

PRESS RELEASE

Antidote art & design announces participation at the art fair «Bienvenue» located at Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris from 12 – 20 October 2019.

Bienvenue

Dates : 12 – 20 October 2019

Location : Cité Internationale des Arts,

18, Rue de l'Hôtel de Ville

75004 Paris

Dubai, United Arab Emirates; September 3, 2019 : Antidote is pleased to announce its participation at Bienvenue Paris from 12 – 20 October 2019. Antidote will showcase a group of talented emerging artists from Pakistan whose artistic practices align with social and political concerns of their surrounding: Noor Ali Chagani, Farazeh Syed, Aamir Habib, Imrana Tanveer.

Antidote has been representing and promoting artists from Middle East & South Asia since its inception in 2016. The carefully selected artists at the Antidote booth convey their perception of socio political, historical, and personal narratives through the exploration of materials, questioning and challenging issues of culture, gender roles and identity through painting, installations, 3D artworks. Their work is an attempt to connect to the Western audience, narrating their local stories and presenting alternative realities and viewpoints. Hence, Antidote aims to bring to Bienvenue a body of work by the best talent of Pakistan, diverse, bold, challenging – work which is still largely unseen in the Europe.

Aamir Habib's art pieces reflect on the current geopolitical situation in Pakistan and offers powerful truths with a witty and humorous twist. Having been personally affected by the play of politics in the region, Habib tackles these heavy issues with a light-heartedness, always juxtaposing somber realities with hope.

The work of **Noor Ali Chagani** highlights the traditional role of the male in Pakistan's society and questions the notion of patriarchy. Using the metaphor of a built structure to symbolize masculinity, power and wealth, Chagani deconstructs that very structure and presents us with isolated, fractured elements, which on their own present a very different reality.

Farazeh Syed's reflective paintings address issues of gender politics, creating an alternative narrative to the traditional role of the woman in Eastern society. Often dark and mysterious, it is the empowered female who dominates Syed's imagery. Drawing upon ancient Indian art and folk texts – where 'woman' is the active and authoritative protagonist and her own biography for inspiration, Syed creates bold satirical narratives that are imbued with subtle sexual undertones.

Imrana Tanveer's rich, hand-woven tapestry like art pieces incorporate weaving and textile design. Tanveer addresses issues of identity and culture, using metaphors and patterns in her practice. Taking Western Art iconography and subverting the message by plotting it in a local context and imbuing it a completely new meaning, Tanveer creates multilayered, complex imagery reflecting what can be interpreted as absurdity of irreverence.

Link for Images:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1f8fTWy9XEuY1_MhSqK82SsF6bnqBEUiS?usp=sharing

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Note to the Editors :

ANTIDOTE art & design

Established in 2016 by Laure Parise & Najeh Zimmermann, Antidote is an online e-commerce art & design platform based in Dubai, a new gallery model - nomad & digital. Antidote continuously introduces and promotes contemporary artists and designers, both emerging and mid-career, from around the world, with a strong focus on the Middle East and South East Asia.

Antidote's unique features including its nomadic nature and dual portfolio of art and design allow it to inhabit alternative venues and to create innovative spaces and exhibitions. Antidote showcases insightful presentations that challenge the conventions related to the notion of art display and exhibition making. Antidote also participates in regional fairs in the Middle East and in Europe. Since 2018, Antidote has been introducing emerging artists from the South East Asian region to Europe in order to increase interest and dialogue with this region. Recent shows include participation in 'Personal Structure' show and Venice Design for two consecutive years 2018 and 2019 in Venice.

Antidote nurtures and supports the careers of its artists and designers by guiding them to appropriate residencies, special programs and biennale placement. Antidote was the co-organizer of the first-ever National Pavilion of Pakistan at the Venice Architecture Biennale in 2018.

Bienvenue

Bienvenue Paris is a new independent art fair located at the Cité Internationale in Paris dedicated to promoting, exploring and enriching the contemporary art scene. At Bienvenue, up to 25 international galleries gather during the week dedicated to artists and collectors at the creative breeding ground that is Cité Internationale des arts. Located opposite Île Saint Louis, Bienvenue is anchored in a territory that is emblematic of Parisian cultural life.

Contact:

For Press and Media Inquiries:

Najeh Ahmed Zimmermann

press@antidotedxb.com

+971 50 715 56 33

For International Relations:

Laure Parise

info@antidotedxb.com

+33 6 28 65 37 60