


CULTURE &amp; LIVING

# 11 new art shows in India we're excited about this March

From the opening show of Method Delhi featuring over 50 artists to an exhibition centring teeth that is a commentary on the toothless times we live in

BY HUZAN TATA

5 March 2025

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## *The Toothless Times* by Sarban Chowdhury at Apre Art House, Mumbai



Cultivating chaos

Dogs without teeth wouldn't be as scary to most, and humans without teeth would find it difficult to talk, chew or enunciate well. Teeth are symbols of strength and power, whether on animals or humans. And when the times we live in are deemed 'toothless', what does that say about society? Exploring this idea, Jodhpur-based artist Sarban Chowdhury presents an exhibition of artworks ranging from ceramic plates to drawings on paper that illustrate the truth of our times where law and order are just in name and the world around us is powerless in the face of the socio-political changes that plague it.


*On view at Apre Art House, Sanghvi House, 3rd Pasta Lane, Colaba, Mumbai until 8<sup>th</sup> March 2025*



## Weekly planner: 5 events that promise a good time

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*'Reflection on the Times', a ceramic work by Sarban Chowdhury.*

## A reflection on the times

Apré Art House, Mumbai, is hosting an exhibition of works by Sarban Chowdhury. The artist, who is an assistant professor at the National Institute of Fashion Technology, Jodhpur, started as a ceramist. However, over the years, he has incorporated other materials into his work, such as bone china, glazed stoneware and wood. In his latest show, *The Toothless Times*, Chowdhury reflects on the current moment in society, using “toothless” as a metaphor for something that lacks the ability to exert control. Through ceramics, drawings, and other works, he questions the potency of laws, rules and regulations. *At Apré Art House, Colaba, Mumbai, till 8 March, 11am-6.30pm, Monday to Saturday.*

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# The Toothless Times | Sarban Chowdhury

FEBRUARY 13, 2025

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## The Toothless Times, a Sarban Chowdhury Solo Exhibition

Date: 13th Feb. - 8th March, 2025

Sarban Chowdhury's art presents a visceral understanding of our contemporary world, through the exploration of a wide range of subjects pertaining to personal and collective experience. Fluent in the language of ceramic sculpture as well as painting, he explores form and surface, pushing the limits of the medium through a deliberate layering of constituted and invented meanings. He employs text and visual metaphors in order to extend his satirical commentary on the status of society and the environment, investigating human behaviour within these scenarios. He captures the mundane and complex, often through an autobiographical lens; his worldview embraces death and decay, beauty and vulnerability, anxiety and alienation,



acceptance and resilience as they flow with a stream of consciousness through his creations, inviting viewers to become witness to the contradictions of life through his work.

- Text by Lina Vincent

"The Toothless Times" is my exhibition of works inspired by the current state of our society, where "toothless" serves as a metaphor for something that lacks the ability to bite or exert control. My works span various mediums, from ceramics to drawings on paper, depicting a period in which laws, rules, or regulations are essentially impotent—lacking the power to enforce the truth, much like a "toothless" dog that cannot bite. This signifies a lack of real consequences for actions.

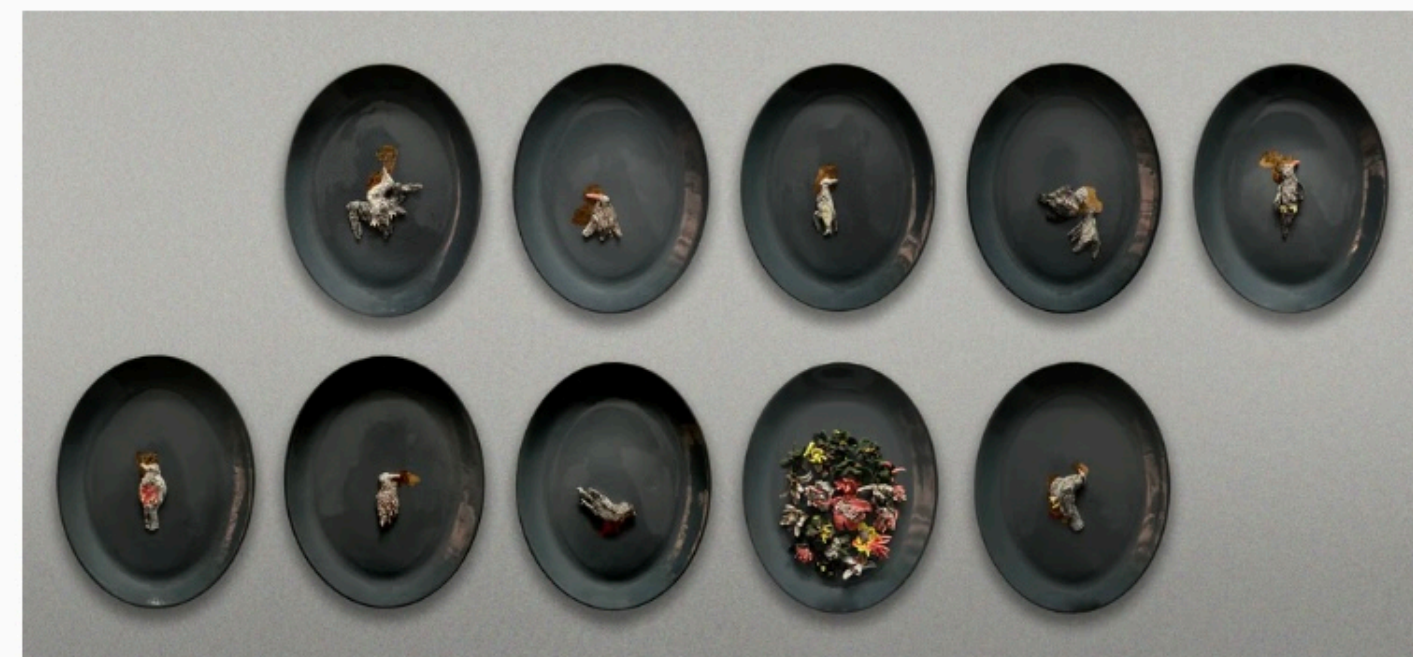
Symbolically, teeth represent power, strength, appearance, and the ability to consume. A person without teeth struggles to pronounce certain sounds clearly, as teeth play a crucial role in forming speech by interacting with the tongue and lips. This



interacting with the tongue and lips. This can lead to difficulties with articulation, making speech sound vague or slurred.

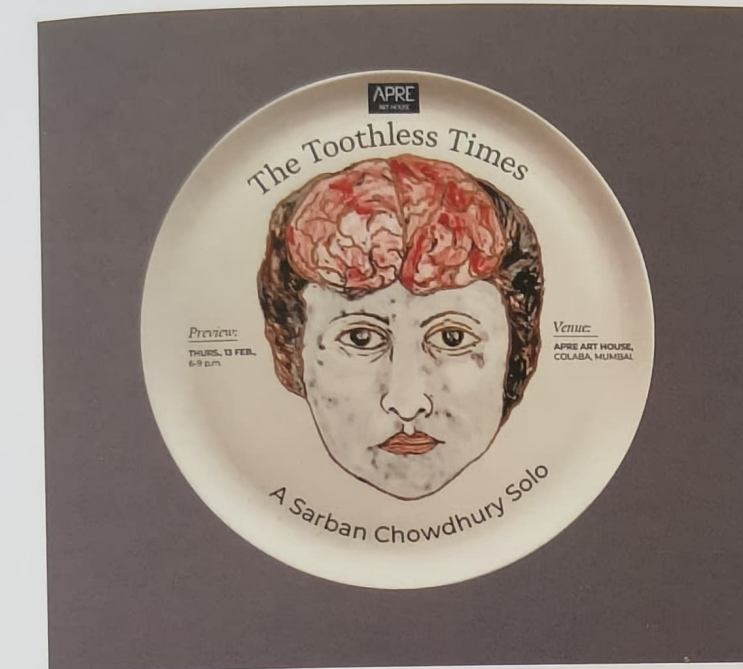
I draw inspiration from the nuances and incidents occurring within our society, carefully examining, analyzing, and depicting them through my chosen mediums. My work reflects my experiences and personal perspective in an ironic and satirical manner.

- Text by Sarban Chowdhury



# THE TOOTHLESS TIMES

Sarban Chowdhury



'The Toothless Times' is an exhibition of works by Sarban Chowdhury, inspired by the current hour in our society, where "toothless" serves as a metaphor for the inability to bite or exert control. The artist draws from various nuances and incidents within contemporary society, carefully examining, analyzing, and depicting them through his chosen medium. His works reflect a deeply personal yet ironic and satirical engagement with the themes he explores. Through this lens, the exhibition invites viewers to reflect on the structures of power, agency and the evolving nature of authority in our times.

