

The 5 exhibitions you can't afford to miss this art season

Rosalyn DMello | August 26, 2015

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Debut solo shows are like gateway drugs, not just for the artists presenting their work for the first time in a white-cube setup or for the enthusiastic gallerists who've chosen to represent them but also for the larger art viewing public lucky enough to experience the thrill of discovering work that's unabashedly fresh, ergo still untainted by market trends, as well as affordable. The opportunity to witness an artist's evolution from emerging to mid-career to established is half the high. This year's art season is rife with promise as galleries across these the major Indian art hubs have chosen to open their programming with solo shows of the young and emerging artists they have either been nurturing over time or whose work they believe is worthy of being showcased. Here are five ongoing shows that we are most excited about.

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Ribbons I
(2015) by
Baptist
Coelho

It's difficult not to be magnetically drawn towards Baptist Coelho's sculptural piece, *The Rose I*, a stunning work that from afar looks almost like an elaborate bridal veil with its net-like drapes cascading against the enormous bouquet of white roses. Arrive a foot away and you suddenly see the fabric is gauze, not net. Yes, gauze, that's otherwise used to bandage wounds, generally facilitate the process of healing. The rest of the show similarly plays with material disguise, using objects that Coelho has deliberately displaced from their original settings and endowed with different contexts. The entirety of the human figure is subtracted from all equations, and his five-channel audio work exemplifies the potency of the missing body most prominently through the gestural form of five military sleeping bags with absentee bodies and the intimate soundscape of four soldiers and an officer who appear to be communicating with each other through a dream. Between *Here and There* is an excellent introduction to Coelho's artistic engagement with war and its aftermath, which is rarely ever peace.

Project 88 (Project88.in), Mumbai
Until September 19, 2015