



**News Release
July 1st 2011**

**Arts for India recognises international artist Aisha Caan with the
Modi Creative India Award**

On July 11th at the home of Sir Vernon Ellis, Chairman of the British Council, international artist Aisha Caan will be recognised with the Modi Creative India Award in recognition of her contribution to the arts.

Aisha Caan's work is dedicated to bridging divides: east and west, science and religion, colour and culture. Through her emphasis on the universal: God, spirituality and nature, Aisha's work reconciles seemingly incompatible subjects.

Aisha Caan graduated with a masters degree in fine art from Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design in 2008 and had her first commercial solo exhibition at the Albemarle Gallery in April 2011 which was sponsored by HSBC and which was greeted with great acclaim.

In the short time since graduation, Aisha's work has created much intrigue within the art world and this has propelled the growth of her international collector base. Previous to the exhibition at the Albemarle Gallery Aisha's shows have included Spirit of the Sublime, sponsored by ING bank (2009), Creation, sponsored by Lloyds TSB bank (2008) and an exhibition at the House of Lords (2007).

The Modi Creative India Award was launched in 2011 by Indian industrialist and philanthropist Satish K. Modi to acknowledge artists, fashion brands, designers and film makers whose work seeks to bridge the cultural divide between East and West and particularly between the UK and India.

The Modi Creative India Award is given by Arts for India, a UK-based charity established in 2010 by Satish K. Modi to raise funds to develop the International Institute of Fine Arts (IIFA) in Modinagar, National Capital Region of Delhi, into the first University of the Arts in India.

IIFA was established in the year 2000 and offers quality education in fine art, fashion, design, TV and film. IIFA has two educational partners in the UK – the Prince's Drawing School (President HRH The Prince of Wales) and the University of the Arts London. Working together to exchange students and teaching staff, Arts for India is

dedicated to raising educational standards at IIFA and producing the next generation of Indian and international cultural and creative stars.

The evening of July 11th will feature a small exhibition of Aisha's work as well as the presentation of the Modi Creative India Award.

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Information for journalists:

The Modi Creative India award is given to artists, designers, sculptors, film and television makers and wider creatives who are influenced and inspired by India or artists who have emerged from India and establish themselves on an international level.

On June 23rd at Asia House, fashion brands Monsoon and Matthew Williamson were amongst those awarded the first Modi Creative India awards, Monsoon for creating sustainable livelihoods in Indian creative industries and Matthew Williamson for "Inspirational Colours of India".

Satish K Modi

Satish K Modi is the Chairman of Modi Global Enterprises. The Modi Group has interests from textiles to fashion, chemicals and telecommunications, medicines and property development.

In the year 2000 Satish and his wife Abha established the International Institute of Fine Arts to nurture young Indian students, inspire imaginative thinking and motivate them to achieve in the field of art and design to international standards.

IIFA is located in the town of Modinagar, North of Delhi, and has become a top destination for high-quality arts education in India. It is therefore the ideal location for the country's first arts university offering education to internationally recognised standards.

In 2010 Satish Modi was appointed an Ambassador for Philanthropy by Dame Stephanie Shirley the UK's Founding Ambassador for Philanthropy in recognition of his efforts in India and his role on the world stage as an advocate to others.

Mr. Modi launched Arts for India at Kensington Palace in October 2010 and the charity raises funds internationally to fund IIFA's two educational partnerships as well as funding the Adopt an Artist programme which seeks to give 100 students a year free education at IIFA. Arts for India is launching in the United States on April 26th 2012 at a gala dinner at the Guggenheim Museum in New York City. Funds raised here will go to the endowment fund to build the new University of the Arts.

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