

ART HERITAGE PRESENTS

ON THE
THRESHOLD
OF TIME:

Paintings, Drawings & Sculptures
DOMAIN

Observations by emerging & undiscovered artists on their surroundings & the cultural milieu they inhabit

ASHISH KUSHWAHA
SWATI SABALE

NEHA DEY
LALIT PANT



JULY 12 - 17 AUG, 2024

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INTRODUCTION

On the Threshold of Time is an annual exhibition held by Art Heritage dedicated to promoting young and emerging talent from across India. The works selected are either spotted by us or brought to our notice by the artists themselves. Now in its eleventh iteration, *Threshold* takes a broader view - including not only emerging artists but also artists who may have remained 'undiscovered'.

In a country like India several factors contribute to an artist being bypassed or remaining unrecognized at crucial junctures of their career. Central among these is the fact that the art market per se is relatively small and limited, and is often dominated by a few forcefully promoted, mid-career or established artists. Given the uncertainty inherent in the endeavour itself, only a handful of galleries venture to promote and support recent art graduates. It is to fill this lacuna that Art Heritage from its inception took it upon itself to recognize and support new or undiscovered outstanding talent. In addition to the roster of new young artists we launched over the years - many of whom have subsequently become regarded as the forerunners of the Indian art movement - we are proud to say that in the recent past artists such as Aban Raza, Aditi Aggarwal, Natasha Sachdeva, Pallavi Singh, Rahul Kumar, Rajesh Deb, and Sunanda Khajuria, to name a few, after the initial support they received from us, are well on their way to becoming respected names of tomorrow.

Art Heritage has historically also worked to showcase lesser-known or represented mediums within the Indian art ecosystem, such as prints, ceramics, and photography. We now extend that same philosophy to artists. By breaking free of the self-imposed constraints of previous years and taking a longer view of an artist's career development, we have chosen to evolve the *Threshold* series to provide a more inclusive platform than in the past.

On The Threshold of Time: Domain brings to the fore the works of four artists at different stages of their careers. **Neha Dey**, the youngest in the group, is just completing the first year of her Master's degree, while **Swati Sabale** and **Ashish Kushwaha** have transitioned through the early years of their careers, building a strong foundation. Finally, **Lalit Pant** has been at his craft for some time, exploring and investigating the charcoal and pen mediums.

Each of the artists in this show begins by responding to a world that is familiar to them, gradually transitioning to a space that reaches out to the larger community in which they live. Neha's paintings on paper reflect her constant search for home, absorbing and responding to her environment while harking back to junctures along her journey. Like Neha, Ashish Kushwaha draws inspiration and imagery from his childhood in the village. His large-scale vistas depict the life of his farming family, engaged in the daily struggles of survival. His more recent charcoal works are experimental paper pieces in which he plays with light and shadow, set in urban settings but with memories of his village days. Dey, Kushwaha, and Lalit further seek to connect their practice with images of nature. Pant takes it a step further, creating abstract renderings of scenes of nature using a monochromatic palette. Finally, Swati Sabale, like her fellow artists, begins with the familiar - the lives of the women that surround her - and then moves on to swifly touch upon universal themes, that offer the viewer a commentary on the society and politics of our time.



ON THE THRESHOLD OF TIME: **DOMAIN**

Paintings, Drawings & Sculptures

ASHISH KUSHWAHA | LALIT PANT | NEHA DEY | SWATI SABALE



On the Threshold of Time: Domain

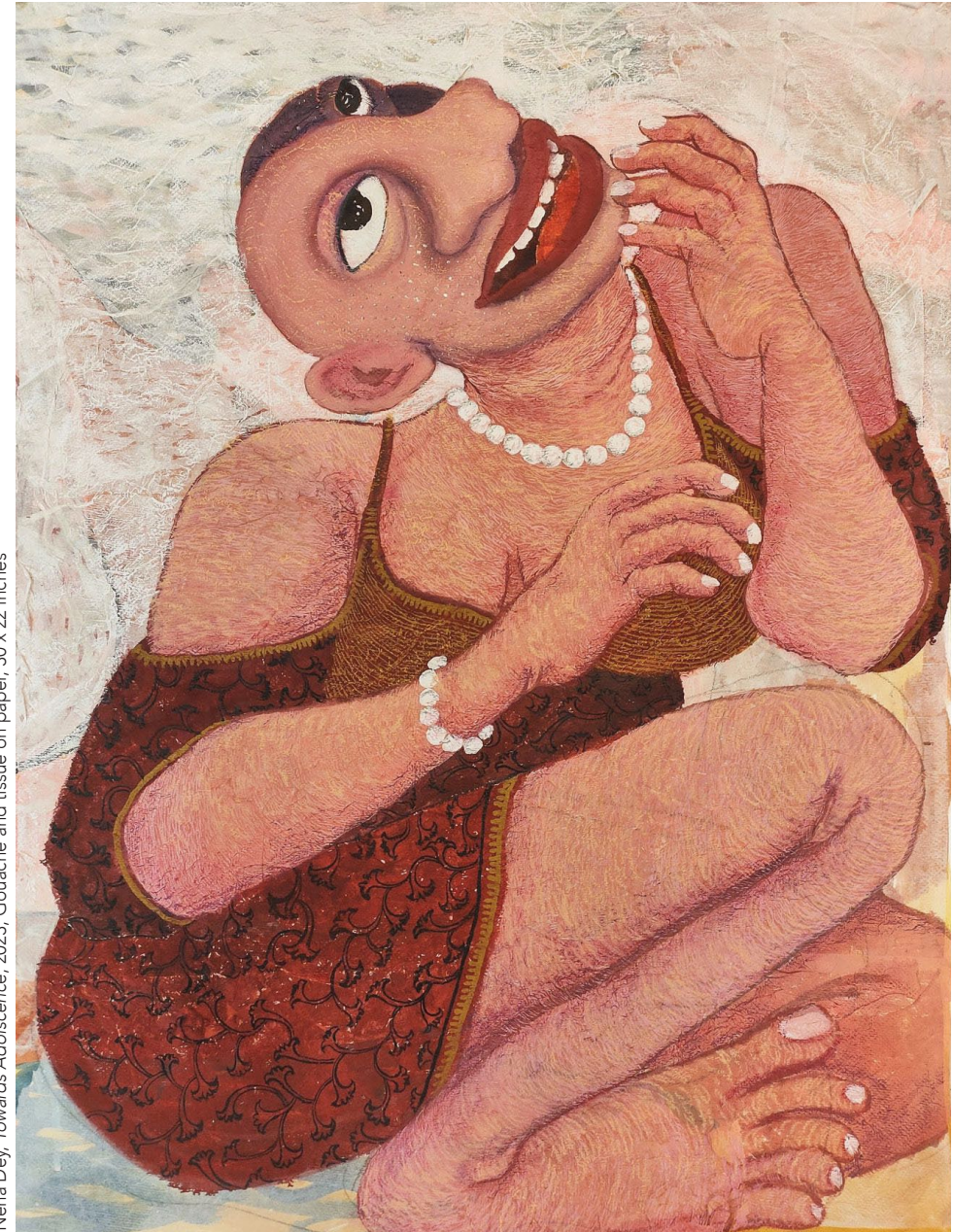
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SOLD



Neha Dey, Towards Adolscence, 2023, Gouache and tissue on paper, 30 x 22 inches

all seek to connect their practice with images of nature. Pant takes it a step further, creating abstract renderings of scenes of nature using a monochromatic palette. Finally, Swati Sabale, like her fellow artists, begins with the familiar - the lives of the women that surround her - and then moves on to swiftly touch upon universal themes, that offer the viewer a commentary on the society and politics of our time.

This latest series by Ashish Kushwaha features large canvases depicting scenes of farmlands and villages bathed in the soft glow of dusk or moonlight. This collection marks a departure from Kushwaha earlier explorations of global warming and urbanization. Instead, these works emerge from a place of reminiscence and homesickness, brooding memories of his childhood in Chhattisgarh. After focusing on the medium of watercolours for several years, Kushwaha transitioned to acrylic on canvas. The canvases evoke a deep sense of longing and belonging. Flattened landscapes, evenly transitioning skylines, and daubs of paint capture a serene and peaceful village life that often includes protagonists of the artist's family, such as his father working in the fields at night with a torchlight, or his mother sewing clothes to supplement the family income. With night-darkened trees in the background and streaks of planted crops in the field, details only emerge on prolonged viewing. However, specific imagery also stands out, like billowing smokestacks signalling dinner preparations in mud huts. In contrast, Kushwaha's charcoal works transport viewers to urban settings of home that become the artist's explorations of light and shadow.



Ashish Kushwaha (b. 1987) Education: B.F.A. (Painting), IKSVV, Khairagarh (2009) **Solo Shows (Abbr.):** Taj Falaknuma Palace, Kalakriti Art Gallery, Hyderabad (2019); India International Centre, New Delhi (2017); Roopabh Bharat Bhawan, Bhopal (2017); Icon Art Gallery, Hyderabad (2014) **Two Man Shows:** Remorse, Gallery 31927_2, Toronto, Canada (2021) **Group Shows (Abbr.):** Goodsmen, Modern and Contemporary Art at Hotel Ashoka, Delhi (2022); Yuva Sambhavna, SH Raza Foundation at Visual Art Gallery, Delhi (2022); Contemporary Currency, Hutheesing Centre, Ahmedabad (2021); Transit, Apre Art House, Delhi (2021); Kagaz, 079 Stories, Ahmedabad (2021); Home: A Dwelling, Tao Art Gallery, Mumbai (2020); Artmodaa, On Art Fair, Mojarto, Delhi (2020) **Awards (Abbr.):** The Indian Academy of Fine Arts, Amritsar (2019); Maharashtra State Award, Prafulla Dhanukar Art Foundation, Mumbai (2018); Junior Fellowship, Ministry of Culture, New Delhi (2017); All India Fine Art Society (AIFACS), New Delhi (2017).

Twilight Vigil, 2024
Acrylic on canvas
60 x 48 inches





Divine Harvest, 2024
Acrylic on canvas
36 x 72 inches

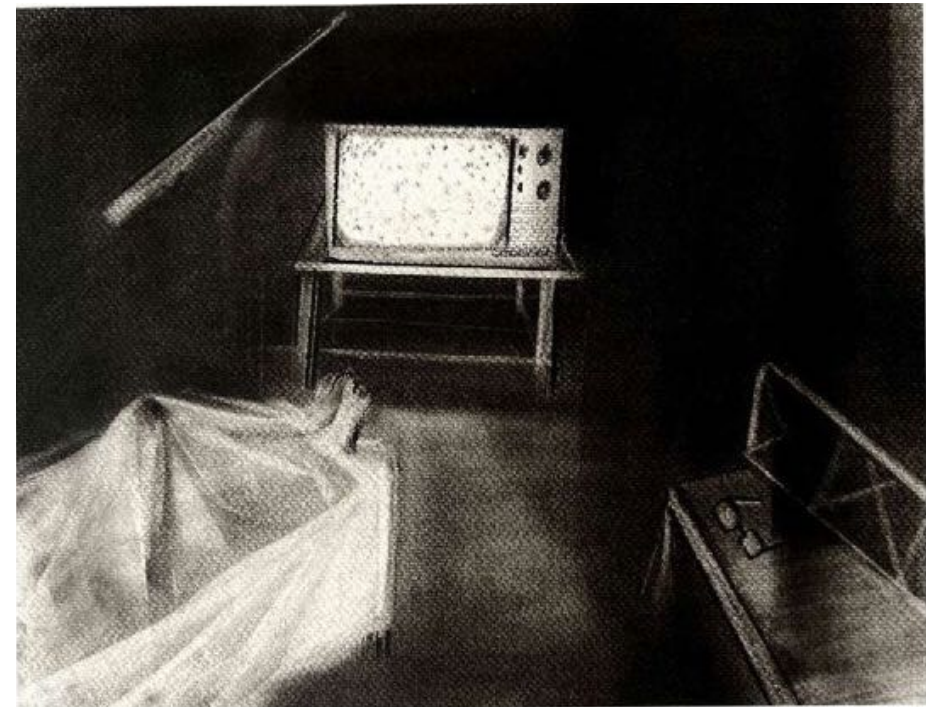
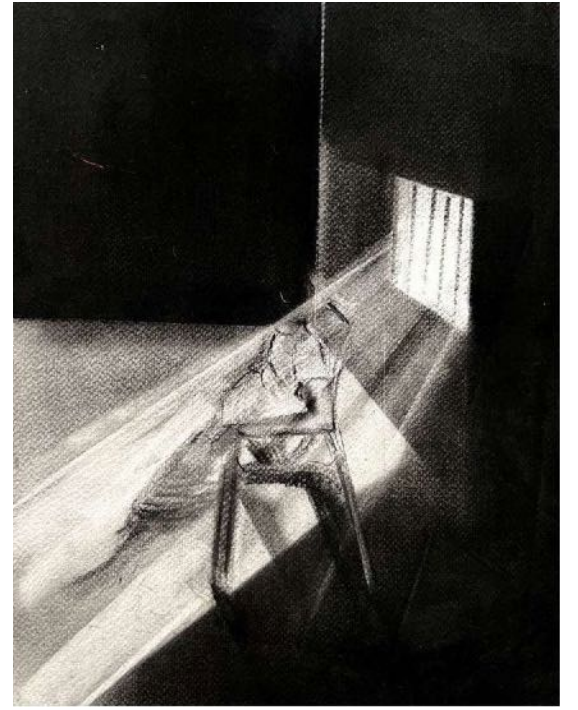


Farming at Dark Nigh, 2024
Acrylic on canvas
48 x 96 inches



Starlit Rest: Memories of Youth, 2024
Acrylic on canvas
42 x 60 inches

SOLD



All works
Untitled, 2023
Charcoal on paper
14 x 11 inches



Urban Metaphor, 2017
Watercolour on paper
11 x 14 inches

Wilderness, 2021
Watercolour on paper
11 x 14 inches





*Forest Oasis: Boy's Night
Dive, 2024*
Acrylic on canvas
48 x 60 inches

Inspired by the majestic landscapes of Uttarakhand, Lalit Pant has developed a profound appreciation for the raw power of the natural world. To Pant, nature represents the ultimate truth, a force we neglect at our peril. His works, abstract renderings of these landscapes, display bold strokes and seemingly random yet orderly patterns that grab the attention of the observer. The large scale of several works is a testimony to Nature's overwhelming power.

Pant often uses his bare fingers and palms to create his charcoal drawings. This method gives intensity and dynamism to his darting lines, which require a substantial surface to fully express their force. Pant's choice of black and white to depict nature is intriguing. He admits that while he cannot recall why he chose this monochromatic palette, it appears to reflect his perception of nature as the ultimate, unvarnished truth. His works invite viewers to confront his powerful renditions that emphasize the stark simplicity and severity of the natural environment.

Lalit Pant (b. 1971) Education: B.F.A. (Art Education), Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi (1994); M.A. (Drawing & Painting), Meerut University (1996) **Solo Shows:** Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi (2016); Tea Lounge, Taj Palace Hotel, New Delhi (2010); Triveni Kala Sangam, New Delhi (2009) **Group Shows (Abbr):** Images of Time , Visual Arts Gallery, New Delhi (2014-2023); Together, Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi (2023, 2018, 2012); Creative Feeling, RKG Art & Culture, New Delhi (2021); Garhi Summer Exhibition, Garhi, New Delhi (2018); Untitled Art Exhibition, Chandigarh Lalit Kala Akademi (2018, 2013, 2012); Rhythm of Colour, AIFACS, New Delhi (2014); 4th International Contemporary Miniature Format Mask Exhibition, Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi (2012); Artlife Art Gallery, Noida (2012); Group Exhibition, Devin Art Gallery, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi (2012) Awards: New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC), All India Art Exhibition in Drawing, New Delhi (2014); Best Drawing, AIFACS, New Delhi (2009).



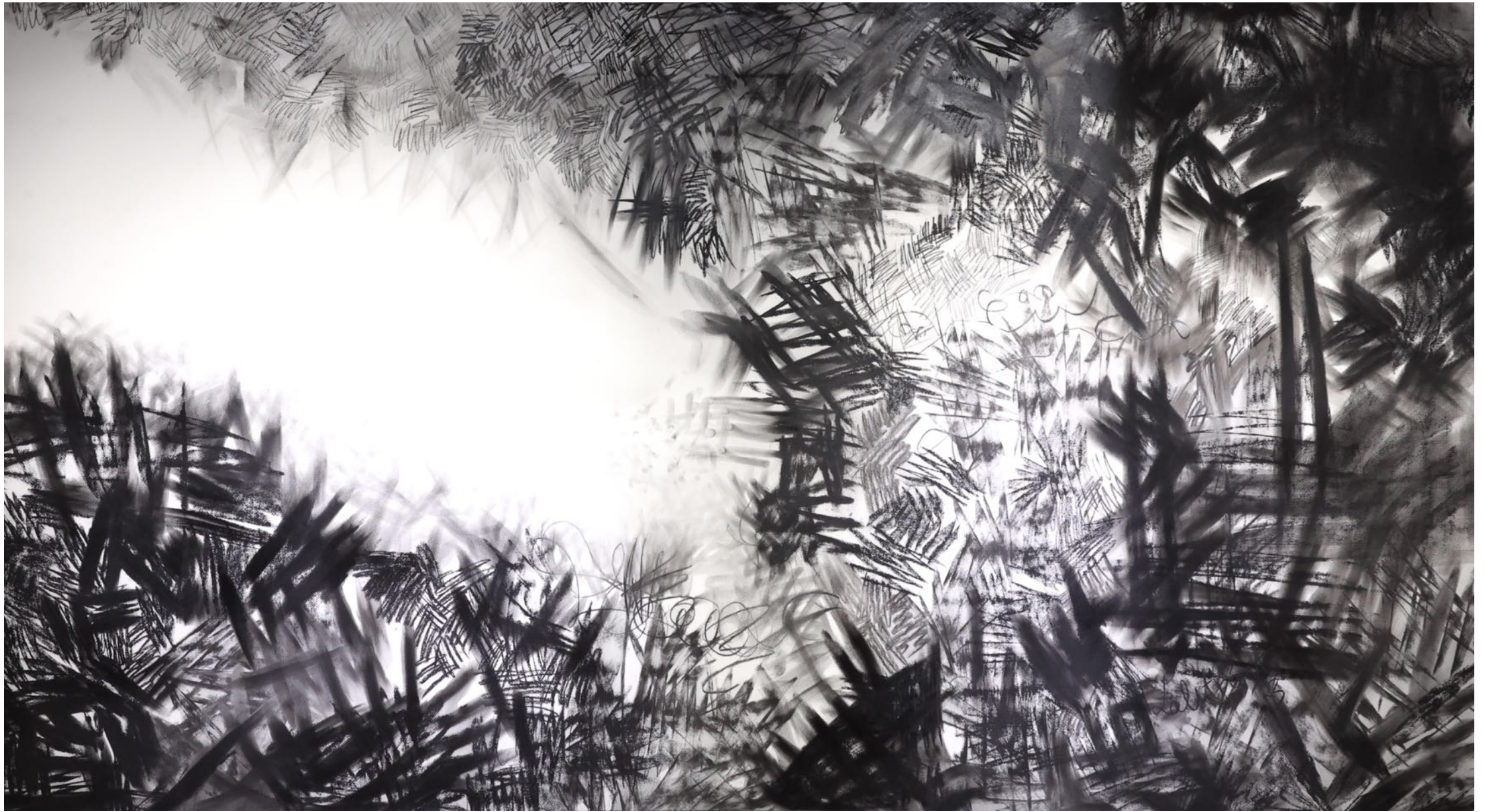
Untitled, 2020
Pen on paper
56 x 43 inches



Untitled, 2021
Charcoal on paper
53 x 40 inches



Untitled, 2020
Charcoal on paper
56 x 43 inches



Untitled, 2023, Charcoal on paper, 56 x 96 inches



Untitled, 2022
Pen on paper
56 x 43 inches



Nature, 2024
Ink on paper
11 x 32 inches



Nature, 2024
Ink on paper
16 x 11 inches



Nature, 2024
Ink on paper
16 x 11 inches

Neha Dey's artworks are a rhythmic narration of her experiences and ever-changing surroundings. Deeply inspired by the places she has lived in and calls 'home,' that are interwoven with fragmented memories from her past, Nature plays a central role in her creations, featuring diverse species of birds, animals, and plants, while the colours and forms in her paintings also draw from the natural world.

Neha's journey to urban environments also finds a place in her work - cityscapes are intertwined into the works as subtle backgrounds, at first hard to discern. But it is this melding of urban with the natural that invites the viewer to step closer to the work, as the full extent of the composition emerges. Dey also breaks away from standard square or rectangular formats in many instances, choosing instead to paint on canvas shaped like clothing that is typically worn by young girls. Dresses, frocks, skirts, and baggy pyjamas are decorated with scenes of children at play in fantasy lands, surrounded by animals and chimeric creatures, reflecting her own experiences and childhood memories. In addition to nature, Dey adorns her paintings with small objects like toys and dolls from her past, creating dreamlike sequences that invite viewers into her imaginative world.

Neha Dey (b. 2000). Education: B.F.A. (Painting), Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, India (2023), M.F.A. (Ongoing) Government College of Art and Craft, Kolkata, India (2023) **Group Shows:** 159th Parampara Annual Exhibition, Government College of Art and Craft, Kolkata (2024); AMI Art Festival, Kolkata Centre for Creativity and Emami Arts, Kolkata (2023); West Bengal State Akademi of Dance, Drama and Visual Arts Annual Exhibition, Kolkata (2023, 2020); Annual Art Exhibition, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata (2022, 2023); 1st All India Women's National Art Exhibition, Varnika Society, Karnataka (2022); Art Family International Online Watercolour Art Fair (2021); 129th All India Art Exhibition, Bombay Art Society, Mumbai (2021); *Following the Strokes Through Dark Times: Online Art Exhibition*, Kolkata Centre for Creativity, Kolkata (2020); *Hope*, Karkhana Art Space, Online (2021); *United Against Corona – Express Through Art: Online Art Exhibition* (2020). **Awards:** Certificate of Merit (Painting), 159th Parampara Annual Exhibition, Government College of Art and Craft, Kolkata (2024); Young Artist Scholarship, The Ministry of Culture (2020-21).



Untitled, 2024
Nepali handmade paper, cloth,
acrylic, charcoal and oil pastel
on paper
53 x 40 inches

SOLD



Untitled, 2024
Nepali handmade paper,
acrylic, graphite and
adhesive on paper
25.5 x 38 inches



The Blooming Wings, 2023
Nepali handmade paper, acrylic and oil pastel
on paper
48 x 65 inches

SOLD



Once Been Lived, 2024
Nepali handmade paper, acrylic and
charcoal on cloth
47 x 41 inches



Memories of Joy, 2023
Nepali handmade paper,
acrylic and charcoal on cloth
23 x 12 inches



Memories of Joy, 2023
Nepali handmade paper,
acrylic and charcoal on cloth
23 x 12 inches



The Land of Desire, 2023
Acrylic, oil pastel and adhesive on paper
30 x 66 inches

During her college days, Swati Sabale developed a profound interest in poetry, channelling the events unfolding around her into verse. Relocating to Mumbai in 2001 marked a significant transition, as she embraced painting as her primary medium of expression. Early works featured intimate portraits of her sister, friends, and the women in her life going about their daily activities. These initial forays into exploring the domestic world around her have over time come to encompass Sabale's entire oeuvre, i.e. the exploration of the woman's role and place in Indian society – wherein she strives to find her voice to define her freedom.

While Sabale's earlier work was bright and serene, it has given way to a more sombre use of colour, tone, and tenor. Depicting women floating in a sea of colour, with bold spontaneous strokes, the artist creates labyrinthine mazes, symbolizing the confusion and struggles of a young woman seeking her place in society, along with the entangled emotions she has to navigate. Faces and hands become recurrent motifs in Sabale's work that effectively convey feelings and emotions. Recent works have come to encompass broader social and political themes such as demonetization and the COVID lockdowns. In these, there is a pervasive sense of isolation where the distance between people becomes apparent despite their physical proximity. Isolation seems to foster the need for connections with a more organic world, prompting Sabale to incorporate natural forms and birds into her recent body of work.

Swati Sabale (b. 1975) Education: Art Masters (A.M.), Sir J.J. School of Art, Mumbai (2019); A.T.C. Photography, Sir J.J. Institute of Applied Art, Mumbai (2001); Art Teacher Diploma, Abhinav Kala Mahavidyalaya, Pune (2000); M.A. in Art & Painting, First Class, S.N.D.T. University, Mumbai (1999) **Solo Shows:** Jahangir Art Gallery, Mumbai (2023); Shridharini Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, New Delhi (2023-24); The Monalisa Kalagram, Pune (2018); Jahangir Art Gallery, Mumbai (2017) **Group Shows (Abbr.):** Art Pune, Raja Ravi Verma Gallery, Pune (2024); Quartet Confluence, Kolkata (2020); Melange, New Delhi (2018); *Expedient Amalgamation 4*, Cymroza Art Gallery, Mumbai (2017); *Around Us*, Coomarswamy Hall, Mumbai (2017); Woman's Art Foundation, Mumbai (2016) **Awards:** AUM - Artistic Excellence Award, Mumbai (2024); 61st Maharashtra State Art Award (2022); Prafulla Dahanukar Art Foundation (2021); Camlin Art & Design West 1 Zonal Award for Painting (2020); Art Society of India, Mumbai (2003).



Serenity, 2017
Acrylic on canvas
48 x 48 inches



Two Sisters, 2017
Acrylic on canvas
48 x 72 inches



Undertone Canvas, 2023
Acrylic on canvas
48 x 48 inches



Nature, 2020
Dry pastel on Canson paper
9 x 12 inches

Nature, 2020
Dry pastel on Canson paper
12 x 9 inches





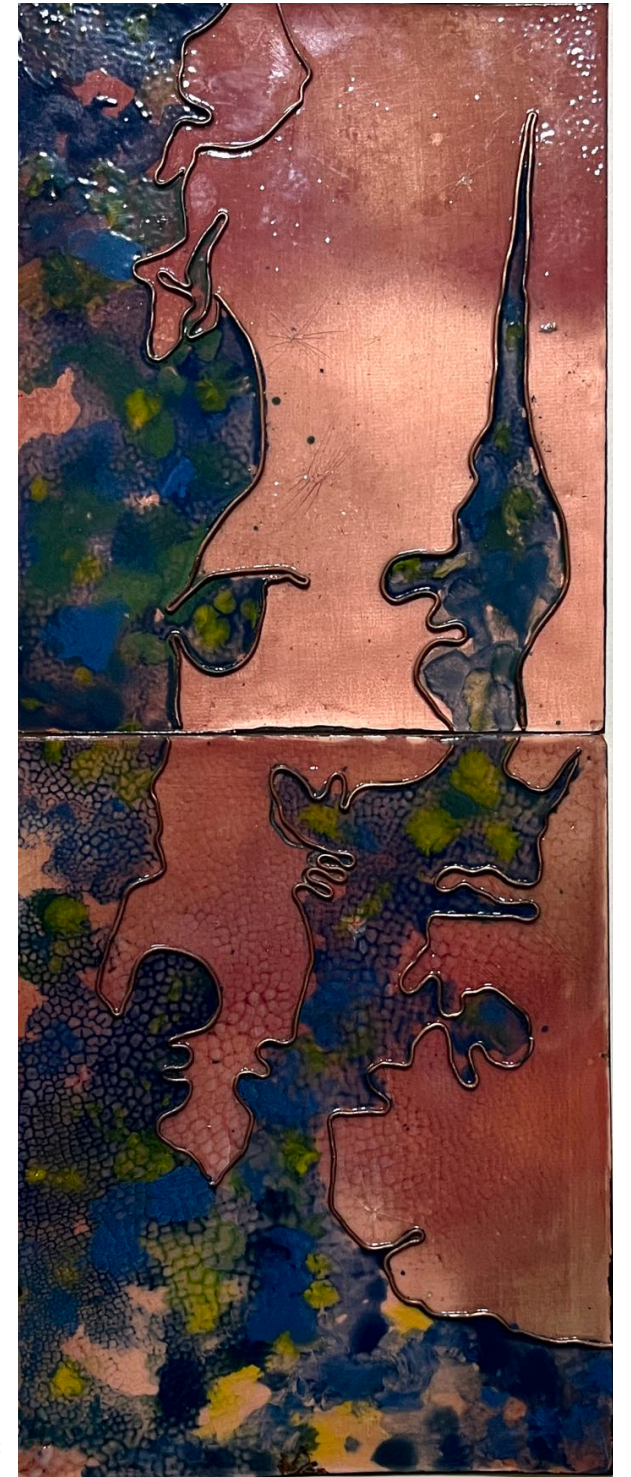
Undertone Canvas, 2023
Acrylic on canvas
30 x 30 inches



Undertone Canvas, 2017
Acrylic on canvas
48 x 48 inches



Viterous, 2024
Enamel on copper sheet
7 x 10 inches



Mumbai, 2024
Cloisonné Enamel on copper sheet
10 x 4 inches



ART HERITAGE