

# PHOTOINK

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## RAJESH VORA EVERYDAY BAROQUE

**On view:** February 13 – April 09, 2016  
**Gallery hours:** Tuesday – Saturday, 11 am – 7 pm  
Closed on Mondays and National holidays

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PHOTOINK is pleased to present Rajesh Vora's exhibition of colour photographs, **Everyday Baroque**. Vora's interest in the everyday sculptural objects that adorn rooftops of homes in the Punjab hinterland began three years ago. This vernacular craft found patronage with the first wave of immigrants, the NRI (Non-resident Indian) who began building homes in their villages back in the late 1970s. Ever since, this unique phenomenon grew in ambition and imagination to become an integral part of the village landscape. While most of the homes remain closed during the year waiting for their owners to return for their annual holiday, these colourful objects serve to remind society of their struggles, achievements and prosperity.

Battle tanks, weight lifters, heroes, footballs and footballers, lotuses, flowers, animals, the ubiquitous Maruti cars and the most important of them all, the airplanes rise from rooftops to make a dramatic skyline in an otherwise sedate landscape. Vora's fascination for these objects became an obsession as he travelled over 6000 km crisscrossing and backtracking across four districts in Punjab to photograph them. These icons of aspiration are often entwined with personal histories of their long distance owners. As a cultural and sociological phenomenon, this idiosyncratic aesthetic stands tall and distinct in the domestic architecture of the region. Vora often uses the typology as a means to reinforce the zeal with which certain objects are coveted by the NRI. What unfolds is a colourful narrative, sans nostalgia, filled with humour, celebration and remembrance.

**BIOGRAPHY** Rajesh Vora (b.1954) began his career in Visual Communications and has been photographing for over 25 years. A deep-rooted interest in the environment and disappearing habitats has influenced his photographic practice. Vora worked as a photographer with COLORS magazine for over 15 years and often contributed as a researcher and writer. His concern with urban issues led to myriad collaborations and projects with architects, environmentalists and filmmakers espousing critical views on the social, cultural and political situation in India.

Group exhibitions include *Public Places, Private Spaces: Contemporary Photography and Video Art in India*, Newark Museum, USA (2008) and Minneapolis Institute of Arts, USA (2009); *Bombay Maximum City* at Lille 3000 in France (2006); *Another Asia*, Noorderlicht Photo Festival, The Netherlands (2006); *FOTONOVEMBRE 2005*, International Photography Biennale, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain; *Middleage Spread: Imaging India 1947-2004* (2004).

He lives and works in Mumbai.