Internationally acclaimed artist Bharti Kher will open her first Australian solo exhibition next Friday at The University of Western Australia’s Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery for the Perth International Arts Festival.

Bharti Kher: In Her Own Language, curated by Margaret Moore, presents elegant yet diverse work and offers a window into the UK-born Indian artist’s richly textured practice.

Kher’s distinctive signature application of bindis (the forehead decoration worn by women throughout South East Asia) and saris combine with her sculptural figures.

Central to the exhibition will be VIRUS, a commanding work of 10,000 bindis formed into a mandala.

Commenting on the exhibition Bharti Kher said, "In the bindi works there are possibilities to look at the macrocosm and microcosm; to see the relationship of our own body in the world as we live and to experience the outer body as cosmic or even otherworldly.

"It’s a language that I have invented I suppose and developed over time and practice to make sense and question my ideas in the work I make both as a figurative and abstract artist.”

UWA Cultural Precinct Director Professor Ted Snell is delighted Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery is hosting Kher’s first solo exhibition in Australia, believing it will resonate with audiences.
“Bharti Kher’s work looks at meaning, mythology and identity and presents a thoroughly modern view of culture and life,” Professor Snell said.

“We’re a city and state where cultures collide and coalesce all the time, often without us even realising it. Seeing how an artist can deliberately work with and shape those concepts is very exciting.

“I’m very glad the artist will join us in Perth to accompany such an excellent illustration of her work at the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery.”

Bharti Kher: In Her Own Language runs 18 February to 16 April 2016 at the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery. Entry is free.

OPENING

Friday 19 February, 6-8pm at the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery.

To be opened by author, novelist and social commentator Jane Caro in the presence of the artist.

For media enquiries and interviews contact:

John McCartney on 0403 900 193 or john.mccarten@uwa.edu.au
The Cultural Precinct maintains an extensive library of professional-quality photography. To request an image, contact Clare McFarlane on 08 6488 7806 or clare.mcfarlane@uwa.edu.au
Warrior with cloak and shield, 2008, resin, steel, banana leaf, thread, fabric, 241 x 170 x 196cm

Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth
Warrior with cloak and shield (details), 2008, resin, steel, banana leaf, thread, fabric, 241 x 170 x 196cm

Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth
Cloud Walker, 2013, fibreglass, wooden rake, sari, resin, stone, steel, 186 x 115 x 93cm
Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth
Dark Matter (M M), 2015, bindis on painted board, 244 x 183cm
Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth

Cell (detail), 2013, bindis on painted board, 244 x 183cm
Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth

Portrait Meera, 2013, sari, resin, concrete, 175 x 45 x 40cm
Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth

My friend un-named, 2013, sari, resin, concrete, 41 x 36 x 113cm
Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth
Cell II, 2013, bindis on painted board, 249 x 188cm
Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth

Cell, 2013, bindis on painted board, 244 x 183cm
Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth
Sing to them that will listen, 2008, rice grains inscribed with text, metal bowl, marble stand, 110 x 31 x 31cm
Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth