

Gnani Arts turns 20 with "The Power Binary" art in honour of the India-Singapore connectivity
Curated by Vidya Gouresan Nair headed by P.Gnana. PH: +65 9003 2851



Gnani Arts turns 20 with

THE POWER BINARY



Art in Honour of the India-Singapore Connectivity

Curated by Vidhya Gouresan Nair
Headed by P. Gnana

2nd Aug to 30th Sep 2023
1 West Coast Drive,
#01-95, NEWEST,
Singapore





Curatorial Trajectory

By

Vidhya Gouresan Nair

Research & Curatorial Director, Co-Founder, Gnani Arts Pte Ltd

‘The Power Binary: Art in Honour of the India-Singapore Connectivity’, a historic exhibition that provokes the aesthetic sensibilities of the generic perception of modern and contemporary art, entails a concept that is two-fold. One facet is to rightfully rejoice in the grand celebration of Gnani Arts’ 20th Anniversary, as we reverentially honour two global powerhouses via India’s 76th Year of Independence and Singapore’s 58th National Day, while metaphorically accentuating the irrefutable leadership of Gnani Arts as an important catalyst that has bridged the arts and heritage of both nations throughout the two magnificent decades that have passed. Another facet of the exhibition’s concept is the seemingly lucid context of beauty as power. In his seminal but selectively-arguable compilation of essays entitled ‘The Dance of Siva’ (originally published in 1918), Ananda Kentish Coomaraswamy discusses the uninformed opinion of a colonial writer named Vincent Smith on the multiple-armed images that are synonymous with the pictorial and sculptural traditions of India. Smith states, “Indian sculpture...hardly deserves to be reckoned as art...and the idea of power is clumsily expressed by the multiplication of members...the many-headed, many-armed gods and goddesses (in the artworks) have no pretensions to beauty...and are hideous and grotesque”. This is, indeed, a classic example of the wide spectrum of possibilities in recognising, understanding and appreciating the numerous notions of beauty that are, though not entirely, linked to cultural exclusivity. Having had inevitably internalised a fixed definition and identification of what is beauty in one’s own culture, it usually demands a massive amount of sensitivity, prudence and a competent methodology to make a sincere effort to fathom the peculiarities and individual characteristics of the conception of beauty in a cultural genre that one is not familiar with. However, above all this, the foremost prerequisite to acknowledge and respond to any notion of beauty, is indeed to arrive from the provenance of respect, powered by the acceptance of differences. Within any sort of a communal structure or any belief system, the perception of beauty proves itself to be a social construction that is absolutely fluid, just like money, as it keeps transitioning in accordance with the larger ulterior motives of socio-economic stakeholders. Nevertheless, the fundamental message is crystal clear - beauty is power, and more often than not, power is beauty.



I am a creative enthusiast with a passion for embodying creativity in different forms since my early childhood. Winner of various competitive awards through my formative years, I further stimulated my creative journey by graduating on the Dean’s List from Parsons The New School for Design, New York. Besides being an Artist, I am an entrepreneur/ Creative Director @tcpthecreativepeople — A creative arts & design company based in Singapore into brand design services, product design and creative education @tcp_workshops. Prior to this, I ran a successful fashion label in India and was stocked at various multi-designer stores across the country

| | |
|---------|-------------------------------------|
| Artist: | Anisha Shah |
| Title: | The Holy Cow- Vibrant & Full of Joy |
| Size: | 51 cm X 65 cm |
| Medium: | Acrylic Ink on Acid free Paper |
| Year: | 2023 |
| Price: | SGD 888 |



"Blooming Joy" is a captivating painting that radiates pure delight and celebrates the essence of life's vibrant moments. The abstract background, adorned with vibrant hues of green and purple, sets a vibrant and uplifting tone. Bursting from this lively backdrop are textured flowers that grace the canvas, emanating a sense of life and energy. Each flower appears almost tangible, inviting viewers to appreciate the tactile beauty of the artwork. It is a visual symphony, evoking a sense of wonder and happiness, reminding us of the inherent joy found in the vibrant colors and textures of nature's blooms, embracing the beauty that surrounds us and find joy in the simplest of pleasures.

| | |
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| Artist: | Dipti Bhatt |
| Title: | Blooming Joy |
| Size: | 45 cm x 45 cm (with frame) |
| Medium: | Mixed Media |
| Year: | 2023 |
| Price: | SGD 555 |



"The Freedom Woman" is a minimalist monochrome painting released to celebrate International Women's Day. It captures a woman expressing herself freely through graceful movements. The abstract and random strokes create a dynamic energy symbolizing liberation and joy. The woman is depicted dancing gracefully, exuding confidence and strength. The painting's minimalist approach focuses solely on the woman and her emotions, while the monochrome palette adds elegance. It serves as a tribute to the strength and beauty of women, emphasizing the power of self-expression and freedom.

| | |
|---------|-------------------|
| Artist: | Letchmy Ganapathy |
| Title: | The Freedom Woman |
| Size: | 75x100 cm |
| Medium: | Acrylic on canvas |
| Year: | 2023 |
| Price: | SGD 1400 |

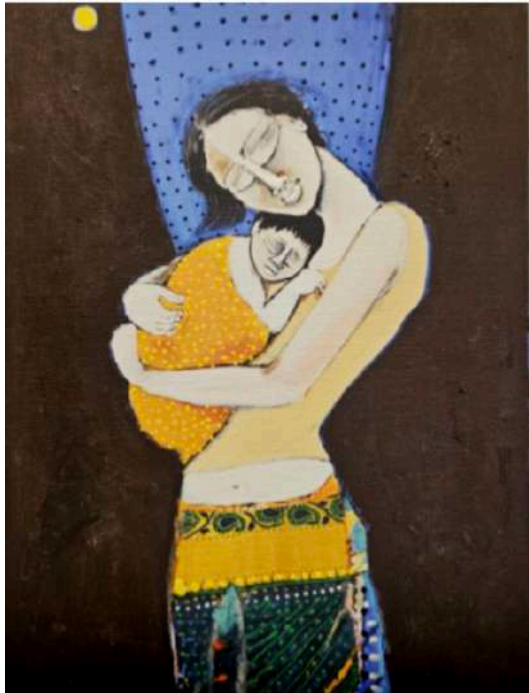
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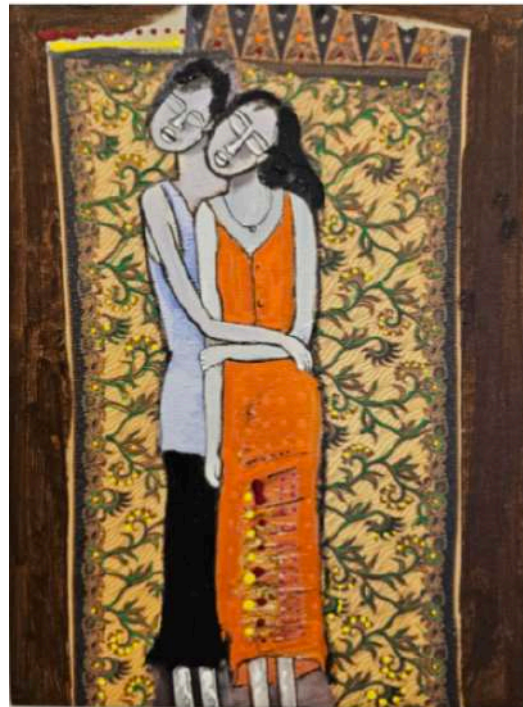
The power of being together is physical presence and shared experiences that we forge emotional connections, cultivate a sense of belonging, and find solace within our loved ones. Being together enhances our lives, fosters personal growth, and nurtures the bonds that make us stronger. Let us remember the immense value of being together and cherish the moments we spend in each other's presence.

Artist: Manjusha Athani
Title: Being Together
Size: 60 X 60 cm
Medium: Mix media on canvas
Year: 2023
Price: SGD 1220

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Experimentation, serious and sometimes meditative, has been one of the key instruments that has shaped Gnana’s creative journey through the years, allowing him to rejuvenate in a world of constant change and fluctuating emotions. Gnana’s fascination towards the technique of collage in his paintings began in the first few years of his career. Today, collage is back in his art, but this time, on both sculpture and painting. For Gnana, collage is process-oriented with layers and layers of ideas, presenting him with fresh possibilities that emerge on the spur of the moment. With great confidence and an abundance of ideas, Gnana transforms the meaning and purpose of mundane, everyday objects into awe-inspiring expressions of urban relevance.



Artist: P.Gnana
Title: Reason to live1&2
Size: 30x40cm
Medium: Mix media on canvas
Year: 2023
Price: SGD 650 (each)



As an artist, my purpose through this painting “Cupcakes” is to reignite an appreciation for these everyday nuances, allowing them to take centre stage and bring renewed delight to our lives. Cupcakes transport me back to treasured memories, rekindling a wave of nostalgia tied to the celebrations of my childhood and the joyous moments I shared with my family and loved ones. Often overshadowed and overlooked, they serve as a reminder of the profound joy that can be found in life's simplest pleasures. The painting is done in oil on canvas, built on few layers.

Artist: Pritha Bhadra
Title: Cupcakes
Size: 30 x 23 cm
Medium: Oil on canvas
Year: 2023
Price: SGD 500



Raka's art journey began in her teenage years in India, with a passion for sketching, that progressed to oil paintings and later into acrylic landscapes. Her sojourn in various countries with different cultures has enhanced her creation of art, and she actively draws upon her life experiences and includes them in her art.

With a preference for working in contemporary style of art, she enjoys painting in different genre like Nature, Figurative & Abstracts and is also currently experimenting with a new style showcasing an interplay of Geometry with Abstracts.

| | |
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| Artist: | Raka Sharma |
| Title: | Captivated |
| Size: | 61cm × 61cm |
| Medium: | Acrylic |
| Year: | 2020 |
| Price: | SGD 687 |



Sandhya’s flowers seem to ooze warmth from her canvas, a quality that mirrors her personality. With the abundance of bright hues and creamy backgrounds, each painting represents a gentle vision of spreading cheer and happiness like that artist feels. It is rare that an artist today feels the need to do something uncomplicated and simple, but we must cherish it as it is something that is much needed. She takes little interest in the form and character of the individual flowers but rather refers to the work as a cathartic experience of healing and transcendence.

| | |
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| Artist: | Sandhya Wadhwani |
| Title: | New day |
| Size: | 76 X 76 cm |
| Medium: | Oil on canvas |
| Year: | 2023 |
| Price: | SGD 1332 |



My paintings capture the essence of female (mostly) dancers in the fluidity of their movement. My inspiration for these paintings lies in the elegance and grace of dancers as they move effortlessly, and the signature Red colour symbolises passion and love. These paintings depict what it must feel like to break away from things holding us down and to let go. To continue exploring my creativity, I added an element of surrealism and abstraction into my artworks.

My landscape paintings, are very enticing, present a unique playfulness with an array of beautiful colours and symbols that attribute to the era of romanticism. I am inspired by renaissance landscapes so my landscape paintings are influenced by that era. I use coffee, Acrylic inks and water in a unique way to bring out the textures and shapes and shadows, thus creating organic shapes and using it to bring out the landscape. My works tell vivid stories of moments in life that leave a long impression to come.

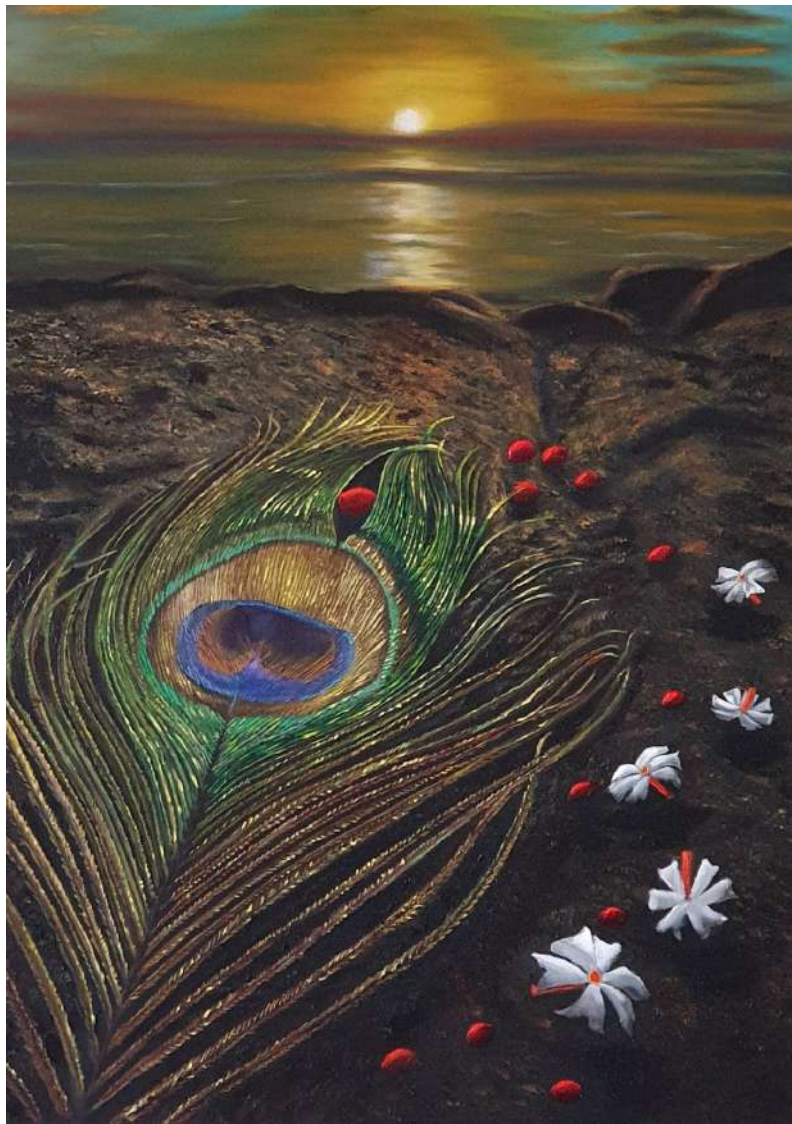
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| Artist: | Shyama Nadimpalli |
| Title: | In Trance |
| Size: | 60 X 90 cm |
| Medium: | Oil on canvas |
| Year: | 2015 |
| Price: | SGD 1720 |



I had created a series called “Conversations with Nature.” In this series, I had women with elaborate headdress, surrounded by flowers and leaves and interacting with birds. I feel that the relationship between humans and nature is both sublime and vital. This painting is made with collage paper, washi tape and acrylics. It has plenty of details to represent the patterns and colors that are part of nature.

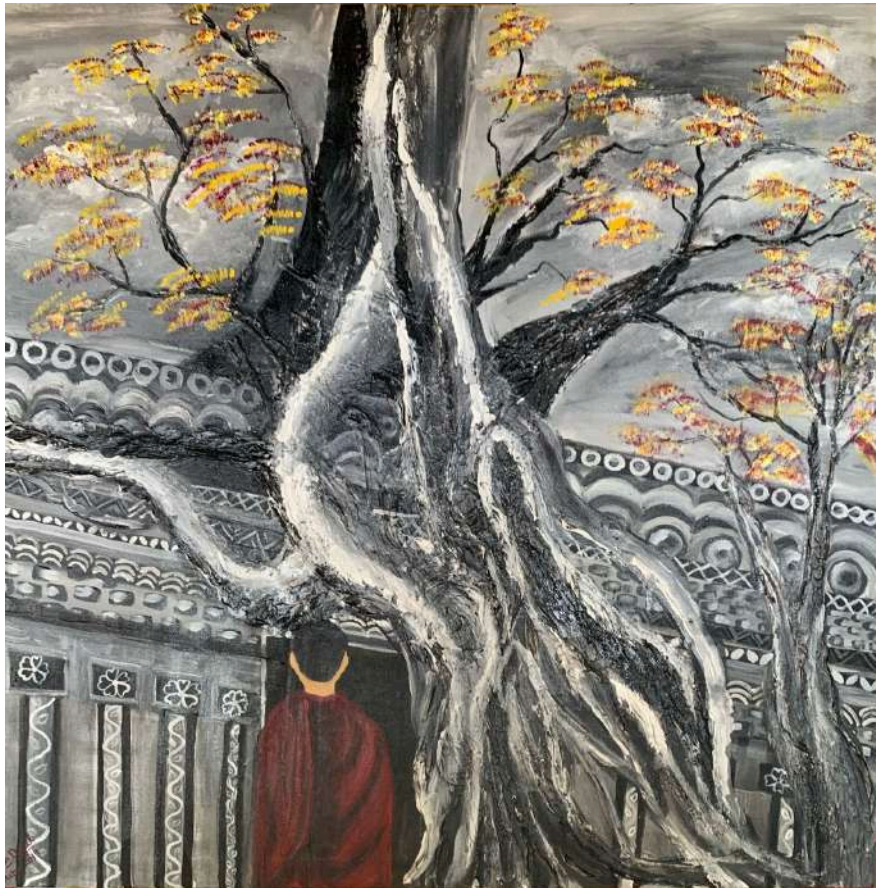
The songbirds are known to mimic human speech and the lady in this painting is whistling to the bird and hoping it will whistle back. She is imagining how incredible it would be if the bird could tell her how liberating it must be to fly in the high skies and the ability to always land on the ‘right’ branch.

| | |
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| Artist: | Sonali Mohanty |
| Title: | Songbird |
| Size: | 76 X 76 cm |
| Medium: | Acrylic/Mixed Media on Canvas |
| Year: | 2023 |
| Price: | SGD 1400 |



My passion in art drives my spirit. I am a self-taught artist and I continuously experiment to push my creative limits. I strive to capture bountiful beauty in nature, divinity and human portraits and often find my interests extending to the realms of classical Tanjore art and Kerala murals. Sculptures are testament to our ancestors' skill and their incessant appreciation of divinity. These sets of paintings are a humble ode to these times and are inspired by the golden era

| | |
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| Artist: | Subhashini Rajagopalan |
| Title: | Mindfulness series |
| Size: | 70 x 50 cm |
| Medium: | Oil on linen |
| Year: | 2023 |
| Price: | SGD 740 |



My painting "Ta Prohm" depicts the ancient temple of Ta Prohm in Angkor Wat, Cambodia. The temple is overgrown with vines and trees, with a monk soaking in the wisdom in that environment.

The painting captures the sense of peace and tranquillity that I felt when I visited Angkor Wat. I was struck by the beauty of the ancient temple and the sense of history that it exuded.

I also felt a deep connection to a visiting monk, who exuded calm and patience even while strolling the grounds. The painting is a testament to my love of art and appreciation for the ancient cultures of the world.

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| Artist: | Vandana Dayal |
| Title: | Ta Prohm |
| Size: | 90 cm x 90 cm |
| Medium: | Acrylic on canvas |
| Year: | 2019 |
| Price: | SGD 990 |

GNANI ARTS COLLECTIONS



Amol Pawar is an Indian artist who experiments with various mediums and depicts various forms, colour schemes, and textures. Born in 1983, he is from Maharashtra and has a degree in Graphic Design from Abhinav Kala Mahavidyalay, Pune.

Many of his paintings are a fusion of the abstract and figurative and they reveal his own rhythm of life. His childhood memories of Rangoli patterns are reflected in his use of symbolism such as icons, numbers, calligraphy and texture. He believes in the power of a directional figure, or mentor, which produces strength, vigour, such as the Sadhu, or even the Bull, powerful, breaking free, confronting.

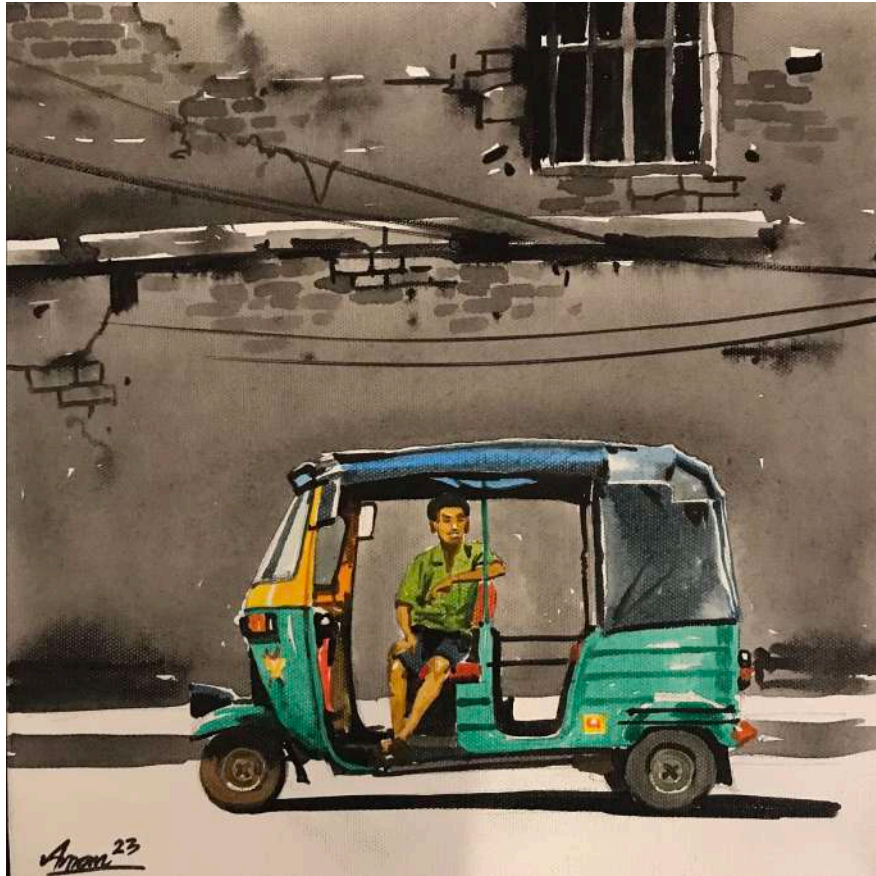
For Amol, the depiction of Shakti displays the eternal power of love between man and woman. This display of power is highlighted by his contrasting use of dark and light colours which adds dimension and depth to the works.

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| Artist: | Amol Pawar |
| Title: | Shiva Shakti |
| Size: | 61 x 61 cm |
| Medium: | Acrylic on canvas |
| Year: | 2022 |
| Price: | SGD 2200 |

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Artist: Amol Pawar
Title: Ganesha
Size: 28 x 37cm
Medium: Ink on paper
Year: 2022
Price: SGD 200



Arpan Bhowmik, accomplished Artist from Bengal, paints with a skill and charm which is rarely matched. His series of artworks titled the ‘Kolkata City Scape’ has received much admiration and praise the world over. The detailed, yet simple depictions of scenes from the bustling and vibrant city of Kolkata, are sure to catch your eye and make it a soulful experience. The series, ‘Kolkata City Scape’ highlights certain elements unique to the city. That is what enhances the charm of it. The famous Trams, featuring in so many tales and fables of the City are illustrated against simple monochromatic backdrops of the streets and localities. He has the gift of recreating a cityscape in great detail, with the source of light or rain, as the case may be, beautifully delineated in the structures, objects & people in the composition.

He has won many awards and is a versatile artist. Although his medium is acrylic on canvas, he creates the illusion and transparency of watercolours. His forte is to use a monochromatic colour palette to resemble a black & white photograph, with the introduction of a dash of colour as a dramatic element which is both arresting and attractive, especially in the larger sizes of canvas.

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| Artist: | Arpan Bhowmik |
| Title: | Auto |
| Size: | 30 x 30cm |
| Medium: | Acrylic on canvas |
| Year: | 2023 |
| Price: | SGD 580 |

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Artist: Arpan Bowmik
Title: Car
Size: 30 cm x 30 cm
Medium: Acrylic on canvas
Year: 2023
Price: SGD 580



Artist: Arpan Bowmik
Title: Rickshaw
Size: 30 cm x 30 cm
Medium: Acrylic on canvas
Year: 2023
Price: SGD 580



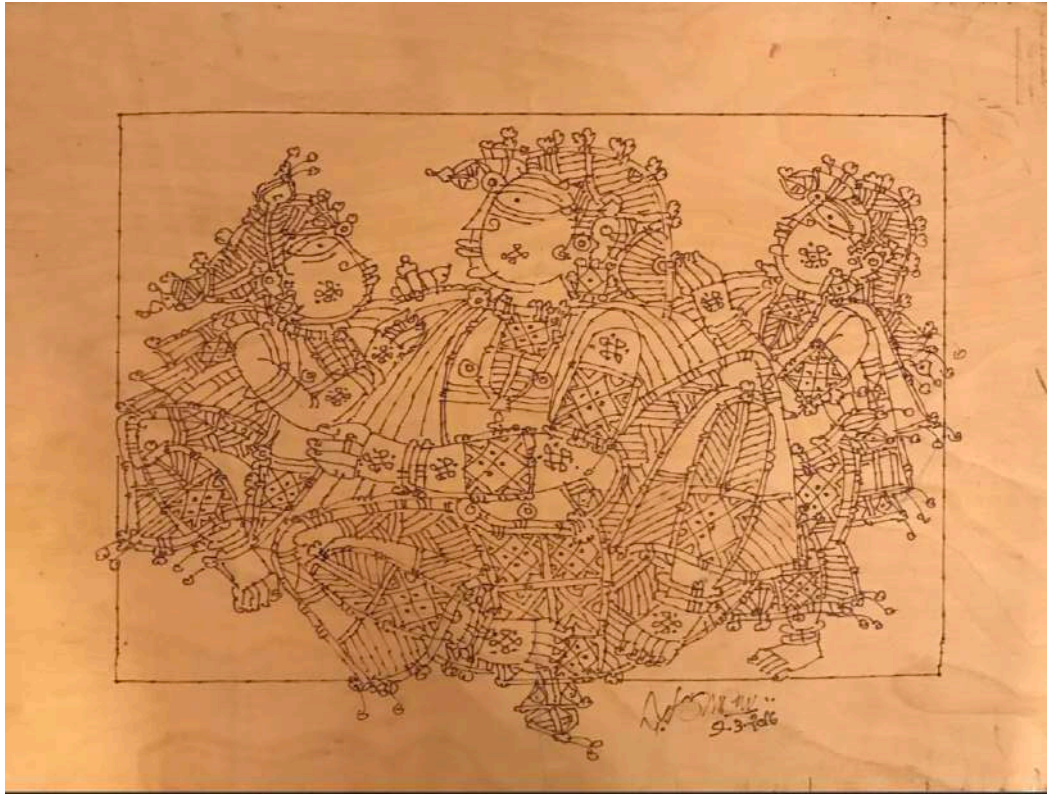
Artist: Arpan Bowmik
Title: Train
Size: 30 cm x 30 cm
Medium: Acrylic on canvas
Year: 2023
Price: SGD 580



Raman, a contented artist living in Chennai, has called the same house home for sixty years, with his living room doubling as his art studio. His studio is modest, housing only a desk, a table, and an aquarium. Despite his humble lifestyle, Raman's art has earned him great recognition, receiving twenty-nine awards, including three international honors. He draws inspiration from traditional Indian art, focusing on pure lines and ornate motifs to depict figures and events from Hindu mythology and occasionally exploring Christian imagery. Additionally, Raman is renowned for his portraits of contemporary India, often featuring villagers in rustic settings. He favors pen and ink as his preferred medium for artistic expression.

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| Artist: | G Raman |
| Title: | Couple |
| Size: | 72 x 57cm |
| Medium: | Ink on paper |
| Year: | 2020 |
| Price: | SGD 780 |

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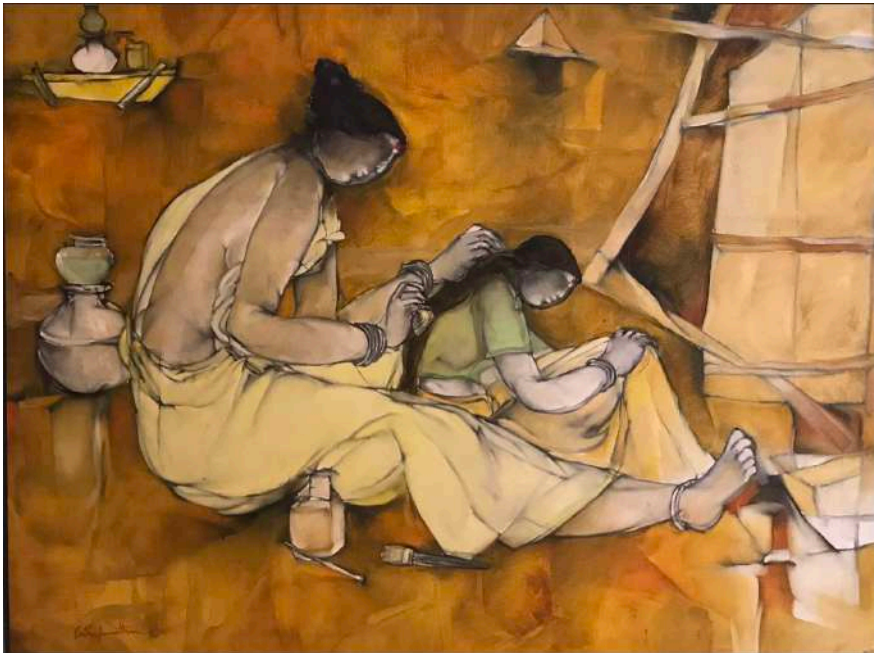


Artist: G Raman
Title: Couple
Size: 30 x 40cm
Medium: Ink on wood
Year: 2020
Price: SGD 480



Hailing from a small village in Tamil Nadu, N.S Manohar began observing and absorbing the domestic architecture and ways of life, particularly by the Brahmin families, from a very young age. Brahmins constituted the highest position in the social hierarchy in his village and their everyday practices, customs and rituals sparked off Manohar's early works. A trained watercolour artist he enjoys working with many transparent layers of colours which evoke the myriad moods and emotions from the scene before him.

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| Artist: | Manoharan |
| Title: | Ganesha |
| Size: | 72 x 57cm |
| Medium: | Watercolour |
| Year: | 2021 |
| Price: | SGD 200 |



Born in 1937, Pon Raghunathan was trained in the art of painting at the Government College of Arts & Crafts in Chennai. He has been the Founder Treasurer for the Contemporary Painters & Writers Association and a Founder Member of the Museum Club in Salem, Tamil Nadu. Pon Raghunathan's paintings are being collected in the U.S.A and in venues within India (including New Delhi, Bangalore, Thanjavur and Chennai). The artist resides and paints in Salem, Tamil Nadu. Pon Raghunathan is also a poet.

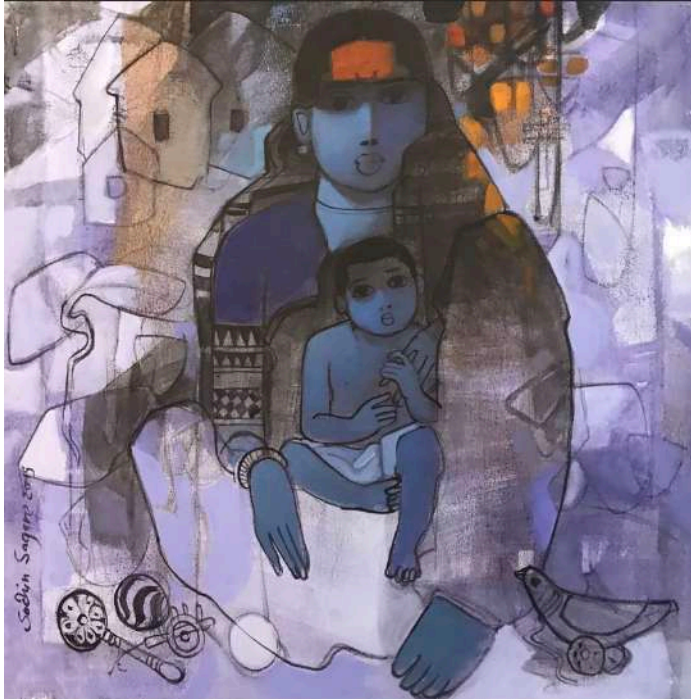
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| Artist: | Pon Raghunathan |
| Title: | Amma |
| Size: | 85x115cm |
| Medium: | Oil on Canvas |
| Year: | 2007 |
| Price: | SGD 4600 |



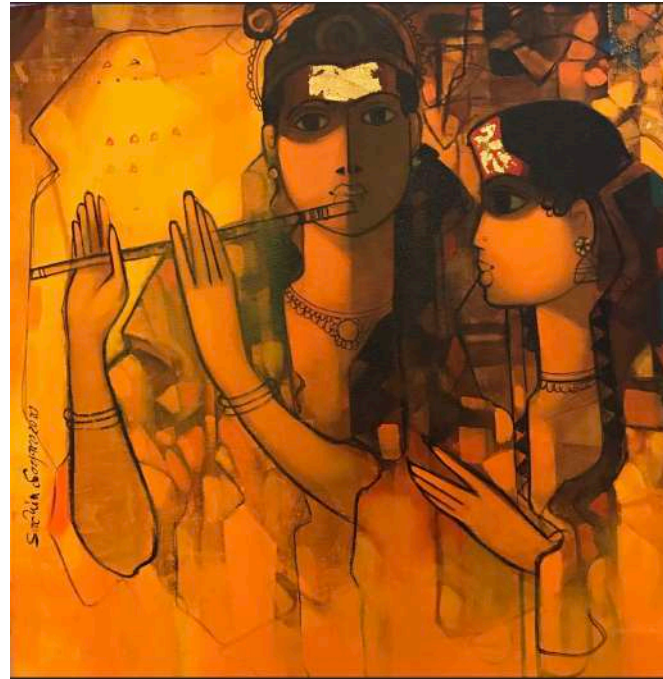
Born in Pandharpur, Sachin Sagare finds himself at ease and peace when he paints the women 'he grew up with'. His women typically help their menfolk by plucking cotton or planting paddy. They bring lunch for the men and go back and cook some more. Then they tend to their children of ages. And then take care of their elders. At the end of the day, they are expected to look their best and be seen at the market place, the village fair or the nearby place of worship. Their faces radiate all through, with their smile and grace.

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| Artist: | Sachin Sagare |
| Title: | Eternal Feminine |
| Size: | 50x50cm |
| Medium: | Acrylic on canvas |
| Year: | 2022 |
| Price: | SGD 800 |

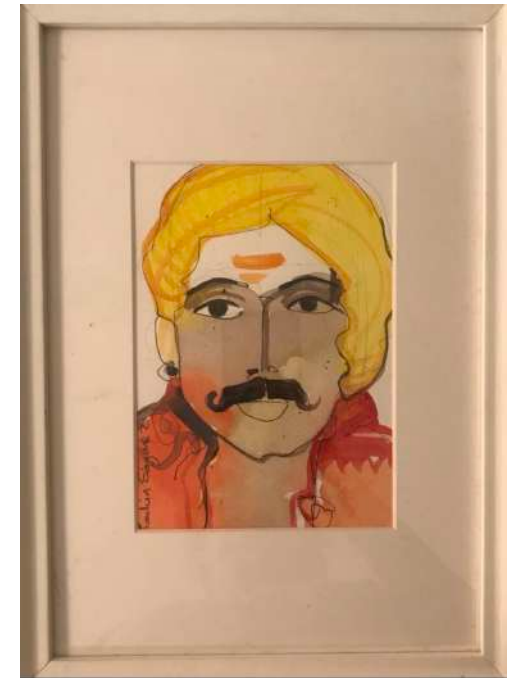
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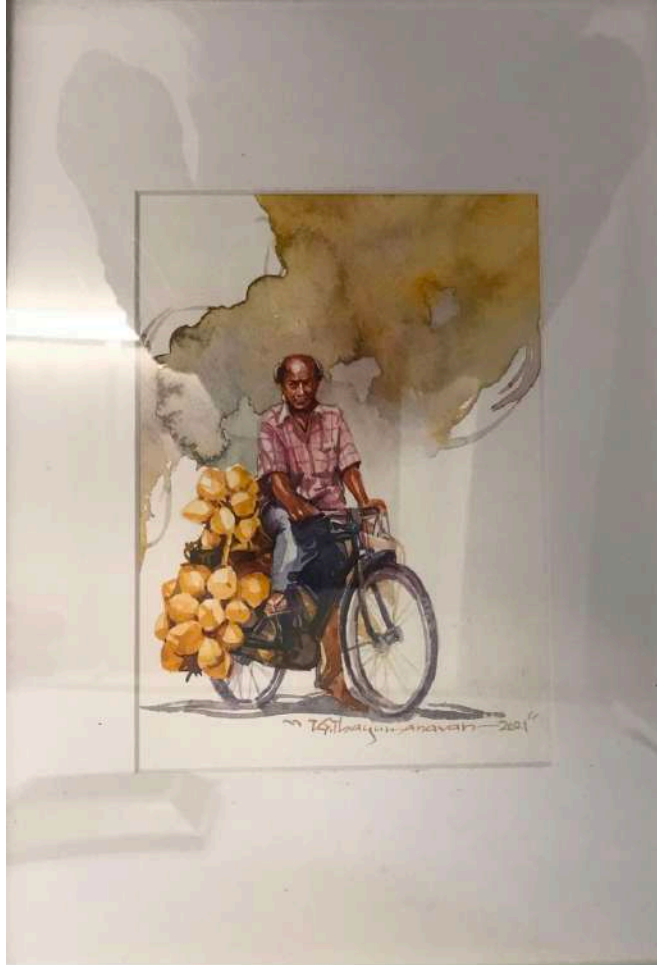
Artist: Sachin Sagare
Title: Mother and Child
Size: 60 cm x 60 cm
Medium: Acrylic on Canvas
Year: 2022
Price: SGD 1200



Artist: Sachin Sagare
Title: Radha Krishna
Size: 60 cm x 60 cm
Medium: Acrylic on canvas
Year: 2022
Price: SGD 1200



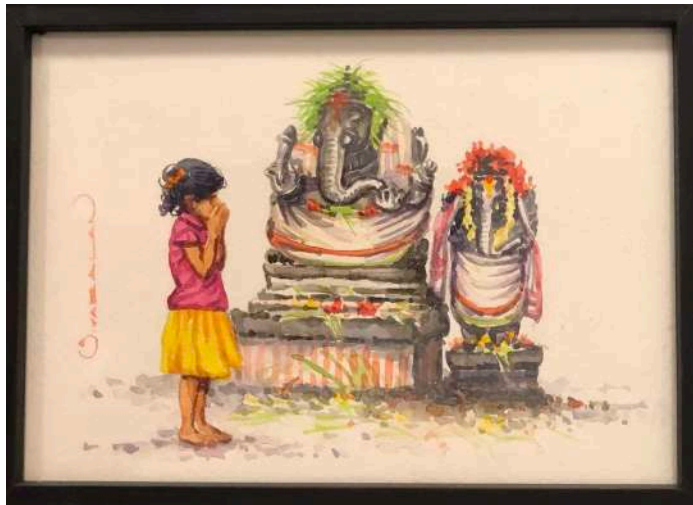
Artist: Sachin Sagare
Title: Villager
Size: 28 cm x 37 cm
Medium: Acrylic on canvas
Year: 2022
Price: SGD 200



My interest was always with registering paintings which reminds you about our culture, tradition and rural lifestyle. With this fast pace changes we see in our city lifestyle, my paintings would show how people were living for coming generations"

Sivabalan's paintings remind viewers of nativity and rural Indian villages, which we rarely see in our green concrete jungle lifestyle. Grown in Kumbakonam, a town known for Cholas temples and lush fields, he developed interest towards arts from his early years. Having completed his B.F.A at the Government College of Arts and Crafts, Kumbakonam, Sivabalan went on to finish his Masters degree there as well.

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| Artist: | Sivabalan |
| Title: | Fruit seller |
| Size: | 20 X 25 cm |
| Medium: | Watercolour on paper |
| Year: | 2022 |
| Price: | SGD 280 |



Artist: Sivabalan
Title: Prayer
Size: 20 X 25 cm
Medium: Watercolour on paper
Year: 2022
Price: SGD 280



Artist: Sivabalan
Title: Street food
Size: 20 X 25 cm
Medium: Watercolour on paper
Year: 2022
Price: SGD 280



Artist: Sivabalan
Title: Temple
Size: 20 X 25 cm
Medium: Watercolour on paper
Year: 2022
Price: SGD 280



As you traverse between mediums, what is the most important lesson you have learnt?

There is nothing that is easy or difficult. Everything is tough. In everything you have to think. In everything have to create. It has its own importance. We have to visualise it all in the mind. At night, when I am thinking about it, I can see the painting. I can be the work. I imagine how it looks and what I can do. But ultimately, it has to satisfy me. All the mediums that I explored were challenging in their own right. But I still enjoy it. It is a process. That is why they call art a 'practice' - it is never-ending. It is never a completed work. It is only a process that you are continuously trying to perfect.

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| Artist: | Subramanian G |
| Title: | Girl |
| Size: | 28 X 37 cm |
| Medium: | Collage on paper |
| Year: | 2022 |
| Price: | SGD 250 |