

# TIME

## The Final Show at Gallery Maskara

July 14, 2016

The last 3-weeks have been nothing short of transformatory - in every respect of the word. It was a period of accepting the profound loss of my father, accompanied by deep reflection and quiet contemplation. A period spent examining some of my most important relationships - with family and friends, with work, with myself, with life and ultimately - with death.

One of the most fundamental of life's great mysteries is TIME and how we choose to spend the remaining time we have left on earth - without knowing just how much of that time we really do have left!

Three weeks prior to my father being diagnosed with stage-4 pancreatic cancer we were together in the hills of South India. It was the month of May. Flowers were in full bloom, the weather was beautiful and the scape was picture perfect. Plans were being made for more such adventures to farther away places like Africa and Australia. My father looked so joyful, with a camera always in his hand and a smile always on his face. The mood was upbeat and there were no signs whatsoever, that the end was so near. But life had other plans. Within twelve days of the diagnosis, he was gone. Just like that.

So how much time do we really have to live the plans we make? Nobody has an answer to this question. Sometimes it takes death to make us examine life more closely. To measure it more accurately and to understand it more profoundly.

I have had the privilege of spending the last 10-years of my life in furthering contemporary art in India and internationally. I did this zealously and to the best of my abilities. This was accompanied with a sense of deep fulfilment and pride - in building an art program from the ground up. And in all these years, we strived for aesthetic authenticity, in the face of a largely apathetic local audience. Many of our artists have achieved levels of international recognition and respect, that is worthy of praise and admiration. It has been ten glorious years - with art and artists resolutely at the centre of my universe.

So it is with inner conviction tinged with sadness that I communicate to you all - that this will be the last show at Gallery Maskara. I am simply unable to commit to the next ten years, in the same way that I committed the previous ten. The circumstances that I am now faced with, are completely different from what they were just a few weeks ago. As a result, my time needs to be reprioritised and reallocated in other directions.

Thank you for all your encouragement and advice over the years. I am truly grateful for the role you have played, in helping me navigate this absurdly wonderful world of art.

I look forward to seeing you for the opening preview on Thursday July 14th. This 45th and final show curated by me at Gallery Maskara features artists Max Streicher, Meenakshi Sengupta, Narendra Yadav, Parag Sonarghare, Prashant Pandey and T. Venkanna.

Abhay Maskara  
Curatorial Director