

Aditya Pande

All of the Above

Aicon Gallery Exhibition April 21st – May 21st, 2016
Press Preview & V.I.P. Reception: Thursday, April 21st 6:00pm – 9:00pm
35 Great Jones St., New York NY 10012

Aicon Gallery New York is proud to present *All of the Above*, the first major U.S. solo exhibition of Aditya Pande. It is a glimpse into Pande's varied oeuvre spanning from his Half Life Forms series to a new set of drawings on canvas, a series of male torsos as well as abstract street scenes of Delhi's Ring Roads.

Pande's creative process is as diverse as his works are intriguing. His technique often involves a layering of surfaces along with mixed, very diverse media ranging from vector drawing, digital photography, ink, acrylic paint to tinsel. His work combines the skills of drawing and printmaking with photography and painting. Manipulating traditional media with digital technology enables the artist to create a signature language that alludes to the pivotal role that technology plays in contemporary life without completely departing from convention. Pande's unique vocabulary makes use of unusual combinations of lines, whorls, blobs, spills, stains, tangled strings, the detritus of daily life – giving his works a playful, whimsical and almost comically cosmic illusion.

All of the Above derives its title from a work containing a set of photographs of a terrazzo tile. The four corners of this tile frame the floor of the artist's studio located in Shahpur Jat, a designated village set within the 13th century citadel of Siri Fort whose ruins stand in testimony of the second iteration of the seven cities that have over time come to build New Delhi. Evoking what is perhaps below and above this tile's surface are a series of male torsos that invoke – sometimes obliquely but also simultaneously – the controversial Red Jasper Male Torso found by the archaeologist Vats in Harappa, Rilke's enigmatic ode to the Archaic Torso of Apollo, Illich's essay on the Rebirth of the Epimethean Man and the naming of Asteroids after Roman Gods. Somewhat subverting their own mythology, these works exist as monumental photographic representations of porcelain shards captured using a flatbed scanner.



While Pande's technique is very contemporary, his subject matter often refers to a primordial past. There are elements harking back to prehistoric cave paintings combined seamlessly with elements evoking the 20th century abstract expressionism. At all times the rational, the mathematical and the geometrically severe are in the playful company of the exuberant, the joyfully excessive and the emotional.

His mixed-media collages, titled Half Life Forms, have different plateaus fluidly connected to each other. Pande proposes the accommodation of everything into a non-hierarchical organization, all manner of archetypes being of equal importance, all substances commensurate. These mixed-media geometric commands range from employing Papa Flash's rapatronic imagery of the Trinity Tests to scans of the artist's body parts anchoring 'Half-Full!' — a video of the artist in a perpetual revolution filling a void with earth. A second video is devoted to the ritualized destruction of this earthen half circle.

On view are abstract street scenes from the Inner and Outer Ring road which circumscribe the city of Delhi made by taking long exposure camera captures from a moving taxi of the dense traffic snaking through these

roads. These bring out the chaotic yet cosmopolitan character of Delhi whose busy roads are randomly named after famous historical luminaries: Olaf Palme, Nelson Mandela, Rao Tula Ram, August Kranti, Josip Broz Tito, Mahatma Gandhi, Bahadur Shah Zafar and Lala Lajpat Rai.

Also on view are new series of drawings on canvas, presenting segmented visions of partially autobiographical memories – a palimpsest of invented chronicles of strange and fantastic hyphenated characters set within obscure landscapes.

Pande was born in Lucknow in 1976, and raised in Chandigarh. He trained in design at the National Institute of Design in Ahmedabad, from where he graduated in 2001. Pande's solo exhibitions include Chatterjee & Lal, Mumbai; Nature Morte, New Delhi and Alexia Goethe Gallery, London. He has participated in group shows held at Grosvenor Vadehra Gallery, London; Kiran Nadar Museum, New Delhi; Nature Morte, Berlin; Bose Pacia, New York amongst others. Aditya has also been part of Art Basel, Miami; Art Basel, Switzerland; SH Contemporary, Shanghai and ARCO, Madrid.

Please contact Aicon Gallery (newyork@aicongallery.com) for more information.



Aditya Pande
HALF LIFE FORM IV
2012
Mixed media on archival paper
45 x 61 in.