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SHOWS THAT MATTER: Alyssa Pheobus Mumtaz, “Active Door”

by Rosalyn D'Mello

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Installation view, Pheobus Mumtaz's "Active Door" at Jhaveri Contemporary (Jhaveri Contemporary)

WHAT: Alyssa Pheobus Mumtaz, “Active Door”

WHERE: Jhaveri Contemporary, Mumbai

WHEN: February 20 to March 22

WHY THIS SHOW MATTERS: The three-year-old, Mumbai-based Jhaveri Contemporary will introduce local audiences to American artist, **Alyssa Pheobus Mumtaz**'s artistic practice through a solo, titled “Active Door,” which also marks her India debut. The show will feature a new suite of Pheobus Mumtaz's drawings on

paper depicting prayer beads arranged in constellations that “mirror the symbolic language of her abstract work.” “These works attempt to represent contemplative attitudes that animate the activity of prayer,” says the press release. “Each string of beads delineates a path through space and time that returns to a point of origin. This cycle is a symbolic reminder of the straight and ascending, yet mysteriously elliptical path of all spiritual effort.”

Pheobus Mumtaz’s preoccupation with geometric abstraction continues to be the focus in the works that range in scale from monumental to intimate. “Many of Pheobus Mumtaz’s geometric abstractions represent water as an angular visual rhythm; others allude to it through the sensual handmade indigo paper on which the images have been inscribed,” the press release informs. “The wayfaring vessel that haunts these works is by nature, fragile and contingent, and yet, its reflections offer no sense of drift. Instead, they constellate the boat that must be rowed with other symbolic keys that call for action: an obstacle to face; a door to enter; a ladder to climb; a guide to follow.”

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