



DECISIVE MOMENTS

Head of Piramal Gallery, **Mukesh Parpiani**, looks back on some of the finest exhibitions organised between 2010 and 2020 at the NCPA.

When I joined the NCPA in June 2009 as full-time head of the Centre for Photography as an Art Form, Piramal Gallery, I took it up as an assignment different from my earlier job as a photojournalist. The gallery—and the NCPA—were not new to me. I had covered the inauguration of the Tata Theatre by Indira Gandhi in 1982 and prior to joining the organisation, had already exhibited my work thrice at the gallery since its inception in 1987.

In my twelve years at the gallery and until March 2020, when the lockdown was imposed, nearly 200 exhibitions, talks and workshops have been organised. Besides continuing with the tradition of solo photo exhibitions, I have invited photographic institutions like Rachana Sansad, National Institute of Photography, Photo Division of the Government of India and Symbiosis School of Photography to showcase their collections in the Piramal Gallery.

Published photographs in reputed magazines like *Better Photography*, *Smart Photography*, *Sanctuary Asia* and *Asian Photography* have adorned the walls of the gallery from time to time. This attracted many consulates in Mumbai to showcase the culture of their respective countries through photo exhibitions.

In the 33-year-old history of the gallery, hundreds of photographers have displayed their work here and thousands of art-loving people, including stalwarts of photography from across the country, have regularly visited it. It is to the NCPA's credit that the city has a wonderful place that celebrates photography as an art form.

Through these pages of *ON Stage*, let me take you on a visual tour of some of the finest exhibitions that have taken place between 2010 and 2020. In this difficult time when photojournalists are risking their lives to document the crisis, I dedicate this feature to them.



The June 2015 edition of the annual exhibition of the Symbiosis School of Photography, Pune, held at the gallery

NCPA Chairman Mr. Khushroo N. Suntook at the inauguration of *The Bicycle Diaries*, a photo exhibition by noted journalists Anoop Babani and Savie Viegas, held in May 2019





Filmmakers Amol Palekar and Sai Paranjpye take a close look at a photograph during an exhibition on Marathi theatre's journey organised by the NCPA in August 2011



Julio Ribeiro, former Commissioner of Police of Mumbai, visits the gallery during the travel photo exhibition on Machu Picchu in November 2011



Asian Photography magazine's national photo exhibition inaugurated by noted wildlife photographer and businessman Kakubhai Kothari



Year after year, entrepreneur and avid photographer Mukesh Batra, seen here from the March 2020 edition, brings a new exhibition of his photographs to the gallery



Noted photojournalist Dilip Banerjee's photo exhibition being viewed by the then RBI Governor D. Subbarao in May 2010



The late legend of Indian photography K.G. Maheshwari with his two portraits, as part of an exhibition organised by the Photo Division of the Government of India in February 2012



Legendary photographer Raghu Rai inaugurates Chandu Mhatre's exhibition titled *Bombay* in March 2013



A regular visitor to the gallery observes photographs displayed by a group of photographers from DCP Expeditions in May 2019



Panoramic view of the Piramal Gallery with a display of antique photo equipment in an exhibition organised by the Indian Art Studio

Zakir Hussain beholds a photograph of his father Allarakha which was part of the *Tribute to Abbaji* exhibition in April 2019



Italian photographer Fiorenzo Senese with his work in the gallery at an exhibition in November 2015



Renowned photographer the late Shreekant Malushte signs the visitors' book of Nitin Pawar after inaugurating his landscape photo exhibition in May 2016



Schoolchildren with environmental activist and writer Bittu Sahgal during *Sanctuary Asia* magazine's exhibition in October 2019



Eminent Delhi-based photographer and author of several books on the Himalayas, Ashok Dilwali, at a talk in the gallery during the golden jubilee celebrations of the NCPA in November 2019



Nearly 100 cartoonists organised an exhibition on Charlie Chaplin in June 2015, which was inaugurated by actress Vidya Balan



Actor Anupam Kher inaugurates an exhibition of works by veteran photojournalist the late Kulwant Roy, curated by Aditya Arya of Museo Camera Museum of Gurgaon in April 2010



A wide shot of the Piramal Gallery during a photo exhibition by Richa Arora in February 2011



The Mumbai Press Club at its annual photo calendar award function at the NCPA in June 2019 where chief guest Shahidul Alam, noted photographer from Bangladesh, is seen with Mumbai photojournalists