

## VIKRAM DIVECHA

Vikram Divecha (born 1977, Beirut) is a Mumbai-bred artist based in Dubai. His work addresses labour, time and value, interrogating specific environments and challenging socio-economic structures. His practice has developed around what he calls 'found processes'-those forces and capacities at work within state, social, economic and industrial spheres. These processes are his realm of intervention: Divecha introduces 'glitches' or realigns a system, which in turn generates an altered, amplified outcome as the operation runs its course. Constantly negotiating for existing material, space and labour, he navigates communities in deepening dialogues with potential participants. The changes he initiates are not simply injected into a system and then showcased; rather, Divecha's are slow processes, capable of enduring well beyond the time/space framework of what is 'exhibited', in some cases generating sustained social associations. By aligning himself to the system, working alongside participants, Divecha adapts his strategies as the project itself evolves. Re-contextualising the ebb and flow of goods through a warehouse, re-framing agency among municipal gardeners who create lasting public works, injecting non-artists into an artistic space, and superintending the re-generation of context as uprooted bricks from a bus stop are re-laid elsewhere - such are the situations created across a practice invested far more in the social dynamics of an actual urban space, than in the hermetic world of the white cube. Despite interacting with largely invisible systems, his works have a definite materiality and formal rigour - a regimented plot of boulders, stylised hedges, stacks of boxes. His engagements translate into public art, sculptural installations, video and drawings. Divecha received his MFA from Columbia University in 2019 and graduated from the prestigious Whitney Independent Study Program (ISP) in July 2020, the outcome of which included a collective publication entitled *CONJUNCTURE*.

Divecha's exhibitions include *Second Hand*, Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai (2019), *Living Room: UIT (Use it together)*, International Studio & Curatorial Program, New York (2019); *Who are we now?*, Land Art Mongolia 5th Biennial, Ulaanbaatar (2018); *Co-Lab: Contemporary Art and Savoir-faire*, Louvre Abu Dhabi, UAE (2017); *Rock, Paper, Scissors: Positions in Play*, National Pavilion UAE, 57th Venice Biennale - Arsenale, Venice (2017); *Tamawuj*, Sharjah Biennial 13, Sharjah (2017); *Portrait Sessions*, Tashkeel, Dubai (2016); *Warehouse Project*, Alserkal Commission, Dubai (2016); *DUST*, Centre for Contemporary Art, Ujazdowski Castle, Warsaw (2015); *Accented*, Maraya Art Centre, Sharjah (2015); *A Public Privacy*, DUCTAC, Dubai (2015); *InVisible*, The Arab Fund For Arts and Culture Dubai (2014), among others.

## EDUCATION

2020    ISP, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York  
2019    MFA, Columbia University, New York

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2022    *El Dorado*, Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde, Dubai

- 2020 *Towards Opacity*, Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde, Dubai  
2017 *Minor Work*, Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde, Dubai  
2016 *Portrait Sessions*, Tashkeel, Dubai  
2012 *Urban Epidermis*, Traffic, Dubai

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *ICON. ICONIC.*, as part of 'Art Here', for the Richard Mille Art Prize, Louvre, Abu Dhabi  
2022 *Portrait of a Nation II: Beyond Narratives*, commissioned by ADMAF, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi  
*On Foraging*, Warehouse421, Dubai  
2021 *Through the Mesh: Media, Borders, and Firewalls*, NeMe Arts Centre, Cyprus  
*Sharbaka: Entanglement/Attunement*, New York University, New York  
*Portrait of a Nation II: Beyond Narratives*, Abu Dhabi Festival, Abu Dhabi  
*So Different, So Appealing*, Warehouse 421, Abu Dhabi  
*Love, Labour, Leisure*, Goethe Institut, online exhibition  
*Spring Time, Palm Trees*, Antenna Space, Shanghai, online exhibition  
2019 *How to maneuver: Shape-shifting texts and other publishing tactics*, Warehouse421, Mina Zayed, Abu Dhabi  
*Second Hand*, Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai  
*In Response: Leonard Cohen*, The Jewish Museum, New York  
*Aesthetically Functional Only*, curated by Edsel Williams, 1675 Broadway, New York  
*Visual Arts MFA Thesis Exhibition 2019*, Curated by Regine Basha, Wallach Art Gallery, Lenfest Center for the Arts, Columbia University, New York  
*Living Room: UIT (Use it together)*, International studio & Curator programme, New York  
2018 *Who Are We Now?*, Land Art Mongolia 5<sup>th</sup> Biennial, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia  
*Feel that other day running underneath this one*, Times Sq. Space, New York  
*First Year MFA Exhibition*, Wallach Art Gallery, New York  
*(Un)conscious: A series of small serendipities*, Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde, Dubai  
*Untold Stories Retold*, Warehouse421, Abu Dhabi  
2017 *Co-Lab: contemporary art and savoir-faire*, Louvre Abu Dhabi  
*Rock, Paper, Scissors: Positions in Play*, National Pavilion of United Arab Emirates, 57<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale  
*Tamawuj*, Sharjah Biennial 13  
2016 *Binary States: India – UAE*, Kochi-Muziris Biennale  
*March Project 2016*, Sharjah Art Foundation  
*Domestic Affairs: Reshaped*, Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde, Dubai  
*What is it?*, 1x1 Gallery, Dubai  
*White Cube... Literally*, Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde, Dubai  
2015 *Art: Process and Practice*, Warehouse 411, Abu Dhabi  
*Dust*, Centre for Contemporary Art, Ujazdów Castle, Warsaw  
*A Public Privacy*, DUCTAC, Dubai  
*Accented*, Maraya Art Centre, Sharjah

- Art Dubai Radio*, Art Dubai
- 2014 *Turning point*, Tashkeel, Dubai  
*Urban Reflections*, Cuadro Fine Art Gallery, Dubai  
*SIKKA Art Fair*, Dubai  
*In the Absence of Script*, Maraya Art Centre, Sharjah
- 2013 *SIKKA Art Fair*, Dubai  
*Art Nights @ Gate Village*, DIFC – Special Exhibition, Cuadro Fine Art Gallery, Dubai  
*Here Today – A Record of Urban Impermanence*, Cuadro Fine Art Gallery, Dubai

## COMMISSIONS

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

## PUBLIC GRANTS

- 2015 *Shaping Resistance*, Al Majaz Park, Sharjah
- 2014 *InVisible*, The Arab Fund for Arts and Culture, Dubai

## AWARDS

- 2014 Middle East Emergent Artist Prize

## PRESENTATIONS AND TALKS

- 2019 Artist Talk, *Aesthetics of Extraction*, GSAPP Incubator at NEW INC, New York
- 2016 *Binary States*, Greenix, Kochi  
Co-Lab, Emirati-French Cultural Programme, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi  
*Binary States*, Al Khazzan Park, Dubai  
Warehouse Project Talks, Alserkal Avenue, Dubai

Campus Art Dubai 5.0, Dubai

*Negotiating Spaces*, American University of Dubai, Dubai

Artist Talk, New York University Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi

2015 Artist Talk, *A Public Privacy*, Art Dubai

2014 Artist Talk, AFAC, Dubai

2013 Artist Talk, *Art Forum 1*, DUCTAC, Dubai

2012 Pecha Kucha Night, Dubai

## 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

Maraya Art Centre, Sharjah

Private collection of HH Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Abu Dhabi

## RESIDENCY

2018 Land Art Mongolia 5<sup>th</sup> Biennial, Khentii Province, Mongolia

2014 T.A.P. (Temporary Art Platform), Beirut

## PUBLICATIONS

2017 *Warehouse Project*, 2017, Alserkal Avenue