

four to show

Meet three young art impresarios who are getting noticed for their innovative work and a philanthropic art duo who live vicariously through young artists

- Georgina Maddox

I **SALONI DOSHI**

It all began with an old derelict factory in Tarwadi an urban village in Mazgoan, Mumbai. In 2009, Saloni Doshi had outlined the idea of a residency space for artists at an erstwhile warehouse owned by her family. The idea transformed into flesh, and Space 118 was born; a green oasis of calm in the manic metropolis that is dotted equally by slums than it is by high-rises. Now, up-and-coming artists, who are always hard-pressed for space in Mumbai, have a space to experiment, contemplate and create work, that is not always necessarily geared towards the market. It's just been four years but Doshi feels she has learnt a lot on the job. "Running a private residency space at 28 years of age meant I had no bench-marks. The only model that I loved and followed was KHOJ (Delhi)," says Doshi, now 32. Other residency spaces like Shut Up at Calmshet in Kamshet, two hours away from Mumbai, run by Karthikeyan Ramachandran and False Ceiling in suburban Bandra, have come on board only recently. "When I started there was nothing, so I travelled to Gas Works, in the UK and the Mattress Factory in Pittsburgh to gain exposure," says Doshi.

It's a niche operation that spreads mainly through word of mouth where Doshi chooses artists based on their "seriousness and intention." The artists pay in kind by leaving behind a work of art chosen by Doshi. If artists decide to stay longer than the three-month period offered by the residency they pay ₹15,000 for a 300-sq-foot-room. The residency has hosted artists like Sharmistha Ray, Jenny Bhatt, Gauri Gill, Tejal Shah, Pratap Morey, Neha Choksi, Nyela Saeed, Armando Miguez, Juan Requena and Mufaddal Husein. She has not yet hosted any senior artists. "Usually they need a much larger space. But I would like to have them as mentors," she says.

Doshi's personal collection is not fuelled by the residency, "We do try to sell the works created here, but I am not the buyer always. My collection includes artists like Anju Dodiya, Vivan Sundaram, Vivek Vilasini, Pushpamala N, Surekha, Yamini Nayar, TV Santosh, Jaganath Panda, Umrao Singh Sher-Gil and photographers like Lala Deen Dayal and Raghu Rai."

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