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## PRESS RELEASE

Gallery XXL presents *In Memory of a Totem*

**Opening:** 5 PM, Saturday, **January 31, 2026**

**Venue:** Gallery XXL, A-277, 2nd Floor, Defence Colony, New Delhi – 110024

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Gallery XXL is thrilled to present *In Memory of a Totem*, the first solo exhibition in India by Berlin-based Latin American artist Jumu (Jurena Muñoz Lagunas). Opening on **Saturday, January 31**, in parallel with India Art Fair, the exhibition probes individual and collective memory as a site of representation and resistance. Here, memory becomes a living totem which is resilient, enduring, and carrying within it knowledge, culture, and tradition.

Born in Germany to Peruvian and Chilean parents, Jumu's frequent travels to Peru, Chile, and Mexico have shaped her practice as an archive of stories and symbols rooted in Latin America. Embracing the wholeness of her Indigenous Andean ancestry, Jumu works with tangible materials to bridge the streets and the studio, moving fluidly across muralism, painting, performance, and design in a process of reconciliation with her multicultural identity.

Drawing from the Andean cosmovision where the past, present and future converge through the condor, puma and snake, Jumu's work engages Indigenous understandings of nature, time, land, and embodiment. Her visual language stems from oral tradition, weaving ancestral motifs, colors, and patterns into contemporary bodies. The jaguars, owls, crocodiles in the paintings, masks and wooden sculptures emerge like half-remembered characters from childhood stories which are carried forward into the present as a longing for kinship.

Throughout the exhibition, bodies emerge as both artifacts and portraits of women at rest and at work, positioned as keepers of memory and language. Their physicality defies idealized depictions; instead, it asserts presence through labor, intimacy and care. These women become reflections of the self as figures who navigate and negotiate their Indigeneity within urban life in an ongoing search for belonging. Transmitted through everyday actions, they position survival as a form of quiet resistance.

Across mediums, Jumu practices a process of repetition and return, revisiting memories as a way of preserving them while allowing transformation. Moving between geographies and histories, the gestural marks made on canvas, textile, paper and wood, which compose Jumu's body of work from 2021 - 2026 unfold in the confines of an immersive exhibition — suspending the artworks as mementos of time. In doing so, *In Memory of a Totem* opens up a belief system that exists between past and present, personal and collective, material and immaterial. The totem persists not as an object, but as a living memory that is carried forward into the future.

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### Address

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### Website

[www.galleryxxl.com](http://www.galleryxxl.com)

### Contact

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## **About the Collaboration**

Supported by the Goethe-Institut, Jumu has been invited to India by Gallery XXL and the St+art India Foundation for two projects: a solo exhibition titled ***In Memory of a Totem*** and a landmark mural for the **Lodhi Art Festival 2026**, titled ***Dilate All Art Spaces***.

Her extensive travels have been a continual source of inspiration, informing a collaborative practice through which she has co-created masks, sculptures, and textile installations with local communities across Latin America and Indonesia. For *In Memory of a Totem*, Jumu has worked closely with a community of local artists in India to produce hand-carved wooden sculptures, which will be presented at Gallery XXL along with paintings, sculptures, paper and textile works.

The exhibition will extend beyond the gallery space through a series of public programs, including performances, workshops, and panel discussions.

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## **About the Artist**

Jurena Muñoz Lagunas, known as urban artist Jumu, was born in Hannover, Germany, in 1990 to Peruvian and Chilean parents. Her early exposure to her architect father's tools, combined with a fascination of bedtime stories for mythology and fantasy fueled her dreams, leading her to sketch monsters and create her own surreal world.

After moving to Mallorca, Spain, Jumu earned a degree in Design Studies from the Universitat de les Illes Balears. Her studies focused on costume design, reflecting her early interest in using volume to narrate stories. Surrounded by creatives from multiple disciplines, she was influenced by graphics — paste-ups, posters, and stickers found in the streets.

Seeking a new direction in her early adulthood, Jumu co-founded the Guapo Sapo Collective in 2015 with Krashkid and Alex Isakov. The collective painted murals across the globe, including in Germany, Rwanda, Mexico, The Netherlands, Albania, and Georgia. She later moved to Berlin to foster her practice in urban contemporary art, driven by a desire to reconnect with the city's fragmented urban landscape and find a sense of belonging.

As an immigrant raised among a large community of Latin Americans exiled in Germany, Jumu found sanctuary in the historical rhythm of art, music and performance. She painted murals and created stage designs, vinyl covers, and costumes inspired by her heritage. Her identity and creative focus deepened through frequent travels to Peru, Chile, and Mexico, where time spent with her grandparents led her to embrace the wholeness of her ancestry within the indigenous Andean community.

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Jumu's visual practice became a chronicler, documenting the colours and narratives she witnessed. Drawing from the cultural heritage of Abya Yala, she portrays indigenous women as powerful figures of knowledge and resilience. As a person of colour who occupies public spaces, Jumu's bold expressions challenge conventional ideals of beauty and representation.

Still traversing the realms of the studio and street through painting, sculptures, performance and muralism, Jumu's contemporary practice incorporates material experimentation and visual storytelling centering on themes of identity, migration, and ancestral memory. With strokes of vibrant colors and symbolic forms, her work creates a dialogue between contemporary art and communal traditions, honoring cultural continuity and amplifying marginalized voices.

Jumu's work has been exhibited and commissioned globally, including in France, Mexico, Germany, Jordan, Uganda, Spain, Austria, and India. She has held solo exhibitions at Mommsen35 Gallery (Berlin), DoxsDoks (Cologne), AG18 Gallery (Vienna), and Artroom (Lisbon). Her work has also been featured in group exhibitions at institutions, including the GRASSI Museum für Angewandte Kunst (Leipzig), Skissernas Museum (Lund), and the Weltmuseum Wien. In 2026, she is scheduled to exhibit her work at the Embassy of Peru in Berlin.

Her performances have been hosted at cultural centers like Kampnagel / Theater der Welt (Hamburg), as well as in museum settings in Sweden and Austria. Jumu has participated in international residency programs, notably the Q21 Artist-in-Residence (Vienna) and an EU-supported residency in cooperation with the Goethe-Institut Brussels at Kaalo Art Residency (Kathmandu). Her extensive travels have been a source of inspiration, leading her to co-create masks, sculptures, and textile installations with local communities in Latin America, Indonesia, and India. Her next solo exhibition is scheduled to open at Gallery XXL in New Delhi, India, in February 2026.

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## **About the Gallery**

Established in 2023, Gallery XXL is an urban contemporary art gallery in New Delhi. Gallery XXL represents and showcases a roster of Indian and international artists whose practices are rooted in a variety of disciplines that broaden the understanding of established categories and catalyse diverse exchanges through processual exhibitions, treating the gallery as a fluid institution which presents dynamic negotiations to the idea of a 'white cube.'

With its name echoing Jean-Michel Basquiat's city walk from Downtown 81 (Dir. Edo Bertoglio,) when he described his medium as "extra large," Gallery XXL extends a desire for imaginations to be XXL, an abbreviation for 'extra, extra, large' and brings it to the city of New Delhi in order to examine the ambitious scale of visuals and conversations prevalent in urban art.

Arjun Bahl, Giulia Ambrogi, Thanish Thomas, and the late Hanif Kureshi, the founders of St+Art India Foundation (established in 2014) came together to initiate the space-time for Gallery XXL. St+Art India has been supporting street art in the country through public art projects for over a decade. Leveraging this engagement and experience of creating artistic interventions in public as well as private spaces in order to widen engagement with urban art,

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aesthetics and culture work in the Indian context, St+art extends its vision to facilitate institutional representation for urban contemporary artists through exhibitions and events at Gallery XXL.

## **Team XXL**

Akmal Shaik, Al Zahra Hanif, Aarti Jain, Adhya Singh, Archana Khurrana, Arjun Bahl, Ashu Khanna, Asif Kureshi, Deepak Kumar, Dinesh Kumar, Faraz Khan, Giulia Ambrogi, Kanishka Porwal, Mangan Sah, Rajan, Rutva Trivedi, Sarah Malik, Shweta Rathaur, Thanish Thomas.

## **Annexures**

For additional information please contact [sarah@galleryxxl.com](mailto:sarah@galleryxxl.com) or [info@galleryxxl.com](mailto:info@galleryxxl.com). The attached drive link contains artist portraits, photographs of public works, high resolution artwork images, along with the artwork captions and credits.

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