

CHAMPATREE
ART GALLERY

ANNUAL 2025

years

celebrating

Abhijit Saikia | Appalachari Chalapaka | Dhiraj Pednekar | Durgaprasad Chaganti | **Lokanath** Pradhan | **Pallav** Chander | **Rachana** Badrakia
Ravi Chunchula | **Samir** Mohanty | **Sonal** Varshneya | **Srinivas** Pulagam

CATALOGUE

Annual 2025 marks nine years of ChampaTree Art Gallery's journey, bringing together eleven artists whose practices traverse painting, printmaking, sculpture, and mixed media. The exhibition foregrounds voices from across geographies and generations, reflecting on memory, ecology, identity, and the shifting textures of contemporary life. Rooted in diverse traditions yet attentive to the urgencies of the present, the works open a space where history and experimentation, resilience and renewal, coexist, offering audiences a glimpse into the evolving continuum of Indian contemporary art.

This year's edition brings together eleven remarkable artists: **Abhijit Saikia, Appalachari Chalapaka, Dhiraj Padnekar, Durga Prasad Chaganti, Lokanath Pradhan, Pallav Chander, Rachana Badrakia, Ravi Kumar Chunchula, Samir Mohanty, Sonal Varshneya Ojha, and Srinivas Pulagam**, each distinct in language yet bound by a shared attentiveness to form, memory, and material.

Abhijit Saikia reflects on Assam's natural landscapes and their uneasy dialogue with urban growth, mapping time, ecology, and identity. Grounded in the discipline of traditional printmaking, **Appalachari Chalapaka** rearticulates its methods through acrylics, constructing layered cityscapes that mirror the pulse of urban transformation, foregrounding questions of labour, heritage, and the inexorable momentum of progress. **Dhiraj Padnekar's** contemplative paintings merge architectural precision with atmospheric stillness, where light becomes both a structural element and a metaphor. Sculptor **Durga Prasad** extends the exhibition's inquiry into three dimensions through a refined handling of material and form shaped by research and studio rigour. **Lokanath Pradhan** translates his deep connection to forest ecologies into painstakingly carved woodblocks that read as quiet sanctuaries, while his oils and watercolours extend this sensibility into luminous landscapes of equal resonance. **Pallav Chander's** textured, multi-layered compositions engage personal memory and neurodiversity, oscillating between the intimate and the universal. **Rachana Badrakia's** meditative abstractions turn lines and dots into temporal fields that hover between order and surrender. **Ravi Chunchula's** layered paintings merge ancient iconography with incisive socio-political satire, rendered in gouache on rice paper. **Samir Mohanty** composes dreamlike mixed-media worlds, flowers, twigs, and thorns, where memory and utopia coexist. **Sonal Varshneya's** nuanced figurative works consider womanhood, cultural identity, and resilience within patriarchal structures. **Srinivas Pulagam's** intricate drawings revisit South Indian temple architecture as living repositories of ritual and history.

Together, these practices open a space for dialogue between history and the present, tradition and subversion, material and idea, revealing how contemporary Indian art continues to evolve through resilience, critical inquiry, and an unhurried deepening of purpose.

Annual 2025 is not only a reflection of where we stand, but also a glimpse of what lies ahead, an unfolding journey of artists, audiences, and conversations that continue to shape ChampaTree.

Archana Sapra
Curatorial Director

Pooja Bahri
Artistic Director



Abhijit Saikia

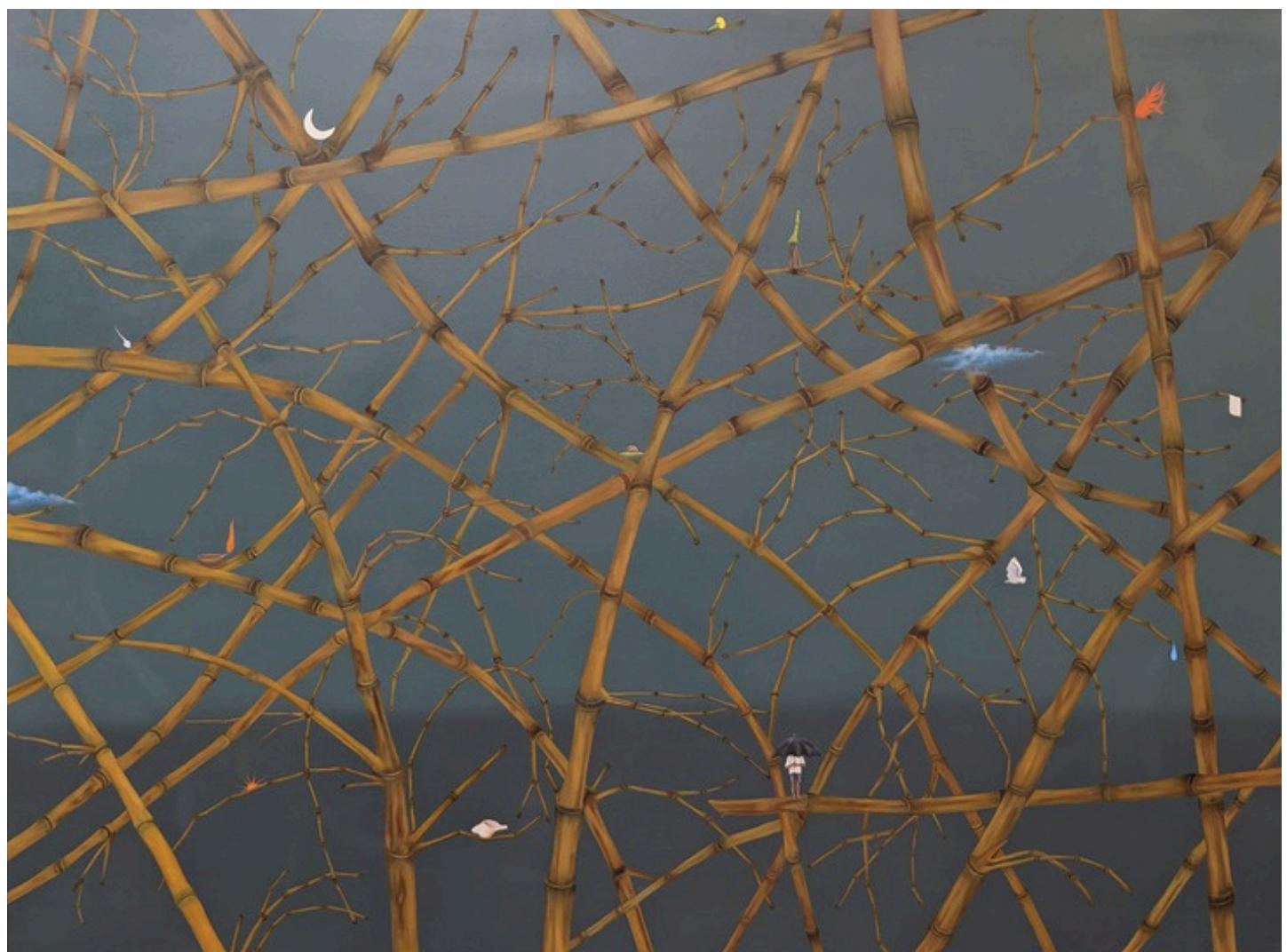
(b. 1989; Dibrugarh, Assam; lives and works in New Delhi)

Abhijit Saikia is a Delhi-based artist whose practice is rooted in painting. He holds an MFA in Painting from the College of Art, New Delhi and a BFA from the Government College of Art and Craft, Guwahati.

In 2014, he was awarded a Fine Arts scholarship, alongside several recognitions during his academic years. His work has been featured in exhibitions including the *Bishnu Prasad Rabha Art Exhibition* at the State Art Gallery, Assam (2009) and the *7th North East Exhibition* at Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra (2011). He has also participated in prestigious workshops such as the *Unexplored Spaces National Artists Camp* in Haryana.

Saikia's works are held in private collections both in India and abroad. His practice reflects a dialogue between the cultural memory of the North East and the contemporary urban condition, merging figurative precision with layered symbolism. Through this, he explores questions of culture, identity, place, and belonging in a rapidly transforming society.

Abhijit Saikia



Life Line
Oil on canvas
72 x 96 inches

Abhijit Saikia



The Silent Landscape
Oil on canvas
48 x 72 inches
2025

Abhijit Saikia



Tamulbari
Oil on canvas
48 x 72 inches
2025



Appalachaari Chalapaka

(b1987; Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh; lives and works in Visakhapatnam)

Appalachaari Chalapaka is a printmaker and painter whose work draws inspiration from landscapes and the natural world. He holds an MFA in Printmaking from Santiniketan, Visva-Bharati University (2013), and a BFA from Andhra University (2011). Since 2007, his practice has been rooted in exploring depth and perspective through intricate drawing techniques and crosshatching, echoing the visual language of prints.

He has been recognised with several awards, including the Prof. Vissa Apparao Memorial Gold Medal from Andhra University (2014), the Sri Varada Venkata Ratnam Award from the Tirupati Art Society (2020), and the Save Earth Award from Andhra University (2010).

Chalapaka's works have been exhibited widely, including the 63rd National Exhibition of Art, Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi (2023); the 131st All India Art Exhibition, The Bombay Art Society, Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai (2023); and the 55th Annual Exhibition, Birla Academy of Art & Culture, Kolkata (2021).

Appalachaari Chalapaka



Landscape I
Acrylic on canvas
39 x 63 inches
2025

Appalachaari Chalapaka



Landscape II
Acrylic on canvas
39 x 63 inches
2025



Dhiraj Pednekar

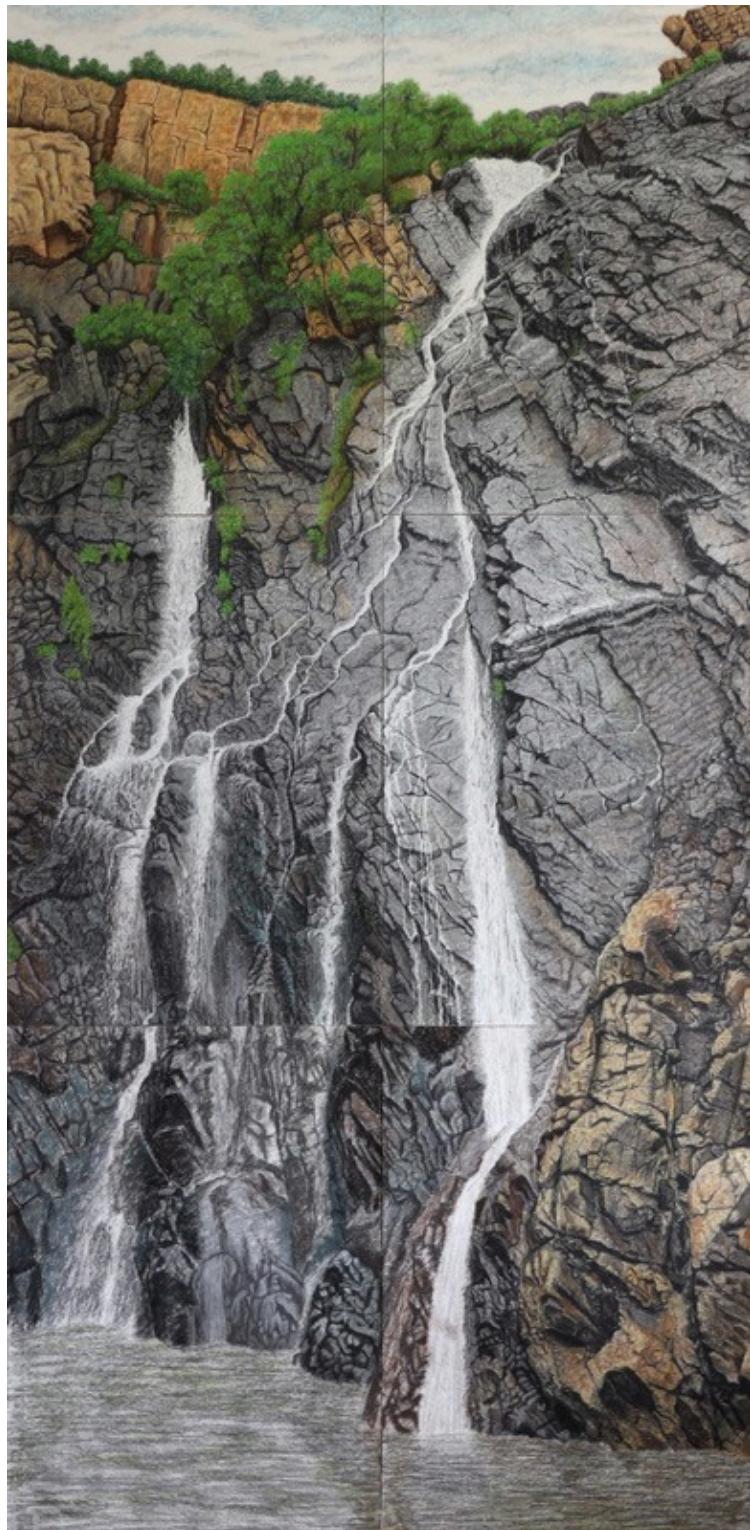
(b. 1990; lives and works in Goa)

Dhiraj Pednekar is an artist whose practice spans drawing, painting, sculpture, and new media. Rooted in ecology and social awareness, his work often engages with the materiality of nature, employing organic and recycled resources as both medium and message. Charcoal, a recurring element in his practice, becomes a metaphor for transformation, resilience, and the delicate balance between human society and the natural world. Pednekar holds an MFA from the S.N. School of Arts and Communication, University of Hyderabad, where he received the University Gold Medal for Academic Excellence, and a BFA from Goa College of Art, Goa University.

His work has been presented at the 61st National Exhibition of Art, *Lalit Kala Akademi*, New Delhi (2020); *Yuva Sumbhava*, Raza Foundation, New Delhi (2022); *Goa Open Arts Festival* (2020, 2022); and *Lost Fragrance of Infinity*, Space 118, Mumbai (2023), among other exhibitions in India and abroad.

He has participated in several residencies and workshops, including programs at *Kochi Muziris Biennale*, *Sunaparanta Goa Centre for the Arts*, and *Story of Space*, Goa. The artist's works are held in notable corporate and private collections worldwide, including *Takshila Educational Society*, New Delhi; *Sen Architects*, New York; and *Space 118*, Mumbai.

Dhiraj Pednekar



Point of Meeting III

Charcoal and pastels on archival paper

6 panels | 90 x 44 inches

2025

Dhiraj Pednekar



Point of Meeting IV
Charcoal on canvas
48 x 96 inches
2025



Durgaprasad Chaganti

(b. 1994; lives and works in Andhra Pradesh)

Durgaprasad is a sculptor whose practice reflects a deep engagement with India's artistic heritage and its reinterpretation within contemporary contexts. He holds an MFA in Sculpture from *Jamia Millia Islamia University*, New Delhi (2017) and a BFA in Sculpture from *Andhra University*, Andhra Pradesh (2015). He was awarded the *Lalit Kala Akademi Research Grant Scholarship* (2017–18) at the Regional Centre, Chennai, where his research explored the integration of ancient Indian art forms into contemporary practice.

He has participated in numerous residencies, workshops, and sculpture camps across India, including the *First International Kala Mela* by *Lalit Kala Akademi*, the *Student Muziris Biennale* with *Kochi Biennale Foundation*, and national stone and scrap sculpture camp. His works have been exhibited widely at galleries and institutions such as *Jehangir Art Gallery* (Mumbai), *Lalit Kala Akademi* (New Delhi and Chennai), *AIFACS* (New Delhi), *ABIR Annual Show* (Ahmedabad), and *Kashi Art Gallery* (Fort Kochi), among others.

Chaganti's works are held in private and institutional collections in India and abroad, most notably in the permanent collection of the *Museum of Sacred Arts* (MOSA), Belgium. His research and practice have also been featured in *Art & Deal Magazine* and *Arts Illustrated*.

Durgaprasad Chaganti



Slow Generation
Terracotta
16 x 12 x 9 inches
2025



Lokanath Pradhan

(b. 1987, Orissa; lives and works in Delhi)

Lokanath Pradhan is an interdisciplinary artist whose practice expands from printmaking to various media and installations. He holds a PhD from the *China Academy of Art, Hangzhou*, an MFA in Printmaking from the *College of Art, New Delhi*, and a BFA from the *Utkal University of Culture, Bhubaneswar*.

Pradhan has received several prestigious awards, including the *57th National Award* from the *Lalit Kala Akademi* (2016). His accolades further include the *Prafulla Dahanukar Award*, *Kala Sakshi Award*, and recognitions from the NDMC and the Royal Academy, Gulbarga. He has also been honoured with the *National Award* by the South Central Zone Cultural Centre (S.C.Z.C.C.), Nagpur, alongside multiple awards from B.K. College of Art & Crafts.

His achievements are supported by significant scholarships, notably the *Junior Fellowship* from the *Ministry of Culture, Government of India*, the *MFA Scholarship*, and the *Research Grant Scholarship* from the *Lalit Kala Akademi*. He has participated in numerous workshops, residencies, and national art camps.

Pradhan's works are held in private collections across India and overseas. His practice is marked by a technical mastery of printmaking processes, through which he investigates contemporary visual culture with references to history, materiality, and lived experience.



When Roots remembered the Sky

Layered plywood carving

48 x 72 inches

2025

Lokanath Pradhan



The Forgotten Giant
Plywood carving in 4 layers
24 x 48 inches
2025

Lokanath Pradhan



The Silent Guardian of the Concrete Jungle

Plywood carving in 4 layers

24 x 48 inches

2025



The Wall between the Worlds

Water colour on paper

18 x 29 inches

2025



Roots of Resistance
Water colour on paper
18 x 29 inches
2025



Pallav Chander

(b. 1990, lives and works in New Delhi)

Pallav Chander engages with identity, memory, and psychological landscapes. He completed his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting from *Birmingham City University*, UK, in 2012. In recognition of his artistic achievements, he was awarded the Junior Fellowship (2019–21) by the *Ministry of Culture, Government of India*, and also participated in the *60th National Exhibition of Art*.

Chander has presented four solo exhibitions: *Decoding a Dyslexic Mind* (India Habitat Centre, 2014), *Life Must Have Its Mysteries* (Arts4All, 2017), *Tomorrow Belongs to Me* (Alliance Française, 2019), and *An Organization of Chaos* (Apre Art House, 2021). Alongside these, he has been part of major group exhibitions, including *In the Quiet of Collapse* (Art Heritage, 2025), *Unstill, Unbound* (Shridharani Gallery, 2025), *NADA Miami* (2024), *San Francisco Art Fair* (2024). His work has also been shown with *Art Centrix*, *Dhoomimal Art Gallery*, and *Gallery Kolkata*, among others.

His works are a part of significant collections, including the *Kiran Nadar Museum of Art*, the *Alkazi Foundation*, the *Dhoomimal Collection* in New Delhi, as well as several distinguished private collections in India and abroad.



In rose I seal the memory of your Touch

Acrylic on canvas

60 x 48 inches

2025

Pallav Chander



Tealicious
Acrylic on canvas
60 x 48 inches
2025



Rachana Badrakia

(b. 1982, Ahmedabad, Gujarat; lives and works in Gujarat)

Rachana Badrakia holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Printmaking from Maharaja Sayajirao University of Vadodara.

She is the recipient of the Gujarat State *Lalit Kala* Award for Graphics. Over the years, Badrakia has actively participated in numerous group exhibitions across Delhi, Mumbai, and Gujarat. Her practice has also been engaged through notable workshops and residencies, including the *Lalit Kala Regional Camp* in Lucknow and programs in Hyderabad, Delhi, and Banaras.

Badrakia incorporates the dot as a central element in her work, marking the passage of time with quiet precision. Her art becomes a vessel for emotions, memories, and fleeting moments, expressing depths that words cannot fully capture.

Widely collected, her works are in the possession of connoisseurs across continents, reflecting her growing recognition within the contemporary visual art world. Her practice is rooted in the expressive potential of printmaking, where technical precision is balanced with a search for poetic form and layered imagery.

Rachana Badrakia



The Velocity of Love
Acrylic on linen
24 x 72 inches (Diptych)
2025



Ravi Chunchula

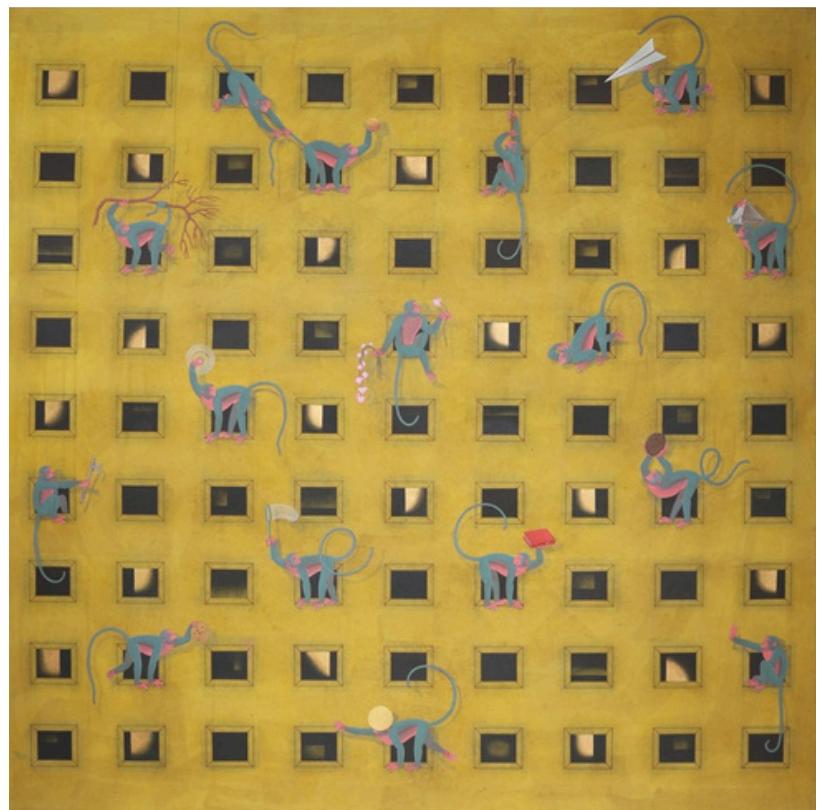
(b. 1989, Rayadurg, Andhra Pradesh; lives and works in Hyderabad/ New Delhi)

Ravi Chunchula's art practice spans painting, printmaking, and sculpture. He holds an MFA in Printmaking from the *University of Hyderabad* and a BFA in *Painting* from *Osmania University*.

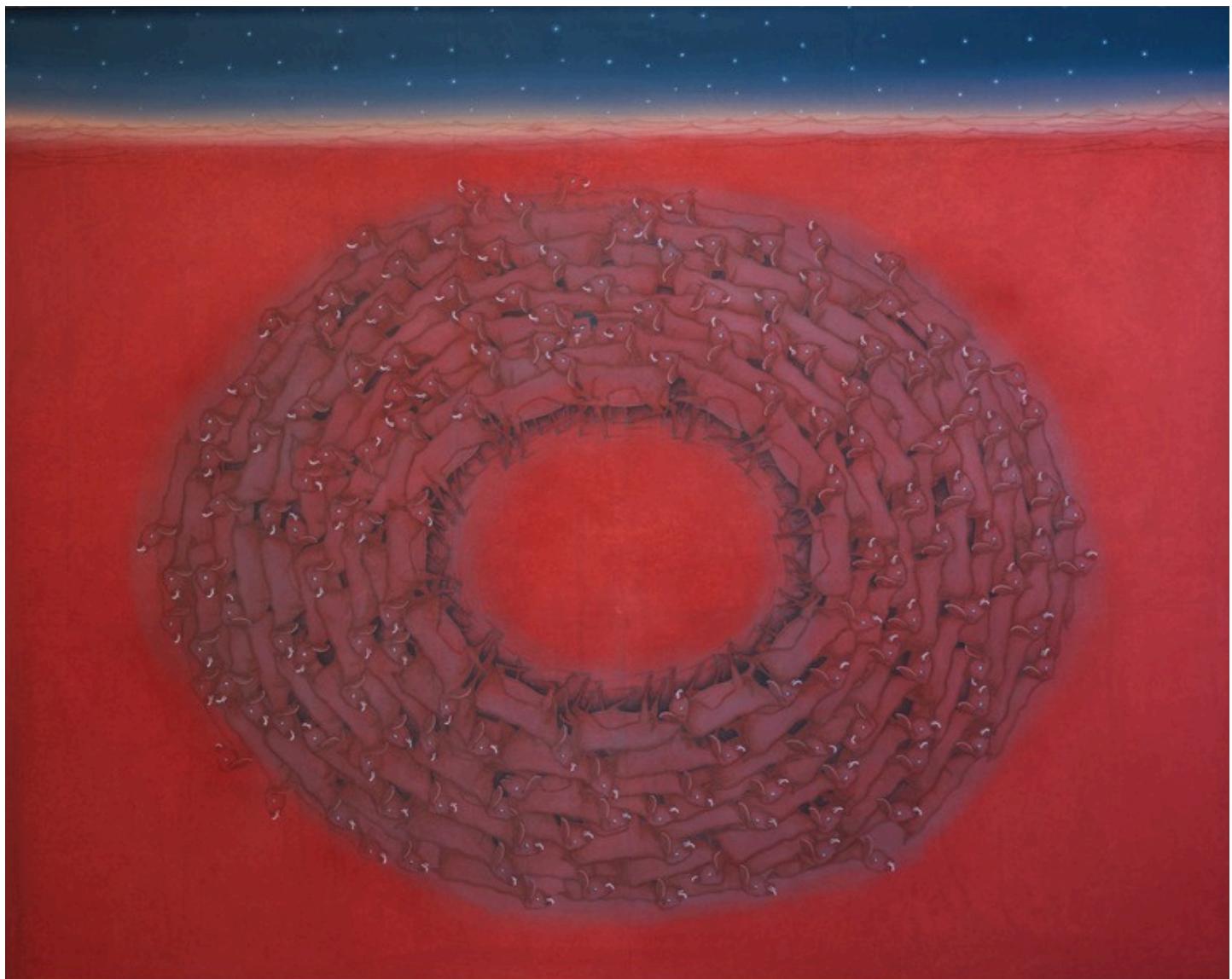
A recipient of the prestigious *Young Artist Scholarship* from the *Ministry of Culture*, Government of India, Chunchula has steadily built a career marked by both individual exploration and public engagement. He has undertaken major commissioned projects, including large-scale murals and illustrated publications. His works have been exhibited extensively across India in Hyderabad, Chennai, Mumbai, Bhopal, Bangalore, and New Delhi, as well as internationally in France, Lithuania, South Korea, and Belgium.

Chunchula's works are represented in important private and public collections, most notably at the *Museum of Sacred Arts (MOSA)* in Belgium. Additionally, institutional collections include a commission for the *Ministry of Culture*, Government of India.

Chunchula's artistic journey is deeply informed by his early professional experience as a restorer of old masters and a short stint as a political cartoonist with the *BBC*. This background sharpened his sensitivity to narration, giving him a strong foundation in communicating ideas through layered visual vocabularies of satire. His practice also draws inspiration from the intricacy and storytelling of miniature artworks, and he particularly enjoys working with the luminosity and versatility of gouache colours.



Untitled
Gouache colour on
rice paper and canvas
60 x 60 inches each
2025



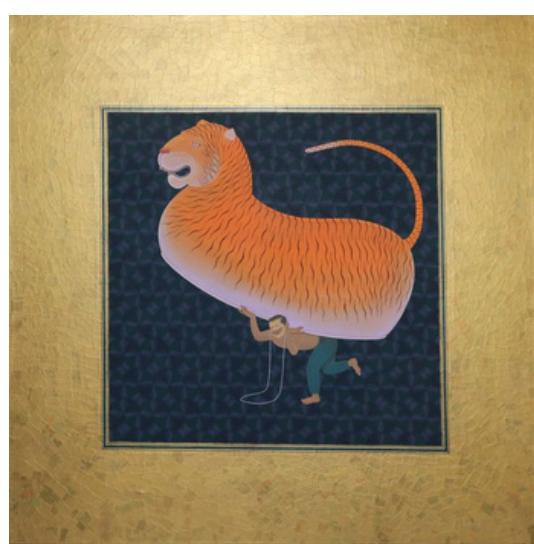
Anonymous among many

Gouache colour on rice paper

48 x 60 inches

2024

Ravi Chunchula



Performative
Collage newspaper, rice paper pasted on canvas
acrylic and Gouache,
36 x 36 inches each
2024



Performatives

Gouache colours on rice paper and canvas

Variable sizes

2025



Samir Mohanty

(b. 1989, Odisha; lives and works in New Delhi)

Samir Mohanty's practice engages with the evolving language of Indian modern and contemporary art. He holds an MFA in Painting from the S.N. *School of Arts and Communication, University of Hyderabad* and a BFA in Painting from the B.K. *College of Art and Crafts, Utkal University of Culture, Bhubaneswar*.

He is a two-time recipient of the *Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation Grant* (Canada), awarded in 2008 and 2011 in recognition of his artistic potential. Mohanty has participated in numerous group exhibitions across India and has steadily earned recognition within the national art scene.

Mohanty's practice is defined by commitment to painterly experimentation, where form and texture become vehicles for reflecting on cultural memory, identity, and the everyday. His paintings incorporate nature and landscapes along with humans and animals who are searching for new lands. Through his poetic juxtaposition, nature is not merely represented but embodied, woven into the very being of the painting. His works have been acquired by collectors both in India and abroad.

Samir Mohanty



The Light
Acrylic on Canvas
66 x 72 inches
2025

Samir Mohanty



Divine Hours
Acrylic on Canvas
25 x 38 and 38 x 64 inches
2025



Sonal Varshneya

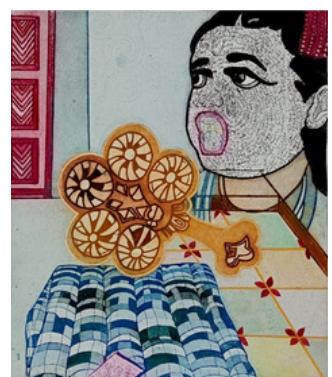
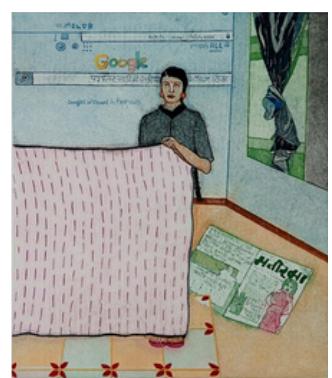
(b. 1985, Agra, Uttar Pradesh; lives and works in Lucknow)

Sonal Varshneya explores the expressive and technical range of graphic arts. She holds an MVA in Printmaking from *Kala Sansthan, Agra University*.

She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the *1st International Print Biennial Award* from the *Lalit Kala Akademi*, New Delhi, and the *International Award* at the *International Biennial Print Exhibition*, Taiwan. She has also been recognised with the *Junior Fellowship in Visual Art (Graphics)* and the *Scholarship to Young Artist*, both from the *Ministry of Culture, Government of India*.

In 2013, Varshneya participated in the *Korea Print International Residency Program*, South Korea. Her works have been exhibited widely in various exhibitions across India and overseas. Her works are part of significant institutional collections, including the *National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA)*, New Delhi and Mumbai, *The Museum of Sacred Arts (MOSA)*, Belgium where her works are currently displayed at the ongoing exhibition 'Shakti', the *National Museum of Taiwan*, the *International Print Center Serbia*, the *International Print Society China*, *Bharat Bhavan, Bhopal*, and the *South-Central Cultural Zone, Nagpur*.

Varshneya's works have also been published in several books and art journals, reflecting her growing prominence in the field.



Top-Secret Nook
Etching with Water Colour
13.5 x 15 inches each
2025



Top-Secret Nook
Etching with Water Colour
13.5 x 15 inches each
2025



Srinivas Pulagam

(b. 1989, Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh; lives and works in Vadodara, Gujarat)

Srinivas Pulagam's practice is rooted in printmaking and painting. He holds an MVA in Printmaking from *Maharaja Sayajirao University*, Vadodara and a BFA in Painting from *Andhra University*.

He has been recognised with several awards, including the *South-Central Zone Cultural Centre Award* and the *AIFACS Award*, among others. His works are represented in India and abroad, most notably in the permanent collection of the *Museum of Sacred Arts (MOSA)*, Belgium.

Pulagam's works have been exhibited in group exhibitions across Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Lucknow, and Delhi. He has also participated in numerous workshops, residencies, and art camps, as well as in the *Kochi-Muziris Students Biennale*.

His practice combines technical rigour with a layered visual language, exploring memory, landscape, and the intersections of cultural identity through prints and gouache painting.



Fading Pathways
Gouache on paper
39 x 29 inches
2025



Displaced Silence
Gouache on paper
41 x 27 inches
2025

CHAMPATREE

ART GALLERY

Established in 2016, Champatree Art Gallery stands as a vibrant and immersive art space that offers a diverse range of exceptional artworks created by talented artists from various corners of the world. At the heart of its mission is the not-for-profit initiative, the Art for Art Foundation, which serves as a nurturing ground for talent, providing mentorship and fostering creative expression.

The gallery's collection is thoughtfully curated to encompass a wide array of artistic styles, mediums, and cultural influences, providing a rich tapestry of visual experiences for art enthusiasts. With a strong emphasis on accessibility and affordability, ChampaTree Art Gallery aims to serve as a welcoming and inclusive hub for individuals passionate about art, positioning itself as a rapidly rising destination of choice for art connoisseurs, collectors, and creators alike.

The name "ChampaTree" is a tribute to the tree, which is highly regarded for its symbolism of growth, resilience, and the limitless potential found in every artistic endeavour. Like the Champa tree, ChampaTree Art Gallery sees art as a catalyst for transformation, a powerful force that, when nurtured, can bloom, inspire, and drive positive change.

On view till 5th November 2025

All days except Sundays and public holidays

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