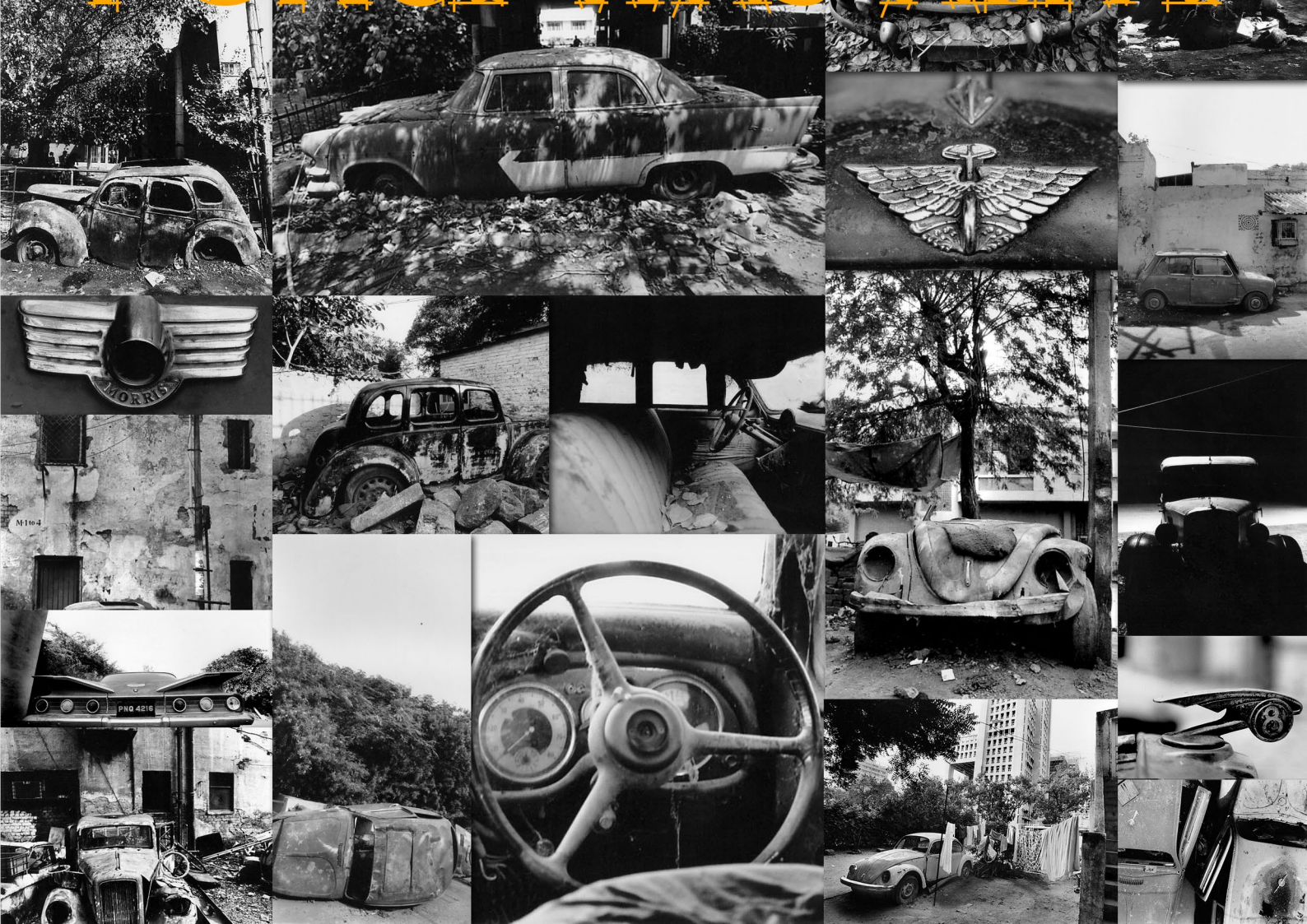




I ONCE WAS ALIVE





**Photography Festival
MUMBAI, 2015**

FOCUS Photography Festival Mumbai 2015, supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies, is back! First launched in 2013 as the city's first ever photography festival, FOCUS has built on the success of its inaugural event, and will this year present an even more innovative and extensive programme with over 30 exhibitions, workshops and educational events taking place across the city between 12-26 March 2015. For further details on the programme and exhibitions, visit: www.focusfestivalmumbai.com or www.facebook.com/focusmumbai.



Shahid Datawala (b 1974) has photographed extensively for various publications. His solo exhibitions include, Where the city rests, Matthieu Foss Gallery, Mumbai, 2010. Shadow Boxing, Tasveer in Bangalore, Calcutta and New Delhi, 2008-2009; Dress Dirle, Tasveer in Bangalore, Calcutta, Mumbai, New Delhi, 2007-2008; A Walk with Pillars, Max Mueller Bhavan, New Delhi, 2001.

Datawala has also partaken of the group shows Post Visual World curated by Gitanjali Dang, Priyashri art gallery, Mumbai 2008; Caturday is Cleaning Day curated by Gitanjali Dang, The Loft, 2009; India: Public Places, Private Spaces curated by Gayatri Sinha and Paul Sternberger, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minnesota, 2008 and The Newark Museum, New Jersey, 2007; Click curated by Radhika Singh and Sunil Gupta, Vadhera Art Gallery, New Delhi and Grosvenor, London, 2008; By George curated by Gitanjali Dang, Alliance Franciase, New Delhi, 2010; Where Three Dreams Cross, curated by Sunil Gupta and Radhika Singh, White Chapel Gallery, London, 2010.

He was also the chief designer for Pallate for 7 years, a furniture design store in Mumbai. He was awarded the Edida Furniture Category Award in 2009 and The Edida Designer of the Year by Elle Décor in 2010.

Currently he is working on his next solo exhibition and a series of photography book projects on various aspect of Mumbai.

He also designs clothes and is a jewellery maker.

Datawala lives and works in Mumbai.



One of the country's most premier contemporary art destinations, Gallery 7, is at a brand new address. The brainchild of husband-wife duo Arun and Chandra Sachdev, Gallery 7, has moved to the heritage precincts of Rampart Row, Kala Ghoda, and has already become a landmark on the south Mumbai cultural map.

And while the location may have changed, the dream and enterprise remain the same – to promote Indian art and provide promising artists a credible platform to showcase their works. Conceived by art collectors and appreciators Arun and Chandra as a means to bolster the contemporary Indian art market, the gallery was established in the mid-70s in the commercial Fort district of Mumbai. Gallery 7 brought together Arun's expertise as writer and editor of 'Z' magazine and Chandra's trained eye as a fine artist from the prestigious J.J. School of Art and The Kala Bhavan in Santiniketan, schooled by renowned artist Somnath Hore.

Over the four decades since Gallery 7's inception, the dynamic couple has collectively supported and showcased the works of formidable young talents like Atul Dodiya, Vijay Shinde, Arpita Singh, among others. The gallery's walls have also played host to stalwarts such as M.F. Husain, S.H. Raza, Jogen Chowdhury, Rameshwar Broota, Sudhir Patwardhan, Krishen Khanna and Ramkumar. Having worked with some of the Indian art firmament's biggest international and contemporary stars, Gallery 7 has also emerged as a haven for upcoming artists, championing genuine talent and showcasing aesthetically strong sensibilities in multiple mediums.

Even as its echelon and endeavour has grown, Gallery 7 has moved from its initial location in Fort to a vintage bungalow in Cuffe Parade in the '90s, and has now found a new home in the art district of Kala Ghoda. With its 40-foot arched frontage, high ceilings, contemporary interiors and clean lines, the new address is a perfect blend of the traditional and modern.

And bringing a forward-thinking and modern outlook to this endeavour is the couple's enterprising son and a partner at Gallery 7, Arunov Nicholai Sachdev, who now helms the project with his mother Chandra. Having been involved with the gallery for a decade-and-a-half, Nicholai brings with him strong business acumen and an in-depth knowledge of the Indian art scene. His strong relationship management skills and keen eye for spotting talent have seen him emerge as one of the country's leading art connoisseurs and dealers. Under Chandra and Nicholai's direction, Gallery 7 plans to branch out to several cities across the world in the near future, aiming to provide Indian artists with a global platform to showcase their talent.



I ONCE WAS ALIVE

Like trees growing in the middle of nowhere. Like nostalgia and the distance we seek from it. Like unresolved knots. These silently parked cars are complex portraits of journeys and hunts.

These rust eaten cars caught my attention a little over a decade ago. These images are as much portraits of the foregrounded objects as they are portraits of their (erstwhile) owners.

Interactions based on ownership collapse and become obsolete. Finally freed from their owner's nostalgia every now and then these ghosts show up on roadside corners. Found outside their junkyard dwellings the cars are more often than not found in the company of dilapidated architecture that is also negotiating similar situations and contexts.

Through these complex portraits I allow myself to think and speculate across unresolved debates— such as machine, nature, culture, change and habit—these objects encompass.

Shahid Datawala



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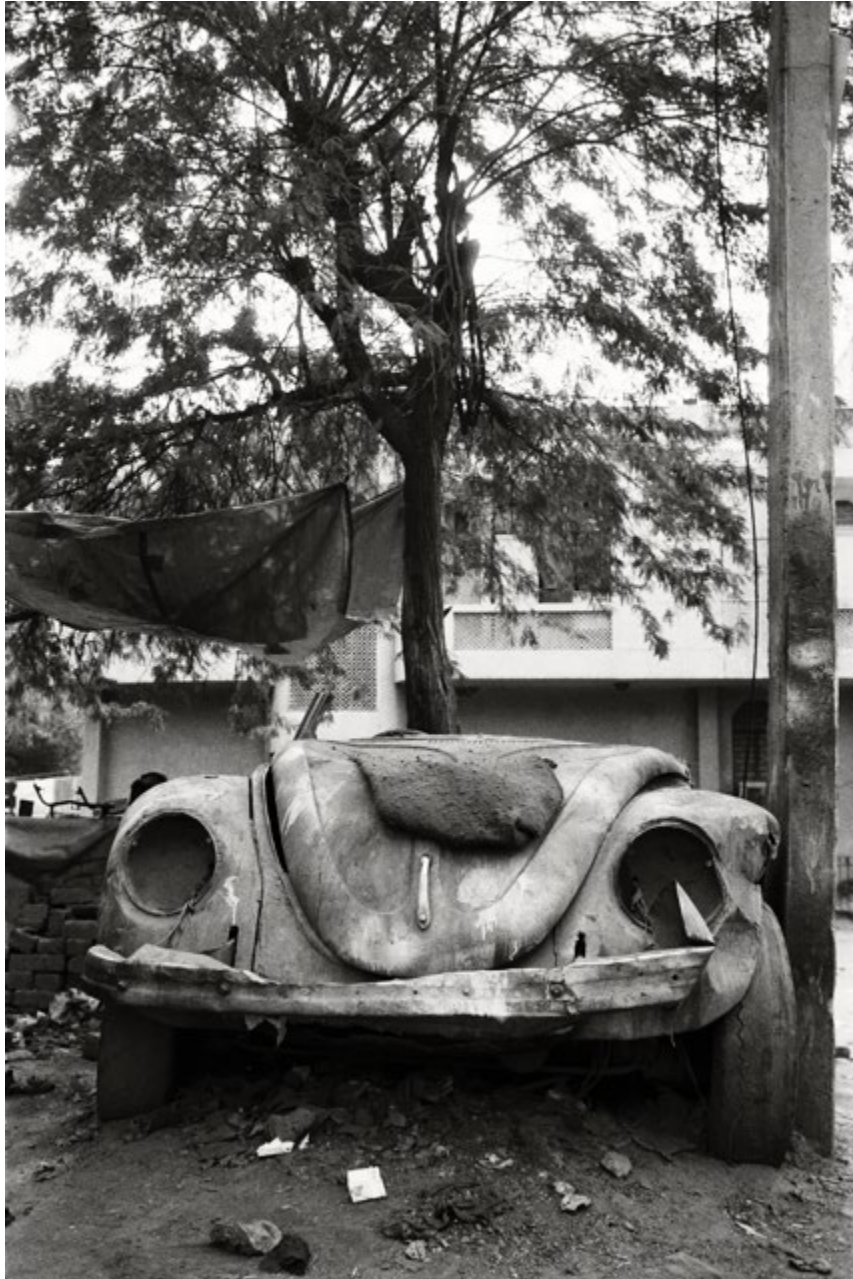
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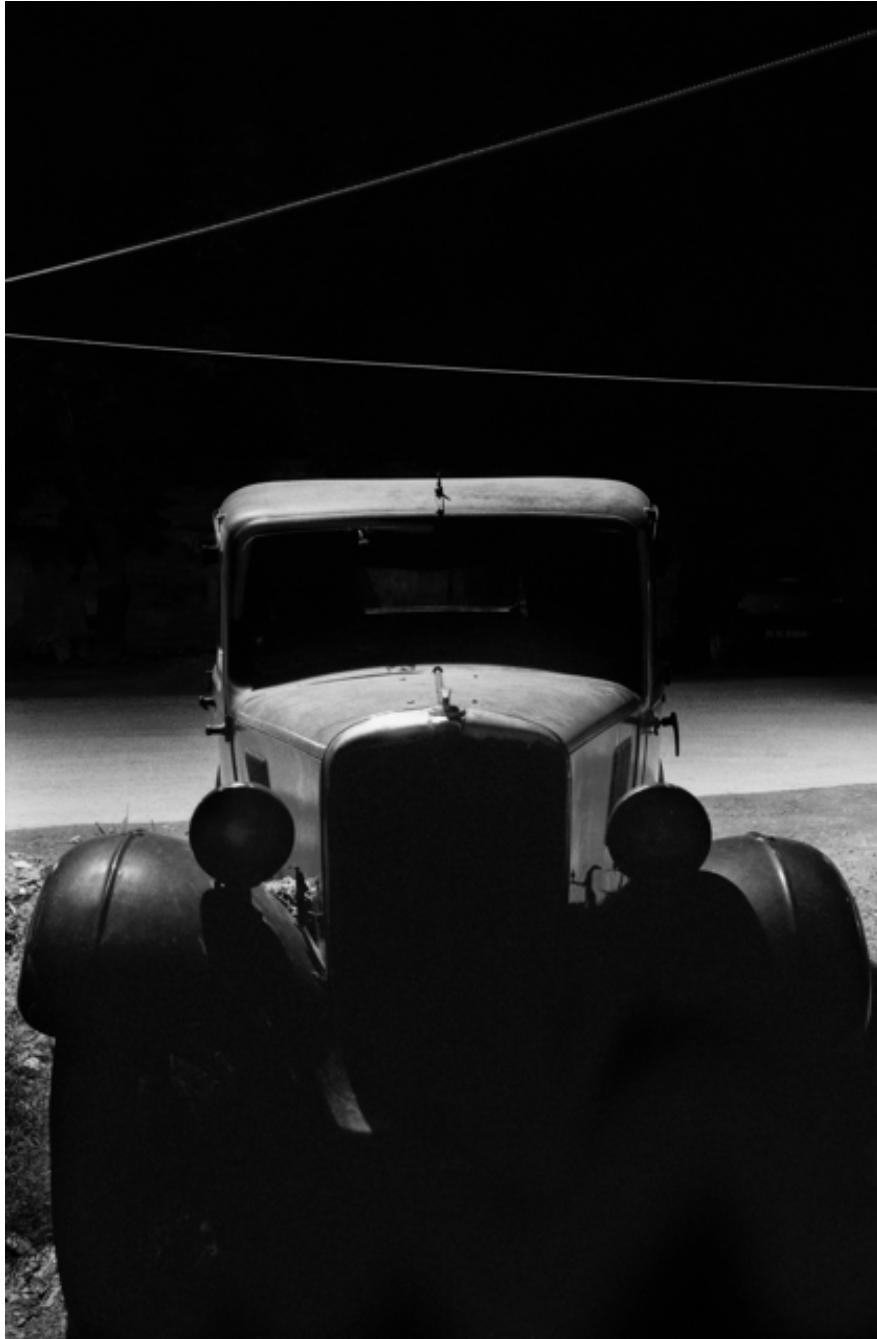
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If you would like a private preview of the works, either at your residence
or your corporate space, please contact Mr. Newton D'souza on
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