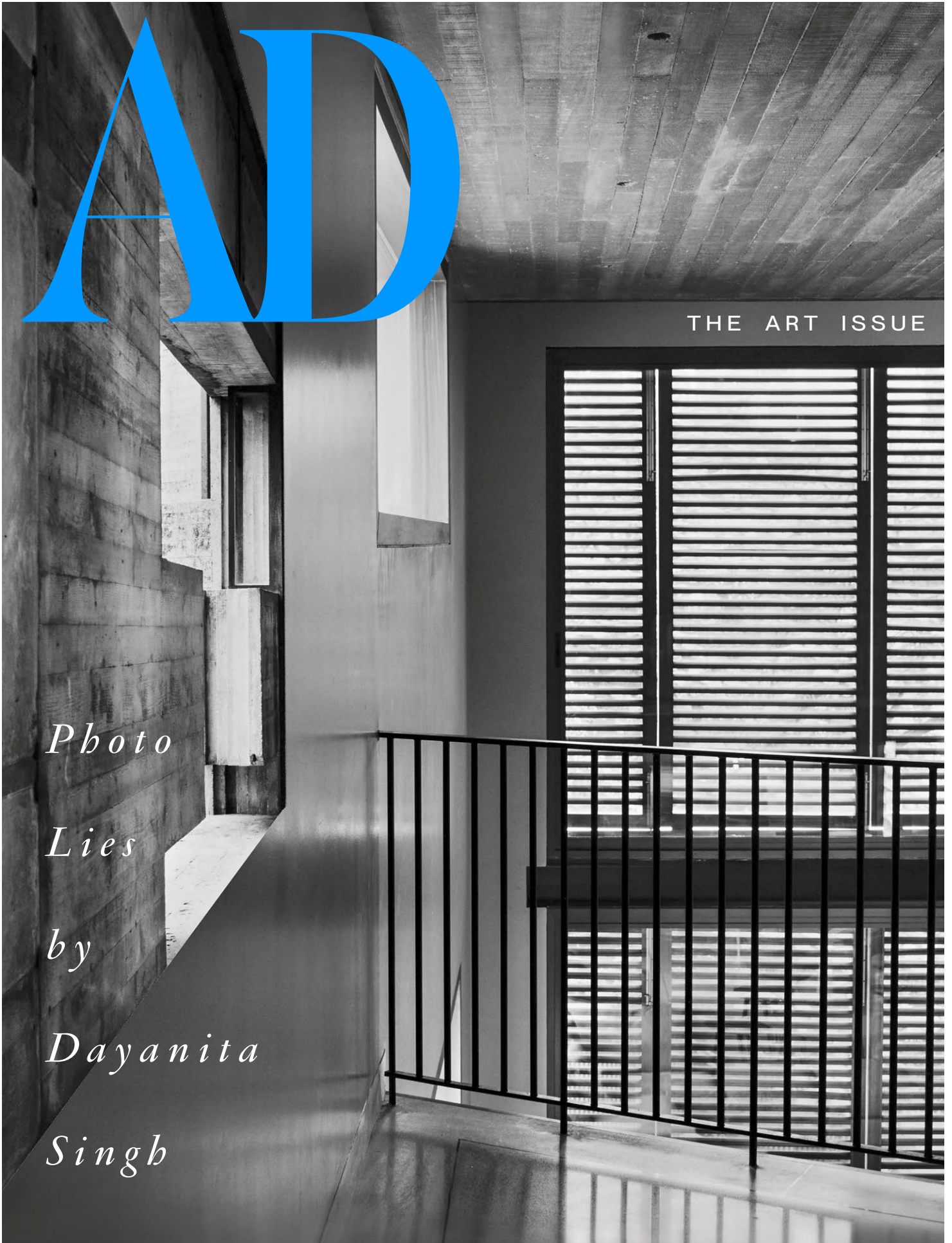


AD

THE ART ISSUE

Photo
Lies
by
Dayanita
Singh

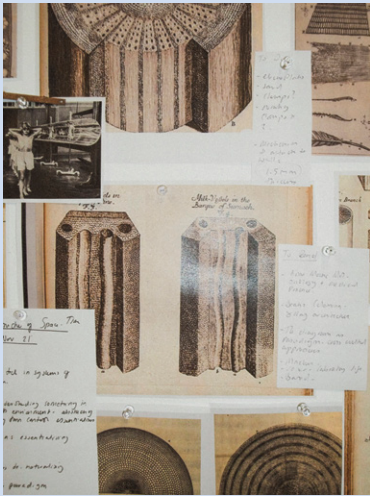


**FIVE SOUTH
ASIAN ARTISTS
IN LONDON**

AD visits
young trailblazing
artists from
South Asia
and its diaspora
in their
London studios
to discover
their practices
and unique
interpretations of
a shared history.

TEXT: MAANAV JALAN

PHOTOS: ATHUL PRASAD



One way to approach Amba Sayal-Bennett's meticulous 3D-printed sculptures is to view them as maps. If they seem unreadable, they are intentionally so and a way for the artist to challenge the assumption that the world can be known, manipulated and laid bare. Since her PhD in Art Practice and Learning at Goldsmiths, University of London, near her studio in Deptford, the artist has been working around the world, responding to

the architectural and aesthetic histories of each site through her practice of mapping, drawing and building. For her 2024 exhibition at Tarq, Mumbai, the artist drew inspiration from the neighbouring Rani Bagh, formerly Victoria Gardens, set up by the British as an outpost of bigger gardens like the Kew gardens in London. The now disorderly garden in Mumbai became a way for her to think through the complicated movement of materials such

as rubber plants, an important colonial crop, exported from the Kew nurseries to India with the hope of setting up productive plantations. The seedlings, however, did not really take and the full scope of their plans failed. Each of Sayal-Bennett's sculptures functions in this spirit, in the image of an ideal but somehow botched. Their contours, markings and keys mutate, overgrow and overtake the original plan.

AMBA SAYAL-BENNETT