") launched "Religare Art" a wholly owned subsidiary in 2007. While most galleries, auction houses and art funds operate art businesses, Religare Art will conversely leverage the business for art.

Religare Art is committed to the business of arts and promoting art as an alternate investment option. The gallery is the first physical manifestation of this initiative.

To nurture talent, Religare Art proposes to establish gallery space(s) for shows and exhibitions of works of artists across the board. These gallery spaces shall double-up as venues for seminars, symposia, workshops and other interactions on art issues. Art – Artist - public interactions in these spaces will be documented to improve public consciousness. The first has been launched in New Delhi.

#### **About Religare Art Gallery, New Delhi - [www.religarearts.com](http://www.religarearts.com)**

Religare Art is committed to creating holistic arts initiative. In furtherance of this commitment, we shall provide a platform for artists of all ages, genres and statures. The gallery in New Delhi has been created as a platform that will help in promoting young artists as well as the art market in India.

Spread over an expanse of nearly 12,000 sq ft. and housed in the heart of the city of New Delhi - Connaught Place, the art hub seamlessly integrates two Galleries, a Cafeteria, a curio Store, a Resource Center and ancillary transitional spaces that can double up to accommodate seminars, symposia, workshops and other art activities. Religare Art also aspires to create and rejuvenate a space that enables art-artist-public interactions through a multiplicity of experiences and activities.

Some of the exhibitions that have taken place at the gallery since its opening in October 2008 are: Outer Circle, 16 contemporary and emerging artists; Phaneng: A Journey into Personal Engagement, 12 large scale black and white portrait photographs – Samar Jodha; Tribute Wall - three French graffiti artists – Dezer, Migwel and Keflione; Zip Files (group show, Edited By Ranjit Hoskote), Connaught Place-The Whynot Place, a day residency culminating into an exhibition of 24 artists etc. "The Decorated Cow" by Sidharth, "The Major Arcana" by Baba Anand, "THEWHYNOTPLACE – The Transforming State" a two month residency program for artists from India and all over the world, amongst many others.

#### **About Religare Enterprises Limited (Religare) – [www.religare.in](http://www.religare.in)**



Religare is a global financial services group with a presence across Asia, Africa, Middle East, Europe and the Americas. In India, Religare's largest market, the group offers a wide array of products and services ranging from insurance, asset management, broking and lending solutions to investment banking and wealth management. The group has also pioneered the concept of investments in alternative asset classes, such as arts and films. With over 10,000 employees across multiple geographies, Religare serves over a million clients, including corporates and institutions, high net worth families and individuals, and retail investors.

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