



masha art

presents

BOND_{TO} बायबान

Curated By
Georgina Maddox

Artworks By
Jenny Bhatt



BOND TO BACHCHAN

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Art and Cinema examines the tough exterior and the hidden soft underbelly of cinema, its icons and the subtext that characterizes its larger-than-life tropes. This exhibition examines and unpacks the important tropes of the iconic James Bond essayed essentially by Sean Connery in Hollywood and in Bollywood, Amitab Bachchan who portrayed the angry young man of the 1970s and '80s.

Cinema has been the 'Opium of the Masses', and like all things in life, is a double-edged sword. The power of the darkened cinema hall, the booming voice of the actors, the larger-than-life characters portrays a fantasy-filled vision that facilitates even the working-class individual to escape into. Cinema also perpetuated certain stereotypes.

Bachchan has essayed several roles, from a complex art house character with trembling Adams apple, (Anand and Guddi) wearing white long kurtas and a poetic disposition to the fiery, angry young of Sholay, Zanjeer and Don. Cinema is indeed hard to parallel as an immersive experience. The artists translate cinematic culture into art, bringing to the table the tropes of pop-culture and high art in an indelible mix that engages viewers in an immersive and interactive experience with the well-loved icons of cinema. Artists have looked beyond the male super heroes exposing their more vulnerable side, besides addressing the femme-fatal, or the more sensitive 'woman behind the man'. It peels away the layers of cinematic excellence and orchestrates throwing open the doors to critique, questions and warm-hearted parody.

Additionally, the artworks examine the pivotal roles played by the women in the late 1960s, '70s and '80s. It follows Zeenat Aman, in a variety of avatars, from action heroine to village belle. Drawing from epic period dramas like Mughal-e-Azam to the timeless beauty Madhubala. Artists have even drawn inspiration from the legendary filmmaker Satyajit Ray's characters embodying independent India.

The exhibition showcases paintings and sculptures that express the multifarious nature of cinema through art.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Jenny Bhatt

Jenny Bhatt (b. 1970) is a pioneering visual artist whose work is a blend of traditional methods and digital processes, creating hybrid works that challenge old boundaries and provoke broader interpretations of art. Born into a family of filmmakers in Mumbai, Jenny's work is deeply influenced by the visual and narrative traditions of Indian cinema. She inherited creativity from both sides of her family—her maternal grandfather was an eminent filmmaker, while her paternal grandfather was an internationally exhibited photographer. As a new media artist since the late '80s, she brings her pop-surrealist sensibilities to celebrate the medium of storytelling and cultural memory, forging a distinct visual language at the convergence of Indian popular culture, technology, and Eastern spiritual traditions.

Her artistic journey, which began with surrealism and abstraction, gradually evolved into pop art. Since she started exhibiting in the mid-nineties, her work has undergone constant transformation, evolving alongside her changing influences and life experiences. Inspired by modern Indian master abstractionists like Raza and Gaitonde, as well as global icons such as Yayoi Kusama and Takashi Murakami, her art is marked by a bright colour palette, whimsical lines, humorous visual puns, and references to popular culture. The Japanese world of Murakami and Manga finds a traditional interpretation in her artistic lexicon, one imbued with psychedelia and laced with humour.

In her exploration of colour's emotional and transformative power, she began incorporating colour therapy into her work, using each colour in its most saturated, unadulterated form to maximize its vibrational impact. Her works employ pop-surreal abstractions that delve into subconscious states and lived realities, constructing immersive, multi-sensory experiences that push the limits of traditional spectator engagement.

She creates two distinct types of work: MindMaps and Pop Yantras (cosmograms). MindMaps explore the subconscious via memory, nostalgia, self-perception, and the spiritual search. Bhatt's engagement with humour became more pronounced through projects like the 'Tshirt Project', a satirical commentary on the art world's snobbery. She created 'Inside Ouch', a comic strip published for five years, and developed MokshaShots, a digital interactive work critiquing urban Indian consumer culture. Her recent series, Pop Yantra and MokshaShots, integrates interactive art, AR (augmented reality), digital installations, and AI-driven experiences, expanding the role of technology in storytelling.

An alumna of Sophia Polytechnic, Mumbai, Jenny Bhatt earned her BFA in 1992. She has participated in esteemed artist residencies, including the School of Visual Arts, New York (2008) and Pictoplasma, Berlin (2015). Bhatt has exhibited extensively, with notable solo exhibitions at Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai (2017), and CDK Gallery, Amsterdam (2011), along with multiple showcases at Gallery Art n Soul, Mumbai (2023, 2018, 2009/10). Her work has also been featured in prestigious group exhibitions, including the Santorini Biennale, Greece (2016), and 'Present/Future' at the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), Mumbai (2005). Recognized for her contributions to the art world, she was awarded the 'Young Achiever of the Year' by the Indo-American Society (2005). Her works have been auctioned by Christie's multiple times, including in 2001, 2002, 2004, and 2005, and are held in significant collections, including the National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai.

The artist lives and works in Mumbai.



Media Don

Jenny Bhatt

Acrylic on canvas, 24 x 24 in

In '*Media Don*', Jenny Bhatt reimagines the electric energy of *Don* (1978), the film that cemented Amitabh Bachchan's status as Indian cinema's "Towering Icon." The painting employs pop colours mirroring the film's intense storytelling and graphic patterns like stars, flames, and clouds that refer to the emotions stirred by *Don*'s action, romance, and suspense. '*Media Don*' is a tribute to the relationship between art and cinema, where every shade amplifies the power of a classic narrative.



The Bond Life

Jenny Bhatt

Acrylic on canvas, 24 x 24 in

Jenny Bhatt's *'The Bond Life'* is a pop-surrealist explosion of colour, nostalgia, and cinematic spectacle, capturing the experience of watching a James Bond film. Sean Connery, the quintessential Bond, anchors the composition amidst a swirl of action-packed motifs like the bond car, casino chips, a golden femme fatale, and psychedelic patterns that mirror the non-stop thrill, drama, and glamour that define the franchise.



Goldfinger

Jenny Bhatt

Acrylic on canvas, 12 x 12 in

Jenny Bhatt's *'Goldfinger'* is a high-energy explosion of colour and pop iconography, transforming the cinematic spectacle of the 1964 Bond film into a visual composition that captures the film's essence. At its centre, Jill Masterson, rendered as the "The Golden Girl," embodies beauty and power, amplifying the tension between glamour and danger. The painting mirrors the relentless pace of the 007 universe—its bold typography, graphic patterns, and geometric swaths of neon echo the film's high-stakes action and jet-set aesthetic.



B Fun

Jenny Bhatt

Acrylic on canvas, 12 x 12 in

Jenny Bhatt's '*B Fun*' celebrates Amitabh Bachchan's electrifying screen presence, reimagining him in a riotous explosion of colour that captures his versatility and larger-than-life persona. Drawing from Indian cinema's cultural iconography, Bhatt references *Coolie* (1983), a cult classic blending action, drama, and humour. The film's gripping narrative and social relevance cemented Bachchan's status as Bollywood's '*Shahenshah*', his charm and impeccable comic timing made him an enduring icon in the intersection of nostalgia and contemporary expression.



Mr. Cool

Jenny Bhatt

Acrylic on canvas, 12 x 12 in

'*Mr. Cool*' refers to the cinematic myth of James Bond through a pop-surrealist, maximalist lens. Bhatt reconstructs the exhilarating rush of espionage, action, and crime, capturing Bond's suave personality. The silhouette of Sean Connery, embodying the archetype of a man cool under pressure yet lethal in action, is framed by iconic symbols like the gun barrel and '007,' nodding to the franchise's legendary opening sequence. The graphic patterns are reminiscent of the sixties when both Bond and pop art reigned supreme.



Block Bustin'

Jenny Bhatt

Acrylic on canvas, 12 x 12 in

'BlockBustin' pays homage to *Sholay*, one of the biggest successes of Amitabh Bachchan's career, a film that won multiple Filmfare awards and made history. The painting centres on the unforgettable trio—Amitabh Bachchan's brooding yet charismatic *Jai*, Dharmendra's lovable rogue *Veeru*, and Hema Malini's vivacious, fearless *Basanti*. Their legendary camaraderie, filled with humour, action, and emotion, set the gold standard for storytelling in mainstream Indian cinema. Bhatt employs pop colours and a maximalist visual language to represent what is termed in India as the '*masala*' (spice) movies.



Bond in Reel Life

Jenny Bhatt

Acrylic on canvas, 12 x 12 in

'*Bond in Reel Life*' distils the essence of the world's most enduring spy into a visual reel—voyaging through time with silhouettes of the seven Bonds, each reflecting the era they defined. Jenny Bhatt reimagines the Bond character through her signature pop-infused narrative, threading together the legend of 007. This composition sits at the intersection of nostalgia and entertainment, blending action, adventure, and gripping storytelling, making it the *'masala'* film of the West—equal parts entertainment and theatrics.



Entertainment Big B Style

Jenny Bhatt

Acrylic on canvas, 12 x 12 in

'Entertainment Big B Style' channels Bollywood's golden era, honouring Amitabh Bachchan's iconic role in *Amar Akbar Anthony* (1977). Bhatt's painting embodies a cinematic carnival where music, drama, and comedy collide. The film uses musical interludes to advance the storyline while entertaining through song and dance—a format unique to Indian cinema. Bachchan's portrayal in Anthony Gonsalves, particularly in *My Name Is Anthony Gonsalves*, redefined stardom with his unique ability to blend humour and intensity, making him synonymous with Bollywood.



Bondscape

Jenny Bhatt

Acrylic on canvas, 12 x 36 in

In '*Bondscape*', Jenny Bhatt refers to the magnetism of a Bond film's cinematic experience, paying homage to the world's most famous spy and the elements that make these films entertaining. The painting uses bold colours, graphic elements, and layered symbolism to evoke the essence of 1960s pop art while encapsulating the thrill, glamour, and nostalgia of Bond films. Popcorn, a central motif, symbolises the collective experience of cinema while recurring motifs like guns, cigars, and cars represent the allure of the franchise.



Drama in Color

Jenny Bhatt

Acrylic on canvas, 12 x 24 in

'Drama in Color' revisits the golden years of cinema, where Amitabh Bachchan reshaped the cinematic landscape. The painting mirrors his towering persona and raw, grounded characters, resonating with the common man's aspirations through roles in *Deewar* (1975) and *Coolie* (1983). Bhatt creates a visual journey that immortalises Bachchan's evolution, exploring his transformative journey across five decades. It examines how his character, compelling in all genres—from weaponry and war to love and romance—has evolved over the years.



The Bond Avatars

Jenny Bhatt

Acrylic on canvas, 48 x 96 in

The *'Bond Avatars'* celebrates the legend of James Bond and its impact on cinema and global culture. Pierce Brosnan's portrayal takes centre stage, referencing the *GoldenEye* (1995) poster, symbolising his prominence in the 1990s and early 2000s. The "007" anchors the composition, while seven silhouettes in tuxedos form a visual timeline, each Bond—Connery, Niven, Lazenby, Moore, Dalton, Brosnan, and Craig—reflecting their era. The colour palette is reminiscent of the shadowy mysteries narrated by the Bond movies situated within the pop art lexicon.



The Big B Avatars

Jenny Bhatt

Acrylic on canvas, 48 x 96 in

'The Big B Avatars' is a tribute to Bachchan's unparalleled legacy. Bhatt crafts a story, capturing iconic images of Bachchan's lead characters across five decades, blending form, colour, and composition to depict his larger-than-life presence. A dominant figure in both Indian media and collective memory, Bachchan's roles—from the "Angry Young Man" in *Zanjeer* to *Sholay* and *Don*, with songs like *Yeh Dosti Hum Nahi Todenge* and *Khaike Paan Banaras Wala* —showcase his versatility as the true showman of Indian cinema.

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