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JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2018



# TOP

## EMERGING ARTISTS TO WATCH IN 2018



THE REVITALIZED PALAIS  
DE TOKYO, A HOTBED  
OF INNOVATION

\$9.95US/CAN

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# NOOR ALI CHAGANI

Noor Ali Chagani creates deeply personal artworks that revolve around ideas of home and personal space — and their ultimate absence. Growing up in Karachi, Pakistan, Chagani received a bachelor's degree in computer science before shifting to art, taking another bachelor's — this time in fine arts — at the National College of Arts in Lahore, Pakistan, where he still lives and works.

Known for his sculpture, especially with bricks, Chagani sculpts like a painter: similar to the thousands of tiny brush strokes that comprise a painting, for him, thousands of tiny blocks or bricks create a sculpture. One of the goals of his artworks, he says, is to convey feelings of separation and isolation. The use of bricks takes on several meanings, he said: "as a symbolic take on the contemporary world and the physical and emotional labor and toil that is expended in building, the need for security and protection, but also as a reminder of partition and the walls we build between us." The Victoria & Albert Museum in London has called him "the first contemporary miniature artist using the rules of miniature paintings in 3D."





Chagani may not be well known yet, but his star is quickly rising. Having recently completed art residencies at the Rijksakademie in the Netherlands and the Riwaq Art Space in Bahrain, in 2016 he was named the first-ever Jameel Prize Resident at the V&A in London, an "international award for contemporary art and design inspired by Islamic tradition." He has since exhibited his work across Pakistan, India, the United Arab Emirates, Britain, the Netherlands, Bahrain and the United States.

By tapping into his personal life as well as the complex politics of India and Pakistan, Chagani has become an artist to watch for his nuanced ability to portray not only the isolation that comes from a feeling of existential and political homelessness, but, by addressing it, for the redeeming power of art as well. *MP*

— FRANCA TOSCANO

"It's Not Enough," 2013, by Noor Ali Chagani. Made with miniature terra-cotta bricks and painted in watercolors, the structure is 8 x 25.5 x 0.5 inches



COURTESY OF MODERNA, CHAGANI