

# TEMPLON

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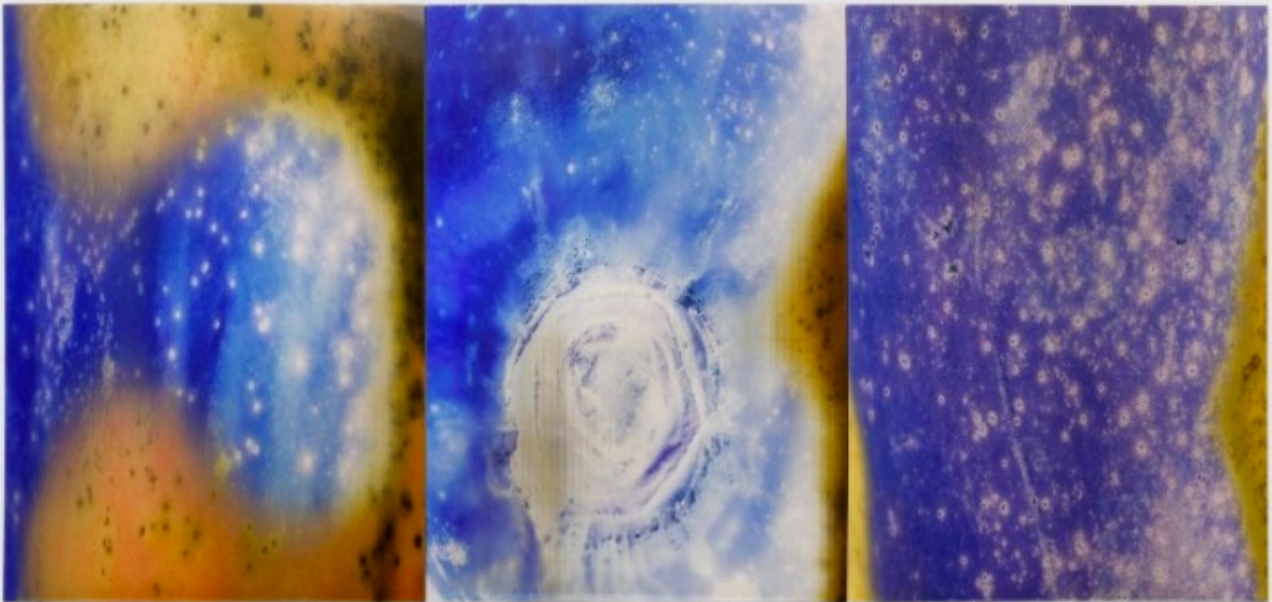
JITISH KALLAT

*ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST*, September 8th 2017

## The stars are aligned for Jitish Kallat's new exhibition in Brussels

*On at Galerie Templon, 'Covariance' is an extension of the mind of a voracious reader who researches with an eye on the iconic*

Jitish Kallat Studio, Galerie Templon, Brussels



*Kallat combines astronomy and geophysics in a pair of intricately detailed sculptures, Sightings Gen-Pap-D23M6Y2016*

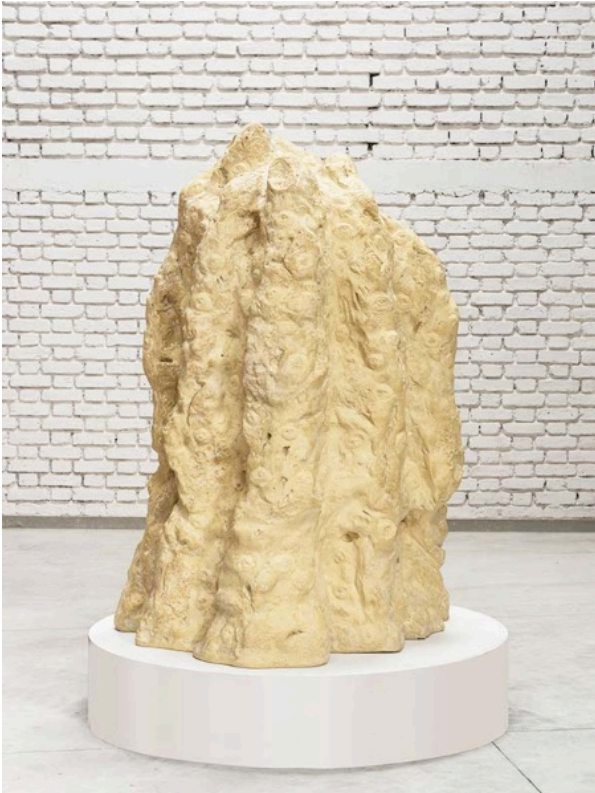
No contemporary artist in India does as much research as Jitish Kallat—an artist defined by his popularity beyond India. Kallat gathers high critical appreciation across Indian and international shores. In 2009, at Haunch of Venison, London, he had a show that had ingenious astronomical articulations.

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*Antidote, 2017*

### **Astronomy and geophysics**

This time he combines astronomy and geophysics in a pair of intricately detailed sculptures titled 'Covariance' (Sacred Geometry) that from afar may resemble a rock/an anthill/a fallen meteorite/an ancient fossil. Look closely, and you'll find pairs of finely carved, tiny eyes modelled on different species, from mammals and birds to reptiles and fish.

Kallat's interest in the animal kingdom has always been well known. Remember 'Aquasaurus' and 'Annexation'? His accumulation of sensibilities over the years has been born out of referencing themes of sustenance, survival and mortality, and intrigues viewers with his exploration of mediums and materials.

He creates vivid, hand made aesthetics with digitised renderings to create cumulative impressions of his research, stylised into islands of objects that speak of their place in celestial space. His deep understanding of asteroids, stellar formations, planetary clusters, and nebulae all become milestones in his art.

### **Eavesdropping on silent conversation**

A new suite of meditative works on paper are titled *Wind Study–Hilbert Curve*. "This represents 'transcripts derived by eavesdropping on a silent conversation between wind and fire,'" says Kallat. "My drawings derive their form from Hilbert Curves, continuous fractal space-filling curves first described by the German mathematician in 1891."

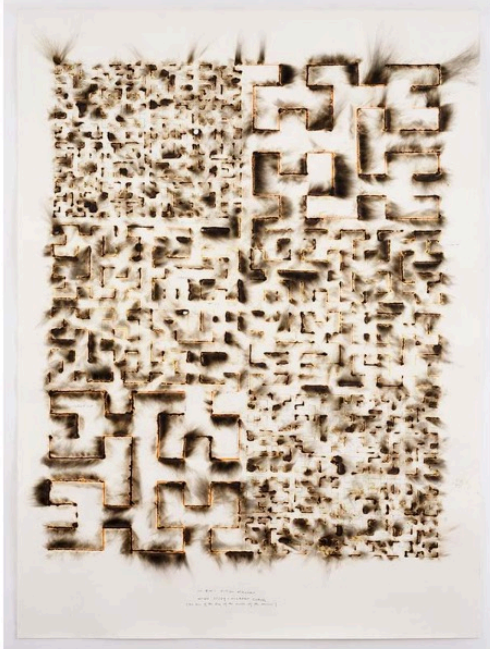


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*Wind Study (Hilbert Space)*



*Tetralemma (three-fold drawings)*

“To create them, I created a ritual of line overlays , setting aflame each one with an inflammable liquid. The movement of wind at the moment of combustion determines the direction in which the fumes leave their marks on the paper registering invisible atmospheric flows.” We experience the uncanny within the quotidian.

### **Surface study and astronomy**

Kallat also brings in the humble papaya fruit. A large photographic triptych titled ‘*Sightings Gen-Pap-D23M6Y2016*’ unveils a close up of a papaya’s surface and you could be looking at telescopic snapshots of cosmic supernova explosions, contemplating the macro as manifesting within the micro.

Research wise he has delved into astronomical architecture, and referenced Chankillo, the ancient Peruvian solar observatory with 13 mounds forming a toothed horizon, while creating his work ‘*Aequuators*,’ a mysterious cosmic dormitory wherein the species surrender scale in a state of sleep merging with the undulating terrain.

Kallat’s titles that go back to medieval ages are a quiet reflection of his love for language and astronomy’s antiquity.

### **Knee-deep histories**

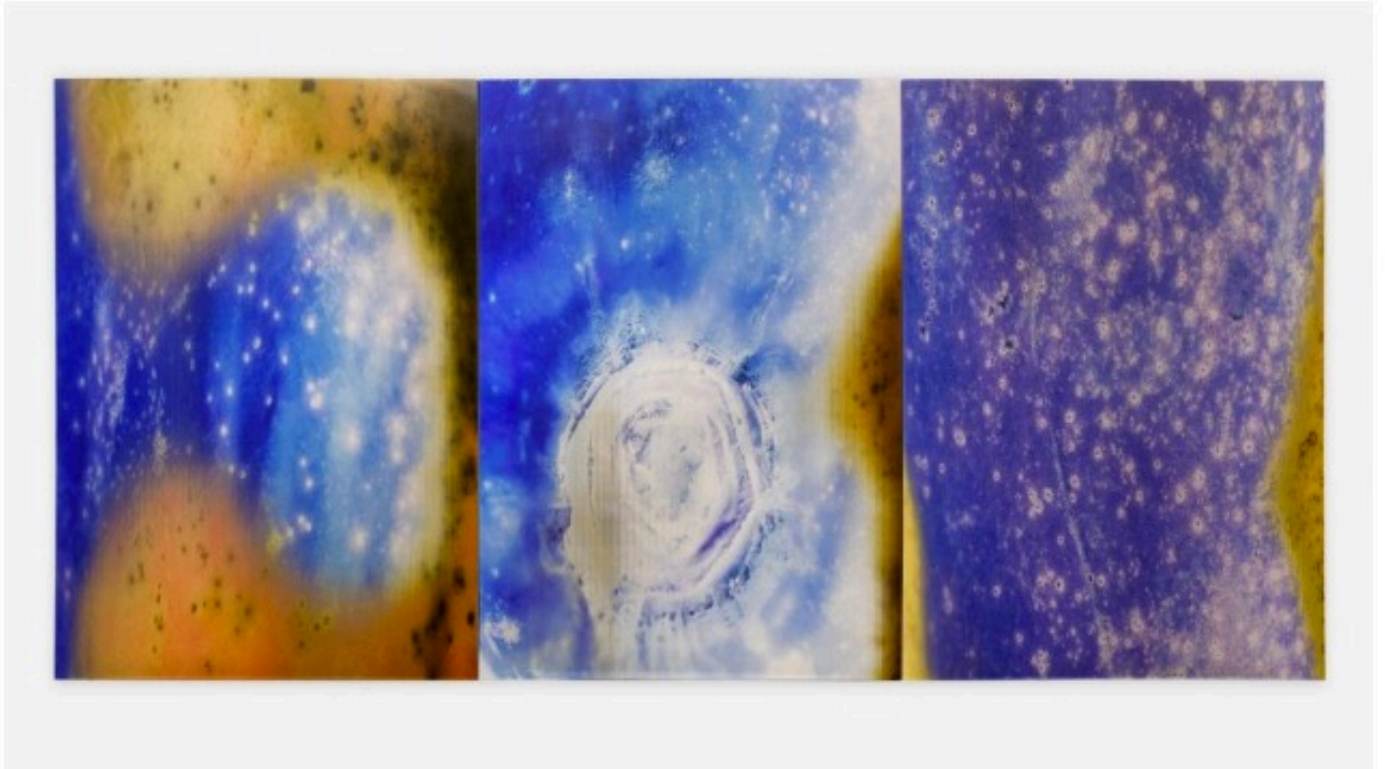
The exhibition ends with *Tetralemma* (three-fold postulates) a series of drawings folded as if a solitary game of exquisite corpse (cadavre exquis) was underway. It is a mélange of indistinct impulses, working studies, private ruminations and discarded references almost like a mirror of Kallat’s “artistic dilemmas”.

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Kallat combines astronomy and geophysics in a pair of intricately detailed sculptures, *Sightings* Gen-Pap-D23M6Y2016

While many artists are finding time to correlate their own philosophies to found objects, Kallat digs knee deep into the histories of the past to create a suite of works that play out like an artistic inquiry into different echelons of aesthetic materiality as it incorporates drawings, collage, sculpture, and photography. And within astronomy's antiquity are hidden haunts of history; perhaps a spiritual optimum that is richly realistic and combines nature and culture.

*The exhibition is on at Galerie Templon until October 21.*