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'Every piece I do changes'

New York-based artist Jaret Vadera, who is in Chennai on a five-year Fellowship Residency, is interested in myth, research and art as experiment



SHIBA KURIAN
DECCAN CHRONICLE

New York-based artist Jaret Vadera rightly thinks that it is pretentious to call himself an 'interdisciplinary' artist. "It is merely a fancy word to suggest that I don't make just one kind of work, but use various media to convey my ideas. I make paintings, prints, photographs, video and installations; at times, even a hybrid of these forms," he explains.

Born to an Indian father, Jaret is in Chennai as part of a five-year Fellowship Residency Programme from Dakshina Chitra. He will spend a year on site as an Artist Research Fellow.

Jaret has many distinctive artworks, awards and honours to his credit. Art

aficionados have appreciated the ingenuity of his exhibits across the globe, including New York, Canada, France and Delhi. "Every piece or series of work I do, changes," Jaret points out, "the way I make it or the way I think about it changes, based on what I pursue. My interest lies in exploring myths and ideas that are beyond human perception."

He explains further his way of working. "For instance, for one of my creations, I gave a section of a painting on mylar a creative makeover. I scanned it, manipulated it on the computer and printed it on a transparent film, making it appear like an X-ray. So it is a long and elaborate process to get the final product," Jaret says.

Conventional research has one investigating a specific subject and drawing all the material collected into an essay or lecture, but Jaret, as an artist research fellow, plans to embark on 'idiosyncratic and unconventional' research. "It will be a mix of research and artistic experiments. I will run a research on the patterns, ratios, geometry, numbers and mathematics in visual culture. I will pore over the vast ocean of books in the library and make new artwork that comes out of my research and in relation to specific objects, artefacts and spaces at the museum," he says.

Incidentally, it has only been over a week into Jaret's arrival in Chennai, and he is already all praise for the city. "From the few days of my exploration, I feel this city has an unparalleled and ubiquitous mix of old and new elements. I am going to keep my mind open to ideas and themes from the city to use in my work," he says.



PHOTO BY KAMANI SE

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— JARET VADERA