

BOOTH D1

CHAMPATREE
ART GALLERY
NEW DELHI • HYDERABAD

RAVI CHUNCHULA
**WE ARE
PART OF IT?**



18-20 SEPTEMBER 2026
HITEX EXHIBITION CENTRE, HYDERABAD

A prelude to ChampaTree Art Gallery's Hyderabad opening
at ARTYK, Jubilee Hills

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From the Founders

Hyderabad marks an important new chapter for ChampaTree Art Gallery.

Our journey began with the **Art For Art Foundation** fifteen years ago, rooted in mentorship, dialogue and sustained relationships with artists. ChampaTree grew from that foundation and, over the past ten years, has developed into a gallery committed to presenting emerging and mid-career practices with care, clarity and long-term engagement.

We are delighted to begin our presence in Hyderabad with *We Are Part of It?*, a solo presentation by **Ravi Chunchula**. Ravi's education, artistic practice and long association with the city makes this a particularly meaningful introduction. His work embodies many of the qualities central to our programme: a distinctive visual language, rigorous material practice and an ability to approach contemporary life with both humour and critical insight.

Presented at Design Democracy 2026, this exhibition is also a prelude to ChampaTree Hyderabad, our forthcoming permanent gallery at **Artyk** in Jubilee Hills. We look forward to building new relationships with artists, collectors and audiences in the city, while continuing the values and commitments that have shaped ChampaTree from the beginning.

Archana Sapra & Pooja Bahri

Co-founders, ChampaTree Art Gallery

WE ARE PART OF IT?

To watch is often imagined as a neutral position. Ravi Chunchula's paintings unsettle that comfort, placing figures and viewers within situations where observation, performance and participation repeatedly exchange roles.

Windows, grids, patterned surfaces and clustered fragments recur throughout this body of work. Figures look out, hide, display, reach, carry and compete. Some are visible only in fragments; others repeat until an individual gesture becomes collective. Their actions feel spontaneous and rehearsed at the same time, as though everyday life has become a stage without announcing itself as one.

Chunchula's satire does not depend on caricature or a punchline. It emerges through repetition, improbable juxtaposition and the slight wrongness of otherwise ordinary actions. A window becomes both architecture and stage. An object used to conceal a face makes the act of hiding more visible. Familiar domestic forms become screens between what is shown and what remains withheld.

Working with gouache on fragile rice paper, Chunchula builds images that remain crowded, unstable and unresolved. Their charge is held between humour and unease, visibility and concealment, observation and participation.

We Are Part of It? is not a conclusion. It is a question directed back at the viewer: where does watching end, and when have we already entered the performance?

"I use satire not to make light of the world, but to reveal its contradictions. Through theatrical situations and surreal imagery, I try to understand a reality where conflict, politics, culture, entertainment and everyday life often exist together."

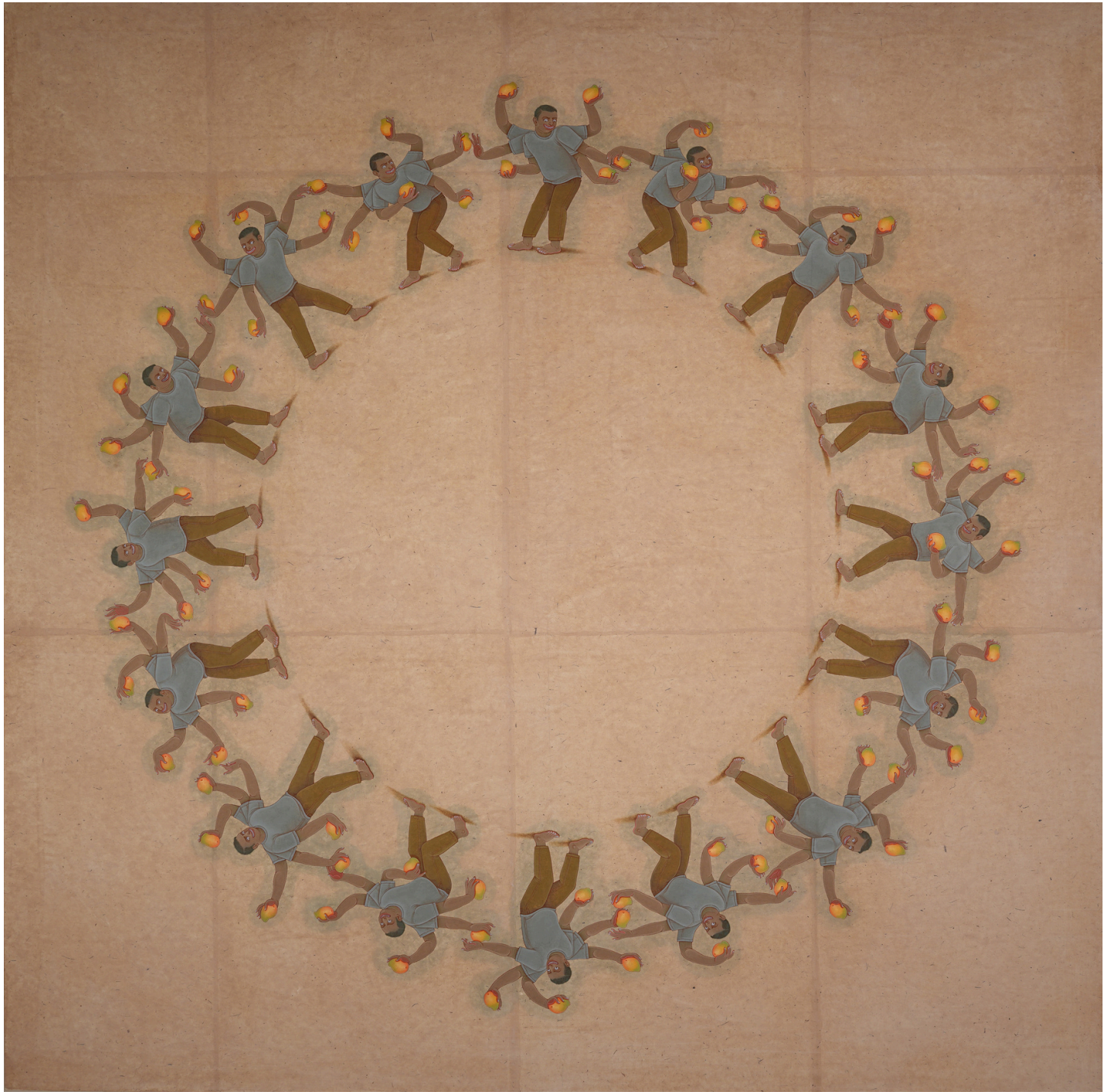
Ravi Chunchula



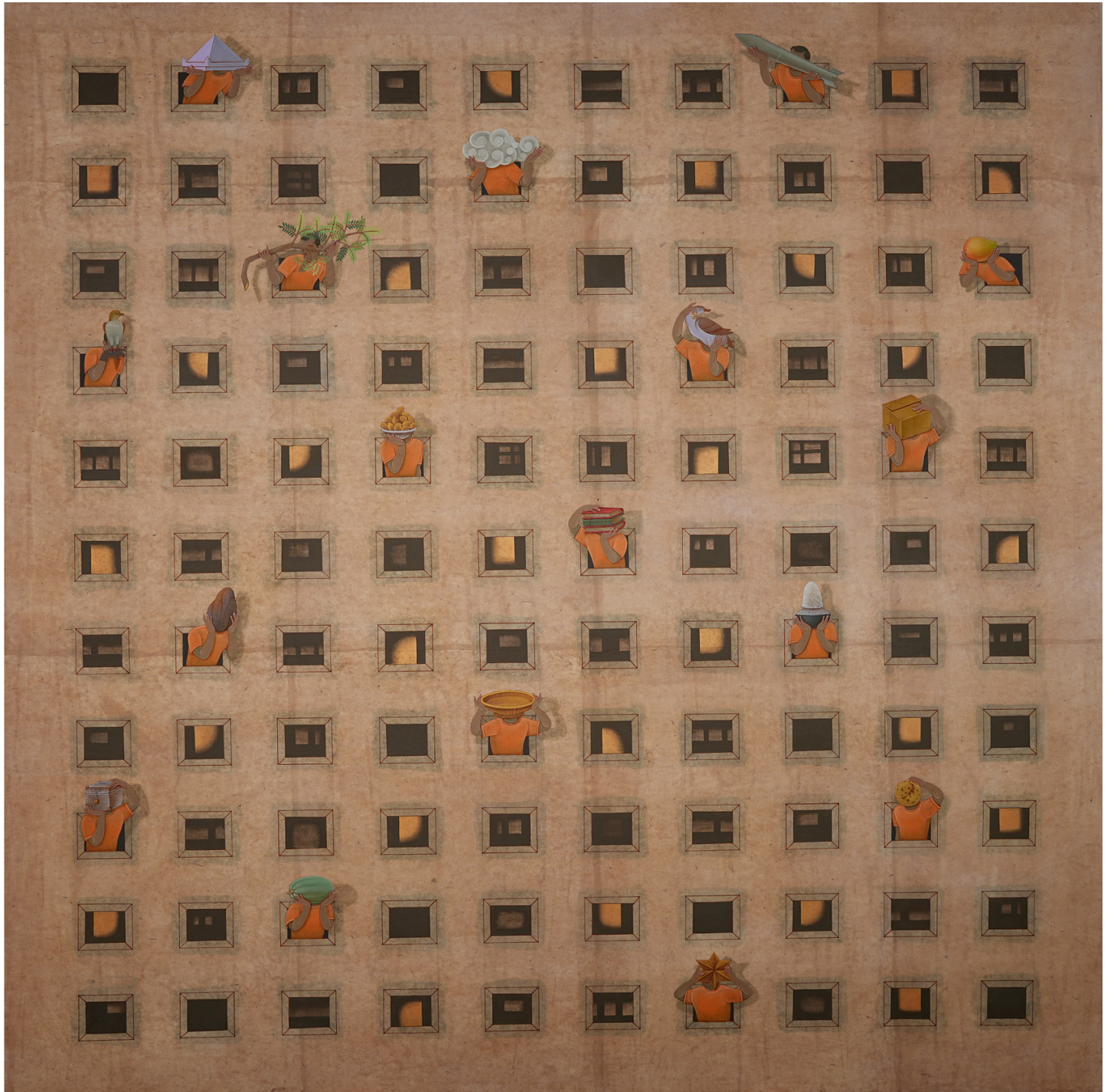
Stories We Don't Know
Gouache on rice paper, mounted on canvas
48 x 60 inches



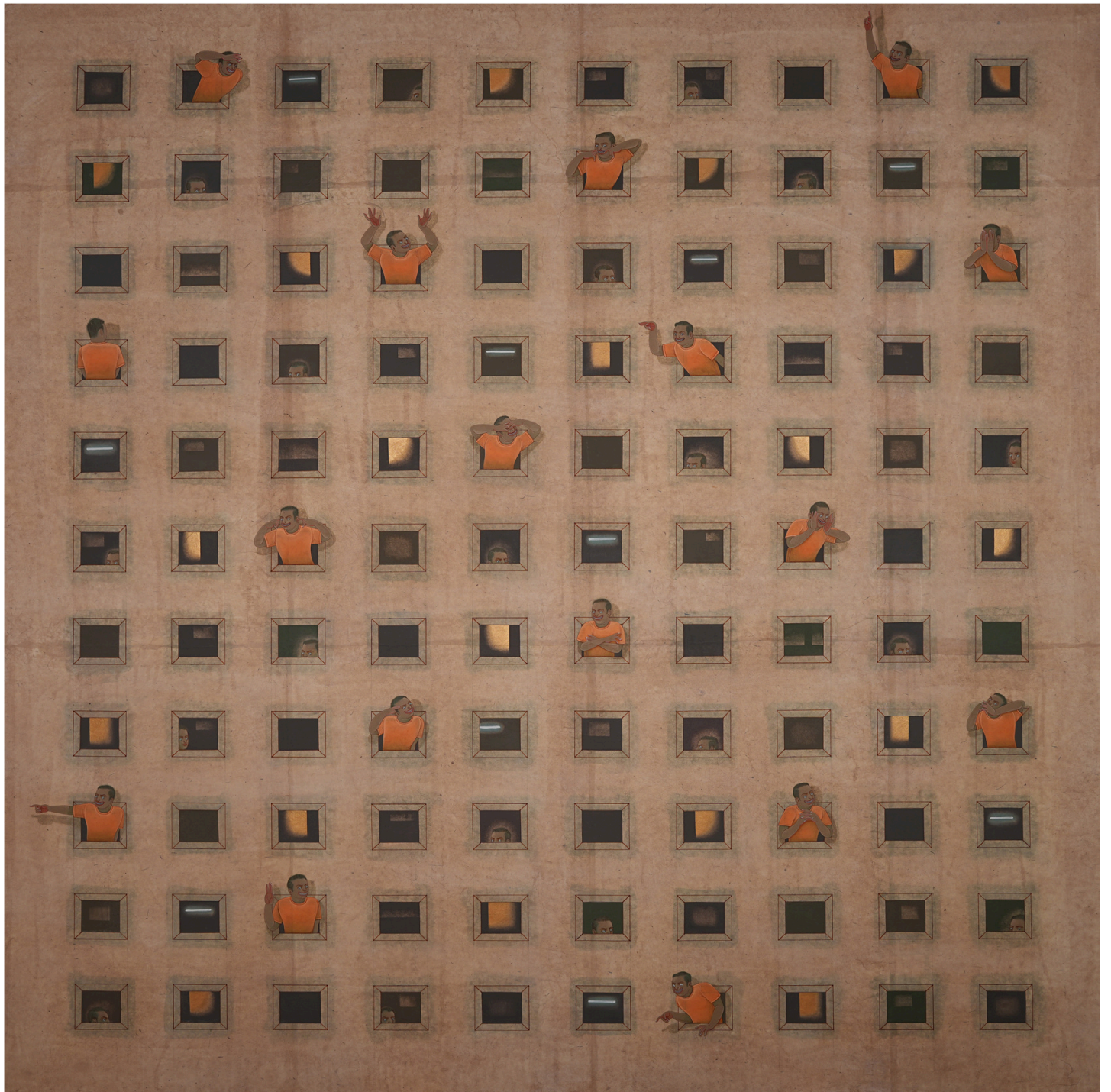
A Man Silently Performing
Gouache on rice paper, mounted on canvas
72 x 72 inches



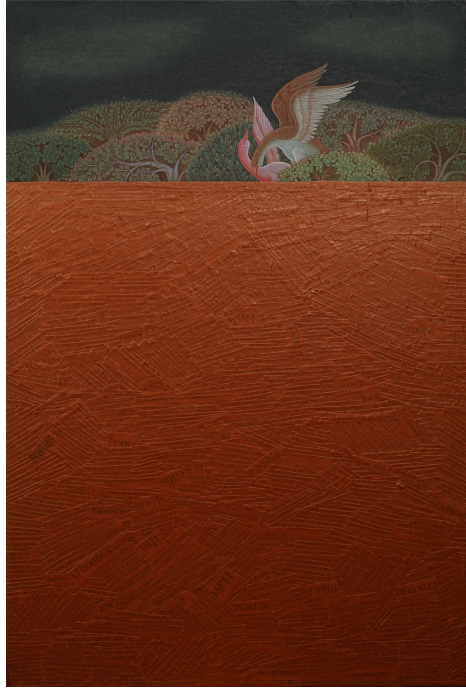
A Man for Mango
Gouache on rice paper, mounted on canvas
72 x 72 inches



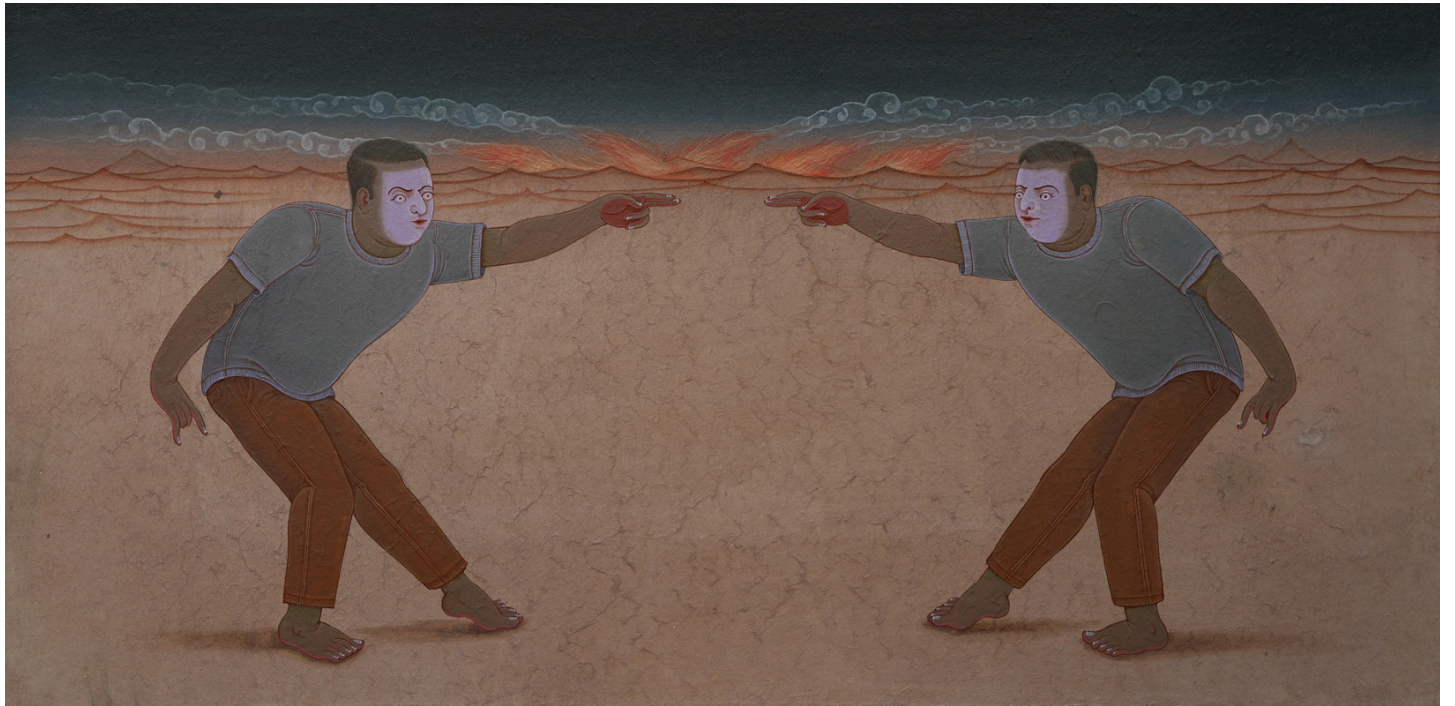
A Man on Display
Gouache on rice paper, mounted on canvas
72 x 72 inches



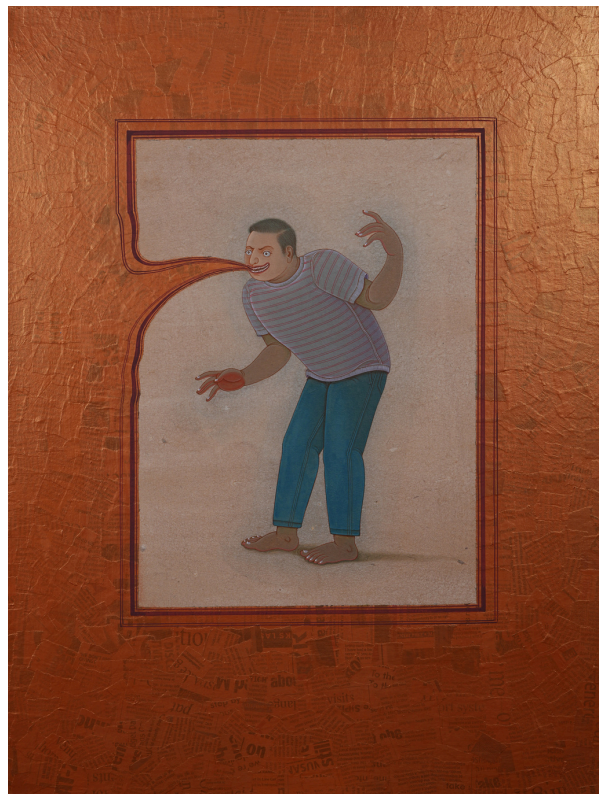
A Man on Display II
Gouache on rice paper, mounted on canvas
72 x 72 inches



A Golden Shroud I, II, III
Gouache & newspaper collage on rice paper, mounted on canvas
22 x 15 inches each



Two Performers
Gouache on rice paper, mounted on canvas
12 x 24 inches



A Decorated Performer I, II, III, IV
Gouache & newspaper collage on rice paper, mounted on canvas
24 x 18 inches each



A Man in Love with His Own Reflection
Gouache on rice paper, mounted on canvas
18 x 14 inches



Personage I, II
Gouache on rice paper, mounted on canvas
10 x 12 inches each

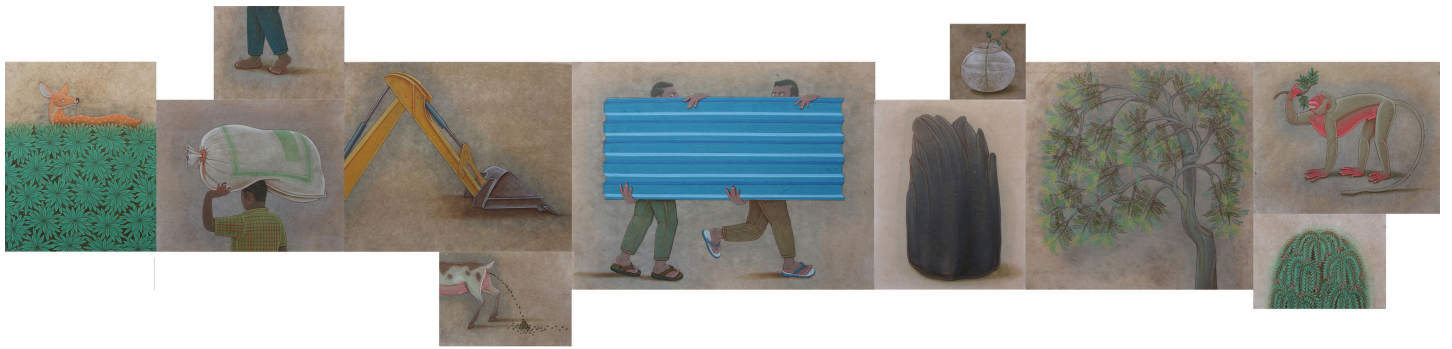


Personage III, IV
Gouache on rice paper, mounted on canvas
12 x 10 inches each



Detail

Corridors of Contemplation I
Gouache on rice paper, mounted on canvas
18 x 78 inches



Detail

Corridors of Contemplation II
 Gouache on rice paper, mounted on canvas
 18 x 76 inches



Performers I, II
Gouache on rice paper, mounted on canvas
5 x 7 inches each



Ravi Chunchula

(b. 1989, Rayadurg, Andhra Pradesh, India)
Lives and works in Hyderabad and New Delhi

Ravi Chunchula (b. 1989, Andhra Pradesh) holds an MFA in Printmaking from the University of Hyderabad and a BFA in Painting from Osmania University. He is a recipient of the Young Artist Scholarship from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. Early in his career he worked as an illustrator for the BBC and completed a number of commissioned projects, including large scale murals and restaurant design, before moving into a full-time studio practice.

Working between satire, performance, and surreal invention, Chunchula's practice traces the political, cultural, and social textures of contemporary life, turning familiar gestures into charged, layered fields of meaning.

He has exhibited widely across India and internationally, including in Belgium, Lithuania, South Korea, and France, and his work is currently on view at the Indian Cultural Centre, Paris. His works are held in the permanent collection of the Museum of Sacred Arts, Belgium, and in private and institutional collections across India, including a work commissioned by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

He lives and works from his studio in Hyderabad.

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Founded by Archana Sapra and Pooja Bahri, Champatree Art Gallery is a contemporary art gallery based in New Delhi, India. The gallery grew out of the **Art For Art Foundation (A4A)**, established in 2011 with a commitment to sustained artistic practice. From the outset, A4A has focused on mentorship, dialogue, and long-term engagement with artists across regions and stages of practice.

Champatree developed as the gallery platform within this ecosystem, supporting artists as their practices enter wider public and collector-facing contexts. The programme works closely with emerging artists and, increasingly, with mid-career artists whose practices have been shaped through time. Exhibitions are developed through research, conversation, and careful presentation, with a focus on clarity, documentation, and long-term commitment to the artists represented.

This year marks 15 years of A4A and 10 years of Champatree. These milestones offer a moment to acknowledge the relationships that have shaped the journey—artists, mentors, collaborators, and patrons who have stayed close to the work.

Enquiries, introductions, and proposals are welcome, and the gallery is happy to share further material on request, whether for a specific work, a viewing, or ongoing dialogue.

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