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A CITY WAKES UP INSIDE ME

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ESSAY RANJIT HOSKOTE

THE MUSEUM GALLERY

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A City Wakes Up Inside Me: Recent Paintings by Nayanaa Kanodia

Ranjit Hoskote

In her recent suite of paintings, Nayanaa Kanodia presents wry portraits of women and couples, set in domestic interiors melded from the actual and the fictive, and cityscapes in which imagined panoramas are stacked against existing vistas to produce the idea of a city that is both a model of civic order as well as of the site of architectural and psychic enigma. Kanodia's art proceeds from several points of departure, including the 19th- and early 20th-century genres of the formal studio portrait and the *carte de visite*. She manages to internalise exoticism and strangeness, not as vivid mannerisms for their own sake, but as wacky symptoms of the displacement of the accepted social roles and places of her protagonists. Consider the woman in a couple languidly discovering her erotic potentialities; or the woman asserting herself in a dominant, conventionally masculine pose, leaning on an umbrella with a dog for company, for all the world like a Habsburg emperor in a classic piece of dynastic portraiture.

In her choice of pictorial language, Kanodia also explores a domain that has largely dropped out of sight, so far as contemporary art-making is concerned. Her art continues a preoccupation with retrieving miniature and popular vocabularies of image to render metropolitan experience, beloved of such painters as the once well known Vajubhai Bhagat, who fell into a most unfortunate gap: they were too stylised to suit either academic realism in late colonial India or the School of Paris-oriented Progressives in early postcolonial India.

Set squarely in the secular realm of boudoir and drawing room, her figures can nevertheless suggest archetypal, even iconic presences: the woman attended by a lion is an example, as are the women surrounded by props suggestive of domestic felicity or worldly accomplishment. Such figures come across as everyday goddesses of the metropolitan whirl of routinisation and social role-playing, seemingly regular yet marking surprising disruptions from the hidden rimlands of dream and fantasy.



A City Wakes Up Inside Me

About her new series 'A CITY WAKES UP INSIDE ME' where she has captured Mumbai, Nayanaa Kanodia says, "Mumbai - the city of dreams and opportunities was shattered on 26/11 2008 and held to ransom by a bunch of terrorists challenging the nerve of the city. The burning city fired her creativity. She adds "In our daily hustle and bustle, we let the unplanned and haphazard building development mire our heritage monuments. Monuments grow old, naturally, but on a scale of time that is much greater not only than the span of human existence but also than the passing of a whole series of generations. Therein lies the significance of a city when seen against the grand flow of time itself".

These paintings are a fabulous harmony of yearning and concrete detail, the coincidence that is, of a willful dream and reality experienced at first hand. We get the impression that the heavily painted structural surfaces are seething and exhaling their own aroma. Her power to perceive her surroundings only through the prism of her imagination, to set imagined symbols side by side on a surface, is massive and primal. The cheerfulness is coupled with mystery and the sublime becomes a joking matter.

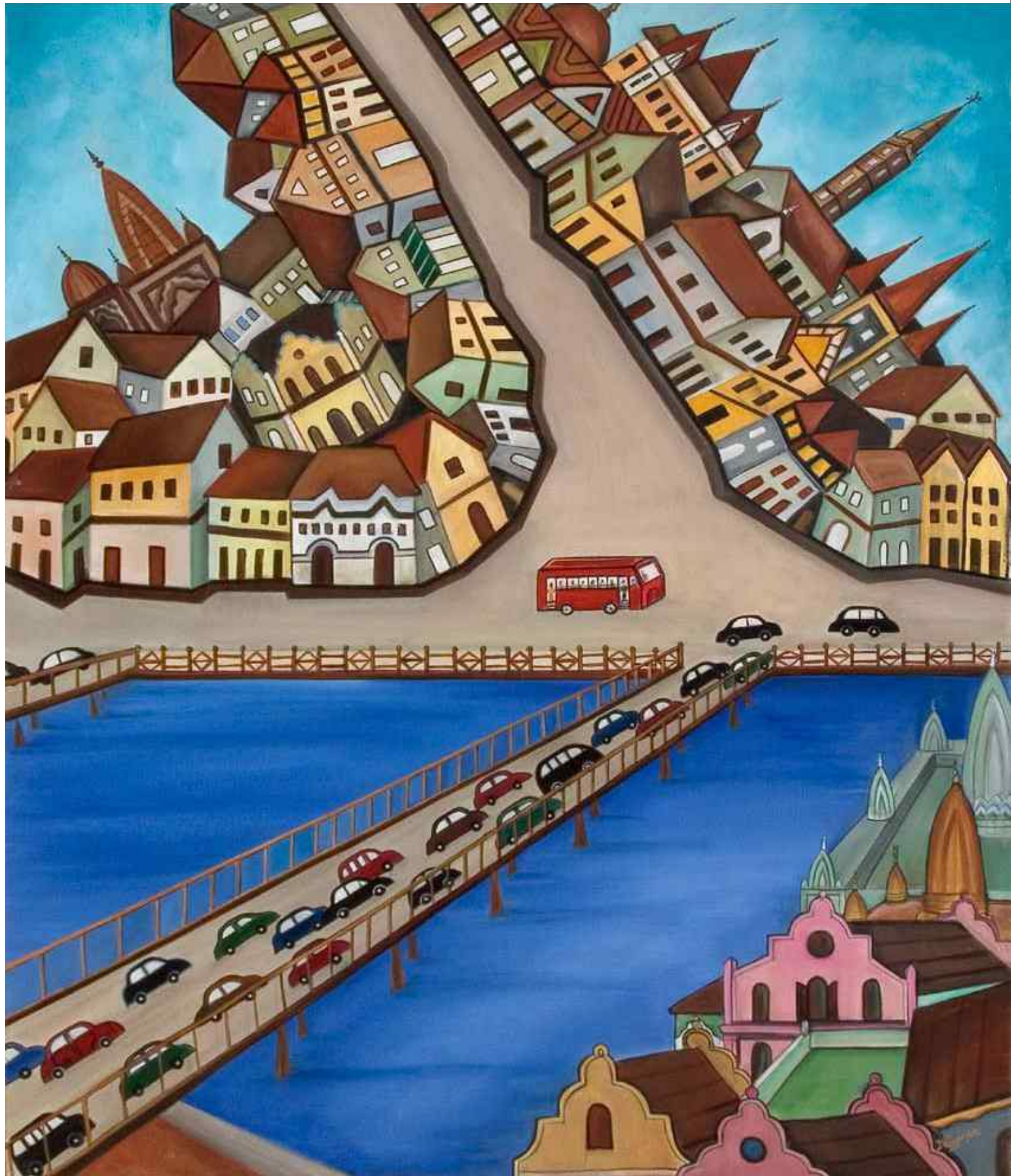
Nayanaa's work has been done on two levels viz. the exterior and the interior and the results have to be seen to be believed. It is the sum total of her desires and preoccupations to search beneath the obvious, literally and figuratively, to paint dramas that are at play with everyday environments which lead to unraveling a complete story within the frame. This series shows the importance of the city in our daily existence and understanding the metamorphosis in the social and architectural make-up of a metropolis. It is a microcosm of our world at large. Her work portrays emotionally charged moments of seemingly ordinary people faced with their day-to-day situations. Human elements are placed provocatively against a background of entire streets/cities. We have a soul within a soul. The interiors have people living their lives and emotions and the cities breathing their own existence. Static scenes lend movement to the images.

For further information contact: Nayanaa Kanodia 9322258896.

Nayanaa

Cacophany
48" x 36"
Oil on Canvas





Easing Congrston
42" x 36"
Oil on Canvas

The Marriage Bureau
35" x 35"
Oil on Canvas





The Early Birds
36" x 48"
Oil on Canvas
2009

Majestic Flora Fountain
42" x 36"
Oil on Canvas





Built to Please
42" x 32"
Oil on Canvas



Manipulation Corporation
42" x 36"
Oil on Canvas
2009

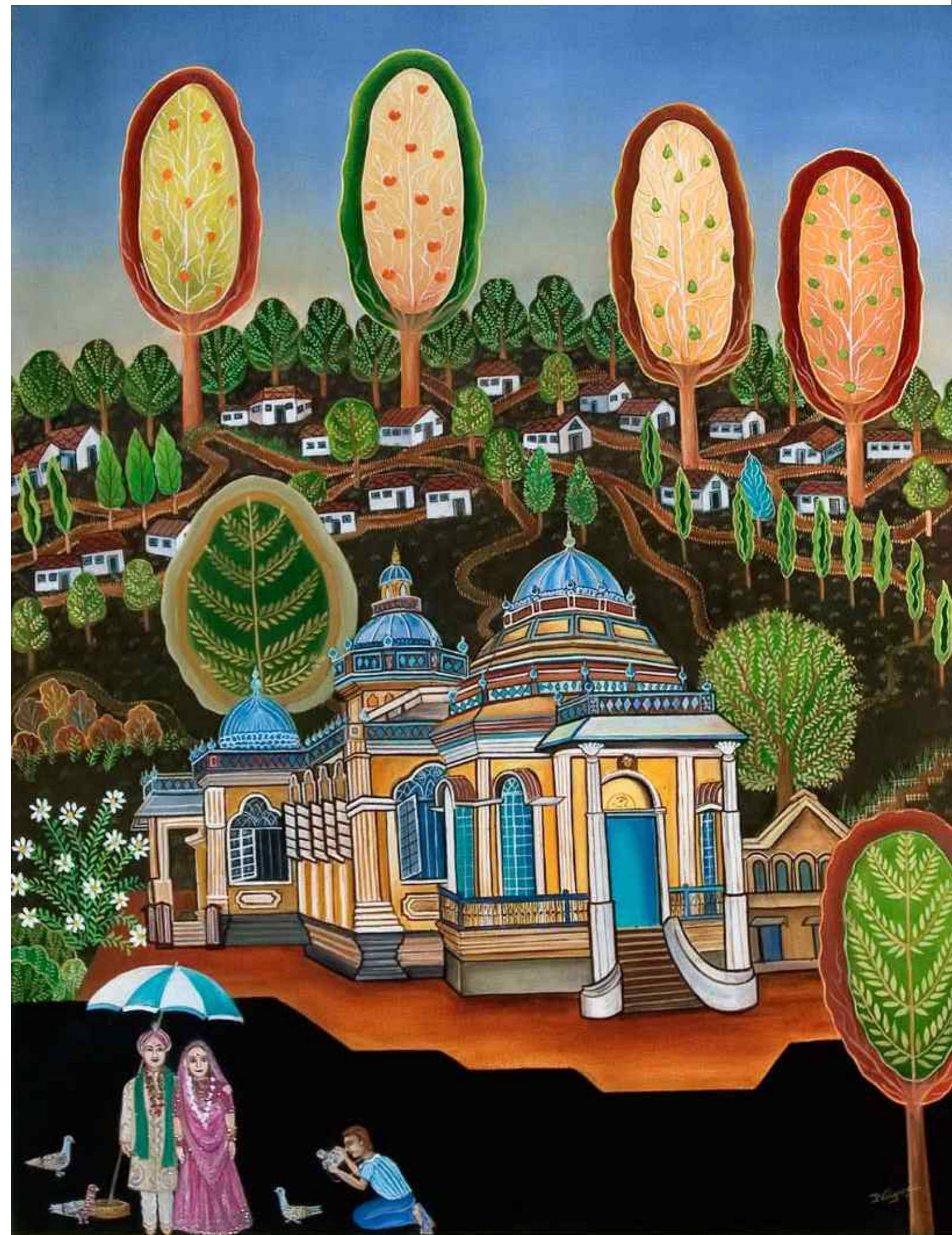
Princess Street
36" x 42"
Oil on Canvas



Citysquare
20" x 24"
Oil on Canvas



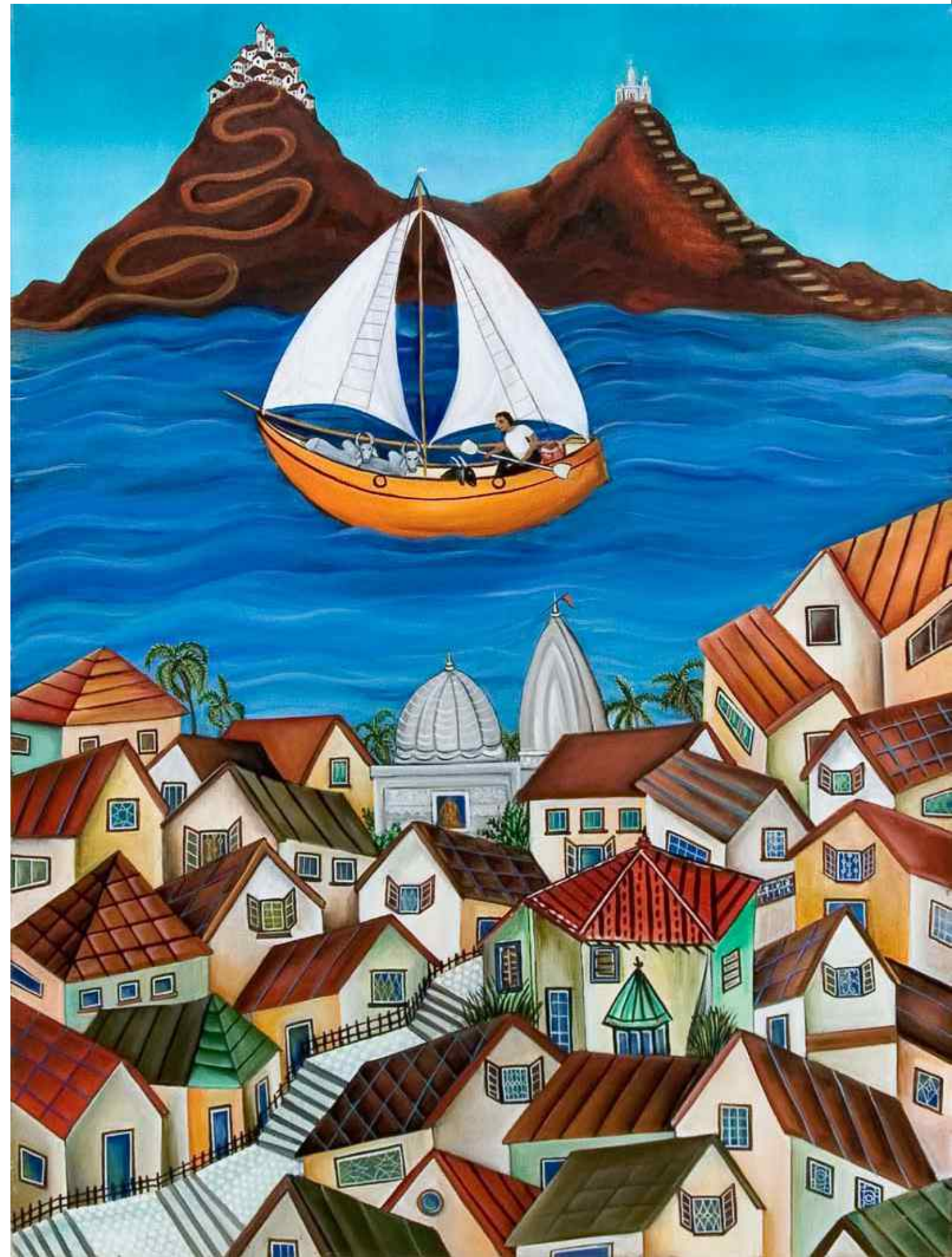
Just Married
48" x 36"
Oil on Canvas



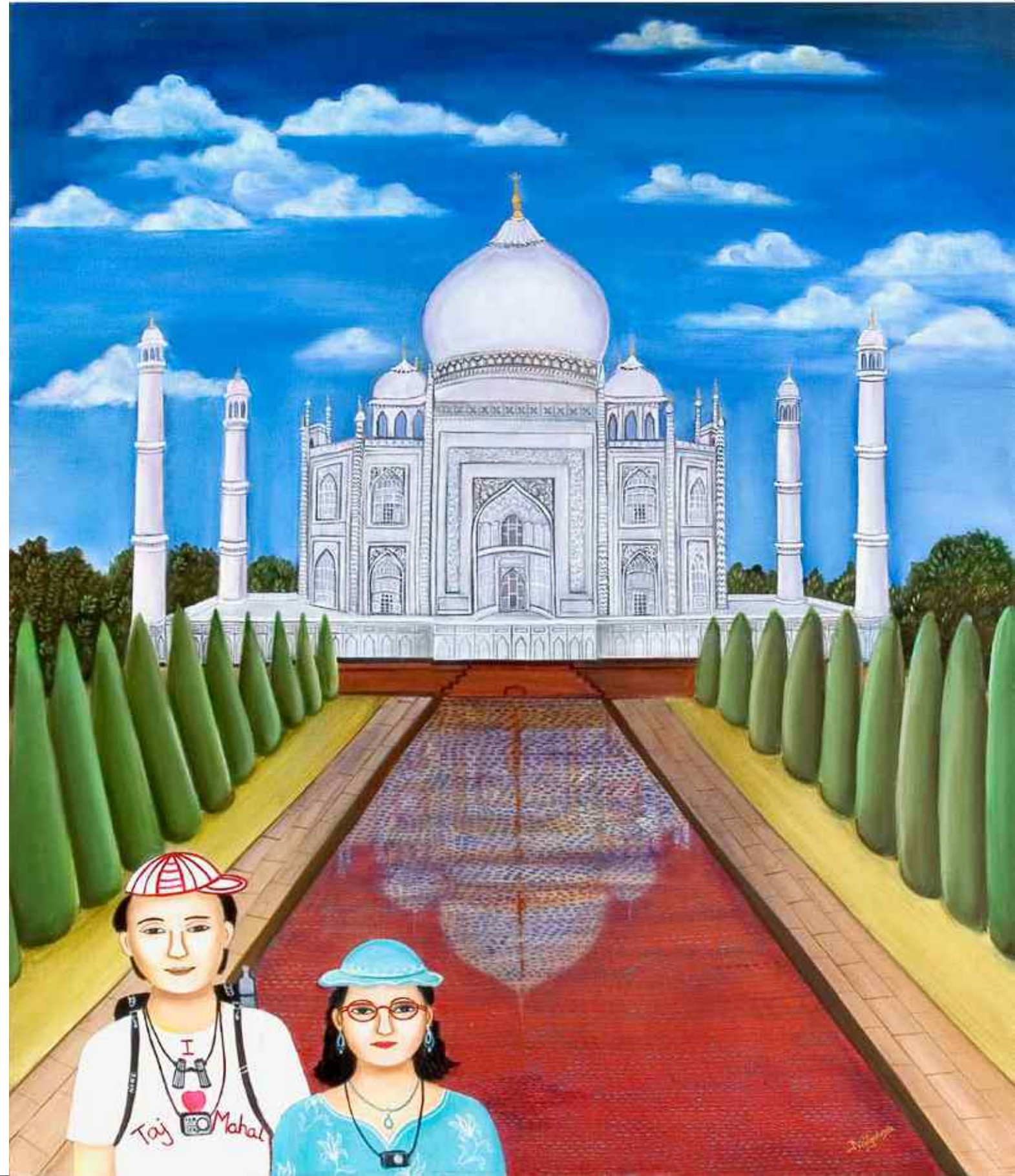
City at Rest
48" x 36"
Oil on Canvas



Manori
48" x 36"
Oil on Canvas



India's Pride
42" x 36"
Oil on Canvas
2008



The Magic of Moscow
48" x 36"
Oil and Glitter on Canvas



On Top of the World
48" x 36"
Oil and Glitter on Canvas



The Barber
60" x 48"
Oil on Canvas



Romp in the Forest
48" x 36"
Oil on Canvas



Peeping Tom
48" x 36"
Oil and Glitter on Canvas
2009



The Restaurant
48" x 36"
Oil and Glitter on Canvas
2009



Where to, Tonight?
48" x 36"
Oil on Canvas
2009





My Comfort Zone
36" x 48"
Oil on Canvas
2009



The Art Critic

36" x 48"

Oil and Glitter on Canvas

2002

The Morning News
48" x 36"
Oil and Glitter on Canvas
2002

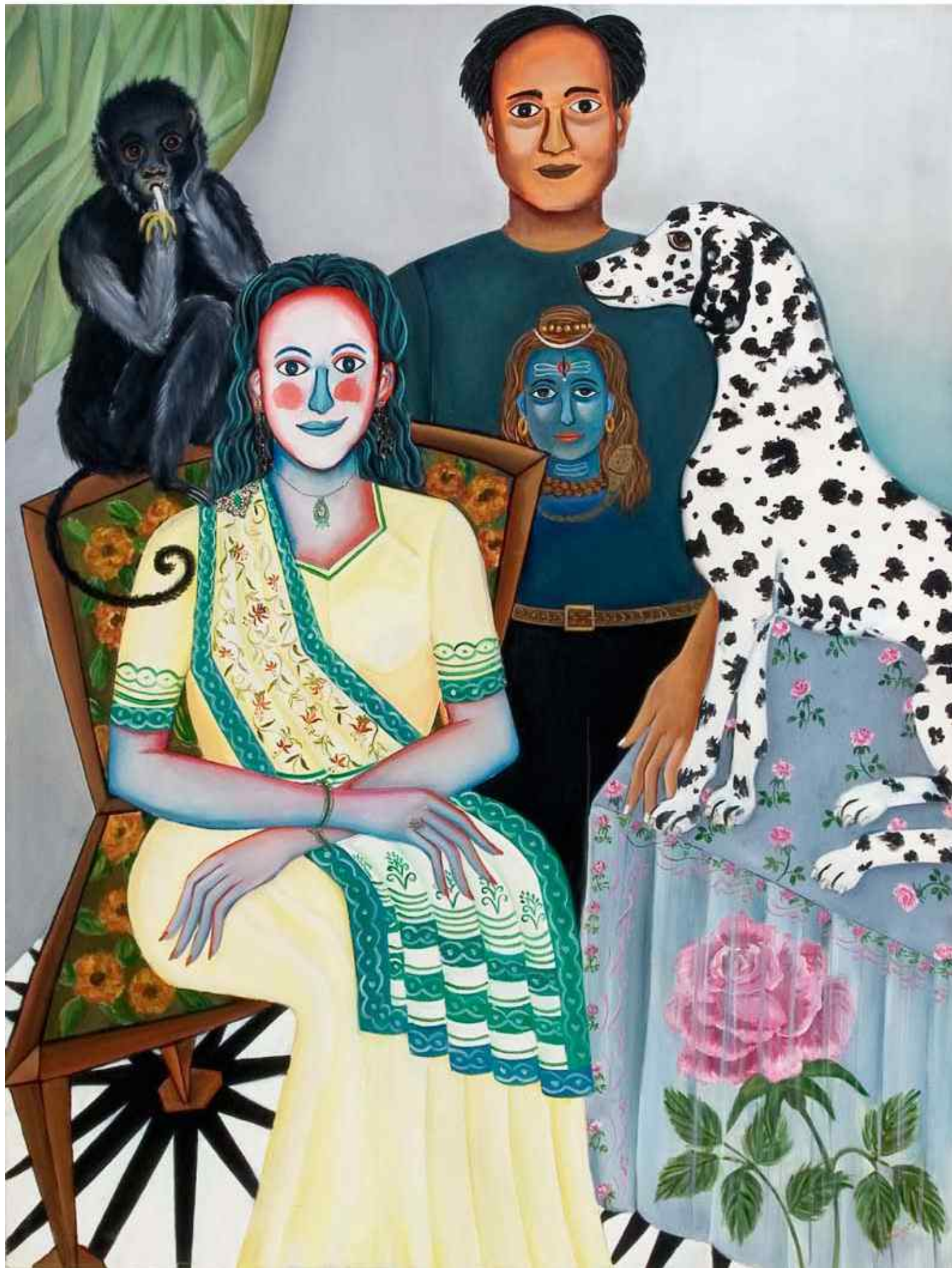


Sunday Evening
48" x 44"
Oil and Glitter on Canvas
2002



What lies Beyond?
48" x 36"
Oil and Glitter on Canvas
2009





Happy Family
48" x 36"
Oil and Glitter on Canvas
2009



Bliss
36" x 48"
Oil and Glitter
on Canvas



Proximity
48" x 36"
Oil and Glitter on Canvas



The Artist Couple
36" x 48"
Oil on Canvas



What Next ?
48" x 36"
Oil and Glitter on Canvas

The Fashion Statement
48" x 36"
Oil and Glitter on Canvas





Love You
36" x 48"
Oil and Glitter
on Canvas

Looking Pretty
38" x 38"
Oil on Canvas

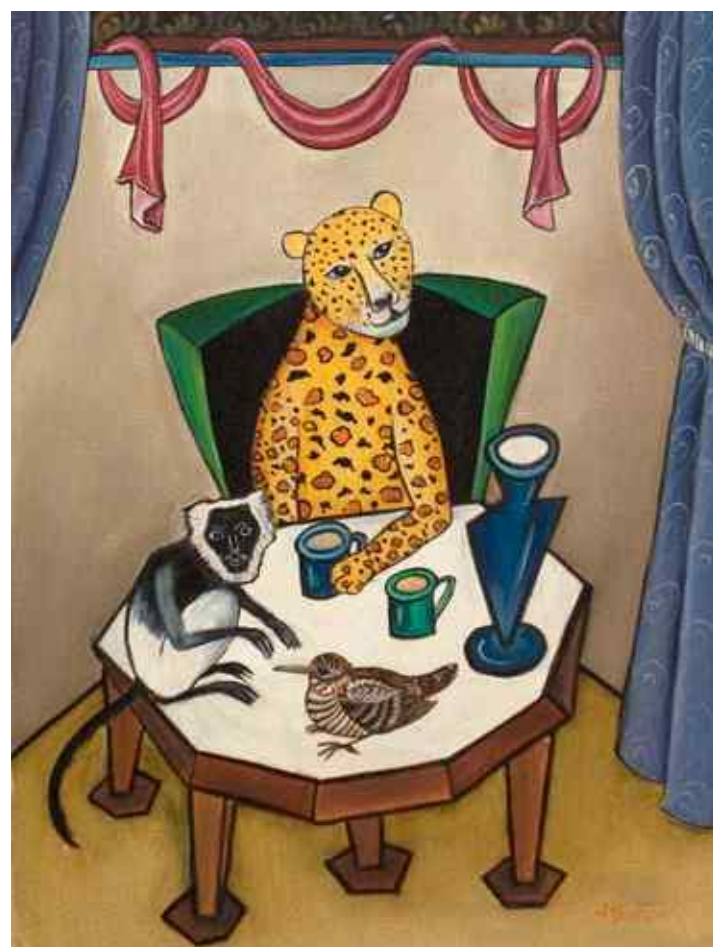
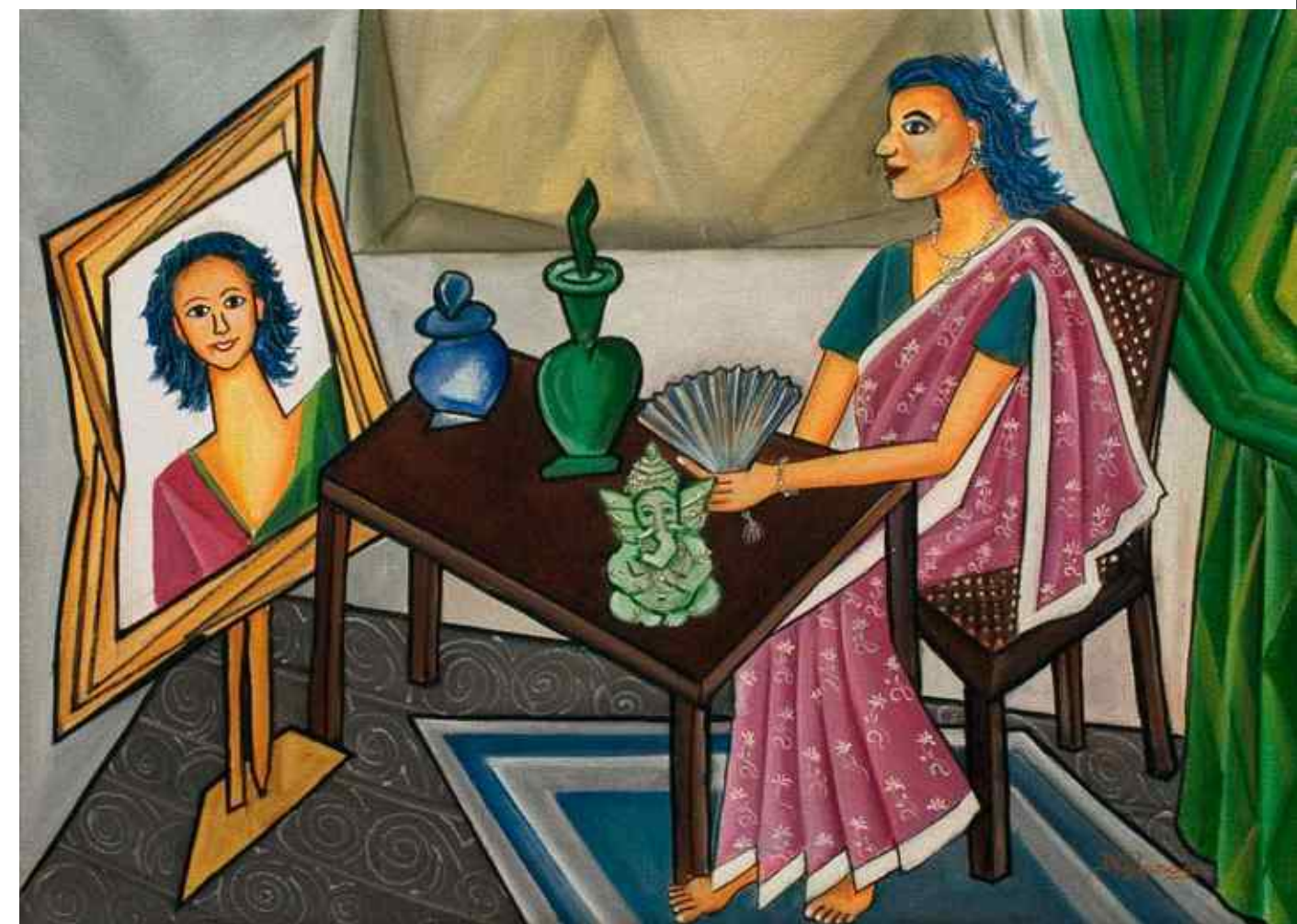




Daily Routine
30" x 36"
Oil and Glitter on Canvas



What Should I do?
16" x 20"
Oil and Glitter on Canvas



The Dhobi's Companions 24" x 18" Oil on Canvas
Standing to Attention 24" x 18" Oil on Canvas
This Table is Interesting 28" x 18" Oil on Canvas
Fine Dining 22" x 16" Oil on Canvas



Nayanaa Kanodia can be considered to be the pioneer of L'art Naïf in India. She completed her graduation from Lady Shri Ram College, New Delhi in Economics-Honours. She won the National Scholarship of the Government. An economist turned painter, Nayanaa is entirely a self-taught artist except for a year's apprenticeship with Anjolie Ela Menon.

She had her first solo show in Mumbai in 1986 and has held numerous exhibitions since then in India and abroad. In 1998, she was selected from all the Commonwealth countries by The Commonwealth Institute for a solo show in their newly renovated complex in London. In 2001 she was invited by the Victoria and Albert Museum, London to exhibit her work and to give a demonstration of her painting technique. She has also participated in many group shows nationally and internationally including the ones in New York in 1988; National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai in 1997 & 1998; Dubai in 1998; London in 2001, 2002 & 2006; 'Centre Regional D'Art Contemporain', Sete, France in 2001; Washington in 2001; Paris in 2002; Hong Kong in 2005; Singapore in 2006; 'The Ueno Royal Museum', Tokyo in 2007; South Africa in 2007. Nayanaa is the first Indian of non-British origin whose works are in the collection of the 'Paintings in Hospitals', UK previously named as British Museum. Nayanaa's work is held in many public and private collections in India and abroad including the Musée International d'Art Naïf, Paris. She has also conducted Art Camps in India and abroad. Her work also features in several auctions of Indian Contemporary Art internationally. She lives and works in Mumbai.

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NAYANAA KANODIA Exhibitions

Fine Art Company,Mumbai
Art Today, New Delhi
Apparao Galleries, New Delhi
2001 Kala Ghoda Art Festival,NGMA, Mumbai
Osians Auction, Mumbai
Christies Auction, Art for Concern, Mumbai
The Harmony Show, Mumbai
Kala Raksha, NGMA, Mumbai
Soul Kurry Art Exhibition, Mumbai
CIMA, Kolkota
Shridharani Gallery, New Delhi

Solo Shows- India

1986Cymroza Art Gallery, Mumbai
Lalit Kala Academy,New Delhi
1987Taj Art Gallery, Mumbai
Citibank ,Mumbai
Bajaj Art Gallery,Mumbai
1991Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai
ANZ, Grindlay's Bank, Mumbai
1993 L.T.G. Gallery,New Delhi
Taj Art Gallery, Mumbai
Jehangir Art Gallery Mumbai
1994 Shridharani Gallery, New Delhi
1995 Taj Art Gallery, Mumbai
Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai
Gallerie Ganesh, New Delhi
1996 Shridharani Gallery,New Delhi
1999 Art Today, New Delhi
Jehangir Art Gallery,Mumbai
2000 Shridharani gallery, New Delhi
2002 Art Indus, New Delhi
Jehangir Art Gallery
2003 Shridharani Gallery
2004 The Museum Gallery, Mumbai
2005 Show with Maneka Gandhi
2007 Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai
Art Alive, New Delhi
2010 The Museum Gallery, Mumbai

Solo Shows- Overseas

1997ARKS Gallery, London
1998Commonwealth Institute, London
2001 Nehru Centre, London
Commonwealth Centre, London
2006 Chor Bizarre, London
Reflections, Hong Kong

Group Shows

1988World Wildlife Fund Exhibition, Jehangir Art Gallery,Mumbai
1995Birla Academy of Art and Culture,Kolkota
CIMA, Kolkota
1996National Gallery of Modern Art,Mumbai
50 years of Art in Mumbai
Sahmat, New Delhi, Mumbai
Ashraya, Bangalore
1997Harmony Show-Nehru Centre, Mumbai
National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai
1998 Sotheby's - Charity Auction in Mumbai
Apparao Galleries ,Chennai
1999 Christies - Charity Auction , Mumbai
Sir Jamshedjee Jejeebhoy Parsi Benevolent Institution , Mumbai
Jamaat, Mumbai
Birla Art Gallery, Mumbai
Art Today, New Delhi
Renaissance Gallery, Bangalore
2000 Tao Art Gallery, Mumbai

2002Christies Charity Auction, Mumbai,
Birla Academy of Arts, Mumbai
Jehangir Gallery of Art , Mumbai
Birla Academy of Arts, Mumbai

2003Various group shows and Charity Auctions
2004Various group shows and Charity Auctions
2005Art Land , Prince of Wales Museum, Mumbai
Hacienda Art Gallery, Mumbai
Breast Cancer Charity Auction, Mumbai
Gallerie Sara Arakkal, Bangalore
Apparao Galleries, Chennai
Art Alive, New Delhi
Various other Show and Auctions
2006Evam, Tao Art Gallery
The Harmony Show, Mumbai
Osians Auction, New Delhi
Scesa, Cymroza Art Gallery, Mumbai
HSBC, Oberoi Hotel, Mumbai
Red Earth, Alliance Francaise, New Delhi
Monsoon , Art and Soul, Mumbai
Articulate, Mumbai
Cancer Patients Aid Association, Cymroza Art Gallery, Mumbai
Gallerie Sara Arakkal, Bangalore
Nitanjali,Lalit Kala Akademy, New Delhi
Triveda Auction, Lalit Kala Akademy,New Delhi
Khushi Auction, New Delhi
Mayadarpan, Museum Gallery, Mumbai
Lansdowne Gallery,Mumbai
Other show and auctions also

2007Darpan, Gallerie Nvya,New Delhi
Concern Charity show, Bangalore
Dhoomimal Gallery, New Delhi
Khushi Auction, Mumbai
Cancer Patients Aid Association,Cymroza Art Gallery, Mumbai
Samsara Art, Mumbai
Ashraya Auction, New Delhi
Citibank , Nehru Centre
Gallerie Sara Arakkal, Bangalore
Art Smart,Academy of Fine Arts and Literature, Siri Fort, New Delhi
Other Shows and Auctions also

2008Mumbai Festival,University Convocation Hall, Mumbai
Gallery Beyond, Mumbai
BHNS, Jehangir Nicholson Gallery of Art,Mumbai
Auction of above at Taj Palace
Women on Women, Indian Art Circle , Lalit kala Akademy, New Delhi
Shakti, Rabindra Bhawan , New Delhi
Osians Auction, New Delhi,
Concern Charity show, Mumbai
CPAA, Charity Show, Cymroza Art Gallery , Mumbai
Faces, Tao Art Gallery, Mumbai
Bajaj Capital Art House, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi
Kaleidoscope, Tradition art, Mumbai,
Lakme Fashion Week, NCPA and Jamaat
Mahatma,Point of View Gallery, Mumbai
Other shows and auctions also

2009Birla Academy of Art and Culture, Kolkotta
Khushi Auction, New Delhi
I'xI' India on canvas , Charity show, The Rooftop, Trident, Mumbai
CPAA, Charity Show, Cymroza Art Gallery, Mumbai
Concern India Foundation, Mumbai and Pune
Art Alive Gallery,New Delhi
Art Summit, 2009 New Delhi
Hacienda Art Gallery, Mumbai
Art Expo India, 2009, Mumbai
Pink Ginger Arts, Mumbai
Galeria de Arte, New Delhi
Gallery Art Motif, New Delhi

2010Birla Academy of Art and Culture, Kolkota
Tao Art Gallery, Mumbai

Group Shows - Overseas

1988 New York with leading artists of India
1995Sotheby's , London
1996Christies, London
1997Sotheby's, New York
Ashraya, Dubai
1998Gallerie Espace, Dubai
1999Art Circle and The Guild,Hong Kong
2000Rossi and Rossi and Samina Inc Gallery, London
Gallerie Daniel Besseiche ,Paris
Arts India.com , Washington
The Sheridan Russel Gallery, London
Centre Regional 'D'Art Contemporain', Sete, France,
2001Gallerie Daniel Besseiche, Paris
Bonhams Auction, London
2005 Indian Contemporary, Hong Kong
2006 Galleria, (Ritu Prakash), Hong Kong
Gallery Art Resource Trust (Namrata Dalal) , Singapore
Sangeeta Tibrewalla, Singapore
Sitaaray, Chor Bizarre Gallery, London
Mall Galleries , Charity Auction, London
2007 Tehalka, Art for Freedom, Asia House, London
Ueno Museum, Tao Art Gallery, Tokyo
Johanesburg, South Africa
2008 Tehalka,Art for Freedom , Aicon Gallery, London

Museums

1998 National Gallery Of Modern Art, India
2000 MIDAN,Musee International d'art Naif, Paris
2001 Exhibition and Demonstration of my paintings techniques at Victoria And Albert Museum, London
2007 Ueno Museum, (Tao Art Gallery) , Tokyo

Art Workshops Conducted

Mumbai,Goa, Jammu, New Delhi India
Dubai
London

Art Camps

Many in India especially in Mumbai.
Abroad in Bangkok,Cambodia, London ,Moscow, St.Petersburg and Italy

Paintings are in private and public collections in India and abroad.

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