

# Home body



Home on Me  
Collective

'Homebody' is Home on Me Collective's first commercial exhibition, Zehra Marikar's first solo show curated by friend and business partner Yaska Sahara Hirani Harji.

Using canvas as a mirror, Zehra is able to self-reflect and self-actualise, finding humour in life's pains and confusions. Zehra primarily interrogates the female body and its place in our world. She desires more nuanced and human depictions of the female body, particularly the brown female body. The different forms of Zehra in her work are used to convey varying issues and ideas of living in, and as, a female body. They also serve to depict the process of girlhood to womanhood. Zehra's family appears in her work to explore how external factors both dismantle and aid the process of becoming.

Zehra has been greatly influenced by Frida Kahlo, Micheal Armitage and Nadia Waheed, female artists who use self-portraiture to interrogate the self in relation to the world.

Mixing realism with monstrous and fantastical allows her to express desires and emotions that normally go unsaid and to break the silence expected of women, breaking a silence through the visual.

Zehra is keen to express and convey the nuances of her South Asian identity, but refuses to be solely defined by it. The visual references to India are pieces of memory that construct her consciousness. Hundreds of unnamed artists adorning walls, to matchboxes, trucks and religious sites, have all made their mark on her artistic practice.

Zehra oscillates between past nostalgia and future utopian dreams, using fragments of the past to express changes in her life inspired by Linda Nochlin and Catherine McCormack.

## 'Zanguine' £1250

100 x 100cm

*Acrylic on canvas*

This work is the final piece that was completed for this exhibition, reflecting the end of a journey to make room for a new beginning. This painting explores the integral role that death and rebirth play in love; for parts of herself and her life have had to die to make room for new ones. This piece marks the realisation that whilst it is necessary, it is a lonely path to individuation, to step into a new beginning carrying forward traces of all the lives led previously.



## 'Safety Matches' £1000

100 x 100cm

*Acrylic on canvas*

An exploration of the development of a girl into a woman, and the need to face the self with complete transparency and vulnerability. For Zehra, this transition into womanhood has been defined and enhanced by the role of family and culture, particularly relationships with her family in India. This painting explores the connections that dictates the nature of her relationship with herself and others.



**'Maneater' £450**

20x25cm

*Acrylic on canvas*

A spur of the moment creation, this piece is a projection of Zehras' deepest desires for omnipotence, a fantasy come to life, reflecting a hunger for strength and power. By allowing herself to channel this ravenousness through her art, she feels far more capable of confronting the monstrous aspects of reality.



## **'Fight or Flight?' £400**

**30 x 40cm**

*Acrylic on canvas*

Frozen in a moment of deliberation, Zehra pauses on this journey to question what comes next. This piece explores how one might feel at a fork in the road of a visual journey. In addition to her myriad options, Zehra is balancing a pigeon, a motif often used to represent her innermost self.



## 'Matchbox series'

*Acrylic on cement*

The instantaneous destructive capacity of fire has always drawn Zehra towards matchboxes. Despite a fear of what she loves most instantaneously combusting, she draws upon them to highlight the power to destroy and to create that resides within every person.

### 'Horn' Matchbox series 1 £100

19.5x19.5cm

### 'Pistol' Matchbox series 2 £70

10x10cm

### 'Paanvala' Matchbox series 3 £70

10 x 10cm

### 'Cutter' Matchbox series 4 £70

10x10cm

### 'Jimboo' Matchbox series 5 £70

10 x 10cm

### 'Chakkama' Matchbox series 6 £50

6 x 10cm

### 'Nandi' Matchbox series 7 £50

6 x 10cm

### 'Swakadham' Matchbox series 8 £50

6 x 10cm

### 'Hastam' Matchbox series 9 £50

6x10cm

### 'Lotus' Matchbox series 10 £50

6x10cm

### 'Laal Phool' Matchbox series 11 £50

6x10cm



# Home n Me

Home on Me Collective focuses on making the arts accessible and inclusive in multiple facets. We represent a wide group of ethnic and racial backgrounds. As emerging creatives ourselves, we're keen to support emerging artists at different stages in their career by giving them a platform: publishing their content online, art workshops, meet-ups and exhibitions.

Along with our exhibitions we also interview artists from a variety of backgrounds. Equally, we ensure to work those less familiar with art. We've worked with organisations like the British Red Cross and the Afghan and Central Asian Association through our non-profit charity The Empty Wall Project. With the aim to implement art workshops for refugees and communities from disadvantaged backgrounds. A mix of our two interests came together in the *Our Stories* project with the V&A East and Art Matters London, where Zehra conducted textile art workshops with children from eight schools, and Sahara curated the output at the University of East London Docklands campus.

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