

A BALANCING ACT

Vida Heydari Contemporary, an international art gallery in Pune, presents Monali Meher's landmark Balance series



FROM TOP Balance features everyday objects crafted from glassware, moulded into warped, unusable objects that are a metaphor for human expectations; Monali Meher, a Pune-based performance artist

What happens when materials exceed their intended functionality and the body is asked to keep score? Monali Meher, a Ghent-based, Pune-born performance artist, is being represented by Vida Heydari

Contemporary Gallery in Pune to showcase her sculptural practices rooted in material inquiry, where everyday objects are pushed to reveal states of fragility, balance and transformation. She's known to traverse through themes of memory, transformation and transience. Founded in 2020, Vida Heydari Contemporary is an international art gallery that has swiftly gained momentum in featuring contemporary art in Pune. At the heart of Monali's recent work, Balance, lies glass. Subjected to intense heat, functional glassware is reshaped into warped, unusable forms that feel both delicate and deliberate. These perilous pieces stand as metaphors for life's responsibilities and expectations. Meher then introduces her body as a site of negotiation. Glass vessels are steadied carefully on her body through slow, measured movement, and when the pieces inevitably slip, shatter and break, the action is reset without drama. First performed in 2014, her work underscores the continuous labour required to restore equilibrium within one's consciousness.

Her sculptural series titled Shards, which was developed during Monali's residency at Gent-Glas, extends this exploration further. Using reused cafe glass and copper, she creates twisted structures that suggest cohesion emerging from fracture. The material's previous life is not erased, but absorbed. **Website: www.vhc.art**