

an exhibition of indigenous and urban contemporary artists

OJ/S



Ascending Roots

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(a)/#ojasart

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The purpose of any art is to express, to tell a story. In the context of folk traditions, patterns are painted to decorate the otherwise bare walls of the residential hutments. Drawings and paintings are most often inspired by nature or mythological stories. The motifs and imagery in visual art would reoccur in textiles and other functional objects like wooden sculptures and toys for the community or tribe at large. These often have deep connection with the change in season, festivals, and harvesting cycles. Contemporary-folk artists create works with the same basic concepts and style at the core but have adapted to the modern-day material. This has allowed for the works to move beyond the impermanence of drawn-on-thewalls to an object, a painting on paper or canvas. The younger artists have also selectively experimented with themes that are derived from urban or global trends and phenomenon.

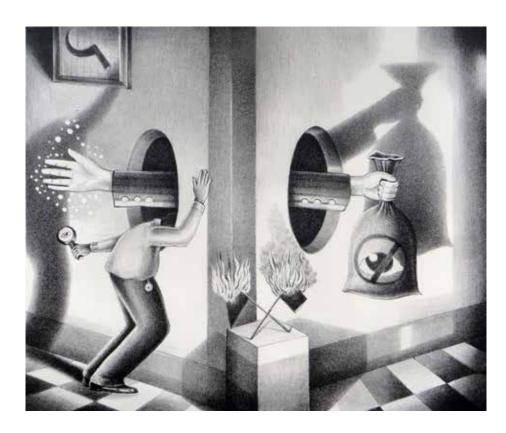
In contrast, urban-contemporary art is always a reflection of an individualistic expression. Artists are not bound by a traditional base or a style to follow. There may be trends that are impacting the development of contemporary society that get reflected in the works, but artists tend to work with varied media and renditioning techniques.

'back to the future' is an endeavour to celebrate both the art forms under one roof. Young artists have been hand picked from each of the categories of folk-contemporary and urban-contemporary. There is no common theme that binds the works. Rather, the works represent the most preferred subject by the artists themselves.

A closer look and deeper introspection may however reveal a cross pollination of thoughts and emotions, media and techniques, and style and imagery across the two categories.

Should the boundary lines separating the groups be erased, then?

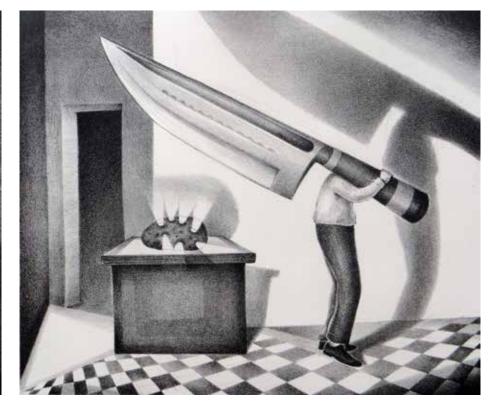
Rahul Kumar



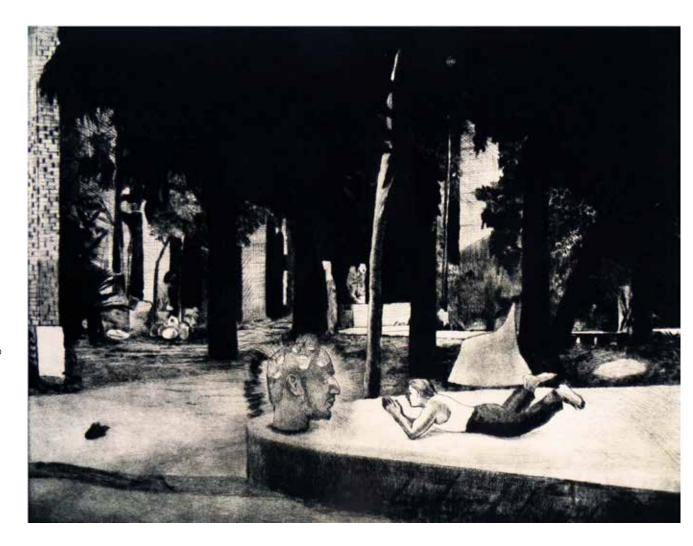
Abhishek Narayan Verma A game of Premutations & Combinations, 2018 Lithography, 14"x17" inches Edition of 8 + AP

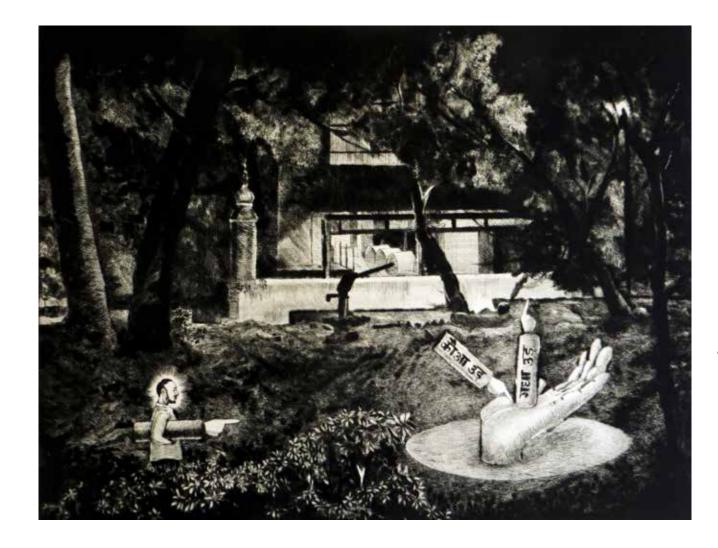


Abhishek Narayan Verma A game of Premutations & Combinations, 2018 Lithography, 14"x17" inches Edition of 8 + AP



Abhishek Narayan Verma A game of Premutations & Combinations, 2018 Lithography, 14"x17" inches Edition of 8 + AP

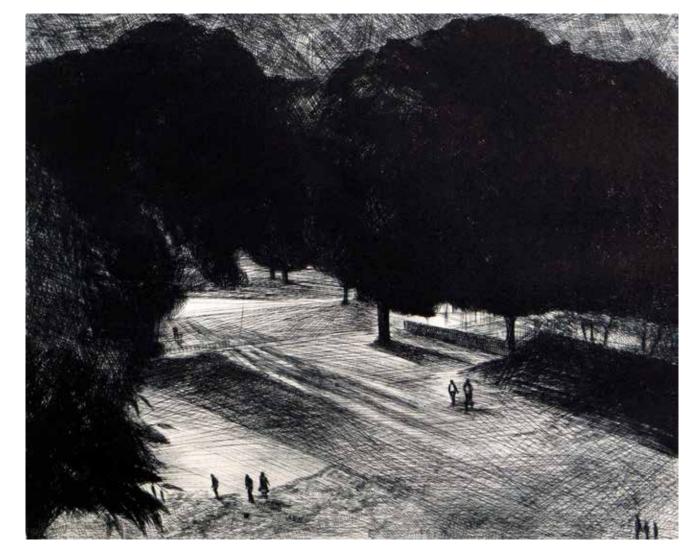




Abhishek Narayan Verma Idle and the Worshiper, 2017 Drypoint, 11"x14" inches Edition of 6 + AP

Abhishek Narayan Verma You go up and I will go down, 2016 Drypoint, 11"x14" inches Edition of 6 + AP





Abhishek Narayan Verma Finding Solace, 2016 Drypoint, 9.5"x12.5" inches Edition of 6 + AP

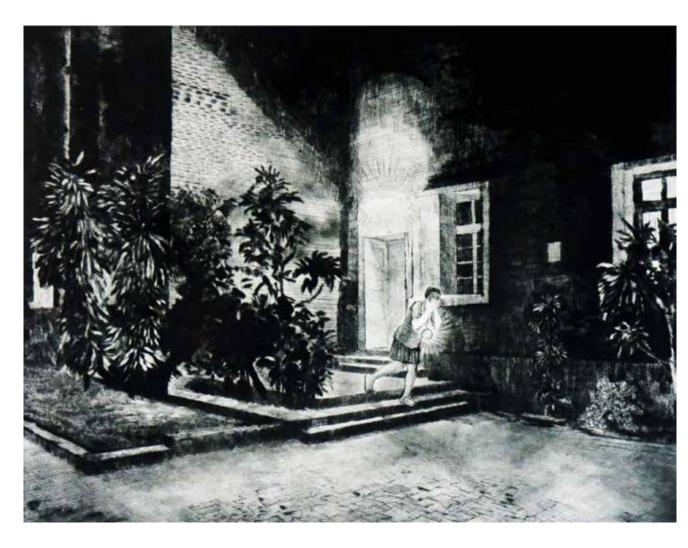
Abhishek Narayan Verma *Through the Dark Days*, 2017 Drypoint, 11"x14" inches Edition of 6 + AP

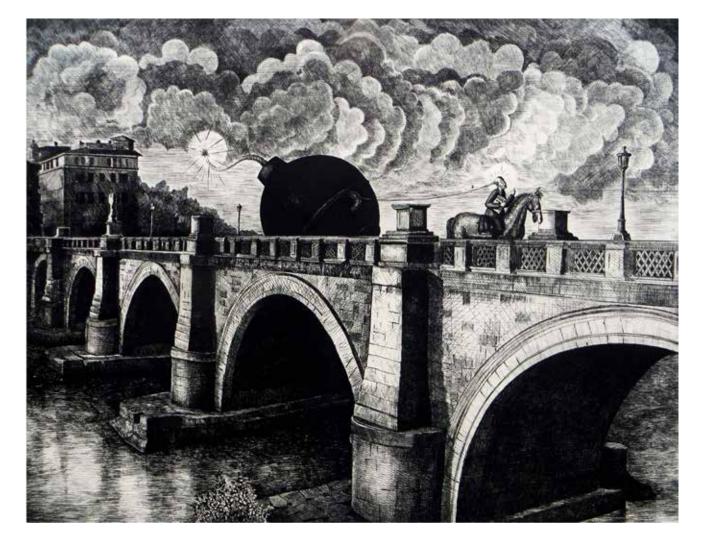




Abhishek Narayan Verma Night II, 2017 Drypoint, 11.5"x15.5" inches Edition of 6 + AP

Abhishek Narayan Verma *Night I*, 2017 Drypoint, 10"x12" inches Edition of 5 + AP





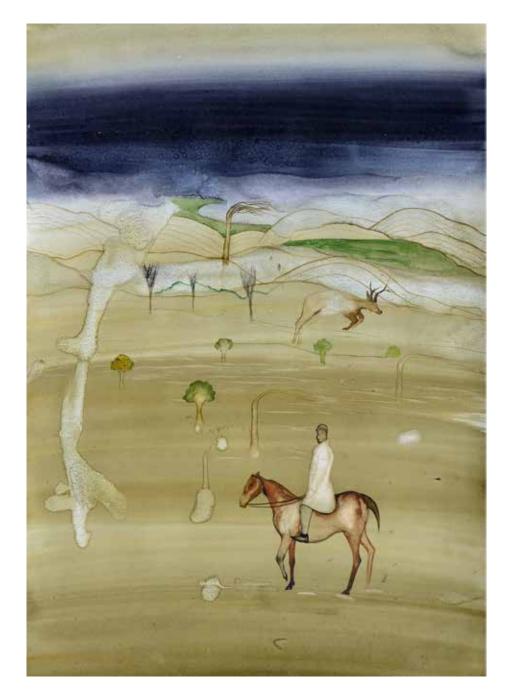
Abhishek Narayan Verma *A miserable gold Medalist*, 2018 Drypoint, 11"x14" inches Edition of 6 + AP

Abhishek Narayan Verma A state of Flux, 2018 Etching, 15"x20" inches Edition of 6 + AP



Ashish Kushwaha Urban Metaphor 20, 2018 Water Colour on Paper, 12"x17" inches

Ashish Kushwaha I am not king, 2018 Water Colour on Paper, 25.5"x35" inches



Ashish Kushwaha Black Sky, 2017 Water Colour on Paper, 38"x60" inches





Ashish Kushwaha Urban Metaphor 18, 2018 Water Colour on Paper, 11"x14" inches

Ashish Kushwaha Urban Metaphor 17, 2018 Water Colour on Paper, 11"x14" inches





Ashish Kushwaha Urban Metaphor 19, 2018 Water Colour on Paper, 11"x14" inches

Ashish Kushwaha Untitled, 2018 Water Colour on Paper,12"x17.5" inches





Ashish Kushwaha Black Sky 2, 2017 Water Colour on Paper, 36"x60" inches

Ashish Kushwaha Urban Metaphor 24, 2018 Water Colour on Paper, 25.5"x35" inches



Deepak Kumar Layers of Life 2, 2018 Wood & Metal, 23"x11" Inches

Deepak Kumar *Shadow*, 2018 Wood & Metal, 53"x32" Inches



Deepak Kumar Stages of Life 1, 2018 Wood & Metal, 22"x14" inches



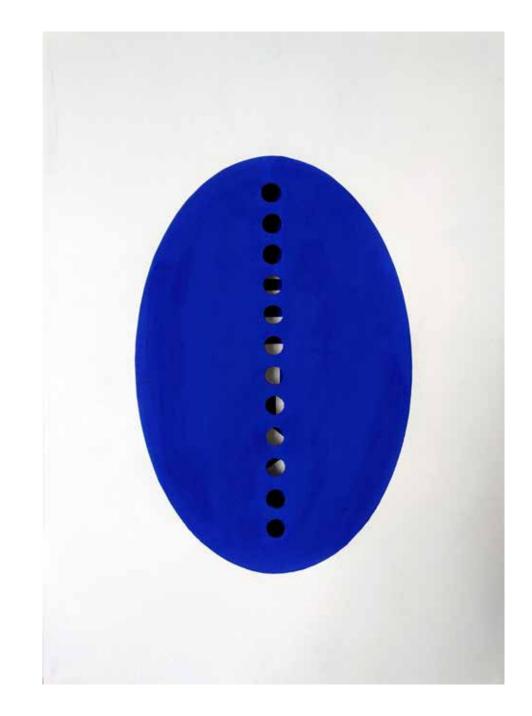
Deepak Kumar Layers of Life 3, 2018 Wood & Metal, 22"x16" inches



Deepak Kumar Infinity, 2018 Wood & Metal 51"x37" inches

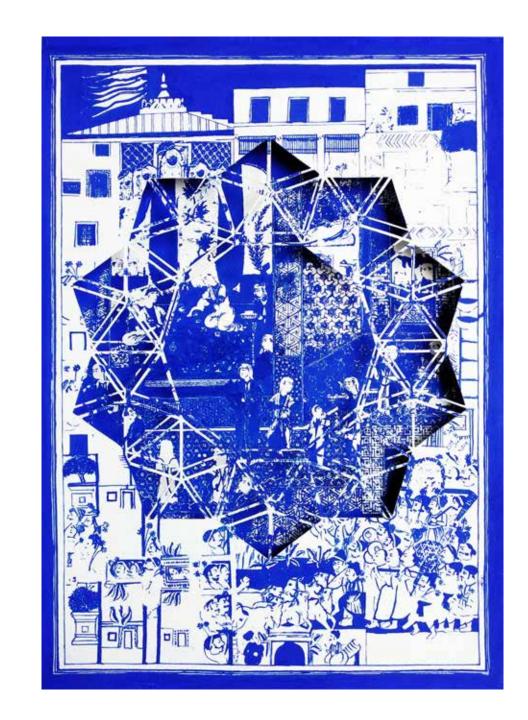
Facing page Deepak Kumar Identify, 2018 Wood & Metal 36"x18" inches



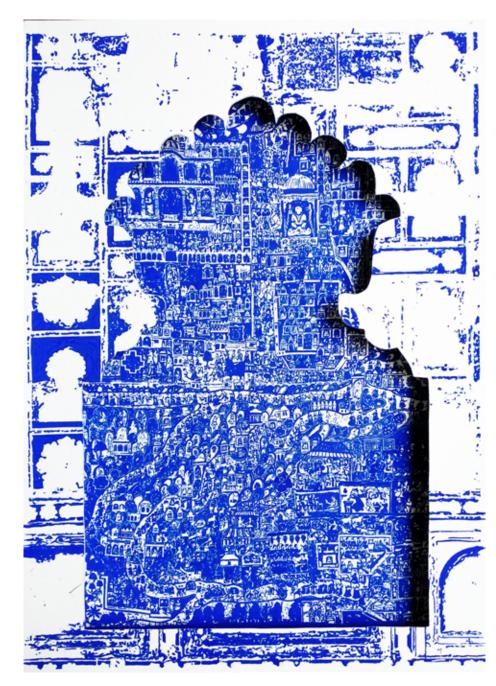


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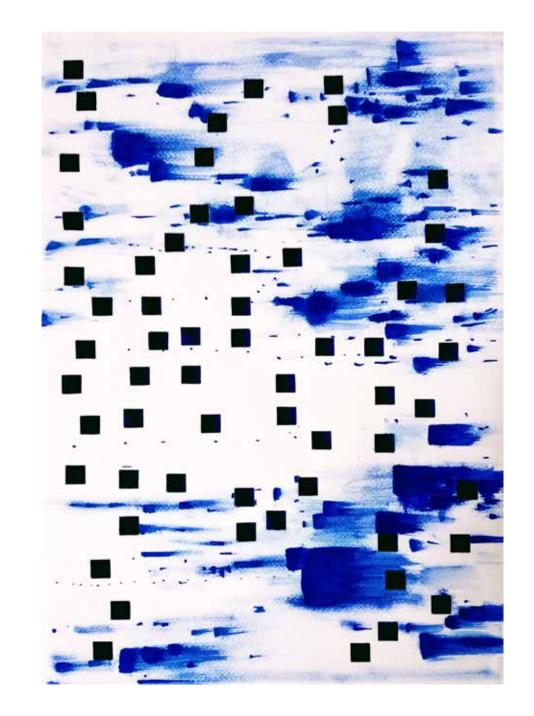
Facing page
Jignesh Panchal
Untitled, 2018
Mixed media on Paper, 17.5"x13" inches



Jignesh Panchal Untitled, 2018 Mixed media on Paper 17.5"x13" inches



Jignesh Panchal *Untitled*, 2018 Mixed media on Paper 17.5"x13" inches



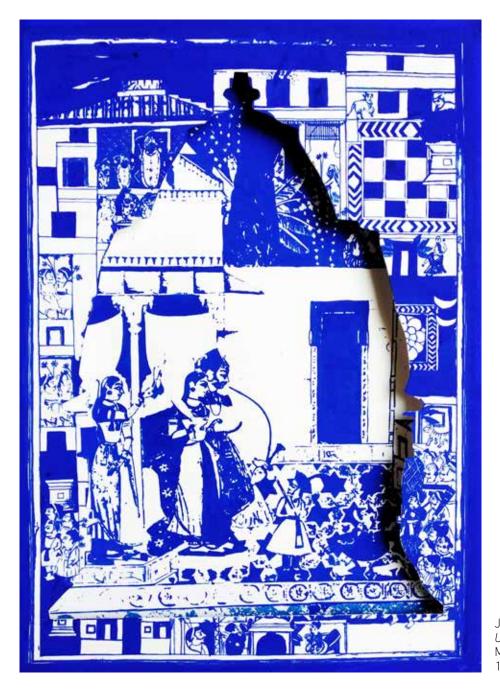
Jignesh Panchal Untitled, 2018 Mixed media on Paper 17.5"x13" inches



Jignesh Panchal *Untitled*, 2018 Mixed media on Paper 17.5"x13" inches



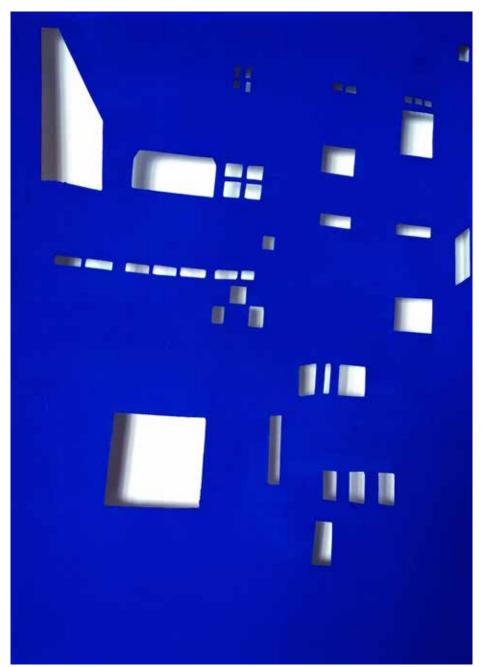
Jignesh Panchal Untitled, 2018 Mixed media on Paper 17.5"x13" inches



Jignesh Panchal Untitled, 2018 Mixed media on Paper 17.5"x13" inches



Jignesh Panchal *Untitled*, 2018 Mixed media on Paper 17.5"x13" inches



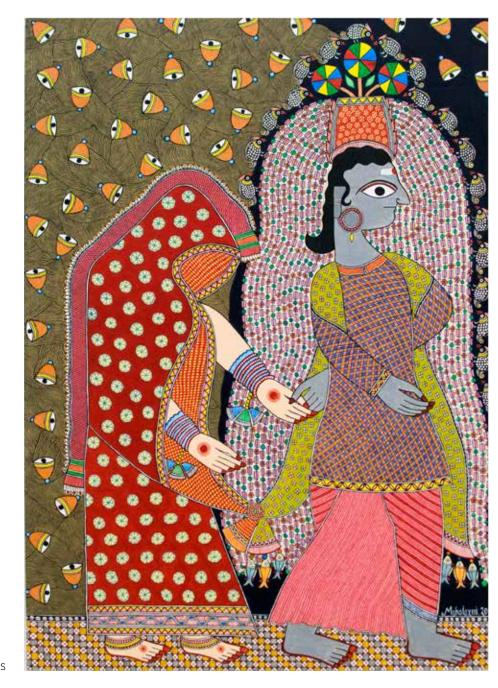
Jignesh Panchal *Untitled*, 2018 Mixed media on Paper 17.5"x13" inches



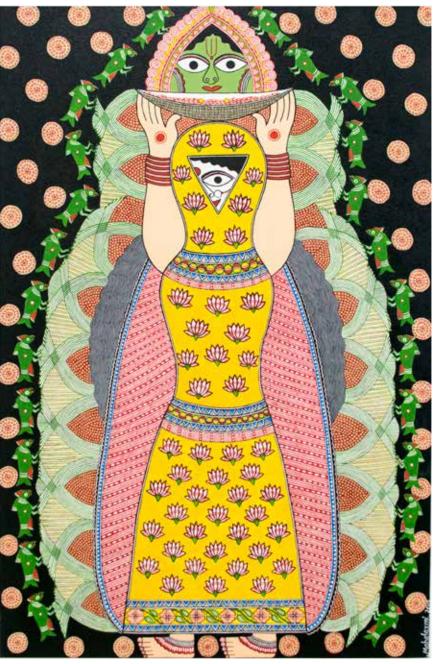
Jignesh Panchal *Untitled*, 2018 Mixed media on Paper 17.5"x13" inches



Jignesh Panchal *Untitled*, 2018 Mixed media on Paper 17.5"x13" inches

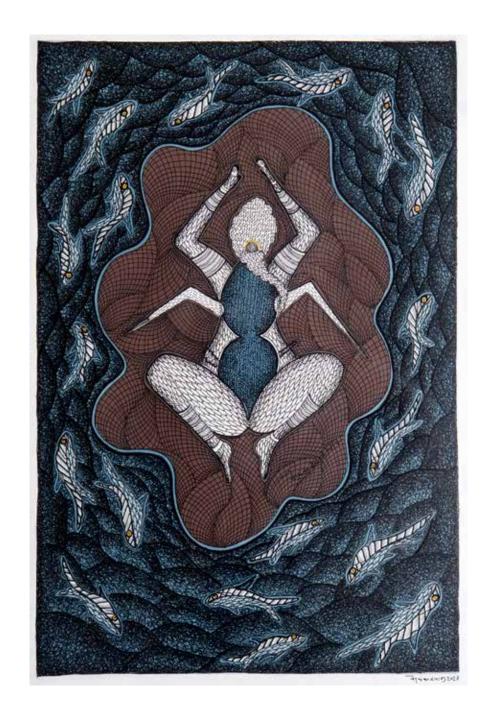


Mahalaxmi Couple in the Rain, 2018 Acrylic on Paper 22"x30" inches

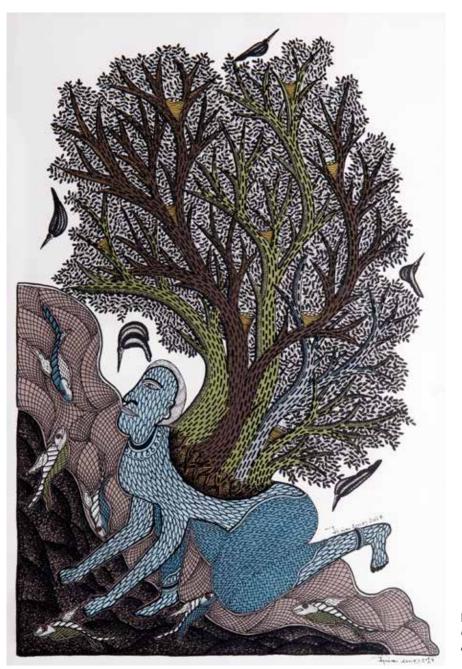


Mahalaxmi Naina *Jogin*, 2018 Acrylic on Canvas 26"x39" inches

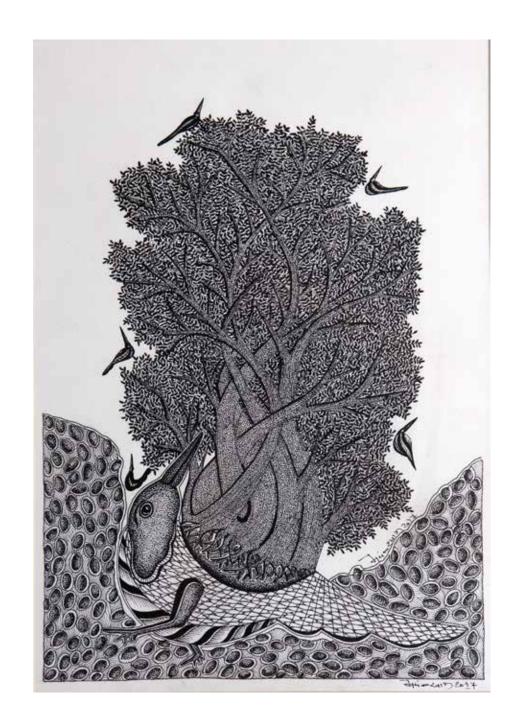
Mayank Shyam Migration, 2016 Acrylic Pen on Canvas,66"x36" inches



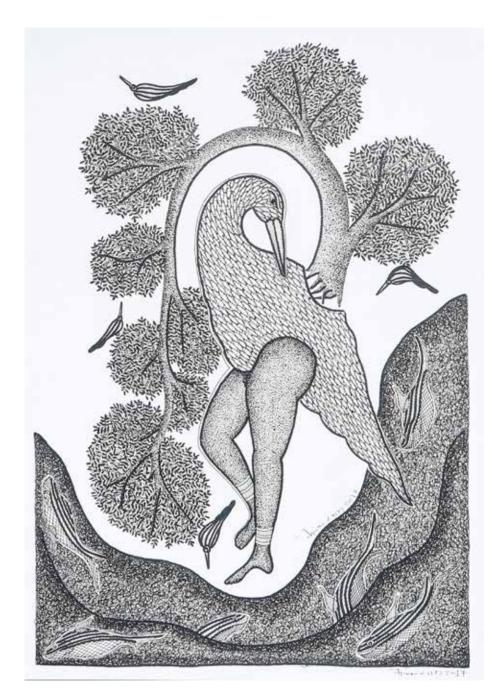
Mayank Shyam Untitled, 2017 Acrylic and Ink on Paper 13.5"x20.5"inches



Mayank Shyam Untitled, 2017 Acrylic and Ink on Paper 13.5"x20.5" inches



Mayank Shyam *Untitled*, 2017 Acrylic and Ink on Paper 11"x15" inches

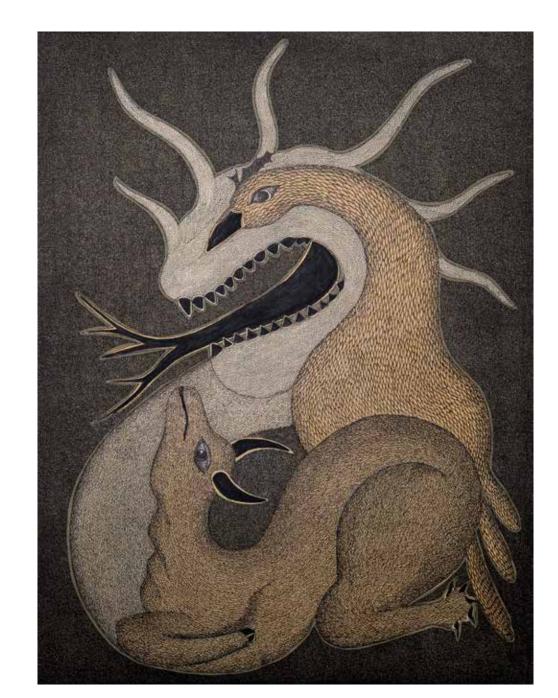


Mayank Shyam *Untitled*, 2017 Acrylic and Ink on Paper 13.5"x20.5" inches



Mayank Shyam "Barsaat' (Monsoon), Acrylic Pen on Canvas, 30"x42" inches

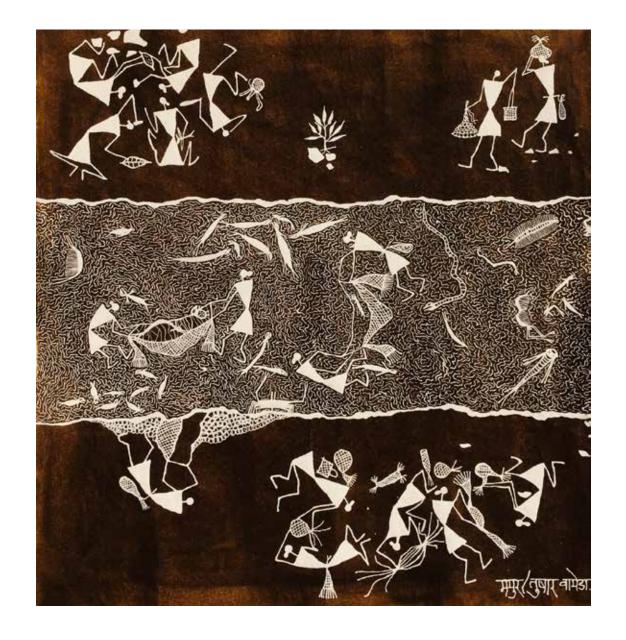
Mayank Shyam Adivasi Bhagwan (Tribal Gods), 2014 Acrylic Pen on Canvas 20"x27" inches





Mayank Shyam Ganesha, 2018 Acrylic on Canvas 46"x68" inches

Mayur & Tushar Vayeda Dwellers of the jungle Cow Dung Background, white water colour (bamboo as Brush), 15"x15" inches



Mayur & Tushar Vayeda *Childhood Memory 3*, Cow Dung Background, white water colour (bamboo as Brush), 14.5"x14.5" inches

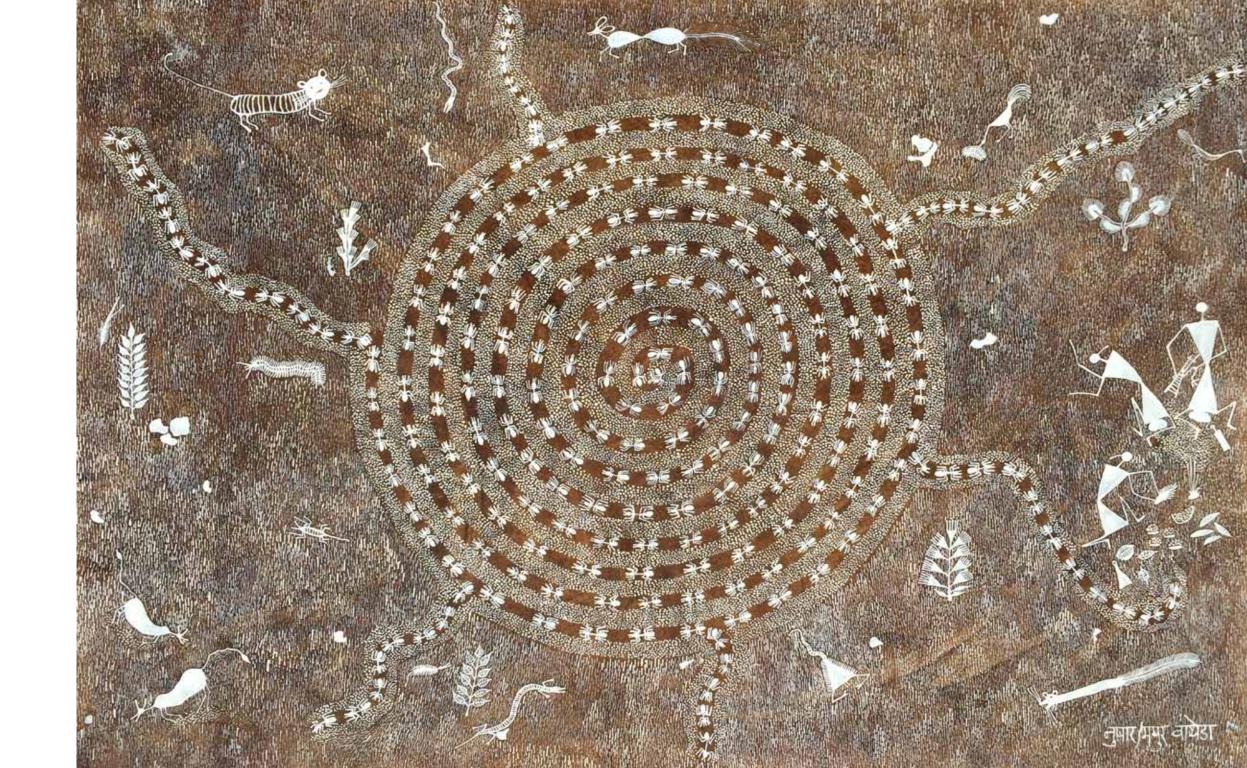


Mayur & Tushar

Vayeda Childhood Memory 2

Cow Dung Background,

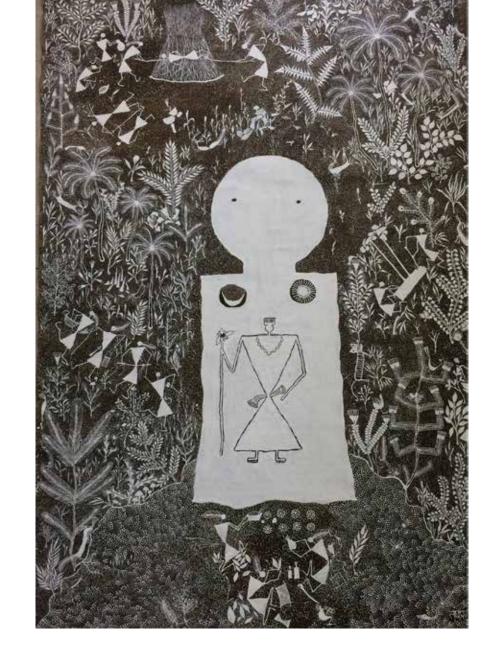
white water colour (bamboo as Brush),
23"x35" inches



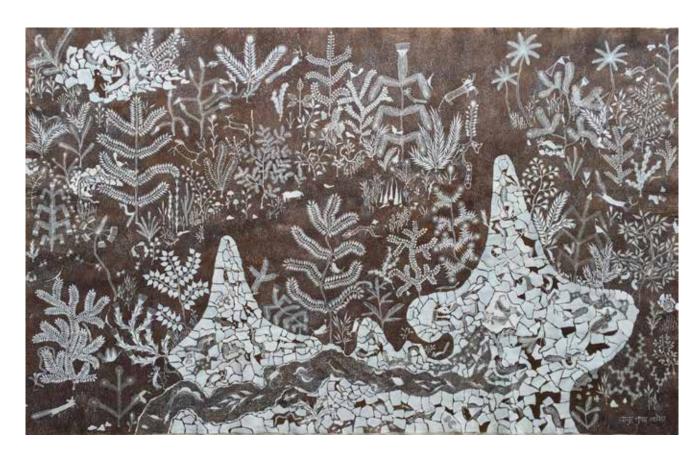
Mayur & Tushar Vayeda Bhone an ant House Cow Dung Background, white water colour (bamboo as Brush), 23"x35" inches



Mayur & Tushar Vayeda Gathering of Gods, Cow Dung Background, white water colour (bamboo as Brush), 27"x40" inches



Mayur & Tushar Vayeda Veer, Cow Dung Background, white water colour (bamboo as Brush), 27"x40" inches





Mayur & Tushar Vayeda

First Forest
Cow Dung Background,
White water colour (bamboo as Brush), 35"x58" inches

Mayur & Tushar Vayeda Childhood Memory Cow Dung Background, White water colour (bamboo as Brush), 17"x27" inches



Shahanshah Mittal Untitled-4, 2018 Mixed Media on Paper, 40"X40" inches



Shahanshah Mittal *Untitled-5*, 2018, Mixed Media on Paper, 28"X28" inches



Shahanshah Mittal *Untitled-*6, 2018, Mixed Media on Paper, 28"X28" inches



Shahanshah Mittal *Untitled-3*, 2017 Mixed Media on Canvas, 33"X60" inches

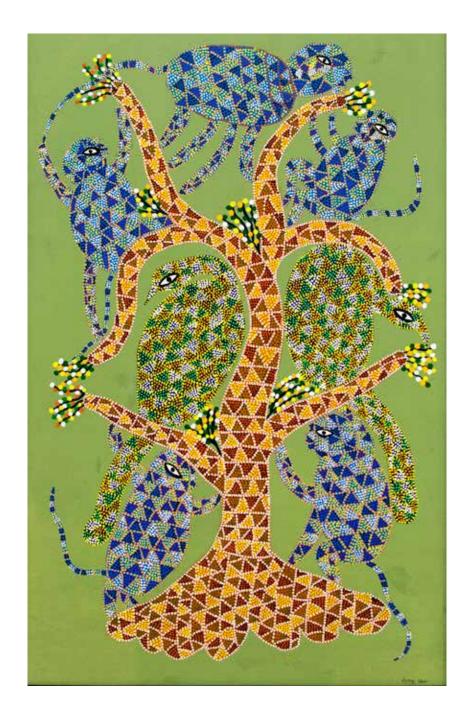




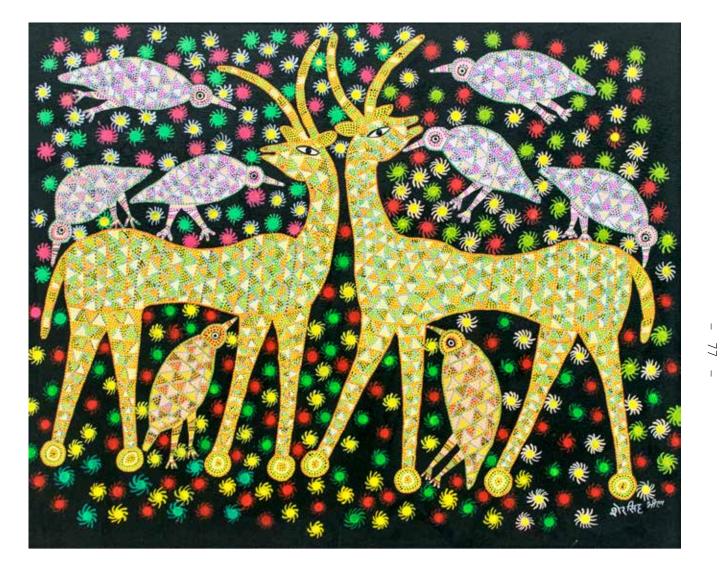
Shahanshah Mittal *Untitled-2*, 2017 Mixed Media on Canvas, 33"X60" inches

Shahanshah Mittal Untitled-1, 2017 Mixed Media on Canvas, 35"X 59" inches

Sher Singh Bheel *Sawan* (Monsoon), 2018 Acrylic on Canvas, 48" x 84" inches



Sher Singh Bheel Monkey and Peacock on Tree, 2018 Acrylic on Canvas, 22"x33" inches

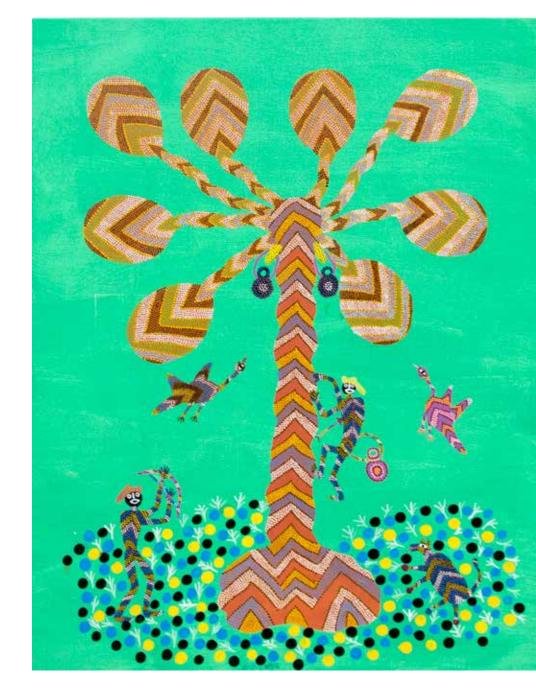


Sher Singh Bheel *"Raat"* (Night), 2018 Acrylic on Canvas, 33"x26" inches



Sher Singh Bheel *"Hiren aur Chidiya"*, 2018 Acrylic on Canvas, 36"x24" inches

Sher Singh Bheel "Taadi ka Ped", 2018 Acrylic on Canvas, 24"x34" inches



Sher Singh Bheel *Mahua ka Ped*, 2018 Acrylic on Canvas, 22"x33" inches

Abhishek Narayan Verma was born in 1990 in Bihar. Abhishek completed his BFA in painting from the College of Art, New Delhi in 2012 and MVA in Graphics from M.S. University, Baroda in 2015. He was a Gold medalist and received a Scholarship from Ministry of Culture in 2014.

He has participated in several national and international exhibitions Like 57th and 58th National Exhibition & Lalit Kala Akademi, Kochi-Muziris Student Biennale, DMZ Art Festival, Korea and the National Art Conclave, New Delhi in 2016 and 2017. His solo show 'Diary of an Idler' in 2016 at Faculty of Fine Arts, Baroda was a part of the Purushottam Annual Merit Award for Printmaking. Currently he is based in Baroda.

Ashish Kushwaha was born in 1987. Ashish completed his BFA from I.K.S.V.V. Khairagarh, and received an award from the Art Foundation in Mumbai in 2017. His works talk about the concrete jungle, global-warming and social environmental issues.

In 2017, his solo shows 'Inheritance of Loss' was held at India International Centre, New Delhi. He participated in several exhibitions like Camlin Limited, Mumbai 2006, Lokmanya Tilak Art contest, Pune 2007, State Art Gallery, Hyderabad 2015 and Chitrakala Parishad, Bangalore 2017. He has received awards from Prafulla Dhanukar, Lalit Kala Akademi, AIFACS, and Ministry of Culture, Govt of India.

Deepak Kumar was born in 1993. Deepak completed his BFA and MFA in painting from the College of Art, Delhi in 2015 and 2017 respectively.

He has participated in exhibitions in India, some are: Best College Art (2018), Chandigarh Lalit Kala Akademi (2017), IHC Visual Art Gallery group show (2017), AIFACS Gallery Annual Portrait Exhibition (2017).

He was the 1st runner up for the Glenfiddich Emerging Artist Award in 2018, and won awards from AIFACS (2017) & Prafulla Dhanukar Foundation in 2017.

Jignesh Panchal studied painting at Sheth C.N. College of Fine Arts, 2001-06. His solo exhibition was held at gallery HTR in Mannheim, Germany in Dec 2011, 'After works bei trockles' sponsored by Karin Trockles in Berlin, 2015. He built a site specific exhibition at le Corbusier's building (Mill Owner's building) Ahmedabad in March 2016.

He had an open studio at Glogauair, Berlin in September 2015. He participated at India Art Fair 2018 through ZOCA, Ahmedabad. He received grants from the Lalit Kala Akademi, Gujarat in 2009, 2010 and 2012. His artist residency at Glogauair Berlin, Nov-Dec 2016, Glogauair Berlin, June-Sep 2015, Glogauair Berlin, June-Sep 2014 and Mannheim (Germany) sponsored by Zoca, Aug-Oct 2012. **Mahalaxmi** was born in 1988 and started painting on walls at a very young age. She actively participated in local workshops and competitions since 2005. She completed her graduation in BA (English Litreature).

She was awarded with a Scholarship from Ministry of Culture for Madhubani Painting for two years (2013-2015). Her art has been exhibited in Ambois, Paris, France in 2014 and then in 2015 curated by Martine Le coz and Ethnic Arts. In 2016, she was the Ojas Art Award Protege Artist for Madhubani-Mithila Art. She contributed to *Black* published by Tara Books.

Mayank Shyam was born in 1987 and is the son of legendary Gond artist Jangarh Singh Shyam. He created a space for himself with his signature style of artworks. He participated in his first group exhibition 'Primal Force' at Kolkata's CIMA Gallery in 2006. His other group exhibitions include 'Freedom: Sixty years after Indian Independence', CIMA Gallery, Kolkata and Museum Gallery. Mumbai (2008). 'In search of Context', CIMA Gallery, Kolkata and Chemould Gallery, Mumbai (2009), 'Yeh Image Mahan – India meets Bharat', CIMA Gallery, Kolkata (2010).

In 2006 Mayank was conferred the State Award by the Hasta Shilpa Evam Hathkargha Vikas Nigam, Bhopal. At the age of 21 he was featured in the book *Freedom: Sixty Years after Indian Independence*, published by Art and Heritage Foundation, 2007. He works and lives in Bhopal.

Mayur and Tushar Vayeda

Tushar Vayeda born in 1987 in Ganjad, Maharashtra. In 2014, he completed a Multimedia course from University of Mumbai.

Mayur Vayeda born in 1992 in Ganjad, Maharashtra. He completed Bachelor of Management Studies in 2013, followed by Masters in 2017, both from University of Mumbai.

Mayur and Tushar are brothers by blood, and as God would have it, bonded by love for art and for life. In their growing years, they spent most of their time in close contact with nature and their Warli tradition and culture inspired them to persue Warli art.

Their selected Exhibitions, Projects and Workshops are: 2018 INDE au Manior de la ville de Maerigny, Switzerland, 2018 Pentures Warli de l'Inde, Espace d'art FL, France; 2017 Mithila Museum – Residency Program, Japan, 2017 AGROS PROJECT, Live Painting Workshop & Exhibition, Aomori Museum of Art, Japan.

Shahanshah Mittal was born in 1989 and completed his BFA form Govt. College of Art, Jabalpur (M.P.) in 2010 and MFA from R.M.T. Music & Arts University, Gwalior in 2013.

His solo show 'Journey' was held at Triveni Kala Sangam, delhi and at Tansen Kala Vithika, in 2017. His first solo show 'Hope' was also held in Gwalior in 2012.

He has participated in several exhibitions like SCZCC National Contemporary Art Exhibition, Hyderabad 2016, Exhibition at Twin Art Gallery, IGNCA New Delhi, 2016, Bombay Art Society Annual Exhibition at Jehangir Art Gallery, 2017 and Kala Sanskirti Puruskar Exhibition in Chitrakala Parishad Bengaluru 2017. He has received many Awards from State Art Gallery, Hyderabad and Prafulla Dhanukar Foundation in 2018; 'Kala Sanskirti Puruskar' by Lalit Kala Akademi, Karnataka and Prafulla Dhanukar State Merit Award in 2017.

Sher Singh Bheel born in Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh, Sher Singh has been trained in the traditional art of Bhil Painting, a skill that has been passed down through many generations. He started learning at the age of seven and by the age of 15, he was drawing on canvas.

In his painting, he depicts stories of the different rituals like Ghatlas, Gal Bapsi and Gal Gadera. He has developed a very unique colour palette. Instead of sticking to just tradition, Sher Singh incorporates his daily life in to his painting. He is always searching for inspirations, stories which he turns into mesmerizing paintings recently. He held a solo show of his works in 2016 at Nazar Art, Vadodara.

About Rahul Kumar

Rahul Kumar lived a parallel life juggling a corporate career and his arts practice for a very long time. His love for arts began when he saw a potter demonstrating 23 years ago. He entered the corporate world just 18 years back, when he was coerced by his family to get a 'life'. He is a Fulbright Scholar with a Masters in Arts from USA and a Charles Wallace fellow.

A recipient of scholarships from the India Foundation for the Arts and the Ministry of Culture (Government of India), his works have been auctioned at Sotheby's London. A large-scale installation presented as a curated project at India Art Fair (2015) is in the collection of the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art. Rahul was the founding team member of an art e-comm venture incubated by NDTV.

He lead the business categories and also co-anchored an art programme for NDTV-Prime. Safely out-of-the-ratrace, he is now living his dream, writing on visual arts, curating art shows and residencies. He is the Consulting Editor with Arts Illustrated and STIR mondo-arc and a writer for MINT Lounge.

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