

# ARNDT

## JITISH KALLAT

born in 1974 in Mumbai, India; lives and works in Mumbai

**Jitish Kallat's** works are fantasy images of the living conditions in Mumbai. His grotesque-surreal, partial ironical works capture the psychological strains of the mega-metropolis and describe the morbidity that lies behind the enormous economic and social changes in India. "The highly populated city of Mumbai, where I live, is almost a theatre where the codes of daily existence are pushed to the extreme and this continually percolates my practice." (Jitish Kallat) In his paintings, Kallat focuses on migrants who set out from rural India with high hopes to seek their fortunes in the boomtown of Mumbai. But it is the downside of rampant economic growth and social change that interests him rather than the lure of the modern consumerism. His protagonists are disgruntled men, street urchins and, as in his series of portraits 'Universal Recipient', migrants who have found employment as private security guards.

The 'Universal Recipient' paintings are portraits of security guards standing at the entrance of gated residential blocks in the city of Mumbai; many of them are migrants who have just come into the city with this being their first job. Mostly seated at the gate, minding the thin membrane of separation from the street, which is the location of their occupation, they develop what can be called a "gate's-eye-view" of the city. In many ways these become double portraits. The portrait of the city, rendered as a crumbling cascade of countless narratives, interlaces with the overgrown locks of the security guards as if they were raconteurs of the city's inner secrets.

The portraits are propped on a pair of bronze sculptural supports that are referenced from wall adornments on the 120 year old Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus Building in the centre of the city. The railway station is Mumbai's nerve centre. It is also here that most migrants first arrive, recognizing under its immense arches that they have now entered the big city.

Jitish Kallat studied painting at Sir J.J. School of Art and lives and works in Mumbai. His paintings and monumental sculptures have been included in numerous exhibitions featuring Art from India such as "The Empire Strikes Back: Indian Art Today," Saatchi Gallery, London (2010), "Chalo! India: A New Era of Indian Art," Essl Museum – Contemporary Art, Klosterneuburg, Austria, and Mori Art Museum, Tokyo (both 2009), as well as "Indian Highway," Serpentine Gallery, London (2008/09). Solo presentations include Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation (2008), „Die Tropen. Ansichten von der Mitte der Weltkugel“, Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin (2008), The 6th Gwangju Biennial, Gwangju, Korea (2006), "Indian Summer", Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Paris (2005 ) and the Kunsthalle Luckenwalde, Germany (1998). Besides his work as an artist he writes frequently on the subject of contemporary Indian Art in art journals and exhibition catalogues.



Field Notes (Sweat on the Clouds), 2010  
acrylic on canvas, 175,26 x 175,26 cm | 69 x 69 in;  
bronze each 38 x 30 x 30 cm | 15 x 12 x 12 in  
# JKAL0040



Field Notes (Sweat on the Clouds), 2010  
acrylic on canvas, 175,26 x 175,26 cm | 69 x 69 in;  
bronze each 38 x 30 x 30 cm | 15 x 12 x 12 in  
# JKAL0039



Universal Recipient, 2008 / 2009  
acrylic on canvas, 249 x 173 cm | 98.03 x 68.11 in,  
bronze sculptures each 35 x 32 x 43 cm | 13.7 x 12.5 x 16.9 in  
# JKAL0038