

**Kamrooz Aram**  
**Lubna Chowdhary**  
**Ali Kazim**  
**Anwar Jalal Shemza**  
**Mohan Samant**  
**Lionel Wendt**

5 February – 7 March 2020

Green Art Gallery is pleased to present a group exhibition in collaboration with Jhaveri Contemporary from Mumbai with works by **Kamrooz Aram, Lubna Chowdhary, Ali Kazim, Anwar Jalal Shemza, Mohan Samant and Lionel Wendt**. This marks the gallery's first collaborative iteration with an international gallery, thereby encouraging the evaluation of existing models in the art market and in exhibition making.

Jhaveri Contemporary was formed in 2010 by sisters Amrita and Priya with an eye towards representing artists, across generations and nationalities, whose work is informed by South Asian connections and traditions. The Mumbai-based Gallery's dedication to the creation of original scholarship, engendered through its carefully curated shows, is one of the many ways in which it distinguishes itself and resonates with Green Art Gallery. Entwined with this philosophy is another guiding principle: showcasing the heterogeneous practices of long-celebrated luminaries as well as emerging voices, often in generously interrogative conversations.

The exhibition pulls into dialogue the work of several artists including **Anwar Jalal Shemza** ( b. India, 1928 – 1985) and **Kamrooz Aram** (b. 1978 Shiraz, lives and works in NY), whose practices are both concerned with the historically complicated relationship between ornamental art and modernist abstraction. Similarly ceramist **Lubna Chowdhary** ( b.1964, Tanzania, lives and work in London) works with clay to create tiled pieces that challenge historical ideas around form, design and ornament. Her interest in architecture is reflected in the haphazard variety of curves, points and angular shapes that are playfully suggestive of a skyline of a city that sits between the east and west.

The exhibition includes another intergenerational pairing between Pakistani artist **Ali Kazim** (b.1979, Pattoki) and Ceylonese photographer **Lionel Wendt** (1900–1944). Both artists' works are crucially preoccupied with the work of the body and portraits of solitary and ordinary men and women; their protagonists are reservoirs of mystery, absorbed in reverie, in inner places of truth and stillness.

In line with both galleries' interest in researching and exhibiting Arab and South Asian modernist practices, works from **Mohan Samant** (b. Bombay, 1924 – 2004) are also included in the exhibition. Considered a 'missing link' in the narrative of modern Indian art, Samant was a member of the short-lived Progressive Artists' Group, exhibiting alongside many of India's leading artists, including FN Souza, SH Raza, and MF Husain. His paintings are a marriage in diverse materials, exploring the boundaries between painting and other disciplines, including sculpture, drawing, and architecture. Unlike the medium-specific practices of the Progressive Group, Samant's hybrid and playful compositions deploy unusual materials that challenge the distinctions between high and low art, art and craft.

## Artist Biographies

### Kamrooz Aram

Kamrooz Aram (born in 1978, Shiraz, Iran) received his BFA from Maryland Institute College of Art in 2001 and MFA from Columbia University in 2003. His work has been a subject of several solo shows including *An Object, A Gesture, A Décor*, FLAG Art Foundation, NY (2018); *FOCUS: Kamrooz Aram*, The Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Texas, USA (2018); *Ancient Blue Ornament*, Atlanta Contemporary, Atlanta, GA, USA (2018) and *Ornament for Indifferent Architecture*, Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens, Belgium (2017). His work is in the collections of The Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia; The Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Texas, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; M+ Museum, Hong Kong; Cincinnati Art Museum, Ohio; The FLAG Foundation, New York; and The Deutsche Bank Collection, among others.

### Lubna Chowdhary

Lubna Chowdhary (born in 1964, Dodoma, Tanzania) received her BA Hons from Manchester Metropolitan University in 1988 and MA from the Royal College of Art in 1991, where she was a student of Eduardo Paolozzi and received his scholarship to travel to India. Recent exhibitions include *Towards New Canons*, ICA Milan, Italy (2019); *On the Way to the Motif; Contemporary Artists Encounter Willi Baumeister*, Galerie Klaus Gerrit Friese, Berlin, Germany (2019); *Possibilities for a Non-Alienated Life*, Kochi Biennale, Kochi, India (2018); *Speech Acts: Reflection-Imagination-Repetition*, Manchester Art Gallery, Manchester, UK (2018). Her work is in the collections of, Abingdon Museum, Oxfordshire, UK; Cartwright Hall, Bradford, UK; The Drumcroon Arts Centre, Wigan, UK; Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai, UAE; Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, New Delhi, India; Leicester City Museum, Leicester, UK; Mead Gallery, Warwick, UK; Nottingham Castle Museum, Nottingham, UK; Poole Museum, Dorset, UK; Oldham Art Gallery, Oldham, UK; Shipley Art Gallery, Gateshead, UK; Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia.

### Ali Kazim

Ali Kazim (born in 1979, Pattoki, Pakistan) received his BFA from the National College of Arts, Lahore in 2002 and MFA from the Slade School of Fine Art, London in 2011. Recent group exhibitions include the Lahore Biennale, Lahore, Pakistan (2020); Karachi Biennale, Karachi, Pakistan (2019); *One*, COMO Museum of Art, Lahore, Pakistan (2019); The 9th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art, Brisbane, Australia (2018), Lahore Biennale, Lahore, Pakistan (2018); Karachi Biennale, Karachi, Pakistan (2017) - where he was awarded the prestigious Jury Prize. His work is in the collections of The British Museum, London, UK; Burger Collection, Hong Kong; Creative Cities Collection, Beijing, China; Devi Art Foundation, Delhi, India; Kamel Lazaar Foundation, Tunisia; Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, Delhi, India; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA; Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia; Samdani Art Foundation, Dhaka, Bangladesh; USC Pacific Asia Museum, Pasadena, USA; Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK.

**Anwar Jalal Shemza**

Anwar Jalal Shemza (born in 1928, Simla, India, died in 1985, Stafford UK) received his BFA from the Mayo School of Art, Lahore in 1947 and MA from the Slade School of Fine Art, London in 1956. Recent solo exhibitions include *Anwar Jalal Shemza: Paintings from the 1960s*, Hales Gallery, London, UK (2018); *BP Spotlight Display*, Tate Britain, London, UK (2015); *Drawing|Print|Collage*, Jhaveri Contemporary, Mumbai, India (2015) and *The British Landscape*, Green Cardamom, London, UK (2010). Recent group exhibitions include *Anwar Jalal Shemza: Various Works (1961-1969)*, *Making New Time*, Sharjah Biennale 14, Sharjah, UAE (2019); *Speech Acts: Reflection-Imagination-Repetition*, Manchester Art Gallery, Manchester, UK (2018); *South Asian Modernists 1953-63*, The Whitworth, Manchester, UK (2017). His work is in the collections of Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, UK; Birmingham Museum and Art Galleries, Birmingham, UK; Bradford Museum and Art Galleries, Bradford, UK; The British Museum, London, UK; Guggenheim, Abu Dhabi, UAE; Oriental Museum, Durham University, Durham, UK; Herbert F Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, USA; Lahore Museum, Lahore, Pakistan; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA; Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art, Middlesbrough, UK; Pakistan National Council of Art, Islamabad, Pakistan; Sharjah Art Foundation, UAE; Tate, London, UK and M+ Museum, Hong Kong.

**Mohan Samant**

Mohan Samant (born in 1924, Bombay, India, died in 2004, New York, USA) received his diploma from the JJ School of Art in Bombay in 1952. Recent exhibitions include *Mohan Samant: Masked Dance for the Ancestors*, Jhaveri Contemporary, Mumbai, India (2018); *The Progressive Revolution: Modern Art for a New India*, Asia Society, New York, USA (2018); *Everything we do is music*, Drawing Room, London, UK (2018); *Mohan Samant: Paintings*, L'Association France-Amérique, Eglise de la Madeleine, Paris, France (2014); *Mohan Samant: Paintings*, Jehangir Nicholson Art Foundation, Mumbai, India (2013); *Mohan Samant: Mixed Media Works*, Pundole Art Gallery, Mumbai, India (2008). His work is in the collections of Asia Society, New York, USA; Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA; Picker Art Gallery, Colgate University, New York, USA; Hirshorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC, USA; Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA; National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), New Delhi, India; Peabody Essex Museum, Salem Massachusetts, USA; Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC, USA and Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, Connecticut, USA.

**Lionel Wendt**

Lionel Wendt (born in 1900, died in 1944, Colombo, Sri Lanka) studied law at the Inner Temple and music at the Royal Academy in London between 1919 and 1924. Recent exhibitions include *Studio Photography: 1887-2019*, Simon Lee Gallery, New York, USA (2019); *Histories of Sexuality*, MASP, São Paulo, Brazil (2017); *Learning from Athens*, Documenta 14, Athens, Greece (2017); *Ceylon*, Huis Marseille, Amsterdam, Netherlands (2017); 3rd Dhaka Art Summit, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka, Bangladesh (2016); *Burning Down The House*, 10th Gwangju Biennale, South Korea (2014); *In Dialogue: Amrita Sher-Gil and Lionel Wendt*, Jhaveri Contemporary, Mumbai, India (2014). His work is in the collections of The Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; The National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, Australia; Tate, London, UK; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA and The National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, Canada.