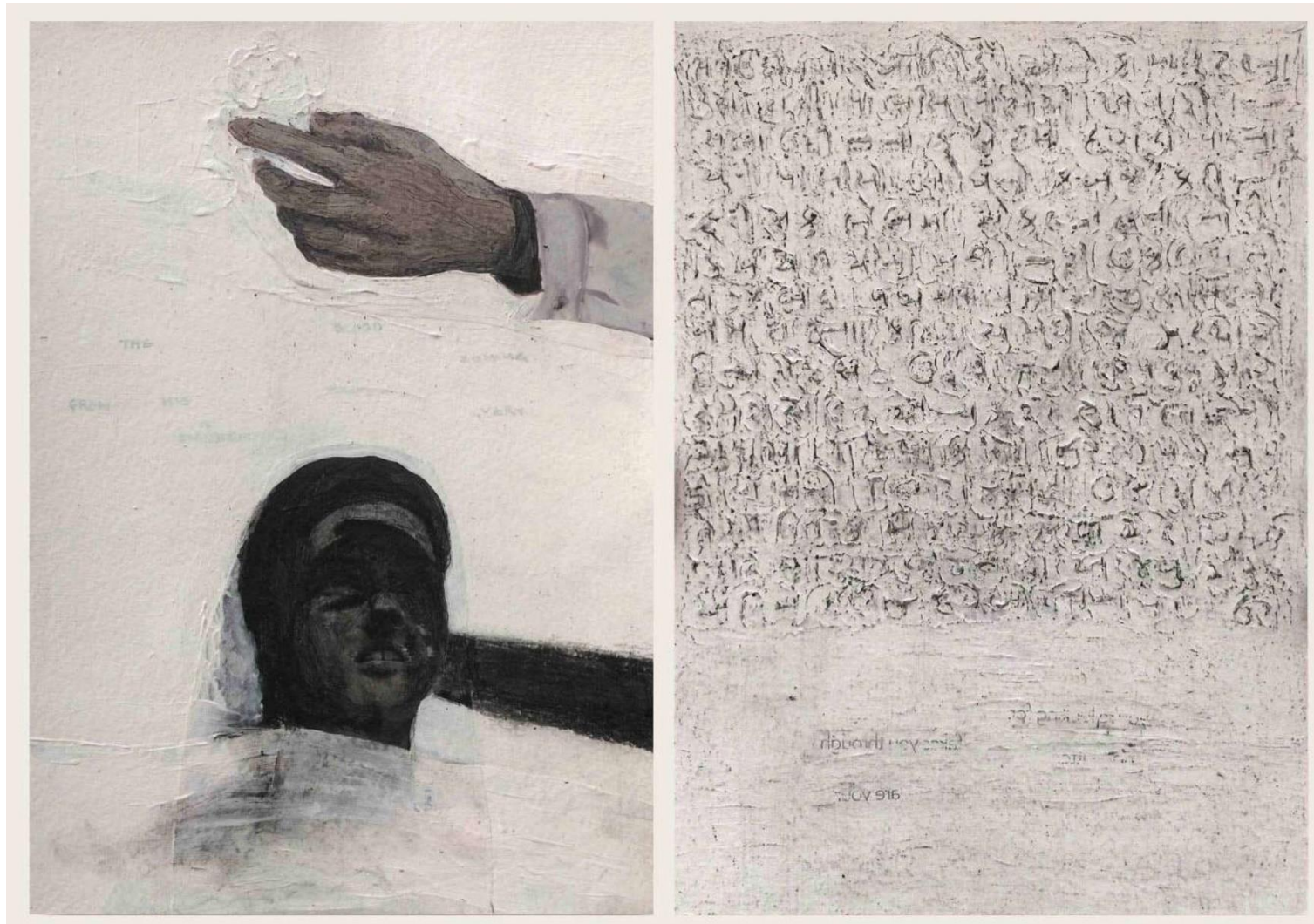


Ali Akbar

Portfolio of selected works

- Collages
- Artists' book
- Video

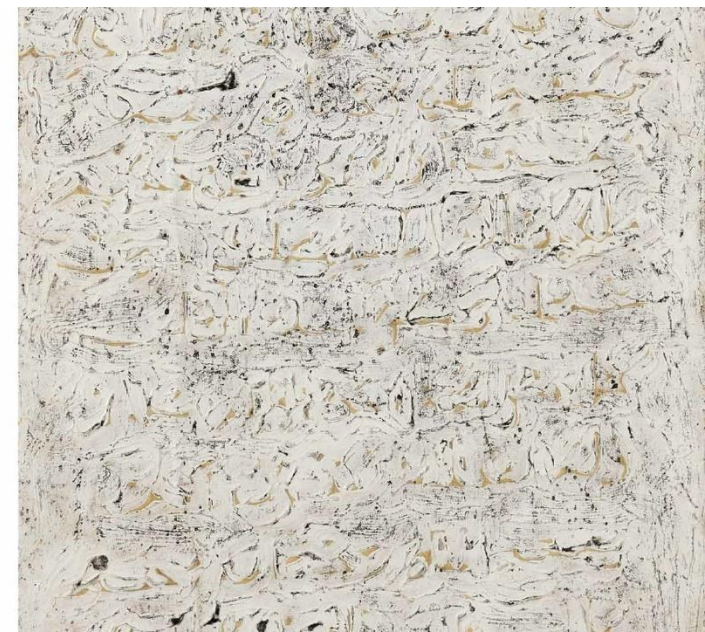
Untitled
Acrylic, collage and charcoal on
acid free paper
8 x 12 in. (21 x 30.5 cm.) overall
8 X 6 in. (21 x 15 cm.) each
Diptych
2022
Baroda



Brief Description

Ali Akbar P.N. is a contemporary artist based in Vadodara. He works extensively in collages, videos and artists' books, and his work revolves around memory, identity, alienation, and desire. Ali Akbar was born in a village in Kerala, where most people are engaged in fishing and related occupations. He draws inspiration from the local stories he heard while growing up, the stories of the history of the land and the political narratives of the contemporary time. Most of his recent works have the recurring duality of Obedience/Disobedience, Past/Present and Absence/ Presence underlying them. Ali Akbar's practice reflects the growing change in cultural patterns that connects the region to a larger context within the Global South. His subjects often relate to trans-cultural and counter-political narratives formed since the recent decade. There is a kind of coastal imagination of his region, which is often neglected by the traditional mainland-terrestrial imagination.

Ali Akbar's collages explore the connection he develops with mediated images, researching and meticulously collecting pictures published in various print and digital media, which have become essential to his artistic practice. The artist creates an overlapping narrative of history, memory and identity based on digital photos and his works, whether painted or videos. In the artist's book, Ali Akbar plays with the idea of narration. By cutting, overlapping pages and inviting viewers to engage and create their narratives out of the book, Akbar subverts the singular narrative. Instead, he underlines the layered existence within the contemporary image-dominated world.



Collage

Untitled
Collage, Acrylic, Matte Medium,
Charcoal, Oil Pastel and Archival
Pen on Acid Free Paper
24 x 18 cm x 2 works (Diptych)
2022



Artists' book

Book III
31 x 22 cm (Closed)
Mixed Medium
2021

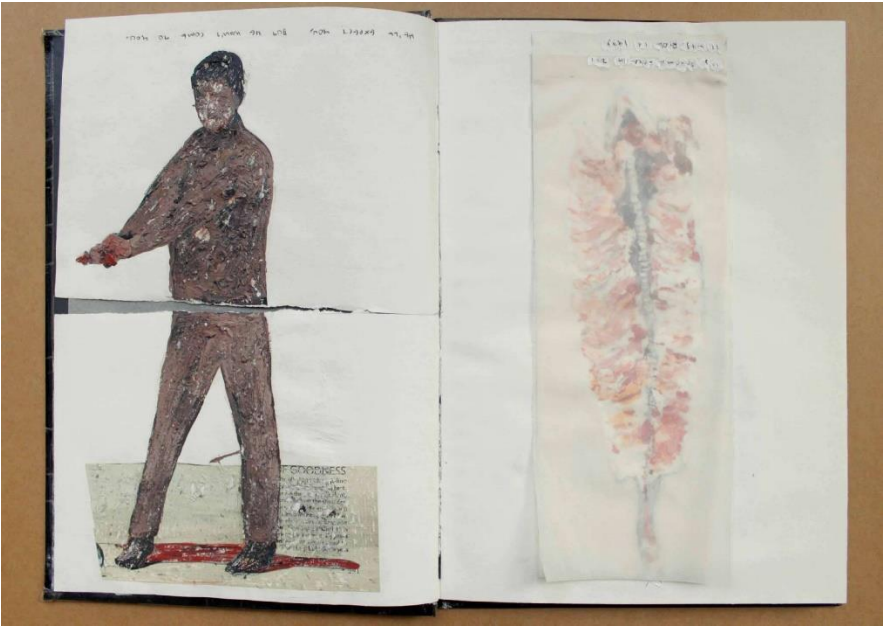
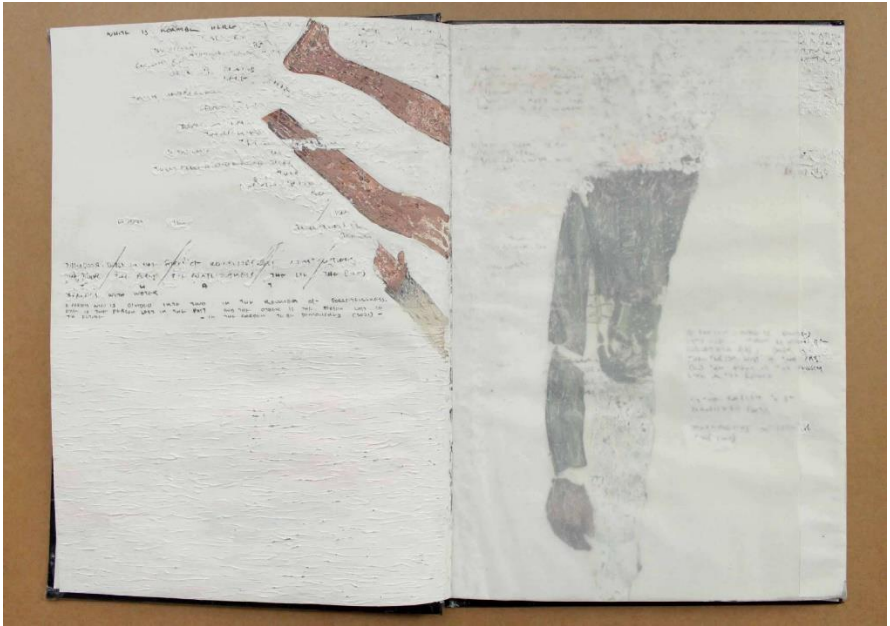


The creation of the artists' book project began with the perception that holding a book opens up a new visual experience and space, one that the viewer can personally hold in their hands, and the pages of the book can be placed over each other to create a visual play.



Artists' book

Detail



Artists' book

And Plot Elements - 1

Acrylic, collage, charcoal and archival
pen on acid-free paper

12.5 X 9.5 in. (31.7 x 24.1 cm.) book
dimension

6 pages, 12 works

2022

Baroda



Video

Untitled

Video

04:20 minutes

2020

Video link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RyzGBPplO3c>

The environment of the coastal village and when you travel outside it, you get to experience what it is like to be with that environment and to read about it in many different social contexts. Knowing the abundance of the sea, its thin shores, the conditions of the flowing state, interacting with the sea in the same way, like the sea in different aspects of life.

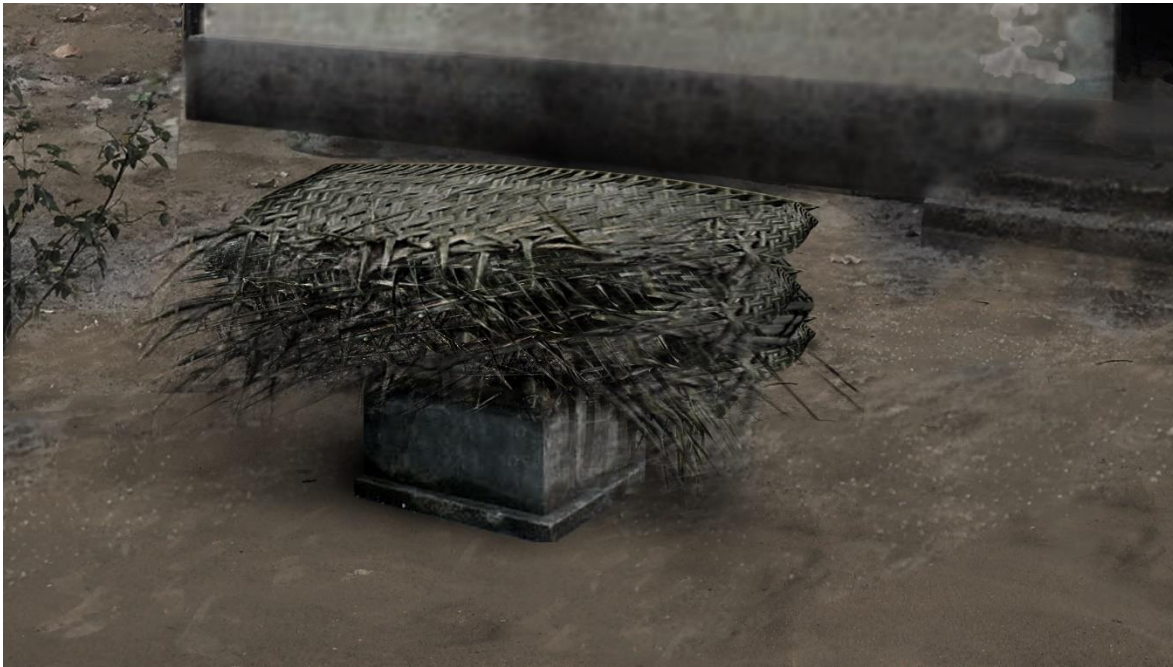


Standing on opposite shores, we share the same sea



Video

Detail



Collage

Contrast Follows Division

Collage, Acrylic, Matte Medium,
Charcoal, Oil Pastel and Archival
Pen on Acid Free Paper
24 x 18 cm x 2 works (Diptych)
2022

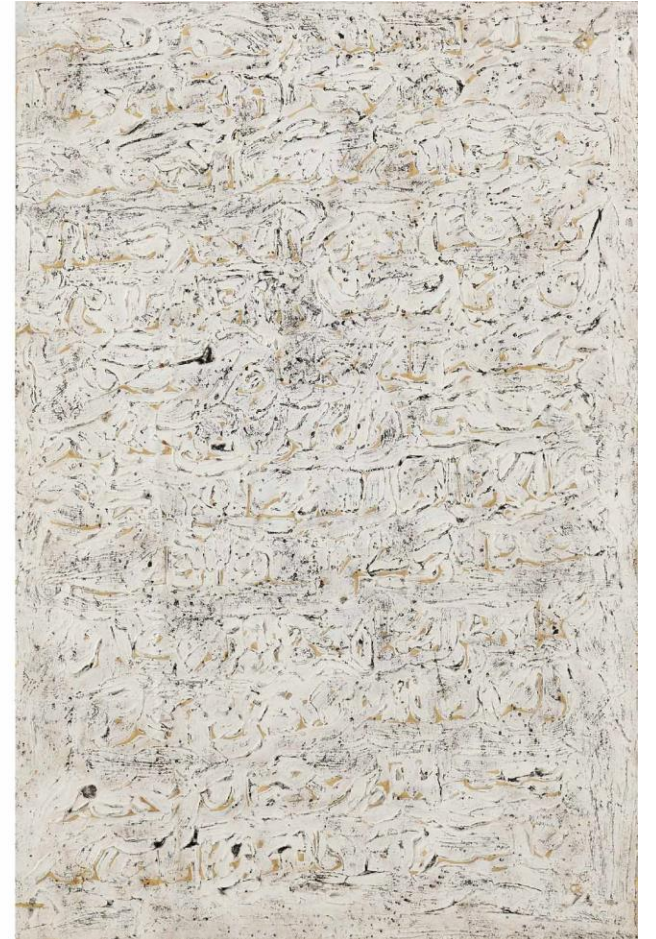
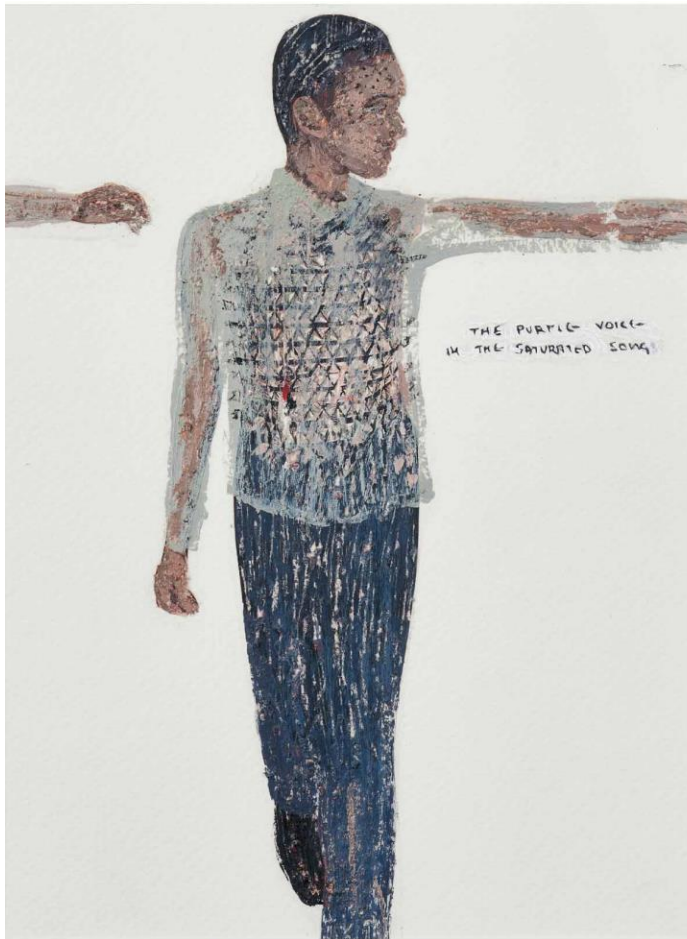


Collage

The loop and immobility

Collage, matte medium, oil pastel,
charcoal and archival pen on acid
paper

50 cm x 24 cm (Triptych)



Collage

With a Number of Exceptions from Earlier - 1
Acrylic, archival print and charcoal on acid-free
paper
25 x 49 in. (63.5 x 124.5 cm.)
2022
Baroda



Collage

But Generally Smaller

Acrylic, collage and charcoal on
acid-free paper

8 x 14 in. (21 x 36 cm.) overall

A - 8 X 6 in. (21 x 15 cm.)

B - 6 x 8 in. (15 x 21 cm.)

Diptych

2022

Baroda



Collage

With Acute Petals

Acrylic, collage and charcoal on acid-free paper

6 x 16 in. (15 x 41 cm.) overall

6 X 8 in. (15 x 21 cm.) each

Diptych

2022

Baroda



Collage

Composition - 1

Acrylic, collage and charcoal on
acid-free paper

28 X 45 in. (71 x 114 cm.)

2022

Baroda



Collage

Where it Continues to Play

Acrylic, inkjet print and charcoal on acid-free paper

14 x 44 in. (36 x 112 cm.) overall

7 X 22 in. (18 x 56 cm.) each

Quadriptych

2022

Baroda



Collage

Untitled
Acrylic, collage and charcoal on acid free paper
10 X 8 in. (25 x 20 cm.)
2022
Baroda



Exhibition Images



IMAGINARIUM 2.0
Installation View, Emami Art, Kolkata

Brief Bio

Ali Akbar P N. was born in 1996 in Koolimuttam, Central Kerala. The artist obtained his MVA in Painting from Maharaja Sayaji Rao University, Vadodara, Gujarat 2020 and his BFA in Painting from the Govt. College of Fine Arts Thrissur, Kerala 2018.

Ali Akbar reaches into his familial history as lineal fisherfolk and collective memory and subconscious to give anchorage to his practice, encompassing drawings, collages, artists' books, and videos based on his digital photographs. For him, the small coastal village, its natural bounty, the abundant nature of the sea, and its constantly flowing state are essential resources to question the subaltern and marginal. By centring his work around alienation—individual, social, political or religious, Ali Akbar's practice reflects a growing change in cultural patterns that connects the region to a larger context within the Global South.

Ali Akbar was part of India Art Fair 2023; *Baroda Annuelle* 2023; *AD Design Show* 2022, Mumbai, and *From Where All That Sweat?* curated by Niranjana Surendran, Trivandrum 2022; *The Flying Goat Show* Curated by Shyamli Singbal, Goa 2022; Open Studio, Baroda 2021; Untitled III Online Exhibition, Priyasri Art Gallery Mumbai 2020; *Nasreen Mohammedi Studio Display*, MSU Baroda 2019 – 2020; *Prologue 18 Final Display*, Govt. College of Fine Arts Thrissur 2018; *Kala Mela Art Exhibition*, Lalit Kala Academy, New Delhi 2018; Print Premises Printmaking Exhibition Curated by Sunil Lal TR, Calicut 2017; Group Show in Onyx Art Gallery, Kochi 2017; *Charcoal Group Art Exhibition*, Calicut 2017; *Kasthuri Sreenivasan Trust Annual Show*, Coimbatore 2017.

He won the first award at the annual all-India open call awards and exhibition *IMAGINARIUM 2.0* Emami Art Kolkata 2022

The artist currently resides and works in Vadodara, Gujarat, India.



CV and Personal details

Address

133, Nandanvan Society, Abhilasha – Canal Road,
Abhilasha Char Rasta, New Sama, Vadodara,
Gujarat – 390024

7902570504

aliakbarn347@gmail.com

Educational Qualifications:

MVA (Painting), MSU Baroda, Vadodara, Gujarat (2018-20)

BFA (Painting), Govt. College of Fine Arts Thrissur, Kerala (2014-18)

Selected Exhibitions:

India Art Fair 2023, New Delhi

AD Design Show 2022, Mumbai

IMAGINARIUM 2.0 Emami Art Kolkata 2022

From Where All That Sweat? Curated by Niranjana Surendran, Trivandrum 2022

The Flying Goat Show Curated by Shyamli Singbal, Goa 2022

Open Studio, Baroda 2021

Untitled III Online Exhibition, Priyasri Art Gallery Mumbai 2020

Nasreen Mohammedi Studio Display, MSU Baroda 2019 – 2020

Prologue 18 Final Display, Govt. College of Fine Arts Thrissur 2018

Kala Mela Art Exhibition, Lalit Kala Academy, New Delhi 2018

Lalit Kala Academy, New Delhi 2018; Print Premises Print making Exhibition Curated by Sunil Lal TR, Calicut 2017
Group Show in Onyx Art Gallery, Kochi 2017

Kasthuri Sreenivasan Trust Annual Show, Coimbatore 2017

EMAMI ART

Kolkata, India

Emami Art, Kolkata, is a leading contemporary art gallery and space for cultural production. Based in Kolkata, India, the gallery focuses on a future-forward, complex, multi-dimensional approach. It is steadfast in advocating for emerging, mid-career and established artists and engaging with contemporary and historical material. The gallery also aims to create dynamic, wide-ranging registers of exhibition-making and viewing.

In addition to hosting exhibitions and participating in national and international events and fairs, Emami Art has diverse parallel programming. Emami Art has launched the **EA Locus in Focus** to provide a voice to local and regional communities through ongoing short and long-term projects. **EA Incubator & Learning** integrates both the physical and virtual interfaces. It helps the arts community free access to regular mentorship programs, workshops, residency opportunities and innovative educational activities that facilitate artistic development, help build collaborative networks and provides a supportive environment for emerging talent. As a centre of excellence, Emami Art identifies as a platform rather than just a facility.

Critical discourses, interactions, documentation and exchange are also essential to our mandate. Under the umbrella of **EA Discourse**, we develop and produce original writing, periodicals and catalogues that focus on artistic, creative and pedagogical materials. As part of our knowledge-making and archiving process, our regular lineup of talks, seminars, panel discussions and conversations with artists, curators and key partners is helping to establish a safe space for critical engagement.

Emami Art has adopted the inclusive, symbiotic framework, where profitability supports sustainable resource regeneration and public service. The gallery is a green building and strictly maintains free access to all policy. Deeply committed to promoting a regional, national and international agenda through innovative and alternative programming, emphasis on community and socially relevant engagements, institutional partnerships and more via a multi-year vision for the future, Emami Art is a catalyst of change, research, innovation and inclusivity.

