

On the Inimitable Spirit of Life

NAYANAA KANODIA

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text by Utpreksha Sainwal

TAG
TREASURE ART GALLERY

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FOREWORD

Set in an opulent backdrop, a luscious fruit bowl lays beside an open notebook, and an unlit lantern that sits aloof in a deep green bed of grass seems to tell a story of its own. Such possessions, however disparate they might seem to be, make us feel more at peace with our identity. Kanodia welcomes the viewer to the warm ambiance of the world she portrays, often through rudimentary yet luxurious elements. There is a sheer contrast between the images she uses in the backdrop of her composition with images of Hindu deities to nudes by Souza, for instance.

No longer oppressed as she used to be, her woman, self-assured and liberated, is usually portrayed with a mirror in hand or caught in their personal moments where she is taking time to adorn herself, lost in her own sense of reality but breaks this fourth wall by sanguinely looking out to meet the gaze of the viewer with poise.

Her visuals provide a frame through which you peep into these painted snapshots of ordinary people with a myriad of fantastical elements like the creatures of wildlife propping up in compositions like a flamingo at the foot of the couch, a zebra peeping in through the window, monkey eating a banana crouched behind a woman. This synthesis of reality with fantasy, of lush green with a synthetically crafted interior, is meshed in a dreamlike nuance. It may be perceived as an ironic juxtaposition of what the balance of ecology has become today or the sheer vibrancy of the composition as a whole clasp on to a utopian vision that cradles a sense of harmony amongst the living.

Through this exhibit, Kanodia is examining various angles of a single prism. At first glance, you see a portrayal of a quaint scene but upon further examination, an integrated multilayered expression is revealed as the artist believes that one can only grasp

the complexity and nuance of the vision she holds, only after abandoning typical notions and then keenly observing the relationships and components at play.

On lyrical notes drawn from her observations, romantic portrayal of the scenes from daily life opens up to the Mumbai street in Monsoon embellished with people with their bright umbrellas to a barber engaged in his work in a pleasant corner amidst the greens, spiritedly chatting with his customer and a welcoming couple in a warm embrace of conversation and laughter. In these renderings, Kanodia infuses an incandescent spirit in little moments from life such as these, which may go unnoticed at times.

Describing her work, Nayanaa says: My paintings delight the viewer with their whimsy yet contain the most important social messages of our life. We have been invaded by western culture but at the same time we retain our roots and identities. Each depiction is charged with innocuous humour personifying the subtle ironies that permeate daily life which lies in harmony and yet in conflict with the collision of East and West. My paintings are infused with deceptive simplicity, mirthful lyricism and a spirit of authenticity. Together they collalist to form an insightful documentation of a visual timeline of the thought precisely to the limbs of everyday occurrences, objects and people.

Kanodia plays with satirical tones that bring out the hypocritical beliefs our society seems to hold when it comes to modern values in a light-hearted fashion. She makes an unforgettable social commentary on how we behave, perceive, and occupy space. The world is so true, naked, and ludicrous that we catch our breath as we recognize it.

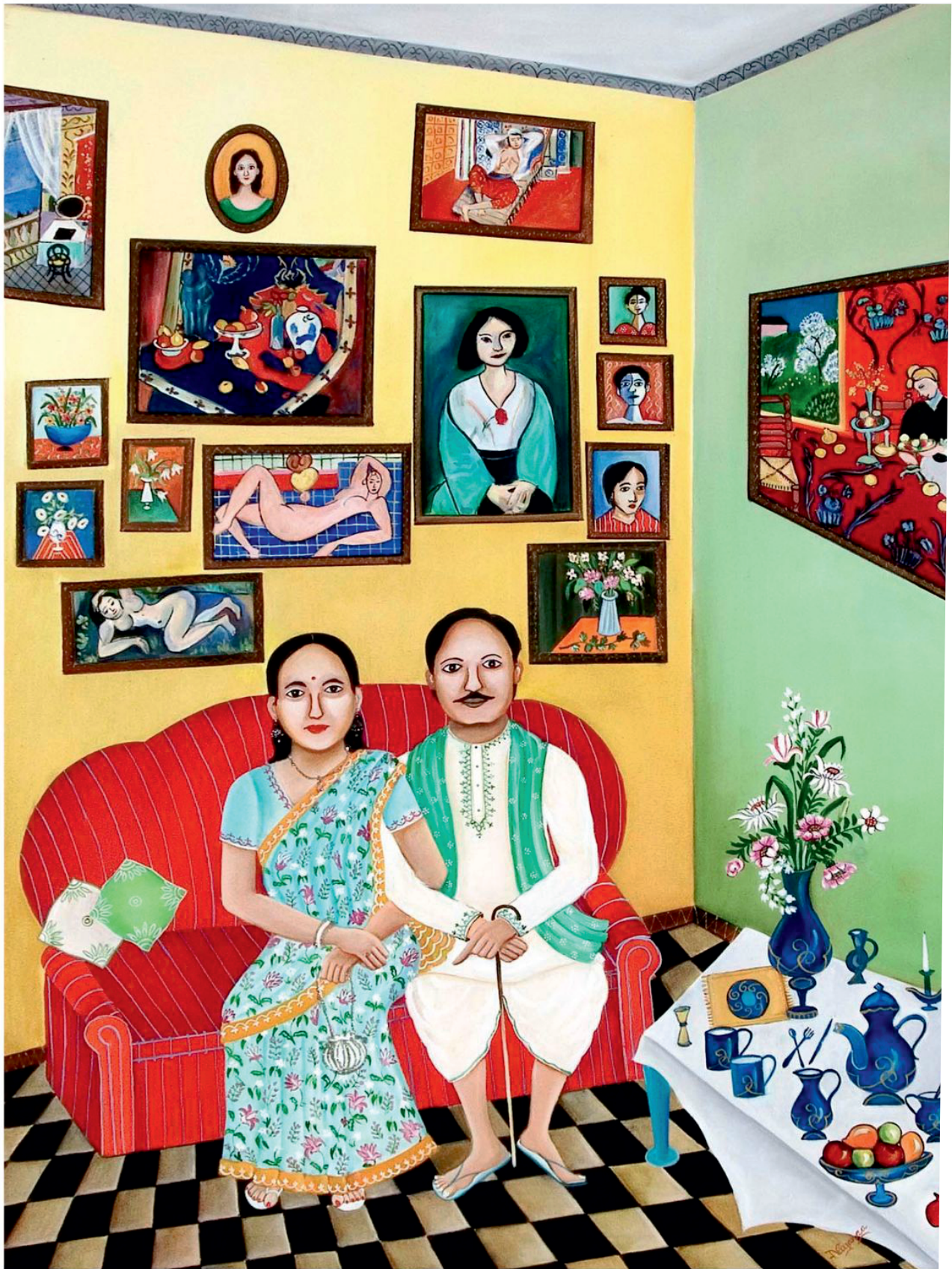
– By Utpreksha Saidwal

An economist turned painter and a brilliant colourist with a strong individualism in her work, Nayanaa Kanodia can be considered to be the pioneer of the genre of L'Art Naif in India. She has held innumerable shows in India and abroad. Her paintings are in the collection of major art collectors and corporate houses all over the world.

Musee International D'Naif Art in Paris permanently displays her paintings. She was the first Indian whose paintings were selected in Paintings In Hospitals, UK. She has been featured in an international publication Women in Art by Reinhard Fuchs, a rare honour for any Indian artist. Impressed with the social messages being conveyed in her paintings, a consortium of schools in Los Altos, U.S.A. is using her work as a medium of instruction to their students. She has recently been appointed as a juror for the Prisma Art Prize for their Rome Dividere in Europe. She is the first Indian on their panel which is an honour not only for her but also for her country. She is associated with many charitable societies, gives talks and conducts workshops and presentations on art in various

organizations and universities. She is also a judge in art competitions. She has attended Art Camps in India, London, Sweden, Italy, Moscow, Greece, Bangkok and Cambodia. Her work is characterised by the air of whimsy, flat bright polished surfaces and the extraordinary plethora of intricately worked details and patterns.

Nayanaa says "When the world which disturbs me and the world of which I have a deep understanding are amalgamated and absorbed, a new artistic dialect is created. My paintings intend to make you feel that you are watching a snapshot of life at maximum preposterousness, exuberant and bursting with energy. The conversation I hope to create in my work is a certain truth of life and on a deeper level, a well thought philosophy. Individuals may interpret my paintings in vastly disparate ways and each view will be equally logical and plausible, thought provoking and intriguing. My work delights the viewer with its whimsy yet contains the most important social messages of our lives."



Avid Collectors | Oil on Canvas | 48"x 36" | 2017



Easing Congestion | Oil on Canvas | 42" x 36" | 2010



Our Tree Of Life | Oil on Canvas | 48" x 36" | 2021



Beauty at its Best | Oil on Canvas | 42" x 36" | 2018



Pleasure | Oil on Canvas | 48" x 36" | 2018



Positivity
Oil on Canvas
30" x 40" | 2020



Melancia
2020



Reverie | Oil on Canvas | 24" x 18" | 2010



Seneorita | Oil on Canvas | 48" x 36" | 2021



Away with Our Blues | Oil on Canvas | 21" x 30" | 2020



The Legacy Lives On | Oil on Canvas | 36" x 48" | 2016



Female Power | Oil on Canvas | 48" x 36" | 2018



The Barber | Oil on Canvas | 60" x 48" | 2017



The Bouquet | Oil on Canvas | 36" x 48" | 2018



The Perfect Companionship | Oil on Canvas | 36" x 48" | 2019



The Mumbai Monsoons | Oil on Canvas | 36" x 24" | 2019



Lord Hanuman comes Visiting | Mixed Media on Paper | 15" x 15" | 2018



Our Day Out | Mixed Media on Paper | 14.50" x 11.25" | 2021



Quality Time | Mixed Media on Paper | 16" x 13" | 2019



Our Space | Mixed Media on Paper | 15" x 20" | 2018



Where Should I Go Today | Mixed Media on Paper | 22" x 15" | 2019



Jungle Siesta
Mixed Media on Paper
15" x 11" | 2017



My City (1)
Mixed Media on Paper
15" x 11" | 2019



The Picasso Painting
Mixed Media on Paper
15" x 11" | 2021



Sofas are so Comfortable
Mixed Media on Paper
20" x 15" | 2019



The Advent of the Monsoons | Mixed Media on Paper | 9.75" x 17.75" | 2020

NAYANAA KANODIA

SOLO SHOWS INDIA

- 1986 Cymroza Art Gallery, Mumbai
Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi
- 1987 Taj Art Gallery, Mumbai
Citibank, Mumbai
Bajaj Art Gallery, Mumbai
- 1991 Jehangir 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 Ganesha, 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, Mumbai
- 2003 Shridharani Gallery, New Delhi
- 2004 The Museum Gallery, Mumbai
- 2005 Show with Maneka Gandhi
- 2007 Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai
Art Alive, New Delhi
- 2010 The Museum Gallery, Mumbai
Gallery Veda, Chennai
- 2021 Artland, Sunil Chauhan, Mumbai
- 2022 Seen - Unseen, Chawla Art Gallery, New Delhi

SOLO SHOWS OVERSEAS

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

GROUP SHOWS OVERSEAS

- 1988 New York with leading artists of India
- 1995 Sotheby's, London
- 1996 Christies, London



- 1997 Sotheby's, New York
Ashraya, Dubai
- 1998 Gallerie Espace, Dubai
- 1999 Art Circle and The Guild, Hong Kong
- 2000 Rossi 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
- 2001 Gallerie Daniel Besseiche, Paris
Bonhams Auction, London
Washington D.C
- 2002 London
Paris
- 2005 Indian Contemporary, Hong Kong
- 2006 Galleria, Hong Kong
Gallery Art Resource Trust, 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

- 2011 Singapore Archer Art Gallery, Ahmedabad
 2011-16 Dubai Modern Art Gallery, Mumbai
 2012 Hong Kong
 2012-16 London
 2015 USA
 Hong Kong
 2016 USA
 2017 Sutra Gallery, USA
 Collingwood Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
 Black Cat Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
 Art Fair, Dubai
 India at 70, I.C.C.R. Bangkok
 2018 Bahrain Art Fair, Bahrain
 Sutra Gallery, USA
 World Art Dubai, Dubai
 2019 The Brick Lane Gallery, London
 2022 Art for Collectors, Suan Artland, Dubai
 (Sunil Chauhan)
- 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
- LATEST EXHIBITIONS**
- Art Now, Lalit Kala Akademi and Art Alive Gallery,
 Breaking Barriers (Horse Sculpture) Jehangir Art
 Gallery and Gallery Art and Soul, Mumbai
- 2019 Colours of Life CPAA Cymroza Art Gallery, Mumbai
 Rangoh Ki Rimzim, Jehangir Art Gallery Auditorium
 ICAC (Ravi Mardia) and Neela Shete
 Colours of Life, CPAA, Cymroza Art Gallery, Mumbai
 Champions of Change, Sculpture Jai Vakeel School,
 Tao Art Gallery, Mumbai
 Live Unbound, Modern Art Gallery, New Delhi
 India Art Fair, New Delhi, Gallerie Ganesha
 India Art Fair, New Delhi, Art Alive Gallery
 Global Art Fair, Mumbai, Sunil Chauhan Artland
 Art Aesthete, New Delhi, Avantika Haksar
 Art Mela, New Delhi, CIMA Gallery
 Summer Show, CIMA Gallery, Kolkata
 Artland Gallery, JAG, Mumbai
- 2020 CIMA Gallery, Mumbai
 India Art Fair, New Delhi
 Tao Art Gallery, Mumbai
 Aura Art, Ahmedabad
 Gallery Art Positive, New Delhi
 Gallerie Ganesha, New Delhi
 Gallery Kolkata, Kolkata
 Colours of Life, CPAA, Mumbai
 Art Alive, New Delhi
 Khushi, New Delhi
 Artland Gallery, Sunil Chauhan, New Delhi
- 2021 Khushi Art Loot
 Aura Art
 Artland, Sunil Chauhan, Shridharani Gallery,
 New Delhi
 Little Trunkets, Gallery Art and Soul, Mumbai
 CRY, Tao Art Gallery, Mumbai
 Transcending Borders, Indo-Nepal Visual Art
 Exhibition, La Aartemisia Studio and Gallery Pagoda
 Group, Mumbai
 Samarpan, La Aartemisia Studio and Gallery, Mumbai
 Khushi, New Delhi
 Lights on the Canvas-Cloaked in Light, Kalakriti Art
 Gallery, Hyderabad
 Contemporary Signatures, Sapna Kar, Mona Lisa
 Kalagram, Pune
 Grand Art Charity Show, Nvya Naveli Gallery, New Delhi
- 2022 Contemporary Currency, Hutheesing Centre, Ahmedabad
 Contemporary Signatures, The Curators Art, Pune
 (Sapna Kar)
 Colours Of Life. CPAA, Cymroza Art Gallery, Mumbai
 (Shubha Mudgal)
 Fractional Whole, Juneja Art Gallery, Jaipur
 (Sangeeta Juneja)
 A Moveable Feast, Bikaner House, New Delhi
 (Geetanb Batra)
 Kolkata Art Gallery, Kolkata (Meghna Agarwal)
 The Limited Edition Show, Nvya Naveli Gallery,
 New Delhi (Amrita Kochar)
 105 Arts, Chandigarh (Mehak Bhan)

TAG

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