



CONSTELLATIONS

February 12 - March 13, 2021

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Jogen Chowdhury | Shuvaprasanna Bhattacharya
Arunima Choudhury | Chandra Bhattacharjee
Arindam Chatterjee | Soma Das
Tamal Bhattacharya | Anjan Modak

In its most conversant usage, the word constellation alludes to perceivable patterns of stellar formations. This notion of arrangement of objects in relation to each other and to a viewer allows for larger possibilities of interpretation that can as easily segue into fields of social theory or law as it can to visual art, philosophy and more. The noted 20th century philosopher, art critic and cultural theorist Walter Benjamin famously said “Ideas are to objects as constellations are to stars”, drawing an analogy between ideas and objects that never become fixed. The title of the exhibition, thus, may be understood as an ideation of various movements within a larger schema, existing independent of, yet in constant relation to each other.

Constellations brings together eight contemporary artists from Bengal featuring Jogen Chowdhury, Shuvaprasanna Bhattacharya, Arunima Choudhury, Chandra Bhattacharjee, Arindam Chatterjee, Anjan Modak, Tamal Bhattacharya and Soma Das, and presents a range of practices. Although no stylistic grouping or common thematic ground holds these artists within the exhibition, the varied practices appear as eight distinct conceptual postures or constellations in the curated space of the gallery.

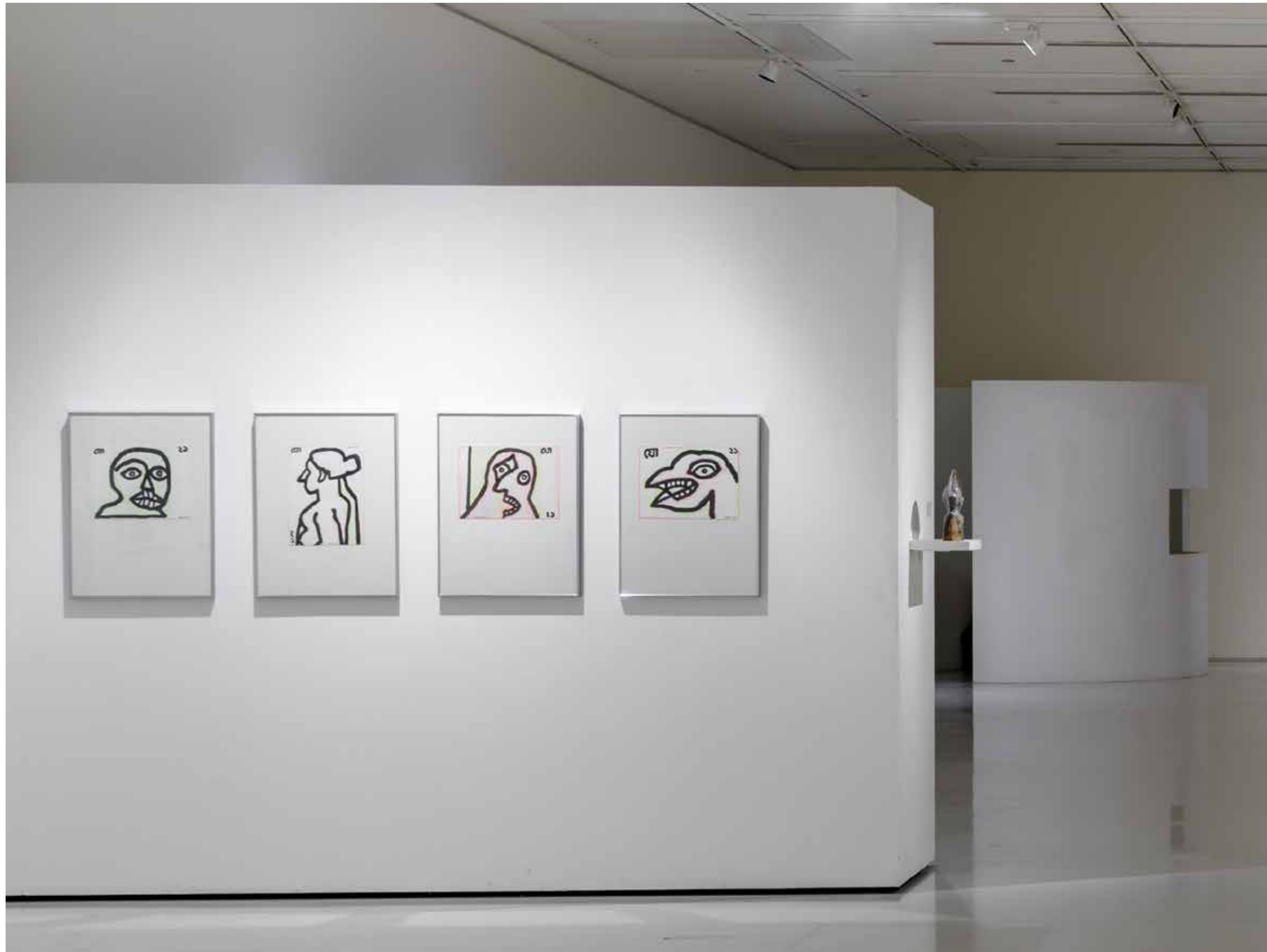
These artists address diverse concerns, exploring meanings, implications and the politics of our anxious time. Swathed in rich tones of grey, calibrated between pearl white and charcoal black, Chandra Bhattacharjee's paintings of a nocturnal forest combines the delicacy of a painter's hand with the alert gaze of a photographer. The forest in the night, however, is not an unadulterated natural world of beasts and savage tribes, but a vulnerable frontier in which the wilderness is threatened by the expansionist pressure of modern civilization. The terror is strikingly captured in the single, spectral image of a deer whose innocent eyes gleam in the glare of the headlight.

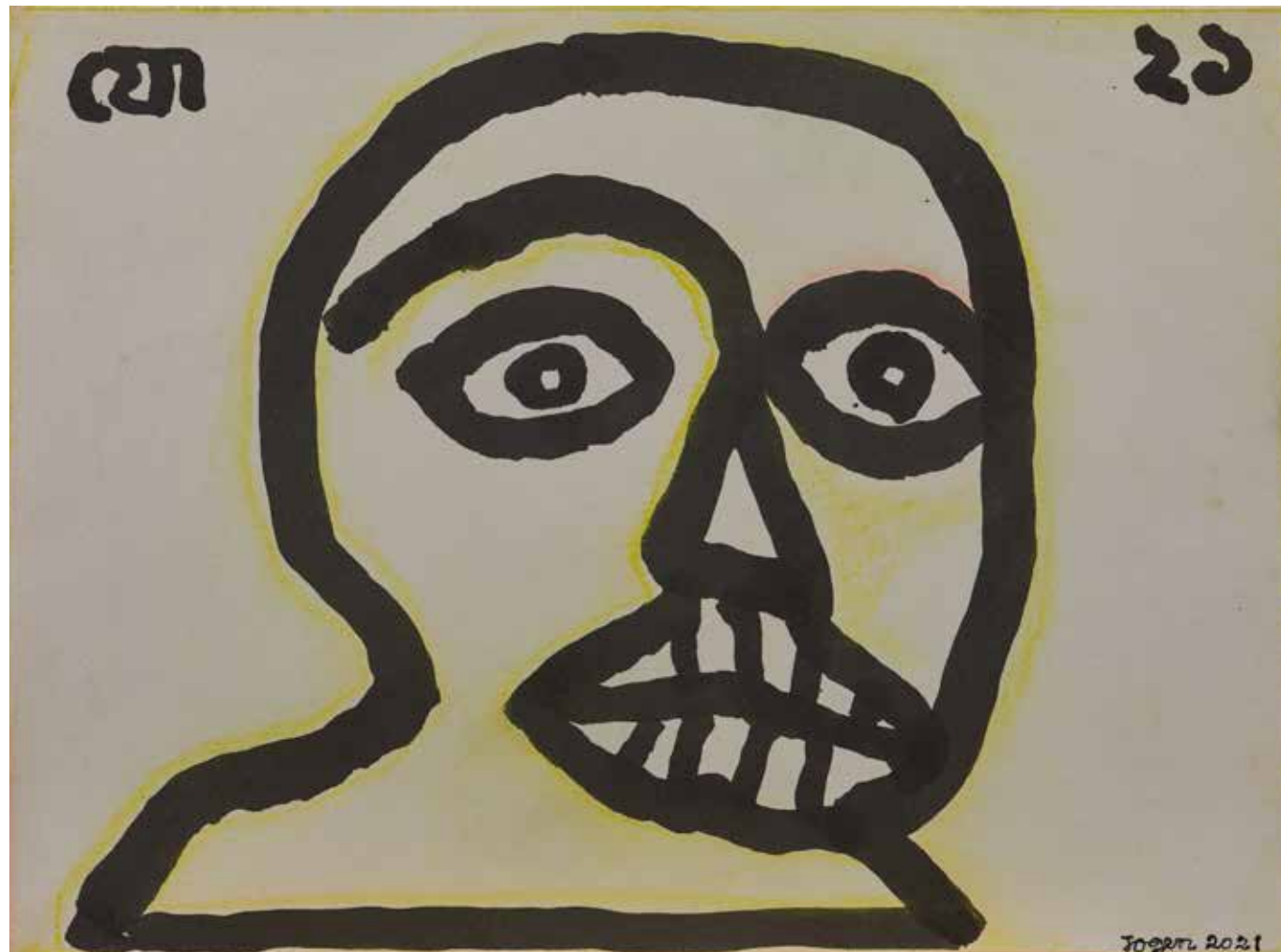
Arindam Chatterjee's paintings based on the lockdown migration of labourers appear bathed in a subfusc, sooty light. Deploying an allegorical and metaphorical approach, Chatterjee exposes to the bones the agony and tragedy of migration recurring throughout human history. A huge heron silently witnesses the endless march of the displaced people; a gigantic snake follows them. One could read deeper connotations into these paintings, but, as Chatterjee says, he is concerned with making art politically, rather than making political art.

The adverse effects of the pandemic-induced lockdown on ordinary people is clearly visible in the works of Soma Das, Tamal Bhattacharya and Anjan Modak. Working in the meticulous, tranquil style of miniature paintings, Soma Das looks into abruptly changing patterns of life in the low-income suburbs, mildly satirizing the newly imposed safety norms of social-distancing. Her paintings, while defining her own social and gender positions, show a deep sympathy with the people she depicts. In making sense of the life under lockdown restrictions, Tamal Bhattacharya, the sole ceramicist in the exhibition, inspired by the folk art of Bengal reinvents his style by incorporating new imagery and materials. His works speaks of personal experiences of being confined to the home, a limited and distant interaction with the familiar world and people, and how life during the lockdown has increasingly become dependent on technological gadgets as a means of communicating with the larger world beyond. Anjan Modak, known for his work about construction labourers in urban centres of India, feels deeply about the intensities of suffering and the ill effects of the pandemic. Poverty, anomie and deaths are nothing new for the poor and the downtrodden, but because of the pandemic, their life was stripped of dream, hope and rhythm, becoming ugly, palpably biological.

The crises-laden world that mirrors brokenness also mirrors hope. The paintings of the celebrated senior artists in the show reaffirm this deep-rooted truth. Arunima Choudhury's paintings in vegetable colours on handmade papers, create a languid world in which the figures are variously portrayed in their intimate, private spaces, undisturbed by the noises of the modern world. Alongside her work, the familiar, chromatically vibrant cityscape of Shuvaprasanna and the elegant ornamental exuberance, irreducible forms and entwined linearity of Jogen Chowdhury's work delight us, reassuring us of the eternal aesthetic values that make us feel at home in the age of discordance, drastic change and disappearance.

Jogen Chowdhury

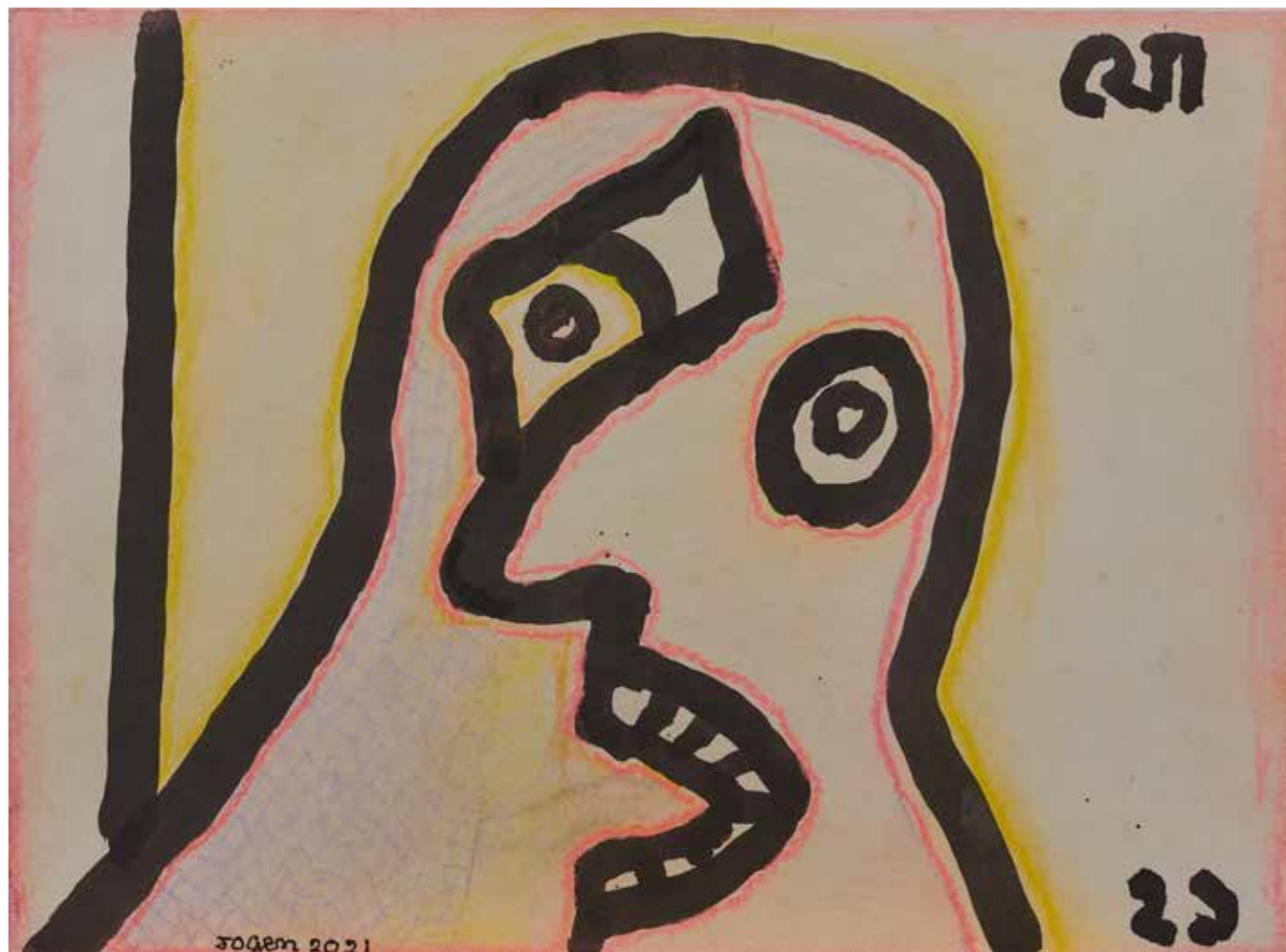




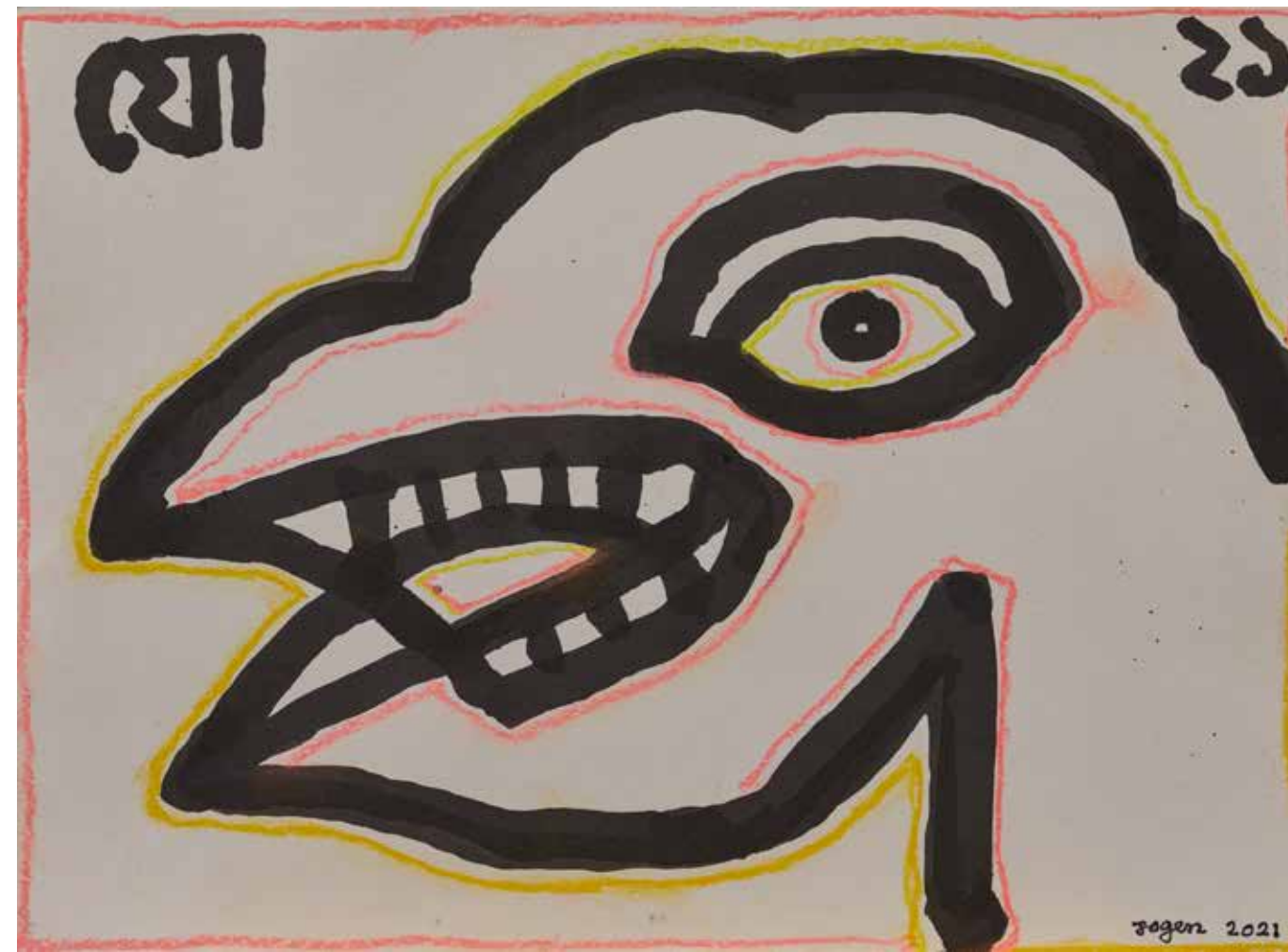
Face I
Ink with brush and dry pastel
27.94 x 38.1 cms
2021, Kolkata
C6336



Woman
Ink with brush and dry pastel
38.1 x 27.94 cms
2021, Kolkata
C6338



Face II
Ink with brush and dry pastel
27.94 x 38.1 cms
2021, Kolkata
C6337

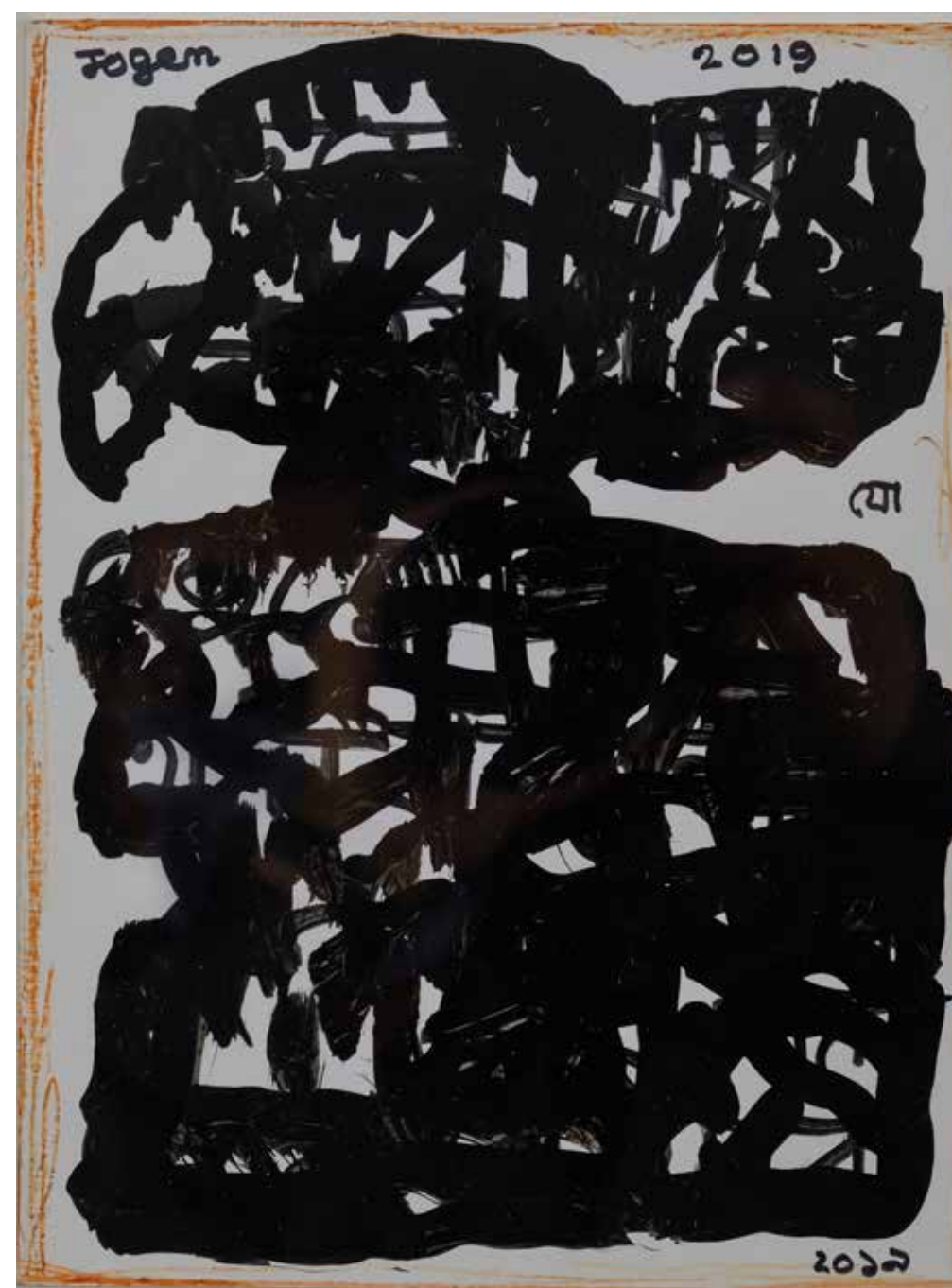


Head (Bird)
Ink with brush and dry pastel
27.94 x 38.1 cms
2021, Kolkata
C6339





Untitled II
Mixed media on paper
17.18 x 12.192 cms
2019, Kolkata
C3846



Untitled VII
Mixed media on paper
20.32 x 15.24 cms
2019, Kolkata
C3848



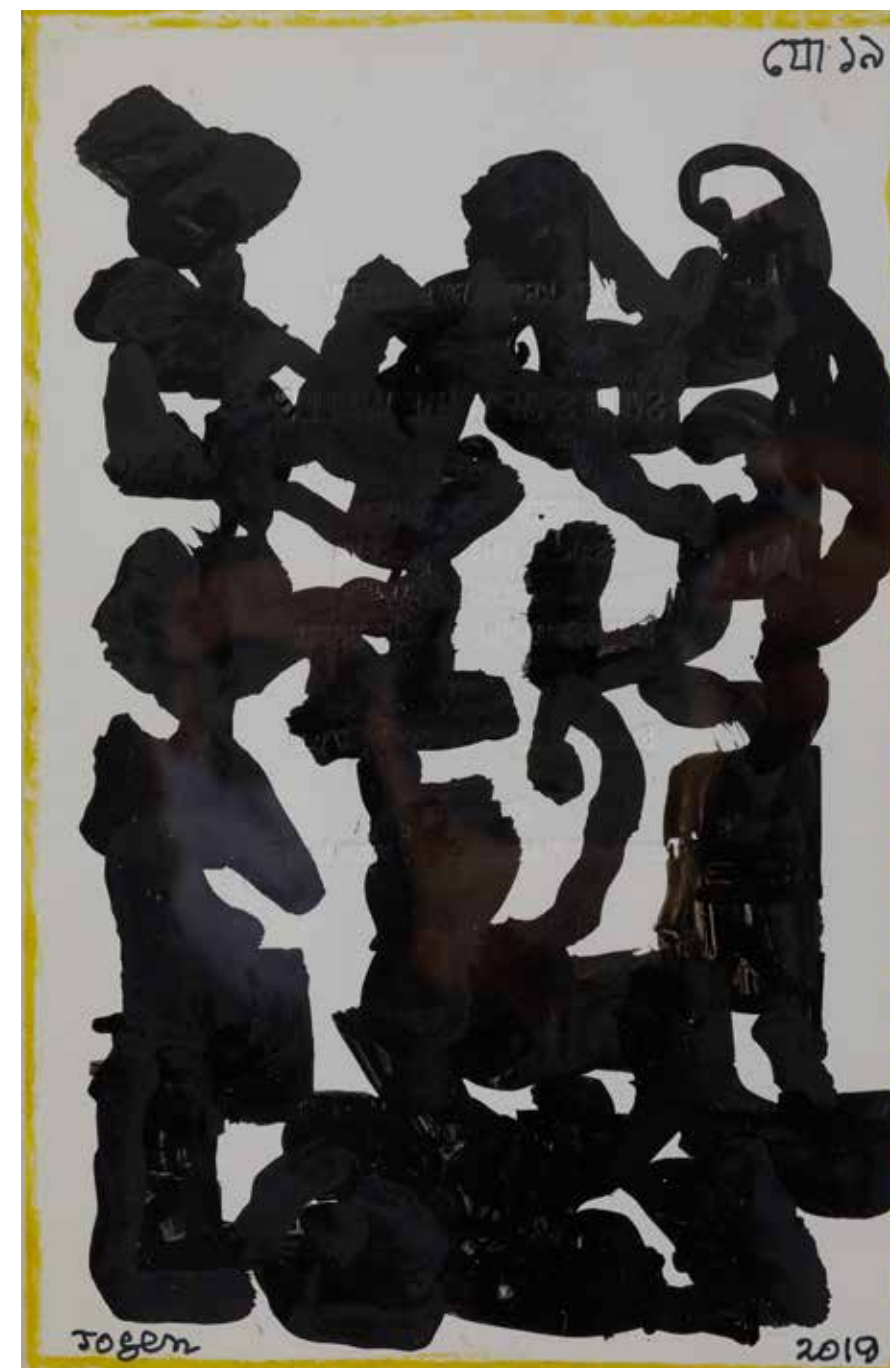
Untitled I
Mixed media on paper
17.78 x 12.7 cms
2019, Kolkata
C3847



Untitled VI
Mixed media on paper
19.5 x 11.43 cms
2019, Kolkata
C3851



Untitled IX
Mixed media on paper
7.8 x 5 inches
19.812 x 12.7 cms
2019, Kolkata
C3850



Untitled VIII
Mixed media on paper
21.59 x 13.97 cms
2019, Kolkata
C3849

Shuvaprasanna Bhattacharya





Couple II
Acrylic and charcoal on ply board
30 x 30 cms
2021, Kolkata
C6371



Couple I
Acrylic and charcoal on ply board
30 x 30 cms
2021, Kolkata
C6370



Middletone
Acrylic and charcoal on canvas
25.4 x 101.6 cms
2021, Kolkata
C6330



Middletone
Acrylic and charcoal on canvas
10 x 40 inches
2021, Kolkata
C6331

Arunima Choudhury





The thinker
Vegetable colour on
acid free handmade paper
69.85 x 55.88 cms
2007, Kolkata
C5199



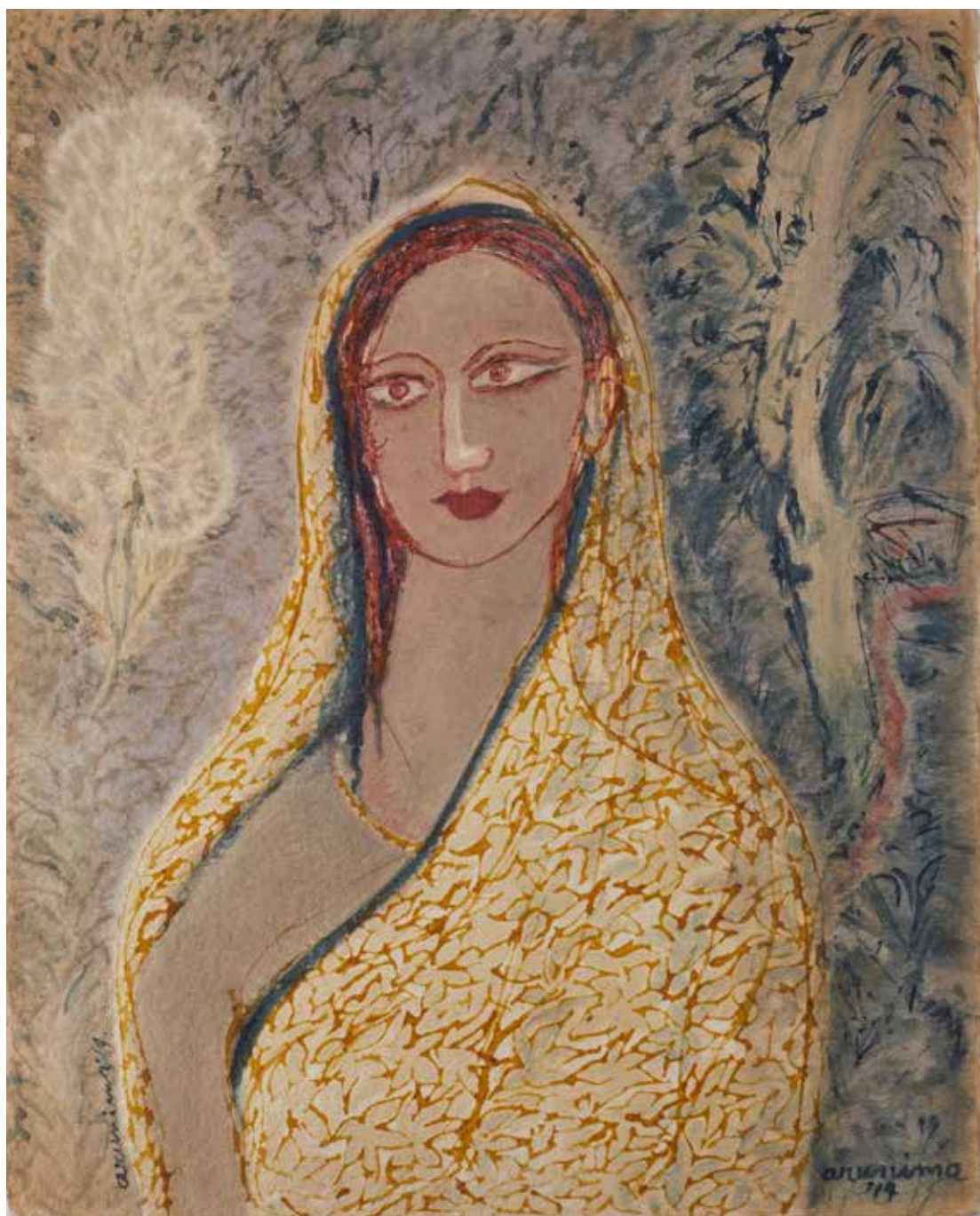
On looker
Vegetable colour on
acid free handmade paper
69.85 x 55.88 cms
2007, Kolkata
C5180



The Reader
Vegetable colour and ink
on acid free handmade paper
27.7 x 22 inches
70.358 x 55.88 cms
2007, Kolkata
C5204



Mother and Child
Vegetable colour on
acid free handmade paper
70.358 x 56.388 cms
2007, Kolkata
C5200

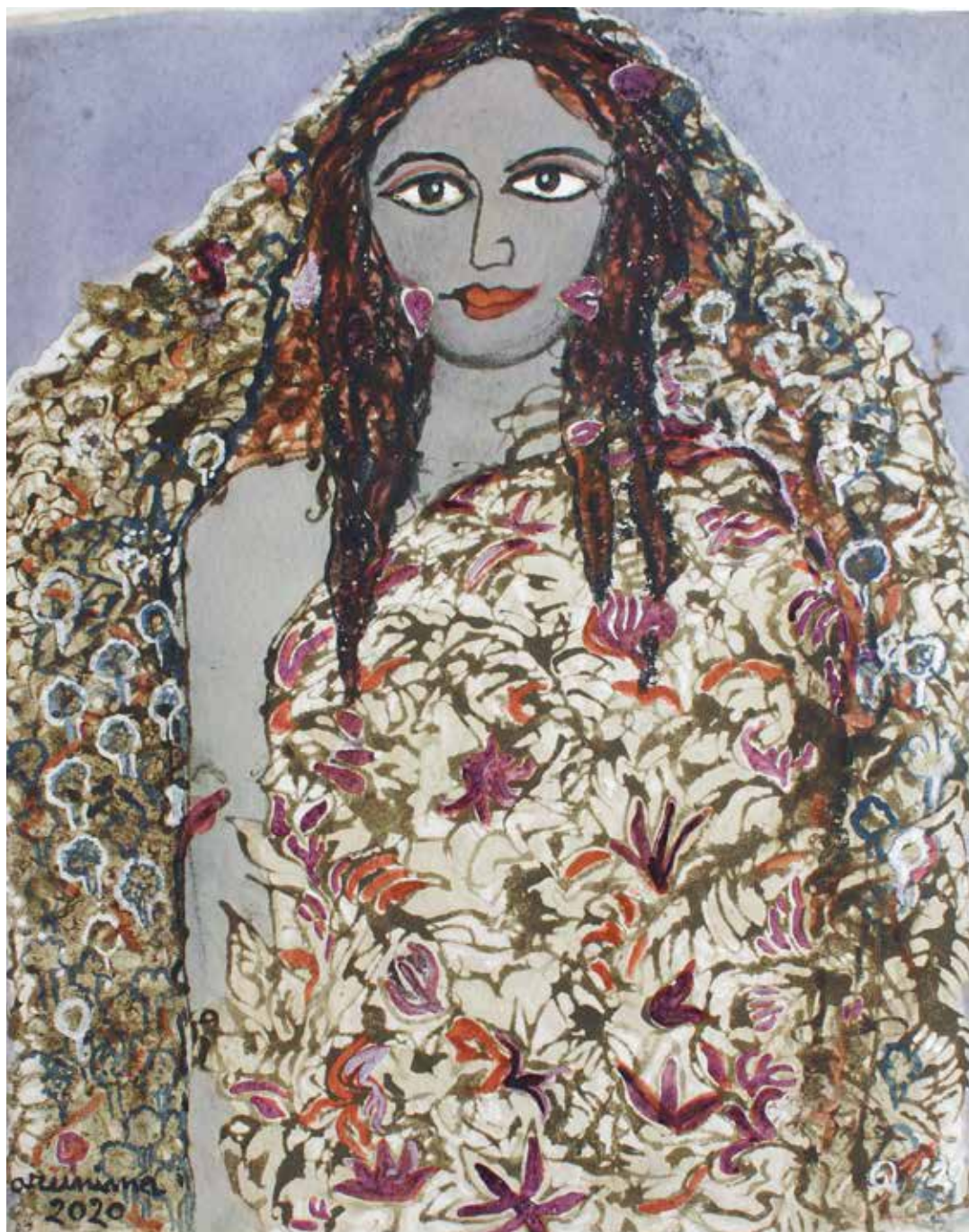


She II
Vegetable colour on
acid free handmade paper
71.12 x 57.15 cms
2014, Kolkata
C6335

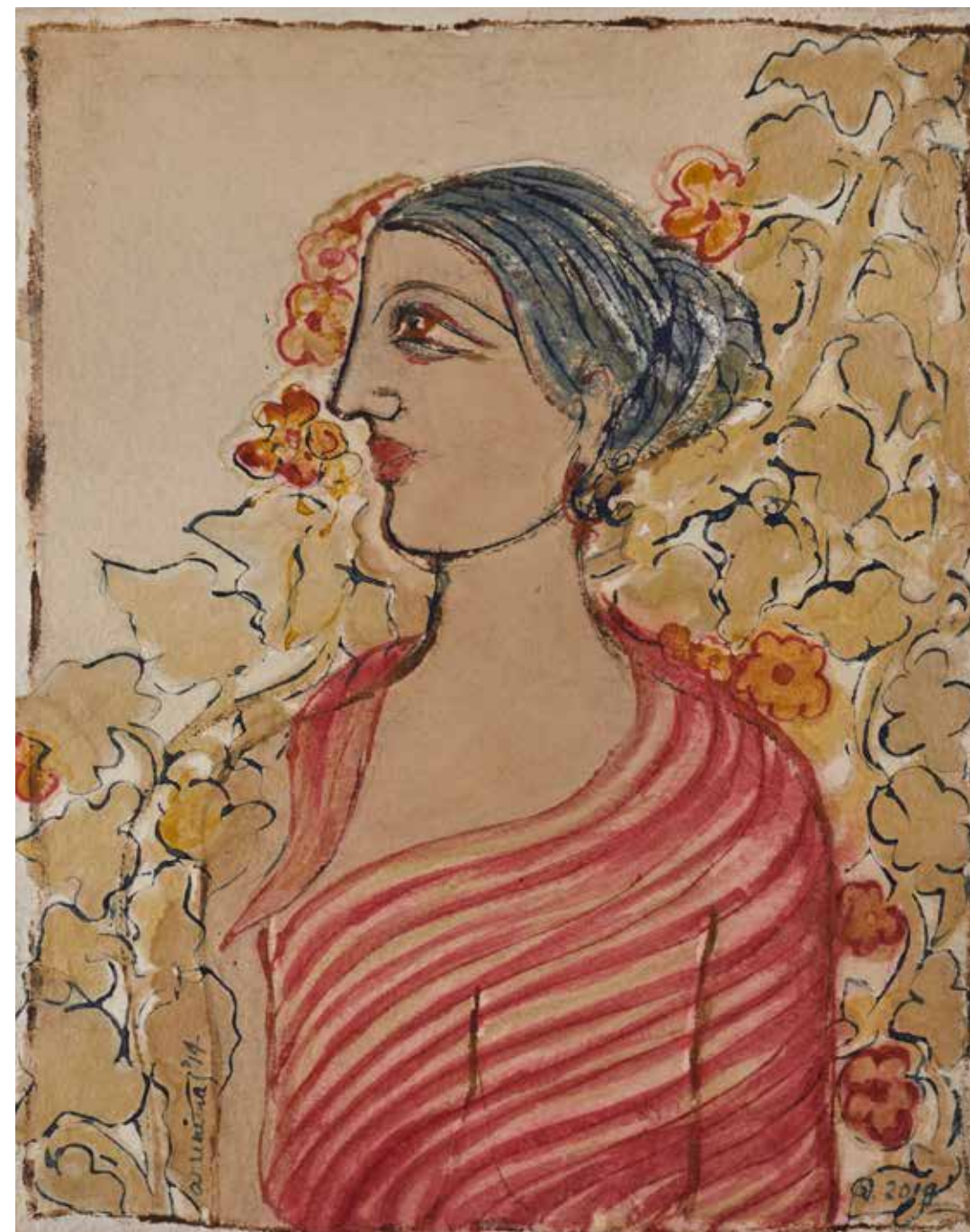


Mother and Child
Vegetable colour on
acid free handmade paper
69.85 x 56.388 cm
2007, Kolkata
C5185





Parvati
Vegetable colour on
acid free handmade paper
71.12 x 57.15 cms
2021, Kolkata
C6369



She I
Vegetable colour on
acid free handmade paper
71.12 x 57.15 cms
2014, Kolkata
C6334

Chandra Bhattacharjee

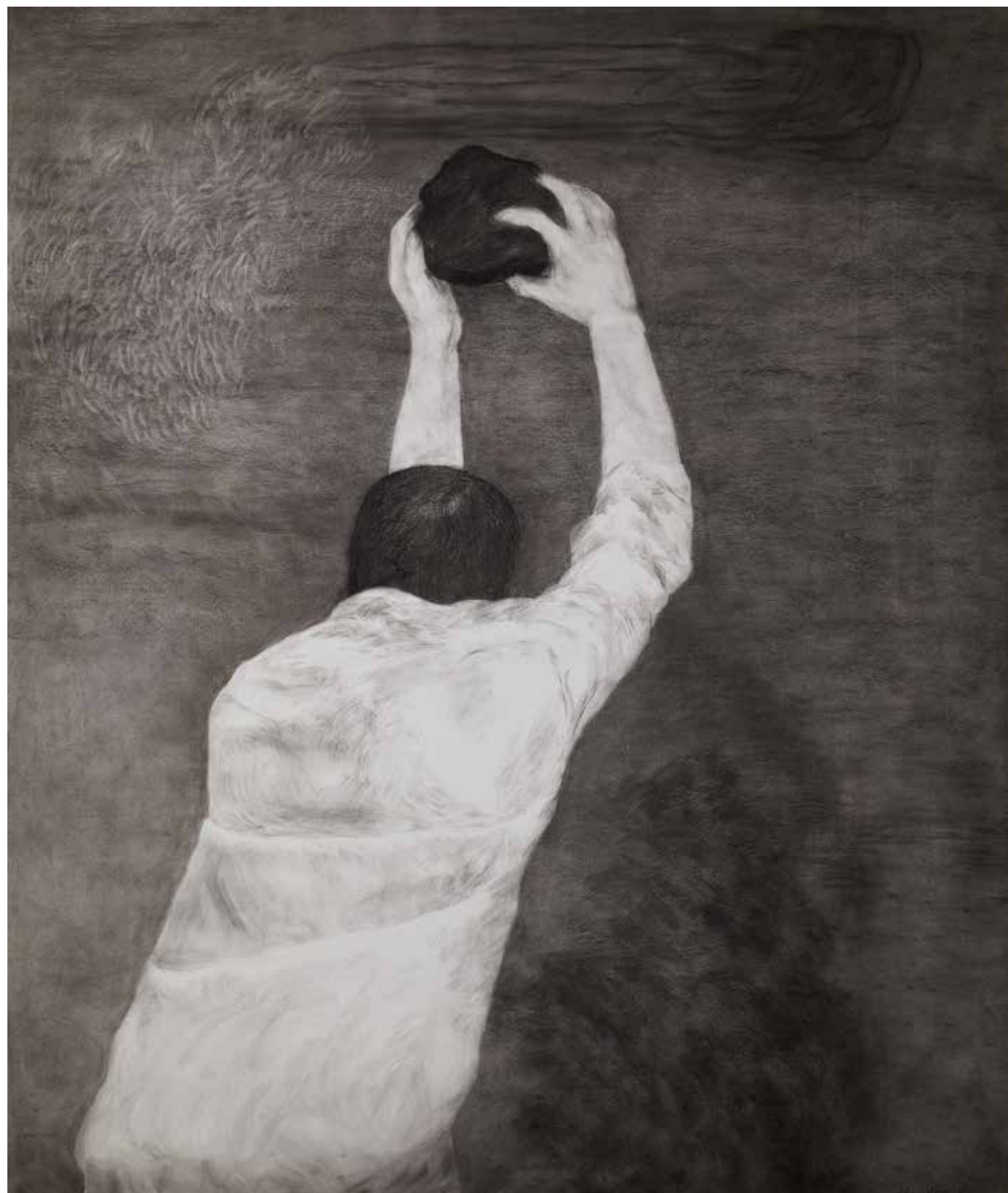




Untitled
 Acrylic on canvas
 182.88 x 121.92 cms
 2020-2021, Kolkata
 C6360



Untitled
 Acrylic on canvas
 182.88 x 121.92 cms
 2020-2021, Kolkata
 C6359



Untitled
Charcoal on canson paper
182.88 x 152.4 cms
2020, Kolkata
C6361

Arindam Chatterjee





Tales of homecoming I
Watercolour and charcoal on paper
63.5 x 91.44 cms
2020, Kolkata
C6347



Tales of homecoming II
Watercolour and charcoal on paper
63.5 x 91.44 cms
2020, Kolkata
C6348



Observer VI
Watercolour and charcoal on paper
63.5 x 91.44 cms
2020, Kolkata
C6345



Observer I
Watercolour and dry pastel on paper
65.532 x 83.312 cms
2020, Kolkata
C6341



Observer II
Watercolour on paper
67.056 x 82.55 cms
2020, Kolkata
C6342



Observer IV
Watercolour and charcoal on paper
66.04 x 85.852 cms
2020, Kolkata
C6343

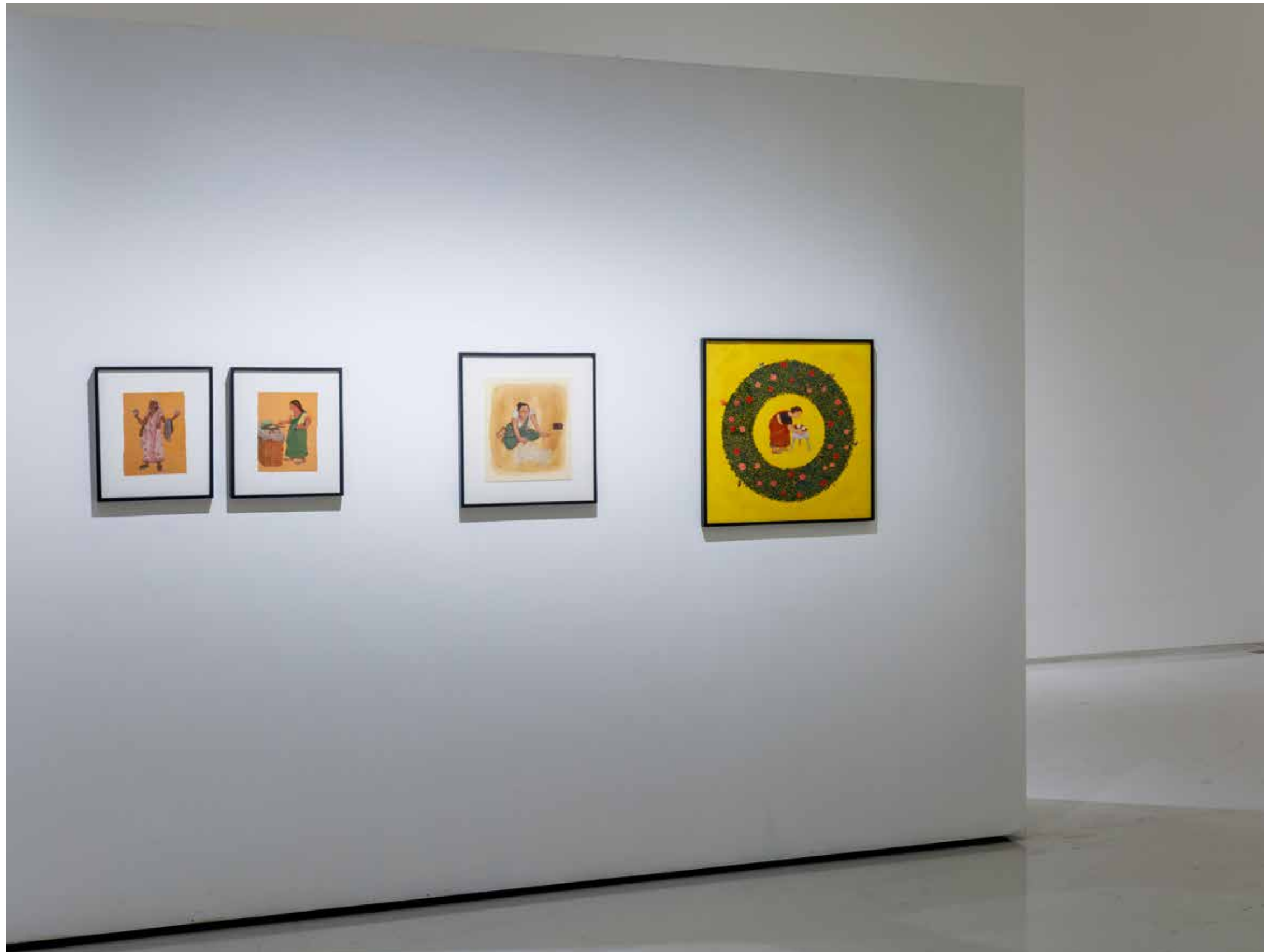


Observer V
 Watercolour on paper
 65.532 x 86.36 cms
 2020, Kolkata
 C6344



Observer VII
 Watercolour and dry pastel on paper
 76.2 x 104.648 cms
 2021, Kolkata
 C6346

Soma Das





Keen Observer
Tea stain and gouache on paper board
27.94 x 34.03 cms
2016, Kolkata
C6368



A Morning in My Neighbour's Garden
Gouache on nepali paper pasted on canvas
62 x 61 cms
2021, Kolkata
C6354



Street Food Stall IX
Gouache on paper
25.4 x 17.78 cms
2018, Kolkata
C3610

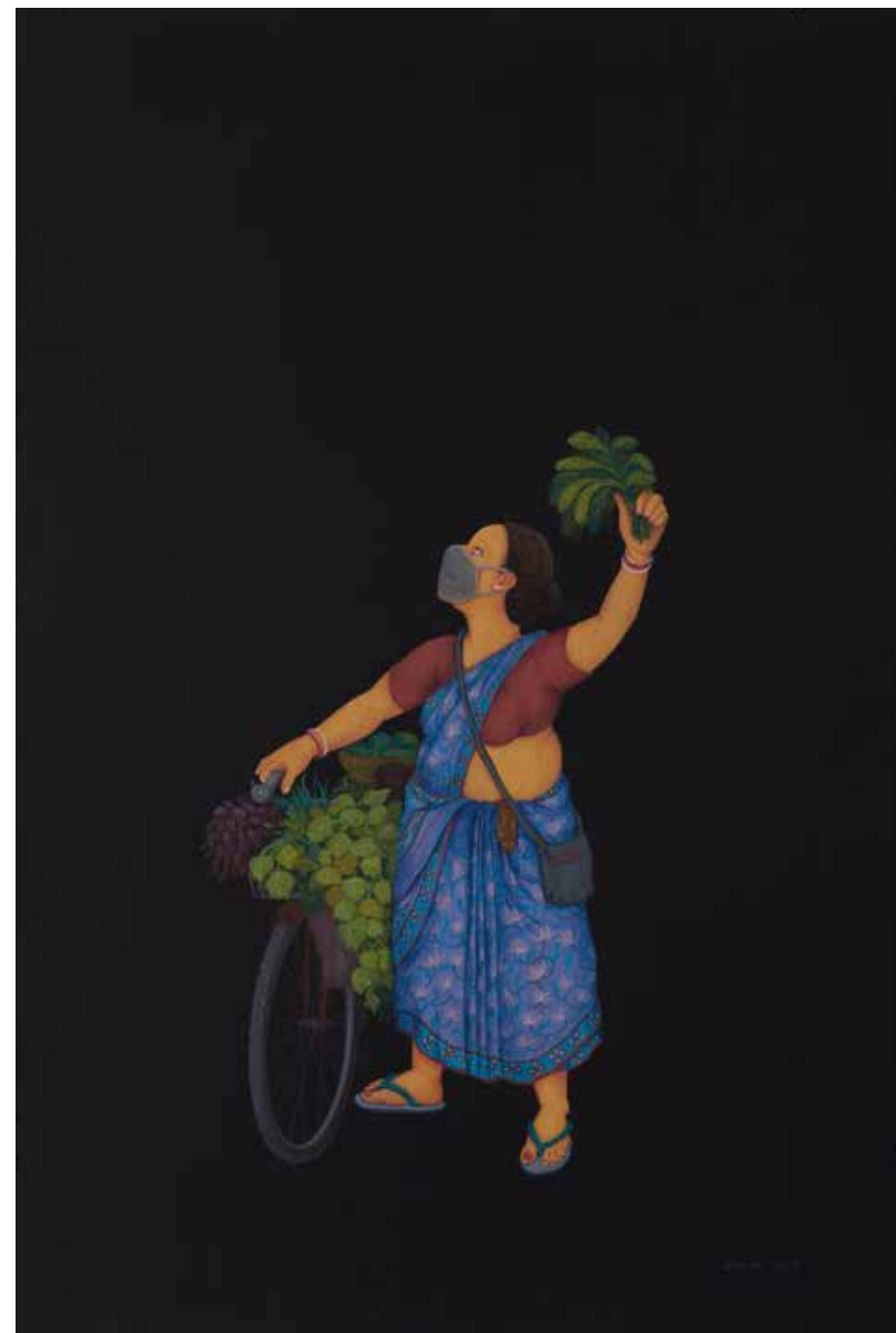


Street Food Stall VIII
Gouache on paper
25.4 x 17.78 cms
2018, Kolkata
C3609





The Last Woman in the Queue
 Gouache on nepali paper
 30.48 x 21.59 cms
 2016, Kolkata
 C3072



Unaccustomed Occupation
 Gouache on acid free paper
 55.372 x 35.56 cms
 2020, Kolkata
 C6349



Soma Das
Social distance I
Gouache on acid free paper
54 x 76 cms
2020, Kolkata
C6351



Couple II
Gouache on acid free paper
54 x 76 cms
2020, Kolkata
C6352



Social Distance II
Gouache on acid free paper
54 x 74 cms
2020, Kolkata
C6350

Andor Mahal (Inner Apartment)
Gouache on nepali paper pasted on canvas
74.5 x 58.5 cms
2021, Kolkata
C6353



Tamal Bhattacharya





In the Net
 Earthenware and iron (Welding & stitching)
 43.18 x 43.18 x 7.62 cms each
 2020, Kolkata
 C6356



In the Net
Earthenware and iron (Welding & stitching)
43.18 x 43.18 x 7.62 cms each
2020, Kolkata
C6356



Speakers
Earthenware and stoneware
35.56 x 20.32 x 6.35 cms each
2020, Kolkata
C6355





Front



Back

To Heal the World II
 Earthenware
 20.32 x 30.48 x 7.62 cms
 2020, Kolkata
 C6357





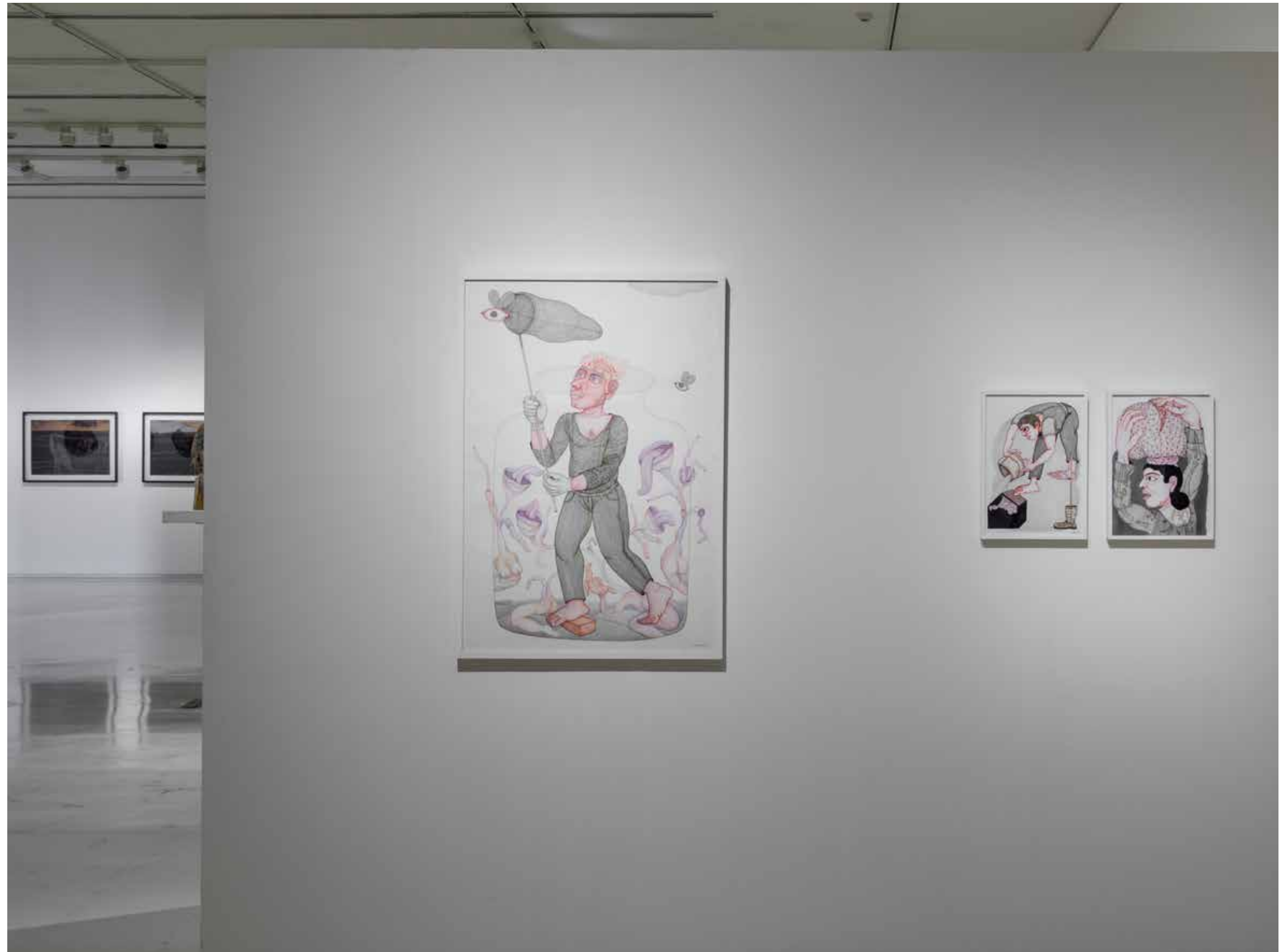
Front



Back

To Heal the World I
 Earthenware
 43.18 x 24.13 x 7.62 cms
 2020, Kolkata
 C6358

Anjan Modak

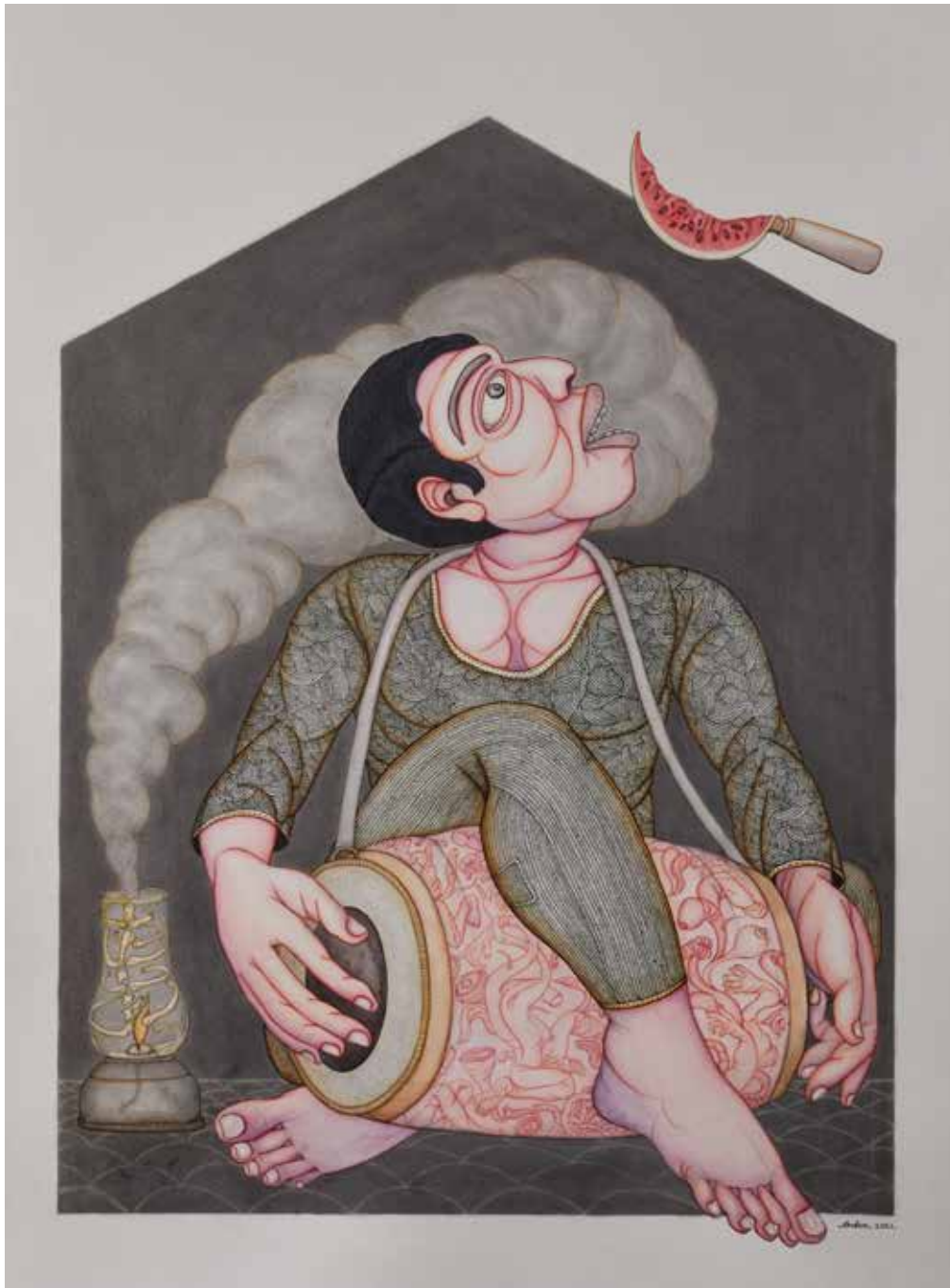




The Eye Catcher
Watercolour and graphite on acid free paper
109.22 x 74.93 cms
2018, Kolkata
C3694



Unbalanced
Watercolour and graphite on acid free paper
41.91 x 29.972 cms
2021, Kolkata
C6367



The Song of Burning Bones
Watercolour, ink and graphite on acid free paper
74.93 x 54.61 cms
2021, Kolkata
C6365

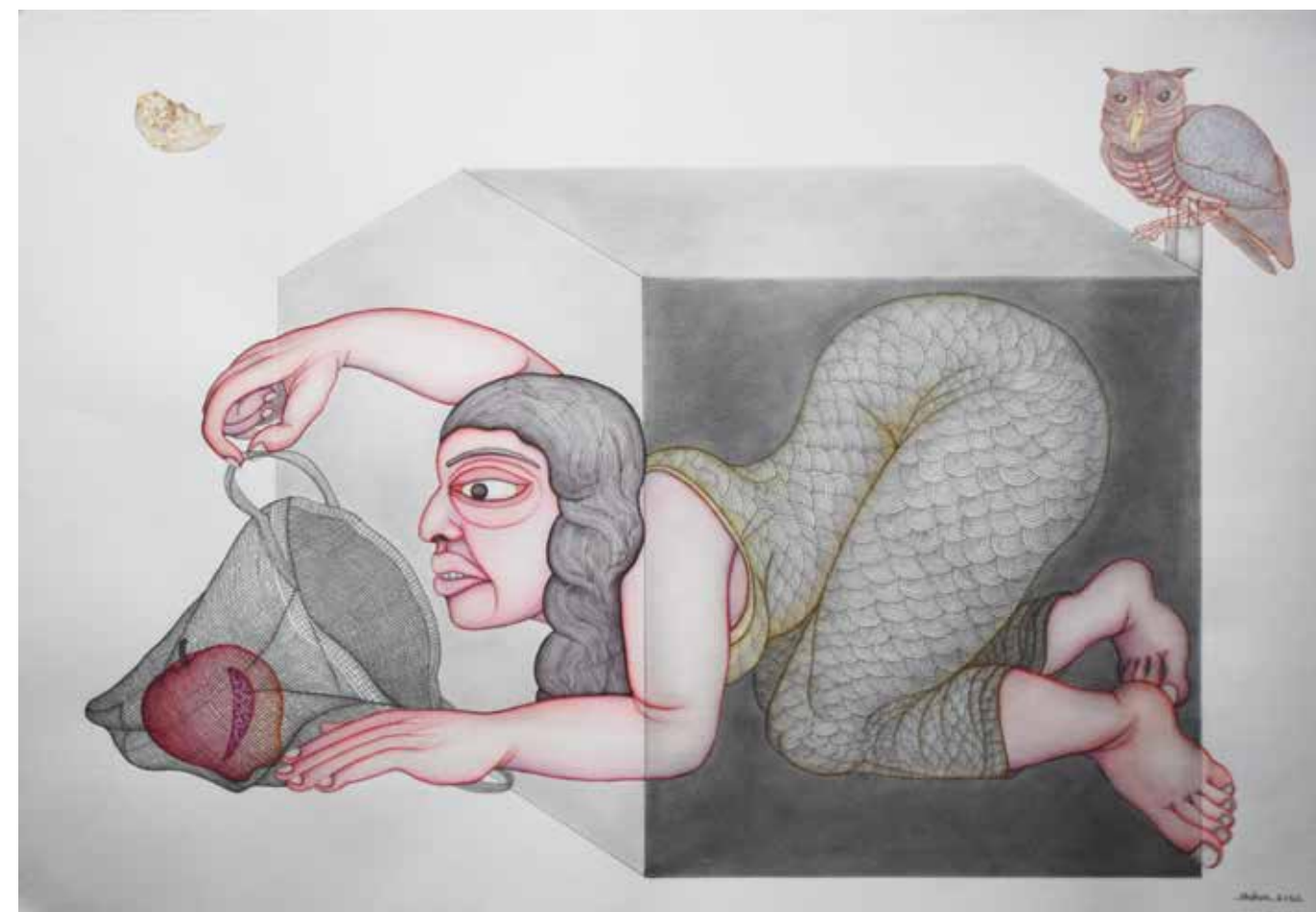


Displacement
Watercolour and graphite on acid free paper
41.91 x 29.972 cms
2021, Kolkata
C6366





Dream of Reality I
Watercolour and graphite on acid free paper
54.61 x 74.93 cms
2020
C5435



Dream of Reality II
Watercolour, lead and graphite on acid free paper
54.61 x 74.93 cms
2020
C5436



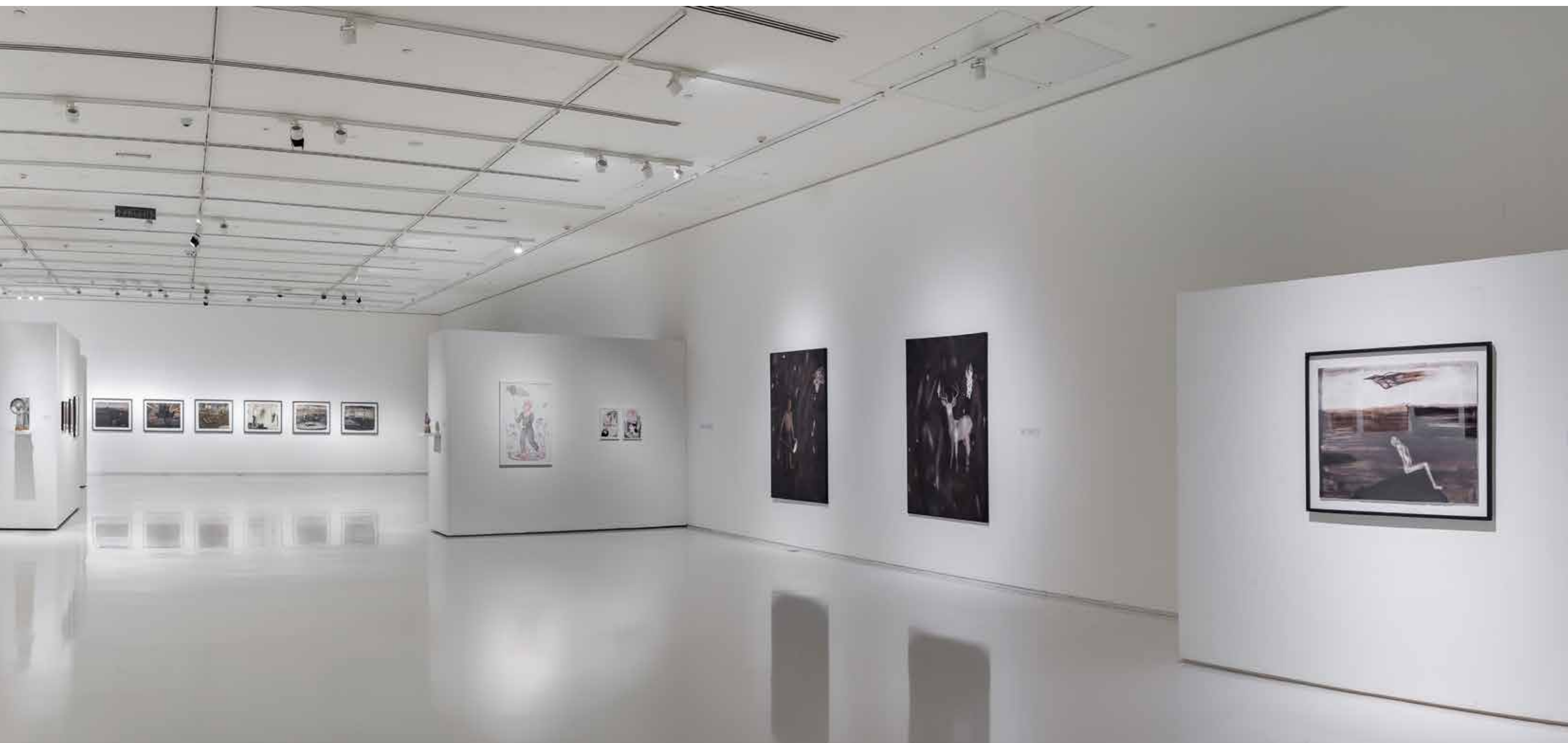
The Ephemeral Shelter
Watercolour and graphite on acid free paper
74.93 x 55.372 cms
2020, Kolkata
C6364

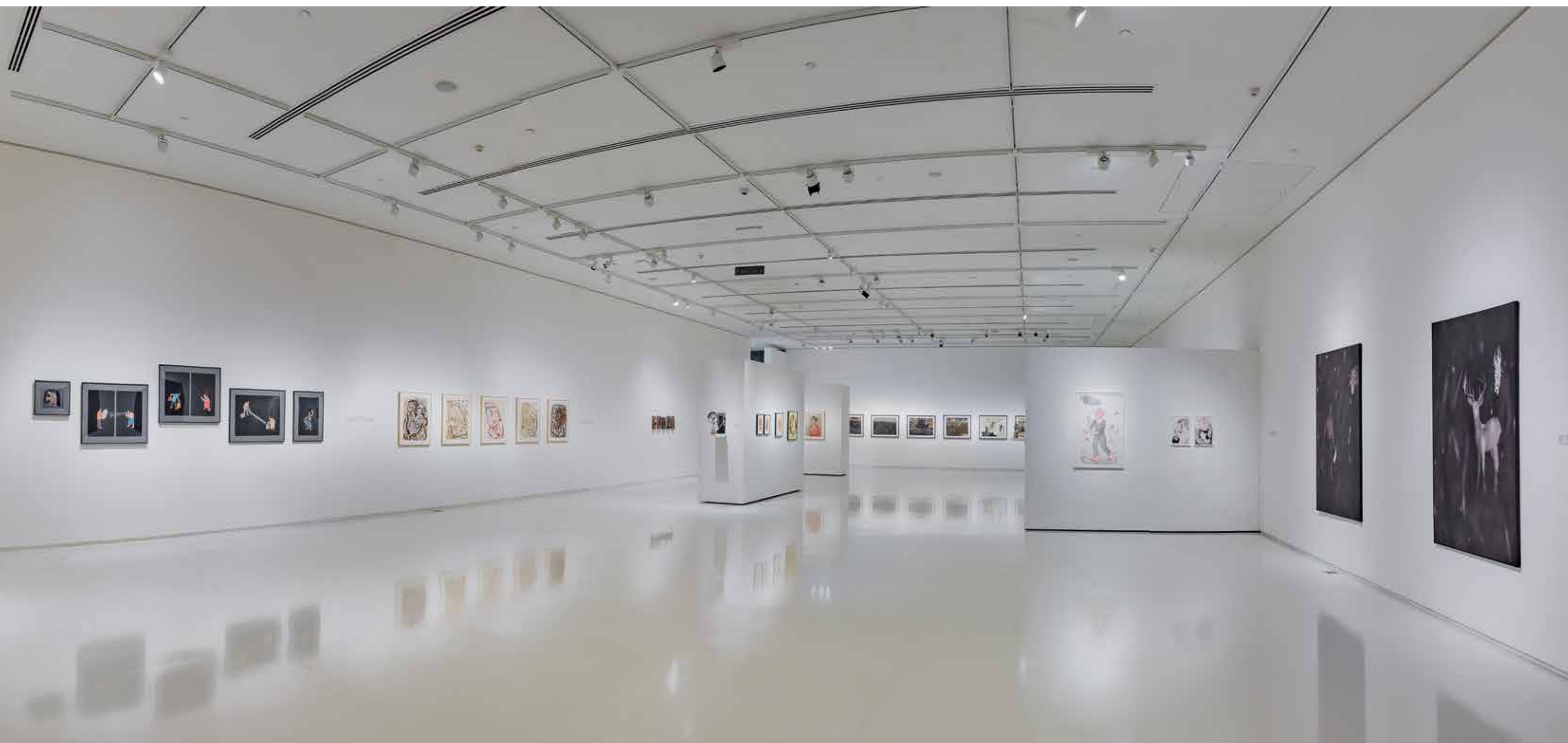


End of the Day
Watercolour, graphite and ink on acid free paper
45.72 x 45.72 cms
2020, Kolkata
C6362



Under the Piece of Shadow
Watercolour and graphite on acid free paper
45.72 x 45.72 cms
2020, Kolkata
C6363









Emami Art *mission statement*

A destination for modern & cutting-edge contemporary art, Emami Art is focused on a future-forward, complex, multi-dimensional approach. One of the largest art institutions in the eastern part of India, Emami Art is a key space for cultural production in the region. As an organisation, Emami Art is steadfast in the advocacy of emerging, mid-career and established artists. EA Exhibitions engages with contemporary as well as historical materials. We aim to create dynamic, wide-ranging registers of exhibition-making and viewing experiences. Along with exhibitions and events Emami Art will diversify into various parallel programming.

EA Locus in Focus will specifically engage with the city, state and the region in phased-out continuous programming of short-term projects that explores different approaches of art-making, focusing on artists and art/crafts of the region. EA Co-labs (Collaborative Programming) and EA Initiative (Public art projects) will also be initiated under the umbrella of the Locus in Focus programme.

The EA Incubator and mentorship programmes, series of specialised projects, workshops, residency opportunities and innovative educational programs will facilitate artists develop their work, build networks and work through their ideas within a supportive environment. As a centre of excellence, Emami Arts wishes to be identified as a platform rather than just a facility, hence our programming will integrate both physical and virtual interfaces.

Critical discourse, interaction, documentation, and exchange are essential to our agenda. EA Discourse will develop and produce original writing, artists books, monographs, periodicals and catalogues that will focus on artistic and creative practices as well as other cultural and pedagogical material.

The EA Communicator programming of talks, seminars, panel discussions and conversations with artists, curators and key cultural partners provides added space for critical engagement as part of our knowledge-making programming.

Deeply committed to promoting a regional, national and international agenda through exhibition-making, innovative and alternative programming, emphasis on collaborations, community and socially relevant engagements, institutional partnerships and more via a multi-year vision for the future, Emami Art is determined to be a catalyst of change, research, innovation, inclusivity and understanding.

