

**‘NOTES
FROM
THE
STUDIO’**

*"Artists are best equipped
to deal with solitude,
a sequestered life,
unscheduled time."*

- Sohrab Mohebbi

'Notes from the Studio'

On 24 March 2020, when the nationwide lockdown was announced in India, we were all of a sudden faced with the challenge of waking up in the morning having to reinvent our lives. Under these unprecedented circumstances, I was wondering how artists — even though used to fill 'unscheduled time' and lead a 'sequestered life' in their studios — would cope with this imposed confinement. It was no surprise to discover their uncompromising will to create, irrespective of whether they were being able to attend their studio, having to work from their kitchen table or bedroom, or facing a difficulty in procuring material due to the disruptive supply chain.

Simultaneously, there was the wish to continue to nourish the relationship with those collectors who have been passionately supporting these artists and acquiring their works. Visiting studios with them used to be part of a recurring, delightful ritual, and I was pondering how these visits could be continued under the changed circumstances of the lockdown. This was when the idea for 'Notes from the Studio' was born.

Artists were asked to allow a glimpse into their current practice by contributing with a note. There were no specifications made, except for the immediacy and directness of expression that would somehow convey the experimental ambience of the studio. Upon editing, one note

would be sent out daily to a designated number of collectors, allowing them to enter the vast arena of unbridled, artistic imagination in this time of enforced quietude. While some artists would dig deep into their archives, notebooks, and diaries, or re-interpret earlier works in the light of the current circumstances, others would simply experiment with the material at hand, working on a long-postponed cookbook, writing poems, or responding directly to the crisis.

Straddling a wide range of mediums, the notes offer a kaleidoscopic view of a time marked by instability, disruption and the unfamiliar. I am very grateful to the participating artists for their spontaneous willingness to contribute, their encouragement, and engagement.

The daily contributions from 50 artists covering 56 days of the lockdown met with an enthusiastic response from the collectors. It is to them that the compilation 'Notes from the Studio', containing all 56 notes in an alphabetical order, is dedicated.

Birgid Uccia

AADITI JOSHI

(born 1980, lives and works in Mumbai)

Based on the revisiting of sculptures and paintings left behind in the studio when the lockdown began, the sketches emphasise particular areas of these works in single black lines. While drawings often have a preparatory character, the process here is reversed. The spontaneous strokes and their monochromatic quality reveal the underpinned structures of the revisited works, lending the breathing immediacy and distinctive looseness inherent in the drawing process.



Drawings, no title yet, March 2020 ongoing, ink and pen on paper



AADITI JOSHI

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