

SUBSCRIBE

SIGN UP FOR A DIGITAL COPY VIA MAGZTER

VERVE

The Spirit of Today's Woman

SIGN UP | LOG IN | Q

Search



ARTS & CULTURE

FASHION & BEAUTY

PEOPLE

TRAVEL & SPACES

EVENTS

VIDEOS

COLUMNS

FRAMED

LIBRARY

SCREEN + SOUND + STAGE

TECHNOLOGY & SPORTS

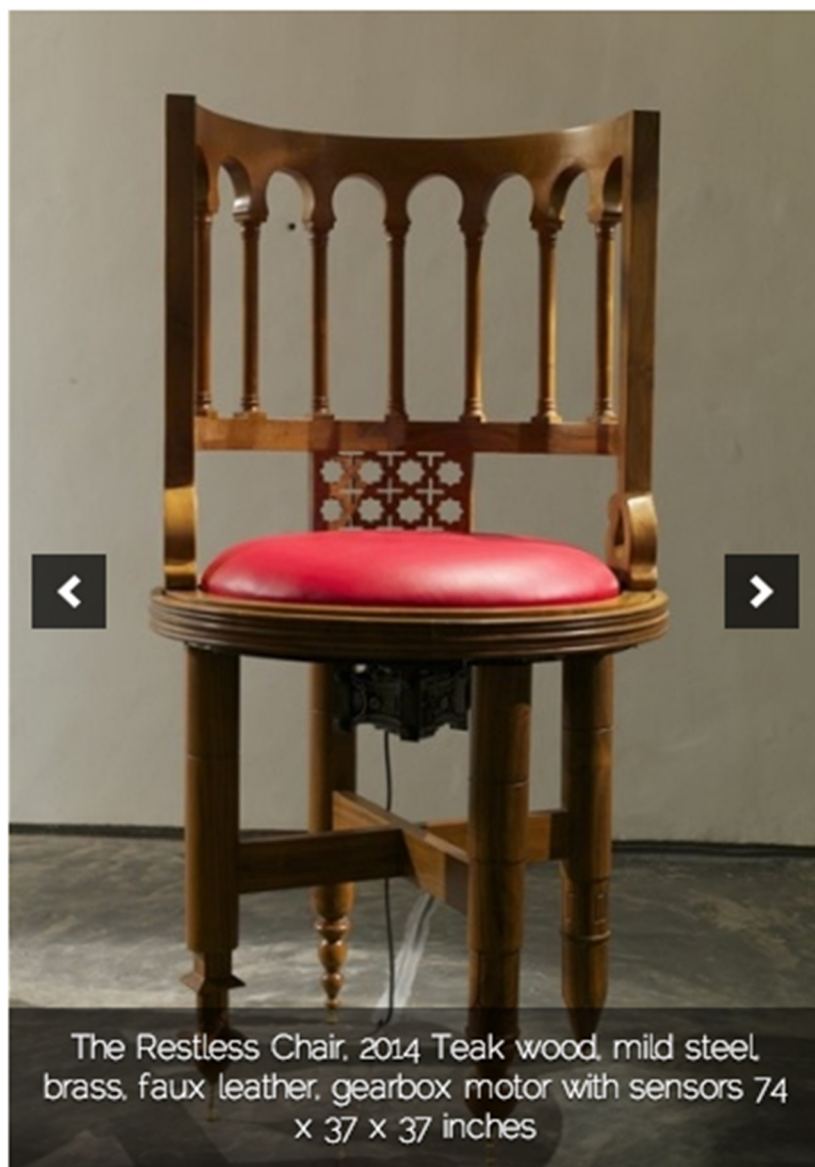
FRAMED

JUNE 19, 2014

A HIGH SEAT

Text by *Starshi Talati-Parkh*

The lowly chair is also representative of the highest seat in the country. Mansoor Ali in a debut solo comments on the political system through his larger-than-life chair sculptures



It's the Indian political system, or the lack of it, that interests Gujarat-born artist Mansoor Ali. He uses chairs as a means of political commentary, and by changing their usual configuration, proportion and context, he opens up a dialogue of interpretations.

Anatomy of an Unknown Chair is Ali's debut solo, where in *The Restless Chair*, you are looking at a seat that is constantly in motion and rotates faster as you approach it. *Monument to an Unknown Politician* is 102-inches tall where the central column supports seven chairs of various dimensions and to reach the highest chair, you have to climb the smaller ones. The biggest chair moves in a circle, but is going nowhere. In *Weight of the Political Brain*, an industrial weighing scale forms the seat of an oversized chair and a miniature version of the parliament house rests on the seat. The overhead digital display reveals the weight of this political nerve center to equal that of an average human brain. It is nudging us to question the people in whom we put our faith.

Mansoor Ali lives and works in Baroda and New Delhi. His works are a part of the collections at Saatchi Art Gallery. His solo show, *Anatomy of an Unknown Chair*, is on at Gallery Maskara, 6/7 3rd Pasta Lane, Colaba until July 31. Timings 11am to 7pm, Tuesday to Saturday.



5 Questions with the artist:

1. Artistic motivation: 'Art comes naturally to me. It is like a story in novel or a film in one frame – just like a good poet tells it.'

2. Inspirations... 'I pick up my subjects and ideas from the environment and my experiences.'

2. Artists at home: 'For me it is Andy Goldsworthy, if I could ever have one!'

4. Concerns that show up in your art: 'It is the quest for humanitarian concerns and to address them to my best capability.'

5. If you weren't an artist, you would be... 'An architect, ad man or an author.'
