

What My Mother Didn't Teach Me...  
& Some Things She Did!

A Solo show by **Viraj Khanna**  
Curated by **Sanjana Shah**

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**Tao**  
*The way to Art*

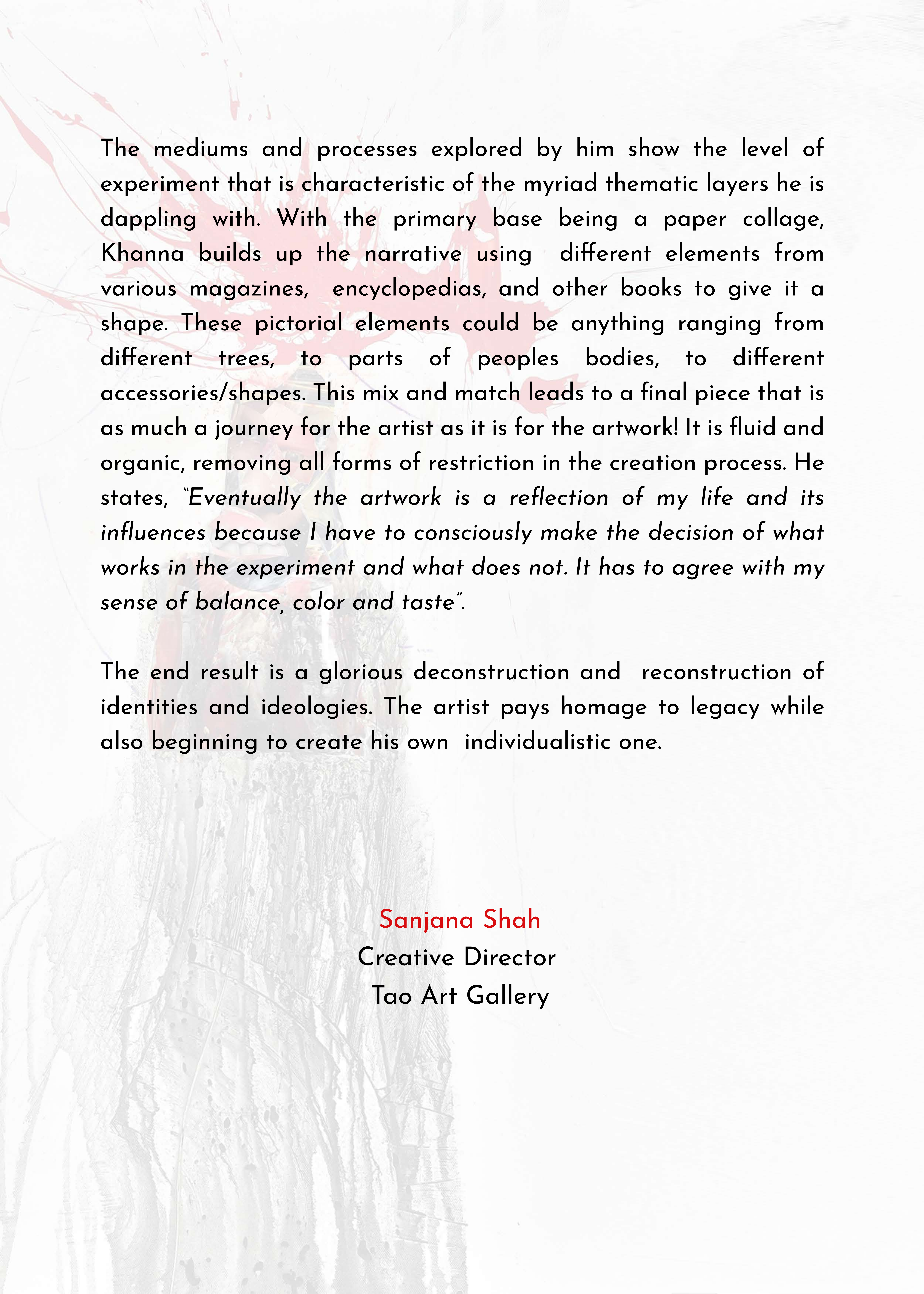


# What My Mother Didn't Teach Me... & *Some Things She Did!*

When I first interacted with Viraj's work I was completely taken in by how evocative each piece was. The shapes, forms and colors stood out, starkly at first, but then coming together in an incredibly aesthetic form. However, aesthetics are far from the mind of this young, upcoming artist. Khanna in fact tries to break free from the aesthetic legacy handed down to him by his mother as he carves his own niche of exploration. Ironically, much of this exploration is also derived from the same legacy as he makes a sartorial commentary through his art on the ideas of beauty, fashion, appearances and society.

In his words, "humans are social animals, and the society we live in shapes the way we speak, behave, and interact with our surroundings. It also has a direct influence on our priorities, morals, ethics, values, etc. We aren't born knowing what is right and what is wrong. We look at our surroundings, or behave according to the way we are told or taught. This adaptation to societal norms in order to fit in makes us 'put on a face'. It makes us behave in a certain way, almost masking our true nature. My sculptures and paintings with their exaggerated features and multiple faces, depicts this behavioral adaptation due to the influences of society. There is a constant battle between our raw, natural form versus our conditioned form."





The mediums and processes explored by him show the level of experiment that is characteristic of the myriad thematic layers he is dappling with. With the primary base being a paper collage, Khanna builds up the narrative using different elements from various magazines, encyclopedias, and other books to give it a shape. These pictorial elements could be anything ranging from different trees, to parts of peoples bodies, to different accessories/shapes. This mix and match leads to a final piece that is as much a journey for the artist as it is for the artwork! It is fluid and organic, removing all forms of restriction in the creation process. He states, *"Eventually the artwork is a reflection of my life and its influences because I have to consciously make the decision of what works in the experiment and what does not. It has to agree with my sense of balance, color and taste"*.

The end result is a glorious deconstruction and reconstruction of identities and ideologies. The artist pays homage to legacy while also beginning to create his own individualistic one.

**Sanjana Shah**  
Creative Director  
Tao Art Gallery





UNTITLED, 2021  
Hand embroidery on cotton  
29 x 30 inches  
INR 150,000 + 12% GST





UNTITLED, 2021  
Hand embroidery on cotton  
29 x 30 inches  
INR 150,000 + 12% GST





UNTITLED, 2021  
Hand embroidery on cotton  
29 x 30 inches  
INR 150,000 + 12% GST





UNTITLED, 2021  
Hand embroidery on cotton  
77 x 33 inches  
INR 600,000 + 12% GST





UNTITLED, 2021  
Hand embroidery on cotton  
75 x 35 inches  
INR 600,000 + 12% GST





UNTITLED, 2021  
Hand embroidery on cotton  
75 x 35 inches  
INR 600,000 + 12% GST





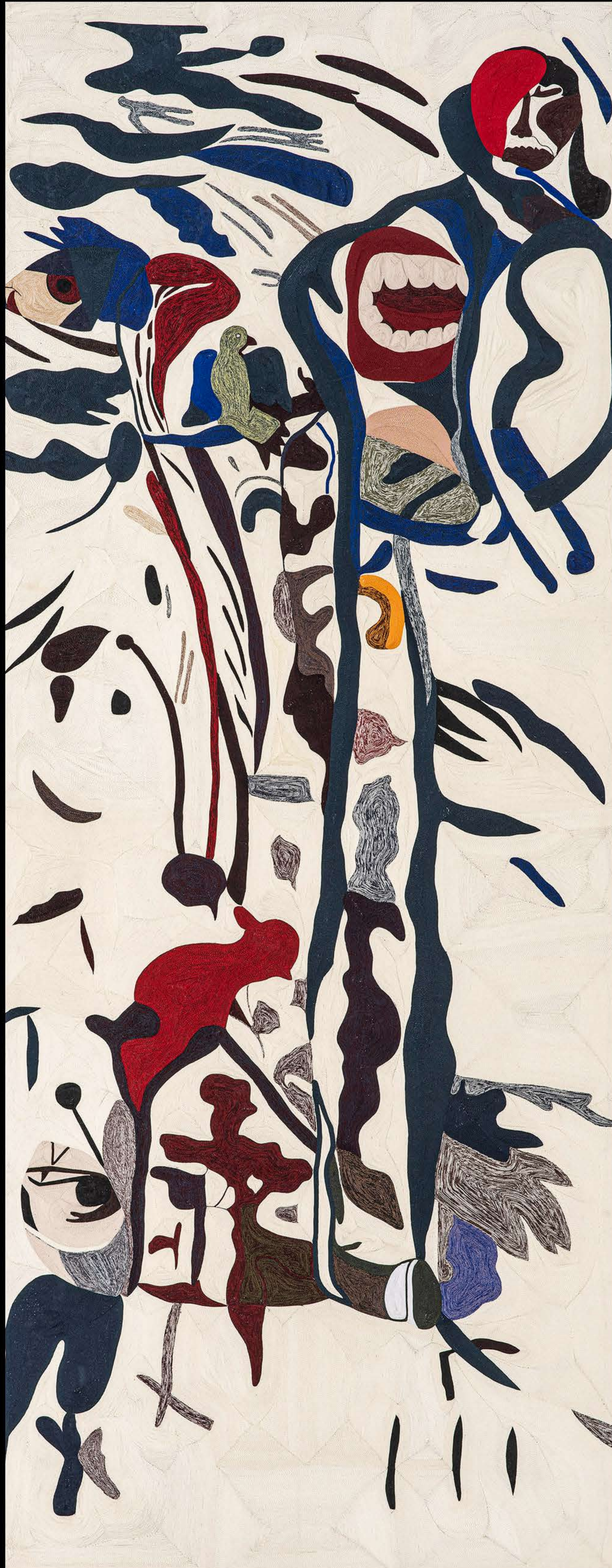
UNTITLED, 2021  
Hand embroidery on cotton  
75 x 35 inches  
INR 600,000 + 12% GST





UNTITLED, 2021  
Hand embroidery on cotton  
67 x 33 inches  
INR 600,000 + 12% GST





UNTITLED, 2021  
Hand embroidery on cotton  
80 x 32 inches  
INR 600,000 + 12% GST





UNTITLED, 2021  
Hand embroidery on cotton  
80 x 32 inches  
INR 600,000 + 12% GST





UNTITLED, 2021  
Hand embroidery on cotton  
76 x 32 inches  
INR 600,000 + 12% GST





UNTITLED, 2021  
Mixed media on canvas  
36 x 24 inches  
INR 150,000 + 12% GST





UNTITLED, 2021  
Mixed media on canvas  
48 x 36 inches  
INR 150,000 + 12% GST





UNTITLED, 2021  
Mixed media on canvas  
36 x 24 inches  
INR 150,000 + 12% GST





UNTITLED, 2021  
Mixed media on canvas  
40 x 30 inches  
INR 150,000 + 12% GST





UNTITLED, 2021  
Mixed media on canvas  
36 x 24 inches  
INR 150,000 + 12% GST





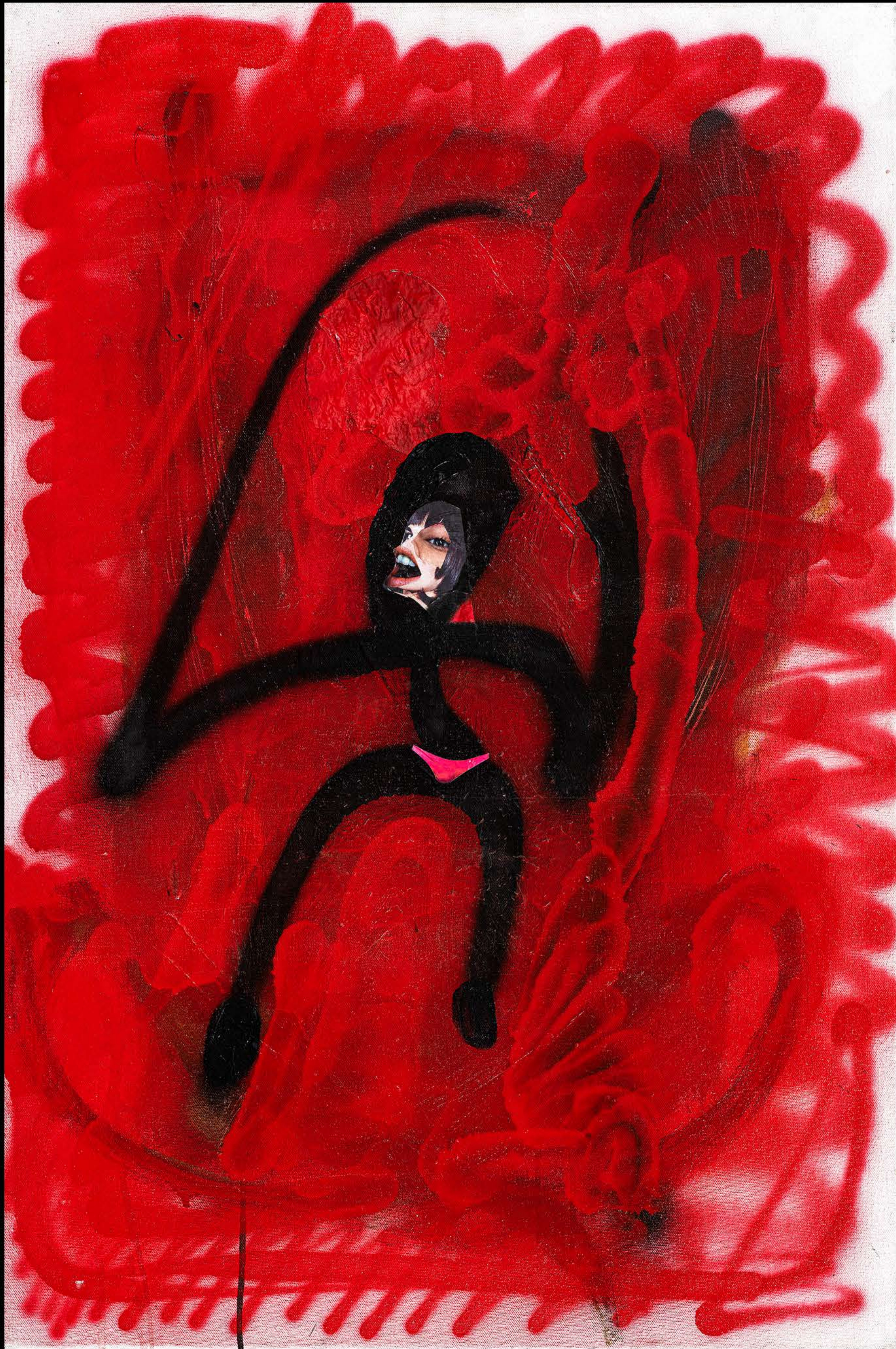
UNTITLED, 2021  
Mixed media on canvas  
36 x 24 inches  
INR 150,000 + 12% GST





UNTITLED, 2021  
Mixed media on canvas  
36 x 24 inches  
INR 150,000 + 12% GST





UNTITLED, 2021  
Mixed media on canvas  
36 x 24 inches  
INR 150,000 + 12% GST





UNTITLED, 2021  
Mixed media on canvas  
40 x 30 inches  
INR 150,000 + 12% GST





UNTITLED, 2021  
Mixed media on canvas  
42 x 36 inches  
INR 150,000 + 12% GST





UNTITLED, 2021  
Mixed media on canvas  
42 x 42 inches  
INR 150,000 + 12% GST





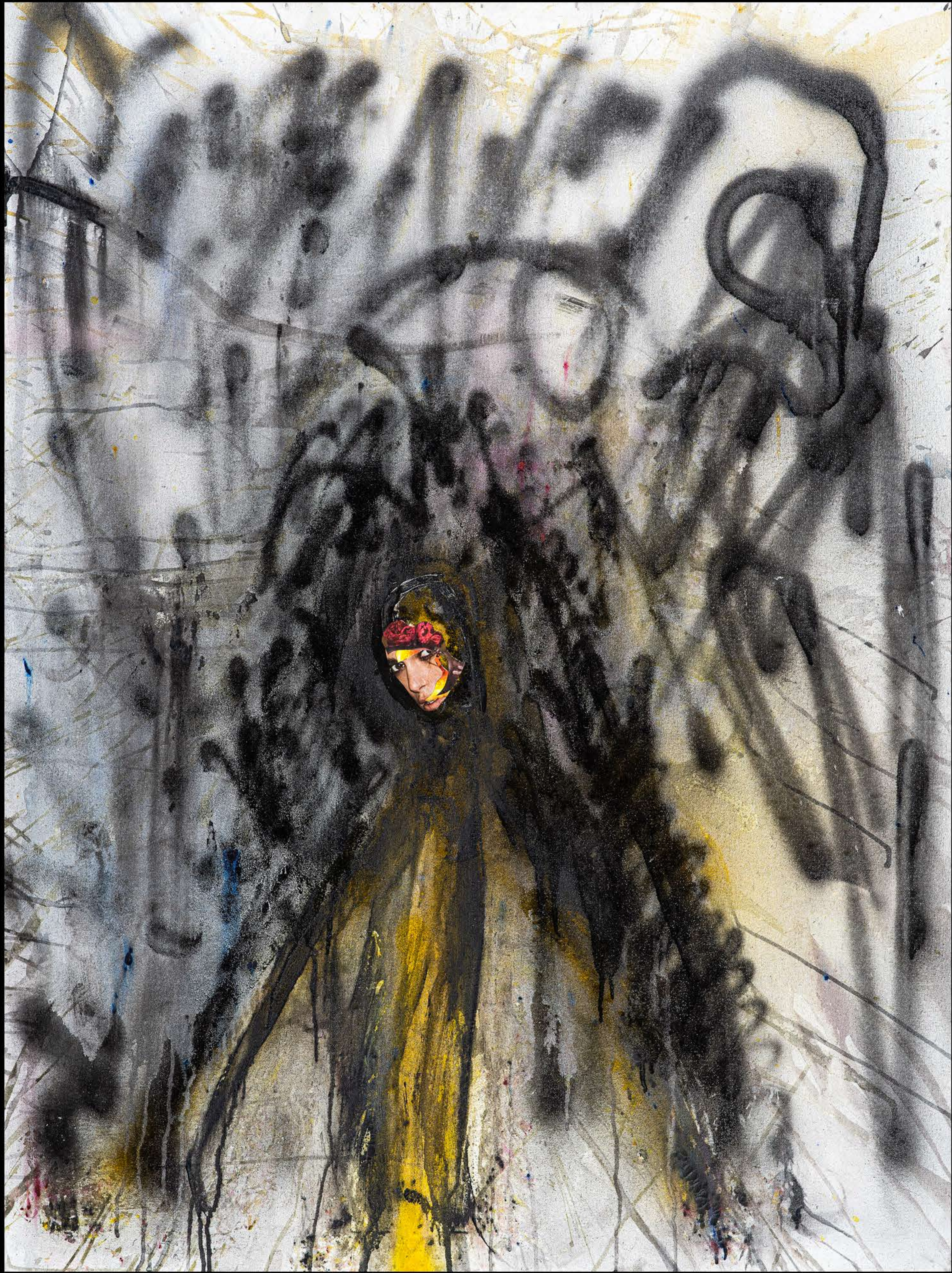
UNTITLED, 2021  
Mixed media on canvas  
47 x 47 inches  
INR 150,000 + 12% GST





UNTITLED, 2021  
Mixed media on canvas  
44 x 36 inches  
INR 150,000 + 12% GST





UNTITLED, 2021  
Mixed media on canvas  
48 x 36 inches  
INR 150,000 + 12% GST





UNTITLED, 2021  
Mixed media on canvas  
42 x 42 inches  
INR 150,000 + 12% GST





UNTITLED, 2021  
Mixed media on canvas  
47 x 47 inches  
INR 150,000 + 12% GST





UNTITLED, 2021  
Mixed media on canvas  
36 x 36 inches  
INR 150,000 + 12% GST





UNTITLED, 2021  
Mixed media on canvas  
36 x 36 inches  
INR 150,000 + 12% GST





UNTITLED, 2021  
Mixed media on canvas  
36 x 36 inches  
INR 150,000 + 12% GST





UNTITLED, 2021  
Mixed media on canvas  
47 x 36 inches  
INR 150,000 + 12% GST





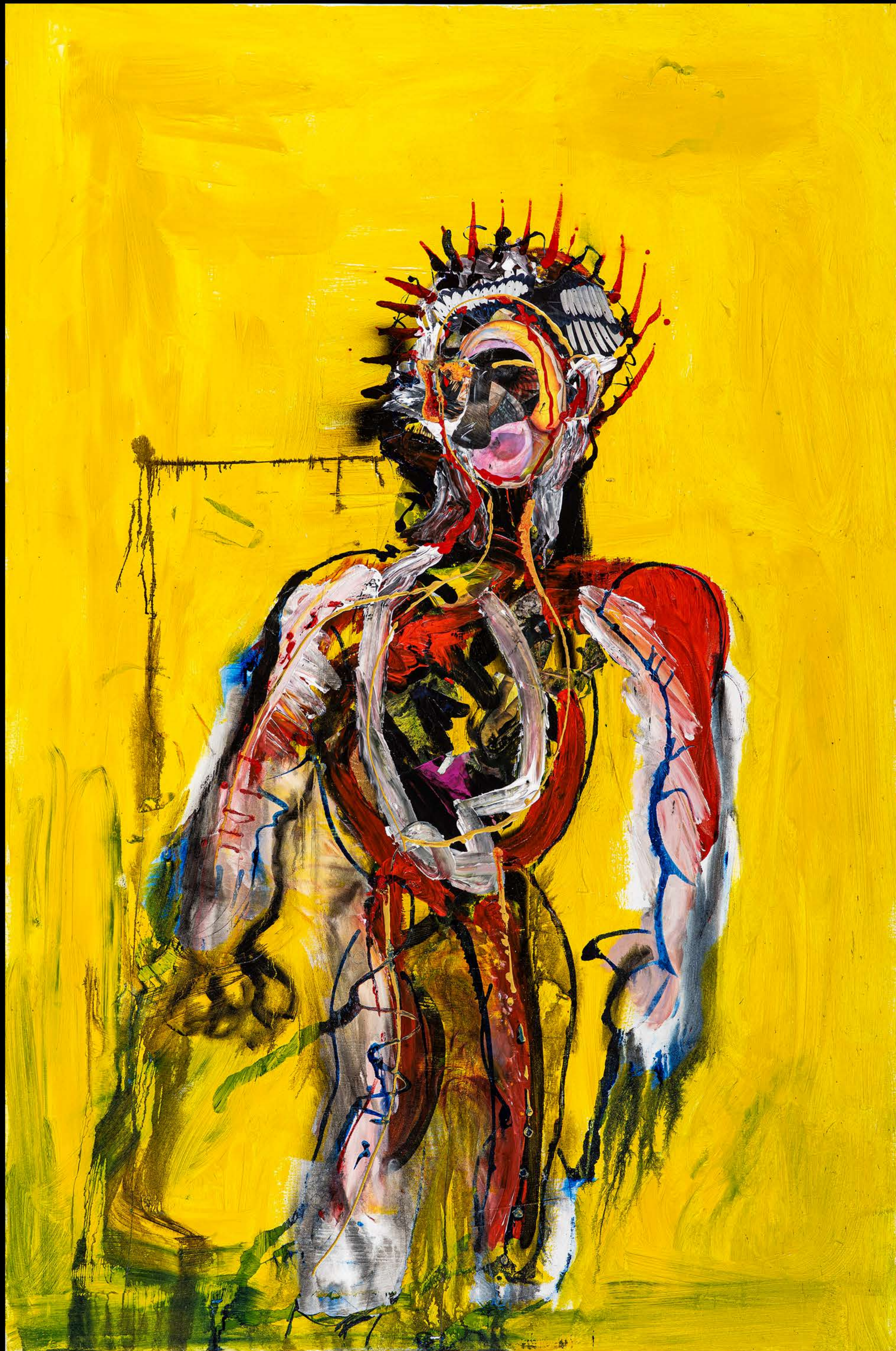
UNTITLED, 2021  
Mixed media on canvas  
72 x 48 inches  
INR 300,000 + 12% GST





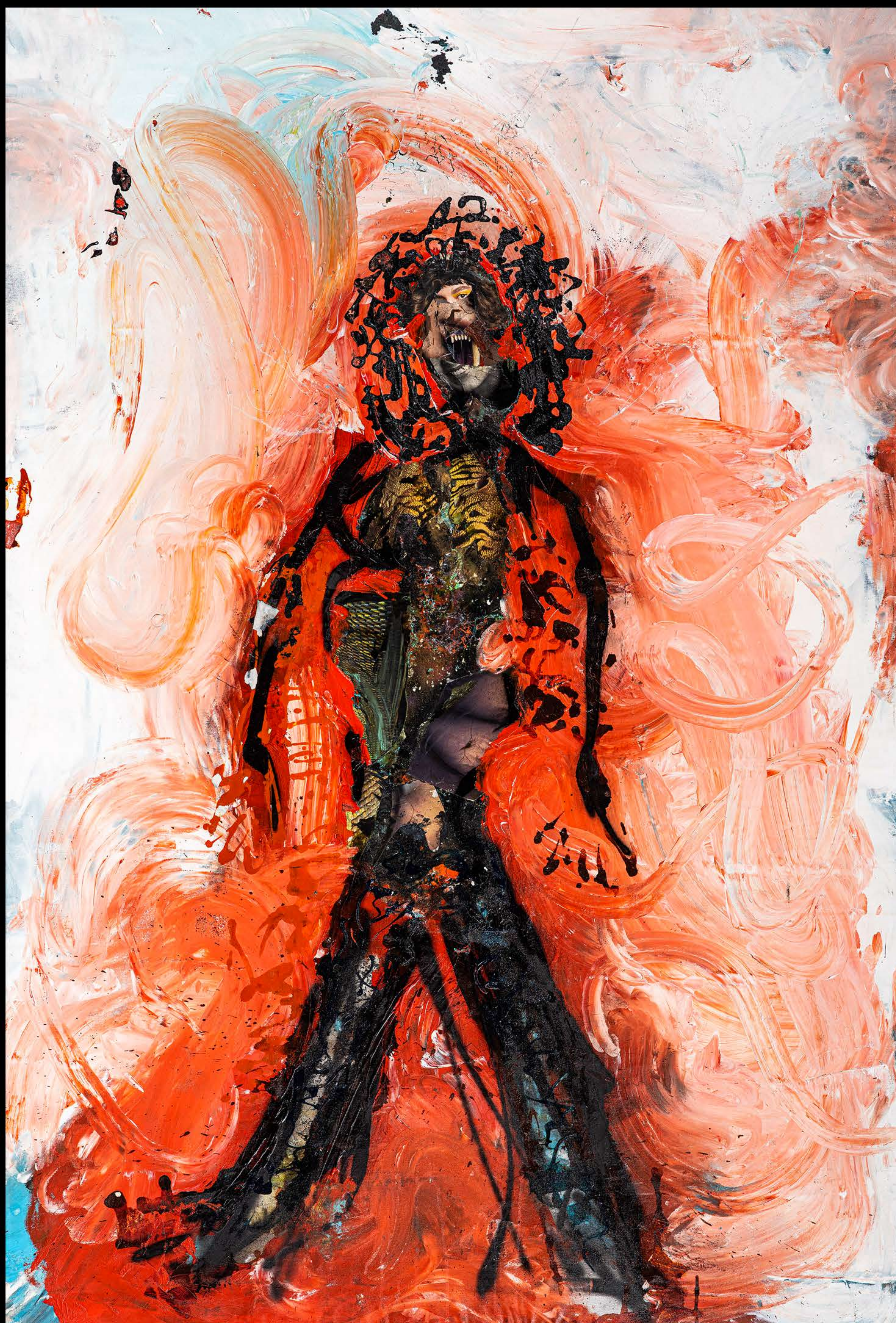
UNTITLED, 2021  
Mixed media on canvas  
72 x 48 inches  
INR 300,000 + 12% GST





UNTITLED, 2021  
Mixed media on canvas  
72 x 48 inches  
INR 300,000 + 12% GST





UNTITLED, 2021  
Mixed media on canvas  
73 x 49 inches  
INR 300,000 + 12% GST





UNTITLED, 2021  
Mixed media on canvas  
72 x 48 inches  
INR 300,000 + 12% GST





UNTITLED, 2021  
Automotive paint and acrylic on fibreglass  
85 x 48 x 24 inches  
INR 500,000 + 12% GST





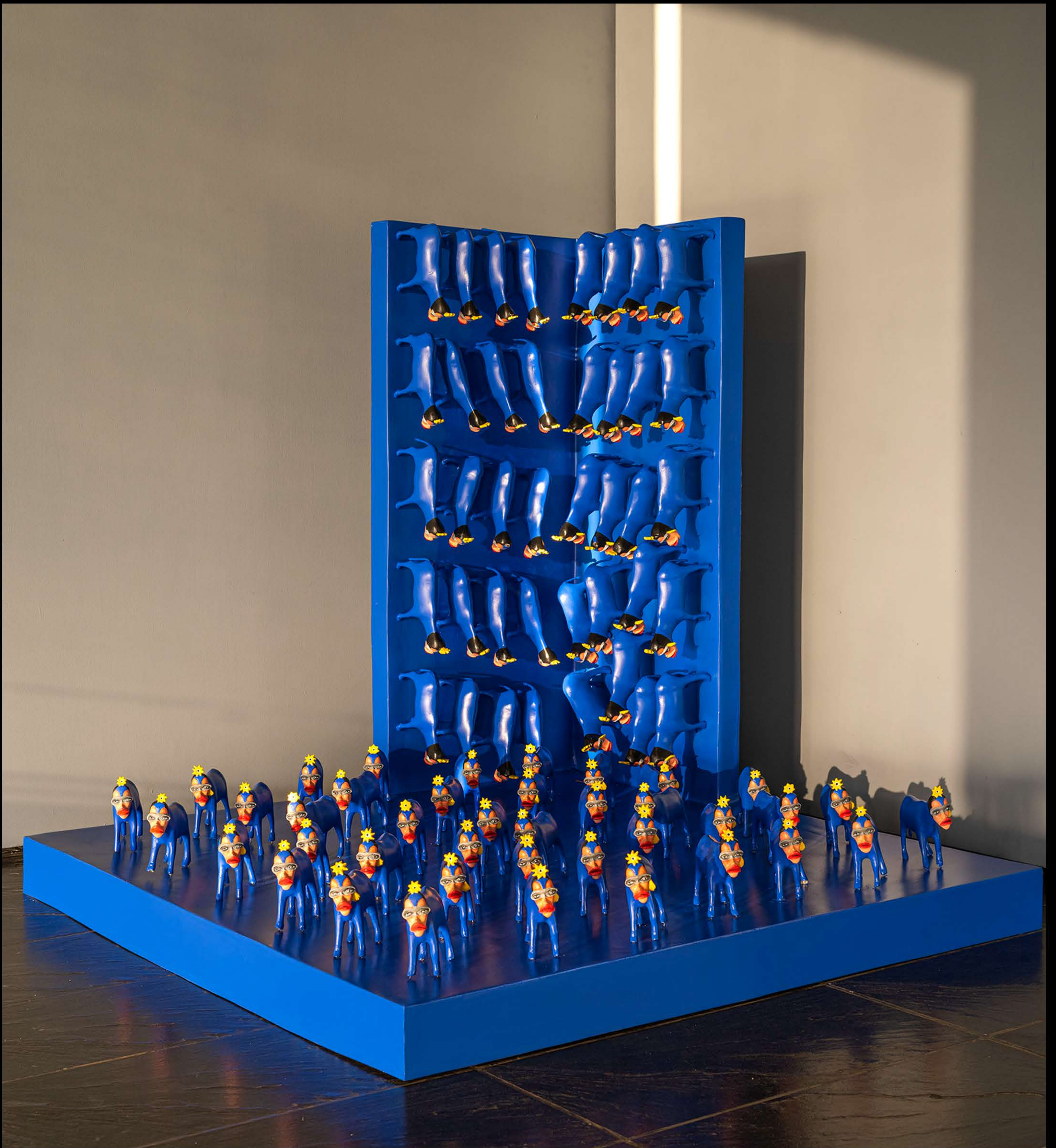
UNTITLED, 2021  
Acrylic on fibreglass  
50 x 40 x 7 inches  
INR 400,000 + 12% GST





UNTITLED, 2021  
Automotive paint and acrylic on fibreglass  
55 x 48 x 48 inches  
INR 500,000 + 12% GST





UNTITLED, 2021  
Automotive paint and acrylic on fibreglass  
46 x 47 x 48 inches  
INR 500,000 + 12% GST





UNTITLED, 2021  
Acrylic on fibreglass  
45 x 27 x 22 inches  
INR 350,000 + 12% GST





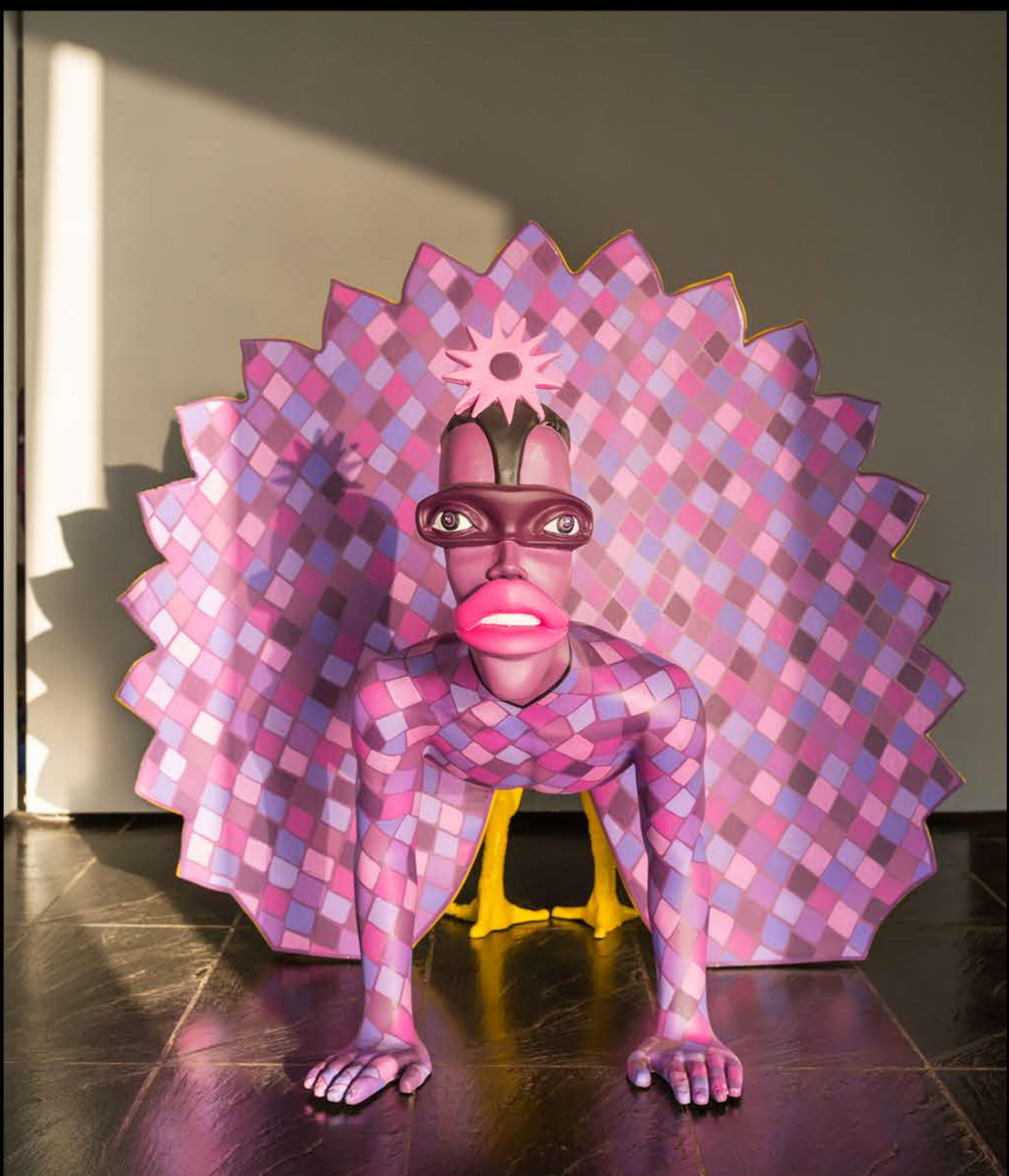
UNTITLED, 2021  
Automotive paint on fibreglass  
54 x 25 x 32 inches  
INR 500,000 + 12% GST





UNTITLED, 2021  
Acrylic on fibreglass  
66 x 26 x 28 inches  
INR 500,000 + 12% GST





UNTITLED, 2021  
Acrylic on fibreglass  
42 x 47 x 54 in  
INR 500,000 + 12% GST





UNTITLED, 2021  
Automotive paint and acrylic on fibreglass  
74 x 32 x 19 inches  
INR 500,000 + 12% GST





UNTITLED, 2021  
Automotive paint on fibreglass  
45 x 72 x 32 inches  
INR 500,000 + 12% GST





UNTITLED, 2021  
Automotive paint on fibreglass  
53 x 100 x 32 inches  
INR 500,000 + 12% GST





UNTITLED, 2021  
Automotive paint on fibreglass  
43 x 21 x 14 inches  
INR 450,000 + 12% GST





UNTITLED, 2021  
Acrylic on fibreglass  
75 x 30 x 24 inches  
INR 500,000 + 12% GST





Someone has arrived waaay too early for the fashion show on the metaverse!  
Seating shouldn't be an issue for her anymore

NFT

(Contact us for more details)





The slothy bear is casually living a high life ONLY on the blockchain.  
Go find him there before he tires out!!

NFT

(Contact us for more details)





Looks like the meditation guru wants to be heard more on the blockchain.  
Is no one around on the platform to learn from him?

NFT

(Contact us for more details)



## Viraj Khanna

Growing up surrounded by art, especially textiles and embroidery has helped Khanna develop a certain aesthetic when it comes to the way he sees and creates things. Embroidery work and textile involves putting different materials, fabrics and other elements together to express certain feelings, perceptions or visions. Transmuting to paintings, sculptures and collages has been somewhat a liberating space where similar concepts and philosophies can be expressed in a totally different architecture.

Khanna always believes that creativity is not inborn, it's something you work on and get better the more you try. So he has never been intimidated by working with new materials and spaces. He started out with collage work- pieces of magazines, articles, encyclopedias and things around to create objects or images of meaning. Gradually Viraj moved onto more sculptural forms with the base idea emerging from the original collage work.

The work depicts a discontinuity in the flow of things, of how imperfection runs deep in the core of everyday lives. The human condition is always striving towards 'perfection' per se, and we pointlessly spend our time trying to build a life where we seem invulnerable.





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