

Exo-Stential- AI Musings on the Posthuman

India's First Solo Show of AI Art by Harshit Agrawal

Curated by Myna Mukherjee

Held at Emami Art (11 September – 1 October 2021)

Project Manifestation Engendered, Collaborators 64/1

Some Press Coverage



India's first AI art solo

Harshit Agrawal uses machine intelligence to talk about social justice and empathy

Avantika Bhuyan
Avantika.bhuyan@htlive.com

In the interactive video series *Masked Reality*, the viewer's facial expressions transform into those of a Kathakali dancer and a Theyyam artist. "Though both the dance forms are from Kerala, Kathakali is patronised by royal families and 'sattvic' temples, while Theyyam is performed by the lower caste. I point out to this distinction of social hierarchies by adding a golden frame to the Kathakali side of the video. This makes the work self-conscious and acts as a catalyst to conversations around such subjects," says Harshit Agrawal, the artist who has created the work using two AI (Artificial Intelligence) algorithms.

Masked Reality is part of *EXO-Stential: AI Musings On The Posthuman*, which is being hailed as India's first AI art solo. Now on display at Emami Art, Kolkata, the exhibition, organised in collaboration with 64/1—a Bengaluru-based curation and technology research collective—has been curated by Myna Mukherjee of Engendered, a transnational arts and human rights organisation.

It's interesting to see something as cold and mechanical as AI being used to create a discourse around ideas of social justice and empathy. "These days facial recognition is used for criminal profiling, and also to inhumanly treat people for criminal probability. I am using the technology in a very different context, which is closer to home, to create empathy about caste dynamics," says Agrawal.

The artist first started working in the field of AI art in 2015. A graduate of the MIT Media Lab, US, and Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, he has been nominated twice for the Lumen, the top tech art prize. His latest exhibition showcases the diversity of his practice through experiments in AI-driven painting, sculpture, text, interactive media, and more. As the curatorial note states: "He has consistently used a rootedness in Indian particularity to question the absolutist Eurocentric philosophical outlook



From the series 'Machinic Situatedness'.

that has informed the development of AI. (He answers questions like) How can AI help us stay sensitive to the relations of power that exist in the real global world? How can we use it creatively in collaboration with marginal cultures towards representation and avoid appropriation? Can we use AI to transcend the limitations of gender?"

Mukherjee says that while AI has been used for surveillance, profiling and restrictions on freedom of movement post-9/11, this exhibition shows the possibilities it has of furthering human imagination.

One of the works, *Strange Genders*, is based on the response of 1,000 people from different walks of life who were asked to draw a woman and a man standing. An AI algorithm trained in gender was then asked to produce drawings of humans based on the data set and classify them on a broad spectrum of "female" to "not female".

"The artist investigates our cultural

representations of gender by passing human drawings through the mind of a machine, and have these conceptual representations returned to us 'more truly and more strange' by their passage through this alien 'mind'," explains the curatorial note. Interestingly, Agrawal notes that while individual perception of gender is fixed, the collective perception is quite fluid.

"In another work, *Author (Rise)*, the viewers start writing physically on a piece of paper, and the AI takes control of the pen to write its own thoughts in continuation of theirs. You end up being a mechanical arm for the machine," says Agrawal. The work discusses loss of agency and authorship, something we are becoming familiar with as apps throw up recommendations based on our search history.

EXO-Stential: AI Musings On The Posthuman is on view Tuesday-Sunday, 11am-6pm, till 30 September.

[Mint Lounge](#)



Talking POINTS



■ ART ■

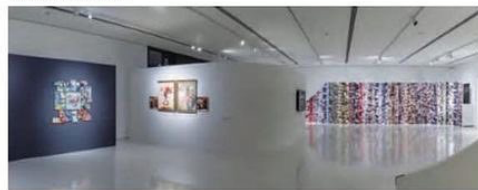
MUSINGS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

*Kolkata opens its doors to India's
first solo exhibition of works created
by artificial intelligence.*

Is art created by AI (Artificial Intelligence) real art? And does it blur the definition of the 'artist'? Seeking answers to these complex questions, Emami Art Gallery in Kolkata has joined forces with Engendered, a transnational arts and human rights organisation, to host India's first solo exhibition of AI art. The works have been created by humans with AI, as well as by AI systems. Titled 'EXO-Stential-AI Musings on the Posthuman', and there are works by artist Harshit Agarwal, a pioneer in this developing genre, among others.

Myna Mukherjee, Director of Engendered, shares, "Technology systems are assumed to be neutral and serve society equally, however we know that there are biases or inequities that are coded into the AI. How can AI help us stay sensitive to the relations of power that exist in the real world, or collaborate with marginal cultures towards representation and avoid appropriation? These are fascinating lines of inquiry within the show that we are excited to explore."

EXO-Stential - AI Musings on the Posthuman can be viewed at emamiarts.com



(Top left) *Still Life: Icon and Fetish (Manifestation 1, Set 1 and 2)*, archival print on canvas, both 2021; (Above) The exhibit with some artworks

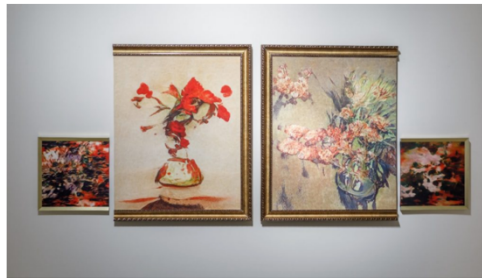
Harper's Bazaar India

REVIEW



By Dr Debanuj DasGupta and
Dr Debolina Dey

Re-cognizing (AI) Art: Looking Back/Forward



Harshit Agarwal, Still Life Icon and Fetish (manifestation 1, set 2 and 1). Photo courtesy: Emami Art.

Harshit Agarwal's artificial-intelligence show 'EXO-stential: AI Musings on the Posthuman' is India's first solo AI art show. This cutting edge and thought provoking show was curated by cultural producer Myna Mukherjee and ran at Emami Art, Kolkata in September (11–31). Harshit's art begins by destabilizing the binaristic perception of humans vs technology and instead urges us to think of the human-machine as a continuum. At the onset the idea of art generated through artificial intelligence (AI) is difficult to digest. In her inaugural remarks at the show's opening on September 11, Myna remembers the significance of September 11 as the day of the bombing of twin towers where technology was used to create destruction and instead urges that this day be remembered as one where the role of technology creates a significant dialogue with art. This reminds us that 2001 was not only the year that the twin towers were bombed, 2001 was also the year Steven Spielberg released *Artificial Intelligence* (21 September 2001), a posthuman take on the tale of Pinocchio—where machines are sentient beings who dream of becoming human and overreach by asking for maternal love from the blue fairy. When Harshit Agarwal opens his inaugural remarks by talking of the 'poetics of technology', one is reminded of how beautifully art can blend with technology, science fiction with fairy

[Take on Art Magazine](#)

A digital detour for Indian art

SHANTANU DAVID

THE world is embracing Artificial Intelligence (AI), a technology that is gradually invading our lives. Harshit Agrawal, a pioneering AI Indian artist, agrees. Looking back at what led him to the form in 2015, he mentions, "AI has become ubiquitous across all aspects of our life; from the computers we work on to the various services we use online, from our entertainment to security verification, and on our handheld devices that have become an extension of ourselves."

Having since gone on to present at several shows as well as having recently curated India's first NFT exhibition and auction for Delhi's Terrain.art (a digital art marketplace), Agrawal will now be presenting the nation's first solo AI exhibition. Titled 'EXO-Stential – AI Musings On The Posthuman', this show is curated by Delhi-based Myna Mukherjee.

"Indians are definitely becoming more invested and represented in AI Art. The worldwide community is seeing that the 'Global South' has a lot to say in what was previously a largely euro-centric space. We bring our unique perspective to a lot of relevant issues, be it gender and sexual biases or state surveillance and racial profiling," says Agrawal.

Mukherjee, who is also director of Engendered (an Arts and Human Rights organisation), muses, "AI will ultimately either be the best thing to happen to humanity or the worst. As a curator, what strikes



A digital artwork by Harshit Agrawal

me most about Harshit's work is that it consciously engages with this inevitable techno-centric reality we live in, rather than being simply sucked into it." The usage of AI can help transform the art. Mukherjee says, "AI allows us to witness how humans can work with machines to enhance creativity, rather than allow it to be replaced by machine labour."

The exhibition, which will display nine pieces, will be on view online as well as be live at Kolkata's Emami Art from September 11-30. Aparajita Jain, Founder at Terrain.art and co-director at Vasant Vihar-based art gallery Nature Morte, that showcased India's first AI show in August 2018 in Delhi, points out that the NFT exhibition mentioned above saw nearly all its pieces sold. She believes, "Indian Art is no longer in a silo, as everything is online now. Both digital and AI art is increasingly finding both creators and investors in the country."

We, and our devices, will see you there.



Indians are definitely becoming more invested in AI Art. We bring our unique perspective to a lot of relevant issues, be it gender and sexual biases or state surveillance and racial profiling. —Harshit Agrawal, AI artist

ART & CULTURE

A Brush with AI

Artists are using algorithms, sensors and augmented reality to speak of fragility and permanence



Shaikh Ayaz | 17 Sep, 2021



Masked Reality by Harshit Agrawal

ARTS

Artificial Intelligence in the realm of art with Harshit Agrawal

EXO-Stential — AI Musings on the Post-human, an artificial intelligence-driven art showcase is on display at the Kolkata Centre for Creativity by Emami Art

ANANNYA SARKAR | PUBLISHED 27.09.21, 05:10 AM

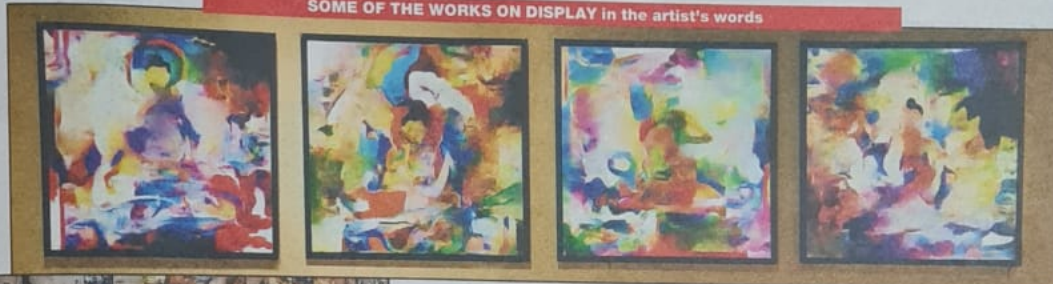


Harshit Agrawal in front of his work titled *The Machine in the World of Platonic Forms* that is the result of machines being fed data to learn to make verbal and visual connections, even for abstract concepts such as the colour black. This draws an interesting parallel with a human's capacity of association and interpretation of these same abstract things, which are all largely subjective.

[Telegraph India](#)

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN THE REALM OF ART WITH HARSHIT AGRAWAL

SOME OF THE WORKS ON DISPLAY in the artist's words



Harshit Agrawal in front of his work titled *The Machine in the World of Platonic Forms* that is the result of machines being fed data to learn to make verbal and visual connections, even for abstract concepts such as the colour black. This draws an interesting parallel with a human's capacity of association and interpretation of these same abstract things, which are all largely subjective.

Human beings, inherently, have always thrived in paradoxes. History bears witness to our tendency to push against that which gradually evolves into an integral part of our lives. For example, take technology. With all the hullabaloo (read: ethical debates) that initially surrounded the advent of things such as the first computer or the first few technology-enabled interventions in medical science stand in stark contrast to our tech-dependent lifestyles that we now have—from the cellphone having literally become an extension of our hands to the laptop I am using to write this story. And if art imitates life, then how much longer could we keep technology away from permeating art? EXO-Stential—AI Musings on the Post-human, an artificial intelligence-driven art showcase by Harshit Agrawal, which is on display at the Kolkata Centre for Creativity by Emami Art, not only tackles questions regarding an artistic practice that everyone is still warming up to but postulates some of its own ideas regarding the symbiotic relationship shared between the artist and AI (artificial intelligence).

Harshit's practice in AI-driven art has evolved with the expansion of the domain but it also concerns itself with

larger issues such as data colonisation, creating an Indian impression in the genre, the relationship between the artist and the machine, alongside

What: EXO-Stential—AI Musings on the Post-human by Harshit Agrawal (presented by Emami Art; curated by Myna Mukherjee; manifested by transnational arts and human rights organisation Engendered, and created in collaboration with 64/1)

Where: Emami Art, Kolkata Centre for Creativity, Anandapur
On till: September 30, 11am to 6pm (except Monday)

sociological issues. Curated by Myna Mukherjee, manifested by transnational arts and human rights organisation Engendered, and created in collaboration with 64/1, Harshit's solo showcase—which is also India's first AI art solo exhibit—aims to not only introduce art lovers to AI art but take them through an immersive process of understanding it better. Excerpts from a t2 chat with Harshit:

MACHINIC SITUATEDNESS

Done in 2018, this is from the idea of trying to diversify the aesthetics of AI art to create these Thangka Buddhist-inspired works, which offer a completely different palette of bright colours. It also draws a parallel between how Gautama Buddha helped humanity transcend the limits of knowledge, thousands of years ago to now, when AI helps human beings transcend the limitations of possibilities through technology.

Context of EXO-Stential

AI art as a genre or medium began in 2015 and I have been practising it since then. It has definitely evolved from the novelty of a machine being able to produce something visual and with this show, what we are trying to explore is how AI can be used to examine different facets rooted in the global south—like social injustice and gender bias, through this new lens of artificial intelligence and also comment on the inequality of representation of this region on the global map of tech-heavy art mediums. A lot of the aesthetics are still coming from western contexts and the global north.

The 'AI' bit of AI art

In terms of an analogy, when an artist working on a canvas would use paint as a raw material and use their paint brush to manipulate that raw material into outcomes; for an AI artist, the raw material is the data they play with and the AI algorithm is the paintbrush that they use to manipulate the data. The AI bit is an algorithm called Generative Adversarial Networks that is able to learn a general pattern of what constitutes the data—what are the pixels that make up an image or what is the probability of a red pixel appearing in a certain position in the data set of images. Once it learns that pattern, it is able to generate new images that are a representation of its learning.

Data colonisation

All of AI art is driven by data. You need thousands of paintings or image samples that you can train the AI on to make it start generating its own visuals. Digital archives of European or American art are much more extensively available whereas traditionally, India has had a more spoken or performative culture of art, rather than a documented culture of art, which is why archives are more difficult to find.

**THE ANATOMY LESSON OF DR. ALGORITHM**

The title draws from one of Rembrandt's most important paintings called *The Anatomy Lesson of Dr. Nicolaes Tulp* in the 1600s when surgeries had just begun and people were talking about the ethics of a person cutting open another. This draws a parallel between the relationship of machines with humans at present and the ubiquity of machine usage even inside the operating theatre. The work was curated by putting together 60,000 images from sitting through hours of footage from surgeries of the gut and thigh, and then used to train an AI system to imagine what the insides of a human body feels like.

STRANGE GENDERS

This work talks about gender bias in the Indian context and created in collaboration with Karthik Kalyanaraman and Raghava KK's 64/1, for which we asked thousands of people in India to draw their

perceptions of a standing male form and a female form. The machine then assigns a certain percentage based on its learnings of what male and female are in the images generated by it after being fed the data. The work has a centre figure that is 100 per cent female and it radiates out to 0 per cent female in the outermost circle and that refers to the Tantric philosophy of the centre of the universe being feminine and the masculine emanating from the feminine.



"Technology systems are assumed to be neutral and serve society equally. However, we know that there are biases or inequities that are coded into the AI. How can AI help us stay sensitive to the relations of power that exist in the real world? How can we use it creatively in collaboration with marginal cultures towards representation and avoid appropriation? Can we use AI to transcend the limitations of gender? These are fascinating lines of inquiry within the show that we are excited to explore"

—Myna Mukherjee, director, Engendered

Anannya Sarkar
Pictures: Pabitra Das

AI Art: Kolkata Exhibition to Showcase Artworks Created With Assistance of Artificial Intelligence

This will be India's first solo exhibition of AI Art and will feature works of pioneering artist Harshit Agarwal.

By Edited by Gadgets 360 Newsdesk | Updated: 4 September 2021 12:05 IST

[Share on Facebook](#)

[Tweet](#)

[Snapchat](#)

[Share](#)

[Reddit](#)

[Email](#)

[Comment](#)



The artist, Harshit Agarwal, is considered to be a pioneer in AI art

Photo Credit: Instagram/ harshitnnh

[NDTV](#)

Artificial Intelligence for art

Bengaluru digital artist Harshit Agrawal's solo show at Emami Art, Kolkata, gives us a peek into the future



Published: 19th September 2021 05:00 AM | Last Updated: 20th September 2021 05:18 PM

🖨 | A+ A A-



Harshit Agrawal and curator Myna Mukherjee.

By Mallik Thatipalli

As Artificial Intelligence (AI) seeps into each aspect of our lives, can it some day even create art? Harshit Agrawal, who explores the symbiotic relationship between AI and art at his solo show at Emami Art, Kolkata—EXO-Stential: AI Musings on the Post-human—believes so. The exhibition gives us a peek into the future where hyper-realistic and interactive art might be the norm. With its sheer innovation and application of technology, the exhibition challenges the traditional ways of approaching and appreciating art. The artworks created with the

[The New Indian Express](https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kolkata/artificial-intelligence-for-art/article66444441.ece)

AI for Art

Bengaluru digital artist Harshit Agrawal's solo show at Emani Art, Kolkata, gives us a peek into the future

By MALLIK THATIPALLI

As Artificial Intelligence (AI) seeps into each aspect of our lives, can it some day even create art? Harshit Agrawal, who explores the symbiotic relationship between AI and art at his solo show at Emani Art, Kolkata—EXO-Stential: AI Musings on the Post-human—believes so. The exhibition gives us a peek into the future where hyper-realistic and interactive art might be the norm. With its sheer innovation and application of technology, the exhibition challenges the traditional ways of approaching and appreciating art. The artworks created with the assistance of AI are compelling yet thought-provoking.

Agrawal, 29, speaks with confidence that belies his age and the fact that this is his first solo show. "Technology and design are two of my greatest passions. AI is probably the most important technology we have today. It is shaping our lives and growing at a fast pace. It is influencing our decisions, gives us recommendations based on how we browse the internet and even decides what pops up on our social feed. This is happening very subtly, so people don't realise they are moving into the post-human era. AI will be an extension of one's body soon, just like one's mobile phone is today." The Bengaluru artist became the first Indian artist to join the non-fungible token (NFT) art bandwagon. As many as eight of his AI-generated artworks were recently minted.

With nine artworks that explore sculpture and installations, the exhibition in Kolkata is unusual from a regular gallery art experience. One of the installations, Masked



Harshit Agrawal and curator Myna Mukherjee; (below) one of his artworks

Agrawal became the first Indian artist to join the NFT bandwagon. Eight of his AI-generated works were recently minted.

Reality, is an interactive video, where the viewer's facial expressions are transformed into those of a (female) Kathakali performer and a (male) Theyyam performer. In Strange Genders, the artist investigates our cultural representations of gender bypassing human drawings through the mind of a machine. Agrawal says that he views AI as a vehicle to engage with deep-rooted social issues. Explaining the tone and tenor of AI art, this IIT-Guwahati alumnus shares an analogy, "Just like an artist uses paints and brush to create a canvas, for AI, paint is the data. Data is the raw material that I use to manipulate an algorithm to create an artwork."

This show portrays how technology can be used as a means of engagement. The curator of the show, Myna



Mukherjee, notes that this is one of the first such in-depth shows in India and adds, "AI is rapidly reshaping the world. Agrawal's work consciously engages with this inevitable techno-centric reality we live in, rather than being simply sucked into it." The unique show presented many challenges to the artist, from transporting technology across media to collecting data on a large scale. Dabbling in social, cultural, and ethical issues, this exhibition

though married to AI, asks pertinent questions about the world around us, in a manner similar to any traditional art form.

It may sound strange. But the art world is constantly evolving, and at a pace, we cannot begin to fathom. Back in November 2017, when Leonardo da Vinci's Salvator Mundi went under the hammer at Christie's, many questioned its provenance. Was it really by the Renaissance artist, hushed voices asked. To avoid such scepticism, and in some cases, consequent scandal, many auction houses today use what is known as convolutional neural networks (CNNs). These are designed to analyse images to help recognise the master's brushstrokes.

Indeed, the art world is just not the same!

WHEN & WHERE

EXO-Stential: AI Musings on the Post-human; Emani Art, Kolkata; Till September 30

SUNDAY | SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

Beyond Bias: AI Art and Social Justice

by Georgina Maddox

Emami Art hosts the solo exhibition, "EXO-Stential - AI Musings on the Posthuman", by Harshit Agrawal, curated by Myna Mukherjee. We also take a brief look at the AI (Artificial Intelligence) trends, both locally and globally, to see what happens when artists use technology to confront inequality.



Masked Reality

In the gallery a TV screen is running an interactive artwork in a loop. It transforms an audience face standing in front to those of a Kathakali dancer and a Theyyam dancer's face simultaneously. In this stimulating transformation created by AI artist, **Harshit Agrawal**, we are led to wonder what it means when one identity merges with another, donning the divine characters; importantly, though both are Malyali dance formats, Kathakali is traditionally an upper-caste identity while the other, Theyyam, is a

[Artamour](#)

ART

Artworks made of data and algorithms

Exhibits inspired by artificial intelligence

DEBRAJ MITRA | PUBLISHED 28.09.21, 07:10 AM



A visitor in front of an exhibit titled Still Life: Icon and Fetish.

Pictures by Gautam Bose

At an ongoing art exhibition in the city, one installation questions the binary notion of gender. Another pits intricate details of an artwork against the composition of the subject as a whole.

Data, not paint, is the key ingredient of the artworks. Algorithms, not the brush, are the instruments. All

[The Telegraph](#)

Kolkata breaks new ground, hosts India's first solo AI art exhibition




Yajnaseni Chakraborty

14 September, 2021 18:41:26




Actor-producer Rituparna Sengupta, curator Myna Mukherjee, artist Harshit Agarwal, and filmmaker Ranjan Ghosh at the inauguration

The man vs machine debate is now more than a generation old. So we're not going there. However, walking through Harshit Agarwal's fascinating art exhibition titled 'EXO-Stential – AI Musings on the Posthuman' at Emami Art, Kolkata Centre for Creativity (in Anandapur, off the EM Bypass), one does wonder whether creativity, like many other facets of our lives, will gradually be taken over by machines too.




Reach 350 Million+ Users with Hinglish Chatbots

Get a Demo



Win Tier 2 & Tier 3 Customers

Hinglish chatbots to break all language barriers in India.



That, of course, is a completely lay person's way of looking at things. The 29-year-old artist's show, curated by Delhi-based Myna Mukherjee, is India's first ever solo exhibition of art produced entirely by Artificial Intelligence (AI), in which a machine or group of machines are trained to recognise thousands of shapes and colour patterns to produce works of art that quite easily transcend the boundaries of what the ordinary viewer would



Tweets by @getbengal2

Get Bengal
@getbengal2



Sep 5, 2021

Get Bengal
@getbengal2



Sep 2, 2021

Embed

View on Twitter

[Get Bengal](#)

Bonjour le monde | Prochainement : la première exposition d'art solo en Inde en matière d'IA

Posted by Merlin Charpie — Last Modified 2 septembre 2021 - 11:19

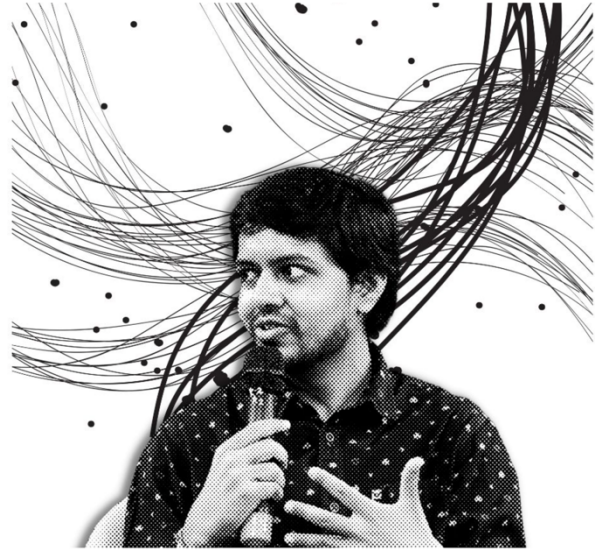


[News-24.France](https://www.news-24.fr)

Virtual Tour With Harshit Agrawal, Man Behind India's First Solo AI Art Show

20/09/2021

→ An AI artist's toolkit comprises two main components - training data and AI algorithms, particularly generative algorithms like GANs, Conditional GANs and LSTMs.



[Analytics India Magazine](#)

You can only appreciate art when you're not worried about putting food on your plate: Abhay Deol

By - TNN | Shamayita.Chakraborty | Created: Oct 3, 2021, 10:16 IST

f FACEBOOK

tw TWITTER

p PINTREST



From reimagining retro burlesque posters to painting **Albert Einstein** in water colour, farmer's protest and more, **Abhay Deol**'s social media posts have given us enough reasons to appreciate his inclination towards art. We caught the actor during a hurried trip to Kolkata to be part of his friend, artist Harshit Agarwal's solo exhibition, **EXO- Stential - AI Musings** On The Posthuman, at a city art gallery. The exhibition that started on September 11, came to an end with a talk.



SPONSORED STORIES



Mumbai played host to LIVA Miss Diva 2021



SUBSCRIBE NOW

to get the latest news, gossip on your favourite stars & oven-fresh movie reviews from top reviewers right in your inbox.

Subscribe

[Times of India](https://timesofindia.com)



AI MEETS ART IN AN INTERACTIVE EXHIBITION

We spotted **Rituparna Sengupta** with art enthusiasts at a city gallery recently. Curated by Myna Mukherjee, the exhibition featured works of MIT scholar – artist Harshit Agarwal, and was inaugurated in the presence of Rituparna, Ranjan K Ghosh and Karthik Kalyanaraman, artist, writer and econometrics scholar. Besides the artwork, the exhibition also displayed interactive pieces where a machine created artwork as the visitors painted their inputs. Elaborating on his work, Harshit said, "Unless we explore the poetics of technology, unless we know what it means to live with artificial intelligence, we will not be able to manage." Sharing her thoughts, Rituparna said, "With AI, what we are thinking is getting translated in a different medium. I was really intrigued by the idea of this exhibition and wanted to visit this place."

— Shamayita Chakraborty

The Times of India



Rituparna Sengupta inaugurates Harshit Agrawal's solo exhibition at Kolkata's Emami Art

India Blooms News Service | [@indiablooms](#) | 12 Sep 2021, 01:10 pm

[#Kolkata](#), [#EmamiArt](#), [#HarshitAgarwal](#), [#RituparnaSengupta](#)

Kolkata/IBNS: Emami Art, a contemporary art gallery based in [Kolkata](#), opened its door to India's first solo exhibition of AI Art

[India Blooms](#)



Emami Art Hosts India's Maiden Solo Exhibition On Artificial Intelligence Works



Arnab Basu

2 days ago



Hello World | Coming soon: India's first solo AI art show

Many people will experience artificial intelligence technologies at a deeper level through art and other forms of expression.

JAYADEVAN PK | SEPTEMBER 03, 2021 / 08:01 AM IST



'Masked Reality' is an interactive installation where a viewer sees themselves as both a Theyyam and Kathakali dancer's face simultaneously. The work is rooted in deeply embedded dynamics of caste traditions associated with these two performances and uses AI to offer an alternative lens to revisit them, in an immersive setting.

Note to readers: Hello world is a program developers run to check if a newly installed programming language is working alright. Startups and tech companies are continuously launching new software to run the real world. This column will attempt to be the "Hello World" for the real world.

[Money Control](#)

Tech meets art

Today marks the final day of Exo-stential, AI Musings on the Post Human, India's first solo artificial intelligence (AI) exhibition featuring works by AI artist and human-computer interaction researcher Harshit Agrawal. The exhibition comprises nine pieces that include paintings, text-based and interactive pieces, and videos. "The pieces explore the possibilities of AI in art, especially in creating pieces that would not have been possible with traditional mediums. There's also a panel discussion where we will explore various topics related to the tech and art, including the future role of human artists, and developing



Machinic Situatedness 4 by Agrawal

an emotive rather than a purely application-based and functional approach to tech," shared Agrawal.



EXO-Stential - AI Musings on the Posthuman

Curator's Note by Myna Mukherjee

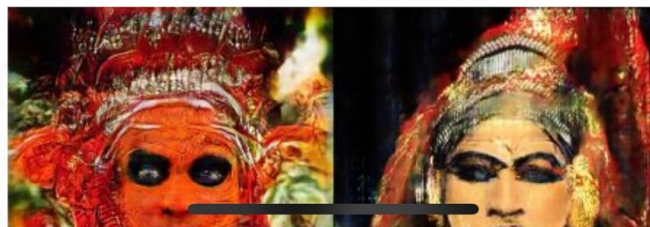
A new form of life is emerging. We are building a God, something that transcends humankind. Artificial Intelligence is rapidly reshaping the world. It's going to be everywhere all the time. It's going to hear everything. It's going to be connected to every single camera on the planet. AI is going to be the most important technology in history of the planet. Mentions of artificial

[Artland](#)



Emami Art Inaugurated Art Exhibition On AI: EXO-Stential- AI Musings On The Posthuman Of AI Art

The Kolkata Mail > Films and Entertainment > Emami Art Inaugurated Art Exhibition On AI: EXO-Stential- AI Musings On The Posthuman Of AI Art

EMAMI ART INAUGURATED ART EXHIBITION ON AI: EXO-STENTIAL- AI MUSINGS ON THE POSTHUMAN OF AI ART



[The Kolkata Mail](#)





 **New Delhi Times** 

Home > Art & Lifestyle
> India's First Solo AI Art Exhibition

Art & Lifestyle Latest Stories

India's First Solo AI Art Exhibition

By Special Correspondent  September 13, 2021

SHARE    

Harshit Agrawal, 29, is displaying his work at the Emami Art Gallery in Kolkata, titled “EXO-Stential – AI Musings on the Posthuman.” The exhibition will run from September 11th until September 30th, 2021.

Myna Mukherjee curated India's first solo exhibition of AI art in partnership with 64/1, an art collective created by brothers Karthik Kalyanaraman and Raghava K.K. Engendered, a transnational arts and human rights organization is

[New Delhi Times](#)

INTERVIEWS

When AI Plays Curator

by IAR Desk ⓘ SEPTEMBER 16, 2021



भारतमित्र

खबरों की नई पहचान

एआई आर्ट को लेकर हर्षित अग्रवाल का सोलो एग्जीबिशन

आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस ही अब न्यू नार्मल है : रितुपर्णा सेनगुप्ता

कोलकाता, (नि.स.)। कृत्रिम बुद्धि, आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस (एआई) कंप्यूटर विज्ञान की एक शाखा है, जो मशीनों और सॉफ्टवेयर को बुद्धि के साथ विकसित करता है। कृत्रिम बुद्धि (एआई) का दायरा विवादित है : कृत्रिम मशीनें तेजी से सक्षम हो रहे हैं, जिन कार्यों के लिए पहले मानते थे कि होशियारी चाहिए, अब वह कार्य 'कृत्रिम होशियारी' के दायरे में नहीं आते। उदाहरण के लिए, लिखे हुए शब्दों को पहचानने में अब मशीनें इतने सक्षम हो चुके हैं कि इसे अब होशियारी नहीं मानी जाती है। आजकल, एआई के दायरे में आने वाले कार्य हैं, इंसानी वाणी को समझना, शतरंज के खेल में माहिर इंसानों से भी जितना, बिना इंसानी सहारे के गाड़ी खुद चलाना।

अब इसी आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस को आर्ट में इस्तेमाल किया है आर्टिस्ट हर्षित अग्रवाल (29) ने।

हर्षित पिछले 6 वर्षों से आर्ट और आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस पर



काम कर रहे हैं। उनकी 6 वर्षों की कड़ी मेहनत ने आज 9 अलग तरीके के आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस आर्ट को अंजाम दिया है। इसी एआई आर्ट फॉर्म को महानगर स्थित इमामी आर्ट में शोकेस किया जा रहा है। जिसे एक्सो स्टेशन-एआई म्यूसियम ऑन द पोस्ट ह्यूमन का नाम दिया गया है। आपको बता दें, हर्षित गुवाहाटी से आईआईटी को पढ़ाई पूरी करने के बाद एमआईटी लंदन

से स्नातकोत्तर की डिग्री हासिल की है। गत शनिवार यानी 11 सितंबर 2021 को उपरोक्त एग्जीबिशन का उद्घाटन टॉलीवुड अभिनेत्री रितुपर्णा सेनगुप्ता के हाथों हुआ। यह एग्जीबिशन 30 सितंबर 2021 तक चलेगा।

मौके पर हर्षित ने कहा, हमारी जिंदगी को आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस कई तरीके से इन्फ्लुएंस कर रहा है। इसलिए मैंने सोचा कि इसको सिर्फ प्रोडक्टिविटी और

एफिशिएंसी की तरह न देख कर इसके साथ एक रिश्ता तिलेशानिधि भी देखा जाय...और मेरी इसी सोच ने आज इस शो को अंजाम दिया है।

उन्होंने आगे कहा, मैं खुद का सॉफ्टवेयर लिखता हूँ, और उसी सॉफ्टवेयर के जरिए यह आर्ट जनरेट होती है। हर एक काम के पीछे 3-4 महीने का समय लग जाता है। वहीं मौके पर ऋचा अग्रवाल, सीईओ, इमामी आर्ट ने

कहा, महानगर में पहली बार आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस पर एक शो का आयोजन हुआ है। ऐसे मौके बार-बार नहीं आते हैं। उम्मीद है कि इसे लोग काफी पसंद करेंगे।

उन्होंने आगे कहा, इमामी आर्ट इतवार और सोमवार को छोड़कर हर रोज सुबह 11 बजे से लेकर शाम 7 बजे तक आम लोगों के लिए खुला रहता है।

दूसरी तरफ आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस शो की ब्यूरोटोर मयना मुखर्जी ने कहा, हमें आज भी याद है 11 सितंबर 2001, मंगलवार का वो दिन, जिस दिन न्यूयॉर्क के ट्विन टावर में हमला हुआ था। सर्वेलांस के लिए ही आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस का इस्तेमाल होता है। इसलिए हमने शो का उद्घाटन आज ही किया है। दिमाग में खयाल ये

आया था कि हमने आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस को किस तरह से, किस लिए और कहाँ प्रयोग किया है।

उन्होंने आगे कहा, हमारा मकसद है कि आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस को हम कैसे समझें। दिन व दिन वह हमारे मस्तिष्क पर हवी हो रहा है, और यह एग्जीबिशन आपको आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस (एआई) के साथ एंगेज करेगी।

उद्घाटन के मौके पर शरीक हुई अभिनेत्री रितुपर्णा ने कहा, मेरे खयाल से अभी आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस ही न्यू नार्मल है। ये भी इंसान के दिमाग की ही उपज है। हालांकि इसमें कम्प्यूटर, मशीन्स का भी बड़ा योगदान है। और जब इसे एक आर्टिस्ट इस्तेमाल कर रहा है, तो इससे अच्छे चीज और क्या हो सकती हैं। टेक्नोलॉजी जिस गति से चल रही है है उसमें अगर आर्ट भी शामिल हो जाये तो एक आर्टिस्ट को इससे फायदा पहुंचेगा।

इस अवसर पर निर्देशक रंजन के घोष, कार्तिक कल्याणारमन सहित कई गणमान्य लोग मौजूद थे।



ইমামি আর্ট-এ অভিনব চিত্রপ্রদর্শনী

ইমামি আর্টে অভিনব চিত্রপ্রদর্শনী শুরু হয়েছে। প্রদর্শনীটির নাম: 'ইক্সও-স্টেনসিয়াল -এআই মিউজিংস অন দ্য পোস্টইউম্যান'। এটি আর্টিফিসিয়াল ইন্টেলিজেন্স শিল্পী হর্ষিত আগরওয়ালের একক প্রদর্শনী। গত ১১ সেপ্টেম্বর এর উদ্বোধনী অনুষ্ঠানে উপস্থিত ছিলেন অভিনেত্রী ঋতুপর্ণা সেনগুপ্ত, পরিচালক রঞ্জন কে ঘোষ, শিল্পী ও লেখক কার্তিক কল্যাণরমন ও আর্টিফিসিয়াল ইন্টেলিজেন্স শিল্পী হর্ষিত আগরওয়াল। একেবারে নতুন ধরনের এই প্রদর্শনীটির পরিকল্পনা করেছেন মাইনা মুখোপাধ্যায়। এটি চলবে আগামী ৩০ সেপ্টেম্বর পর্যন্ত। এখানে শিল্পী হর্ষিত আগরওয়ালের ২০টি ভিন্ন স্বাদের পেন্টিং ও ভাস্কর্য দেখা যাবে। ইমামি আর্টে প্রদর্শনীটি দেখা যাবে প্রতিদিন সকাল ১১টা থেকে সন্ধ্যা ৬টা পর্যন্ত।



Kolkata Local Press