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TUE, SEP 30, 2025 | UPDATED 20:02 PM IST



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At 25 years, Sundaram Tagore Gallery embraces the earth

September 30, 2025, 5:44 PM IST / Uma Nair in pLUMAge, India, TOI

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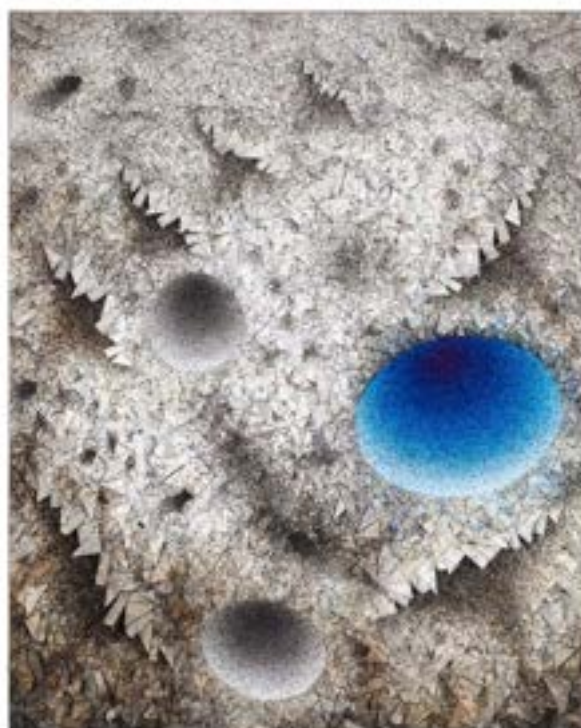
Uma Nair

Critic and Curator Uma Nair has been writing for the past 35 years on art and culture She has written as critic for Times of India and Economic Times. She believes that art is ... MORE

Sundaram Tagore Gallery at NY celebrates its 25th anniversary, with a wide-ranging exhibition of paintings, sculptures, photographs and installations. With work by more than thirty artists who have been with the gallery since its founding in 2000 to those in partnership more recently, this is an odyssey of deep engagement in cross-cultural explorations. Sundaram Tagore’s focus on diasporic artists as well

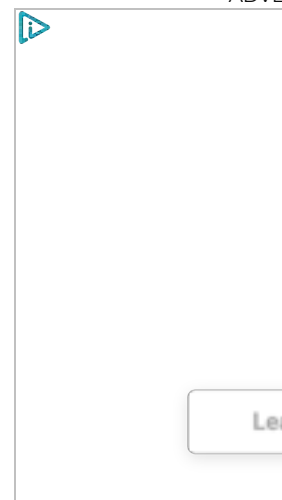
WRITE

as underrepresented cultures outside Europe and the United States, the sole aim has been bringing them to the forefront.



The gallery states : “ Crossing cultural and national boundaries, these artists, including Sohan Qadri (b. 1932, India; d. 2011), Natvar Bhavsar (b. 1934, India) and Nathan Slate Joseph (b. 1943, Israel), synthesized Western visual languages with forms, techniques, and philosophies from Asia, the Subcontinent, and the Middle East. By incorporating authentic elements from their own cultures, artists from the periphery added richness and complexity to the artistic language that dominated the Western canon. They produced paintings, drawings, sculptures

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and installations that emphasized materiality. Aesthetically and intellectually rigorous, their work was infused with humanism and spiritual significance.”

Photography by the world’s giants , sculptural installations by South Asian geniuses, and paintings by the finest names all come together to create an alchemy of auras that flit and float in human imagination. The ensemble of materials and mediums creates a visually rich and emotionally resonant celebration that lingers in the mind long after you have walked away into Manhattan’s streets.



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Sebastio Salgado’s ode to planet earth

A single landscape and a portrait, *The backwater of the Rio Negro, Anavilhanas National Park, state of Amazonas, Brazil*, 2009, and *Yawanawa Indian, Acre, Brazil*, 2016, **Sebastio Salgado’s** gelatin silver print on baryta paper is testimony to his love for the earth. STG has held many solo shows by

Salgado who used photography to promote his vision of the world, which was both planetary as well as panoramic.

His landscapes were as much about geophysical characteristics as they were about grains of black and white. Salgado has said that art for him is a wide concept– anything can be art. He has also said rather cryptically : “I don’t want anyone to appreciate the light or the palette of tones. I want my pictures to inform, to provoke discussion – and to raise money.”

His words at his Amazonia exhibition ring through “ I go to see my planet. I wanted to see what is pristine in this world.”



Sohan Qadri's sublime residue

Sohan Qadri's dyed work on paper is a residual reflection of his deep meditative moorings. Sohan Qadri was **an artist, poet, and Tantric guru** whose vibrantly coloured minimalist works incorporate Tantric symbolism and philosophy. Qadri

met Sundaram in 1997. Qadri abandoned representation early on in his long career, incorporating Tantric symbolism and philosophy into his vibrantly coloured minimalist paper works. **Arise** 2003 is a riveting work of spiritual sediments that transcend. Qadri's solos at STG have been the finest.



Anila Quayyum Agha

Anila Quayyum Agha's, *Rising Waters and a Hungry Bat* (Human fragments, plants, land & sea creatures), 2025, made of mixed media (metallic sewing, hand-cut collage on paper, encased in resin on gesso panel), is a study in resilience and her understanding of nature's rhythms in both zoological and botanical brilliance. Anila, a famed international installation artist, echoes an ecological slant in the articulations she creates effortlessly.