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MATERNAL INSTINCTS

The timeless trope of mother and child is the unifying theme of a new exhibition at the **Humayun's Tomb Museum**

Opening on June 22 at the Humayun's Tomb Museum in New Delhi, *One Mother, Many Mother Tongues* examines one of humanity's most universal visual motifs: the mother and child. Organised by the Italian Embassy Cultural Centre in collaboration with the Humayun's Tomb Museum, the exhibition traces remarkable

continuity and care. Visitors encounter the ancient Roman goddess Mater Matuta, associated with birth and renewal, alongside representations of Hariti, the Buddhist guardian figure whose transformation from child-stealing demon to protector of children became a potent symbol of redemption. The exhibition culminates with 'Madonna



SHARED SPACES

'N.S. Harsha's 'Camel and the tent times'

ART ▼

Where Light Meets Life

LONDON'S VICTORIA MIRO gallery is hosting new works by Mysore-based artist **N.S. HARSHA**

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N.S. Harsha's 'Camel and the tent times' takes its title from a fable involving a merchant, his camel and the incursion of personal space. Curator and writer Grant Watson explains, "The story seems to be a warning against the danger of accommodating others. These paintings offer a reflection on the contemporary but from a very different perspective."

And observing his work closely, this perspective becomes instantly visible. 'Workers having a break' is a work that is inspired by the popular 1932 photograph 'Lunch atop a Skyscraper'. Harsha's diverse workforce takes its break, held aloft by trails from a central column of lamps that extend into a nocturnal sky. Harsha describes the chandelier in his work as "studded with eternal human labour".

Another work, 'Harvest as a watermark', is inspired by a paddy field visit where workers are seen with suited middlemen counting money, birds feeding on insects and cows grazing—indicating other ecosystems are in place. In Harsha's works all his subjects are shown within suspended spaces. ■

—Bindu Gopal Rao

On view at Victoria Miro, 16 Wharf Road, London N1 7RW, till July 31

The exhibition brings together works spanning ancient Rome, the Buddhist world and the Italian Renaissance

parallels in maternal imagery across cultures, religions and historical periods.

Bringing together works and ideas spanning ancient Rome, the Buddhist world and the Italian Renaissance, the exhibition highlights how the image of a mother holding a child has persisted as a powerful symbol of protection,

and Child' by Sandro Botticelli. In this Renaissance masterpiece, the familiar motif acquires a more intimate and psychological dimension, while retaining its sacred significance. ■

—Nikhil Sardana

On view from June 22 to July 31 at Humayun's Tomb Museum, Delhi.
Entry free

