

# Mythical Voyage

Vrindavan Solanki  
K. Muralidharan

Curated by

Jyotirmoy Bhattacharya

27th November-3rd December 2025

Living Traditions Centre

Bikaner House

Pandara Road, New Delhi-110003



Mythical Voyage by Art Magnum

Exhibition of paintings  
Curated by Jyotirmoy Bhattacharya

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Credit : Art Magnum Team and Art Alinda Team  
Design : Dilip Ghosh  
Text : Sneha Singh

Price : Rs. 600/-

## Curator's Note

Two people from different corners of India, shaped by different landscapes, languages, and cultural rhythms, however, guided by an inner compass pointing toward the same source. Vrindavan Solanki and K. Muralidharan stand as distinct artistic voices — Solanki with his meditative figures rooted in the visual idioms of Gujarat, and Muralidharan with his exuberant, myth-infused worlds drawn from the rich cultural soil of Tamil Nadu. Their artistic vocabularies could not be more different. Their paths diverge as well; Solanki graduated from M.S. University, Baroda, while Muralidharan graduated from the Government College of Fine Arts in Chennai.

Yet something deeper binds them together, something older than any school of art, any institution, any stylistic movement. Both artists were born in the land where the Vedas first emerged, where the earliest ideas of dharma, philosophy, art, and human purpose were articulated. The birthplace of the Vedas is not merely a geographic point; it is a cultural pulse that has travelled across generations. These ancient values did not simply shape Indian society; they formed the first lessons whispered into the ears of children, the unspoken moral compass absorbed long before language itself took form.

These values continue to permeate us, subtle yet constant. They coexist with modernity, surviving beneath the noise of technology, progress, and an increasingly westernised world. Amid the restless movement of contemporary life, we often lose touch with the part of ourselves that belongs to the past, the ancestral voice within us that still remembers.

In the works of Solanki and Muralidharan, that voice returns. It becomes visible again. Despite their divergent sensibilities, both artists embody an inner continuity, a shared cultural consciousness. Solanki's resilient lines and vibrant silhouettes echo the contemplative essence of Indian thought, where serenity itself becomes a narrative. The diversity in his style is reflected in this exhibition; his various interpretations of the same subject showcase his range as an artist. Muralidharan's vibrant mythological forms draw from a universe where gods, symbols, and stories still breathe. His art breathes in the philosophy and ideology of the ancient world. Both of them expand in their form, but both are rooted in a timeless sensibility: that art is not merely an act of creation, but a bridge between what we are and what we have inherited.

Rabindranath Tagore once wrote:

“The roots below the earth claim no rewards for making the branches fruitful.”

(Stray Birds, 1916)

These artists, too, draw from roots they never sought to claim, roots that nourish their worlds silently. Through their works, the ancient and the contemporary flow into one another, reminding us that the strings connecting us to our ancestors have not broken; they merely wait to be felt.

Together, Solanki and Muralidharan reveal that even across regions, languages, and stylistic choices, there remains a shared pulse in Indian art, a pulse born from the very origins of Indian thought, one that continues to shape the imagination of the present.

- Jyotirmoy Bhattacharya

# Vrindavan Solanki

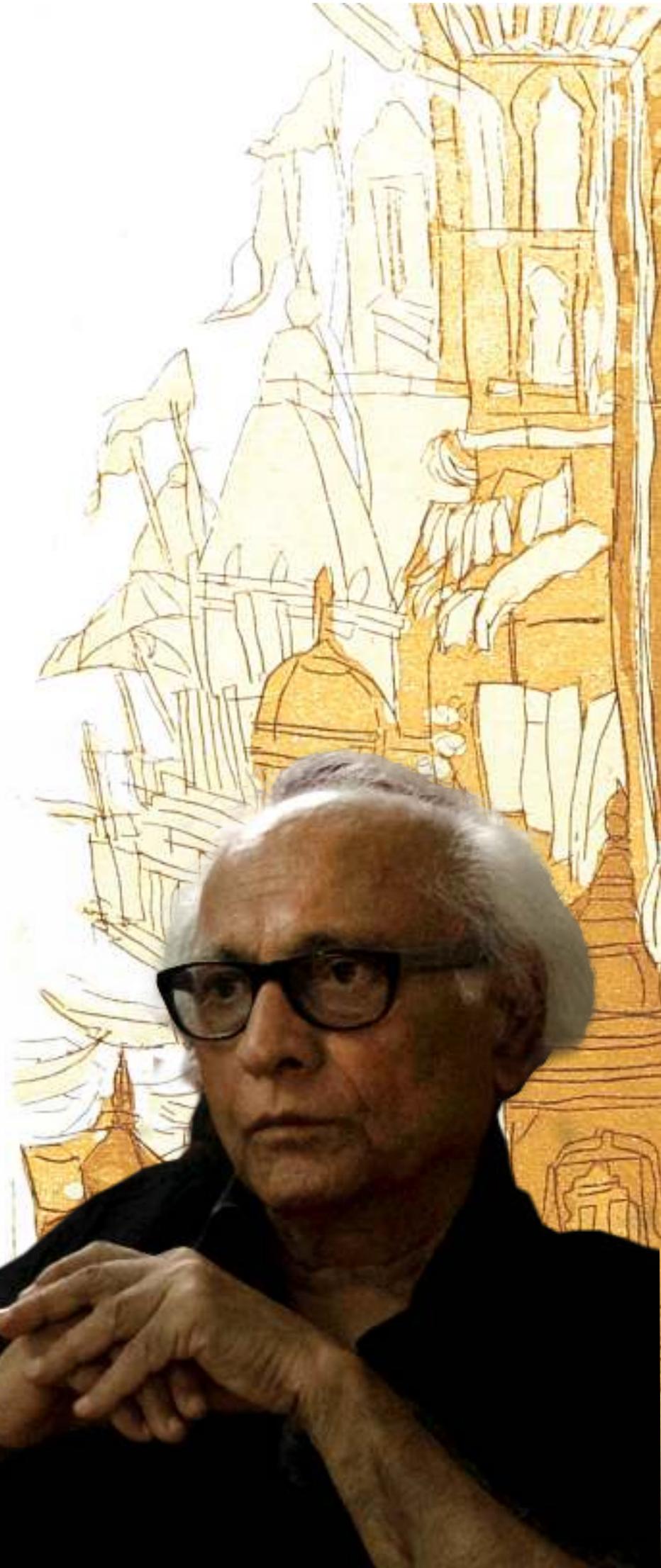
Born 1942

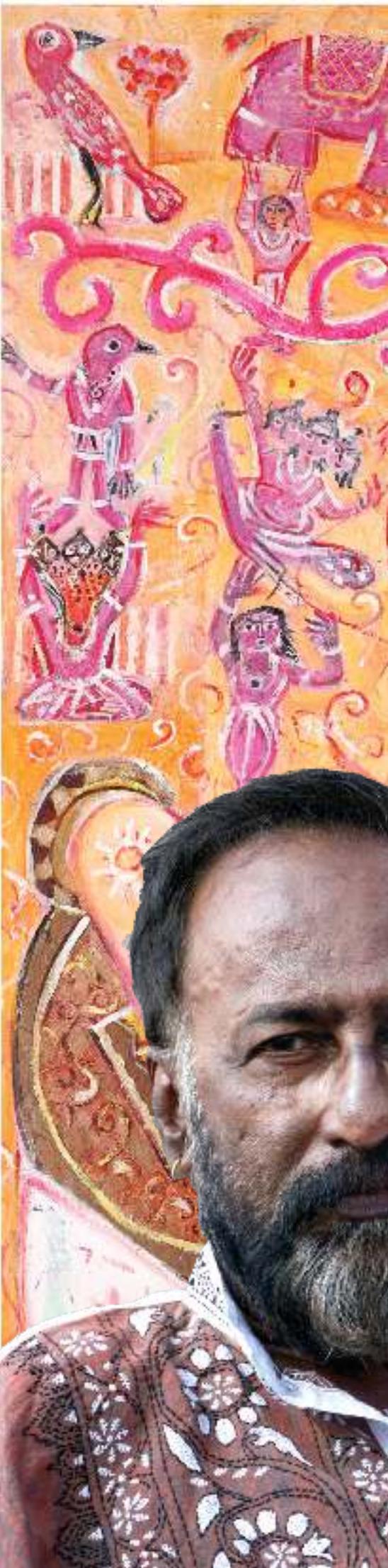
Vrindavan Solanki is an acclaimed Indian artist whose work is recognised both nationally and internationally for its depth and distinctive visual language. Born in Junagadh, Gujarat, in 1942, Solanki has made significant contributions to the world of contemporary art, particularly in the realms of painting and graphics. He holds a Diploma in Painting and a Post-Diploma in Graphics from the prestigious M.S. University of Baroda, completed in 1980 and 1982, respectively.

Solanki's artistic journey began early, with a deep fascination for nature, village life, and the people of his homeland. His works frequently feature the villagers of Gujarat, captured in moments of everyday life, where he uses an extraordinary interplay of light and shadow to evoke a dreamlike, almost surreal quality. His subjects, often women and men in traditional attire, are depicted with their faces left out of the composition, enhancing the focus on their clothing, posture, and the environment around them.

Throughout his career, Solanki has participated in over thirty solo exhibitions and nearly twenty group exhibitions, both in India and abroad, making his mark in key art venues. His solo shows have been hosted by distinguished galleries, including the Jehangir Art Gallery in Mumbai (1969, 1971, 1972, 1989, and 1992), Taj Art Gallery (1981), and the Continental Hotel, Curepipe in Mauritius (1991). His works have also been featured in notable group exhibitions such as those at the Academy of Fine Arts in Calcutta (1970), the Manhattan Graphics Centre in New York (2004), and the Art Trend Galleria in Hong Kong (2004).

Solanki's contributions to the arts extend beyond his exhibitions. He was a visiting faculty member at the National Institute of Design in Ahmedabad from 1982 to 1987 and was a member of the Lalit Kala Akademi, Gujarat, between 1987 and 1990. His influence on the next generation of artists is profound, as he continues to shape the cultural landscape of India and beyond. Despite his wide-ranging influence, Solanki remains deeply rooted in his community, where he continues to live and work in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.





# K. Muralidharan

Born 1954

K. Muralidharan is a celebrated Indian artist known for his vibrant, imaginative works that blend mythology, folklore, and traditional Indian aesthetics with a contemporary voice. Over several decades, he has developed a distinctive style marked by luminous colours, intricate detailing, and surreal, dreamlike compositions that bring cultural stories and symbols to life. Born in Tamil Nadu, Muralidharan grew up immersed in India's artistic and cultural traditions. His fascination with temple art, folk tales, and regional architecture shaped the thematic foundation of his work. This early exposure, combined with a deep interest in mythology, continues to inform the rich visual language of his paintings.

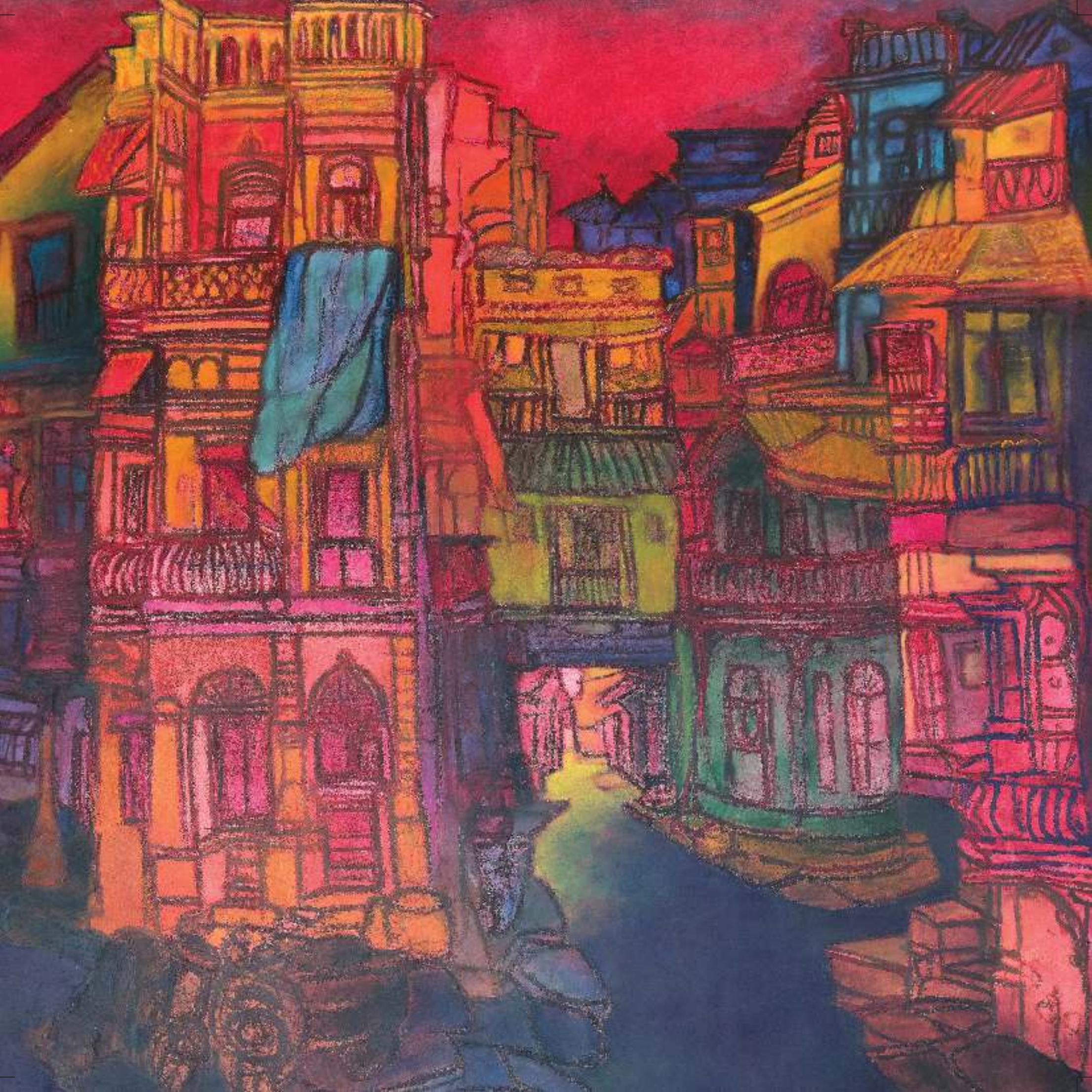
A graduate of the Government College of Fine Arts in Chennai, he refined his skills under distinguished mentors who encouraged both classical grounding and creative exploration. Throughout his career, he has remained closely connected to his roots while continually evolving his techniques and imagery. At the core of his artistic philosophy is the belief that art bridges the past and present. His paintings celebrate the enduring relevance of cultural narratives, inviting viewers into realms where heritage, fantasy, and human spirituality merge.

His extensive participation in international group shows includes the Biennale in Mauritius in 2005, the Biennale in Dhaka in 2004, the Contemporary Indian Art Show in Texas, USA, in 2004, and the Singapore Art Festival in 2003, among many others.

Muralidharan's solo exhibitions include a travelling show in 1997 that was sponsored by a gallery in Mumbai, Chennai, and Delhi. He also held a solo exhibition at the Glasgow College of Art in 1993 and another at the Stockholm College of Arts in Sweden in 1989. Additionally, he won the All India Exhibition Award in 1985 and 1987, as well as the National Award from the Lalit Kala Academy in Delhi in 1994. His works are held by several collectors in India and abroad.



Vrindavan Solanki  
Walled City-Ahmedabad  
Oil on Canvas  
72" x 96"  
2024







K. Muralidharan  
Kamadhenu, Acrylic on Canvas, 30" x 30", 2025



Vrindavan Solanki  
Oldest City-Kashi, Oil on Canvas, 72" x 96", 2025



Vrindavan Solanki  
Banaras-I  
Acrylic on Canvas  
36" x 24"  
2025

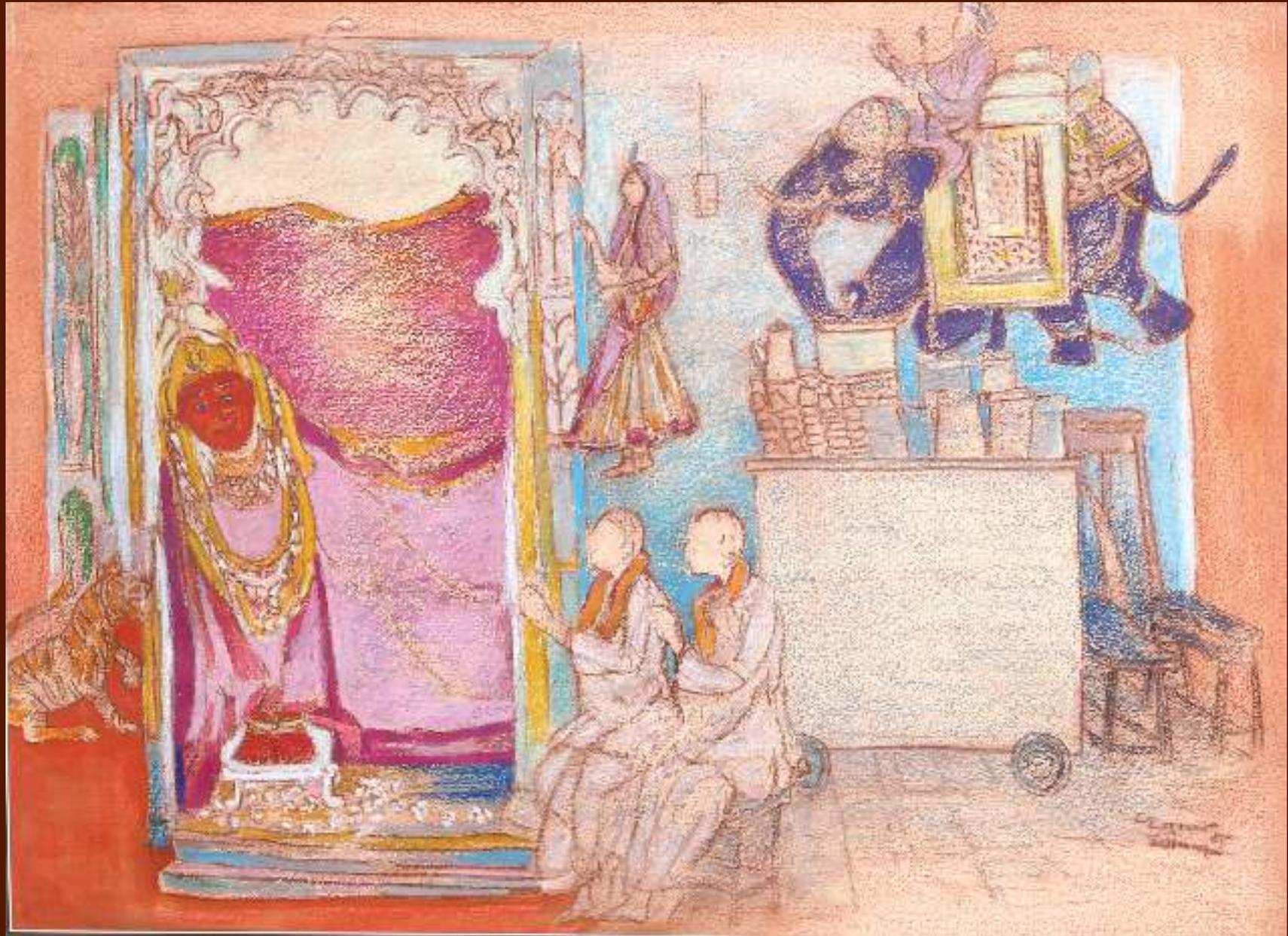


Vrindavan Solanki  
Sri Ganga Mai Devi Temple-Bangalore, Mixed media on Paper, 28" x 22", 2013



K. Muralidharan  
Vani, Acrylic on Canvas, 60" x 48", 2018

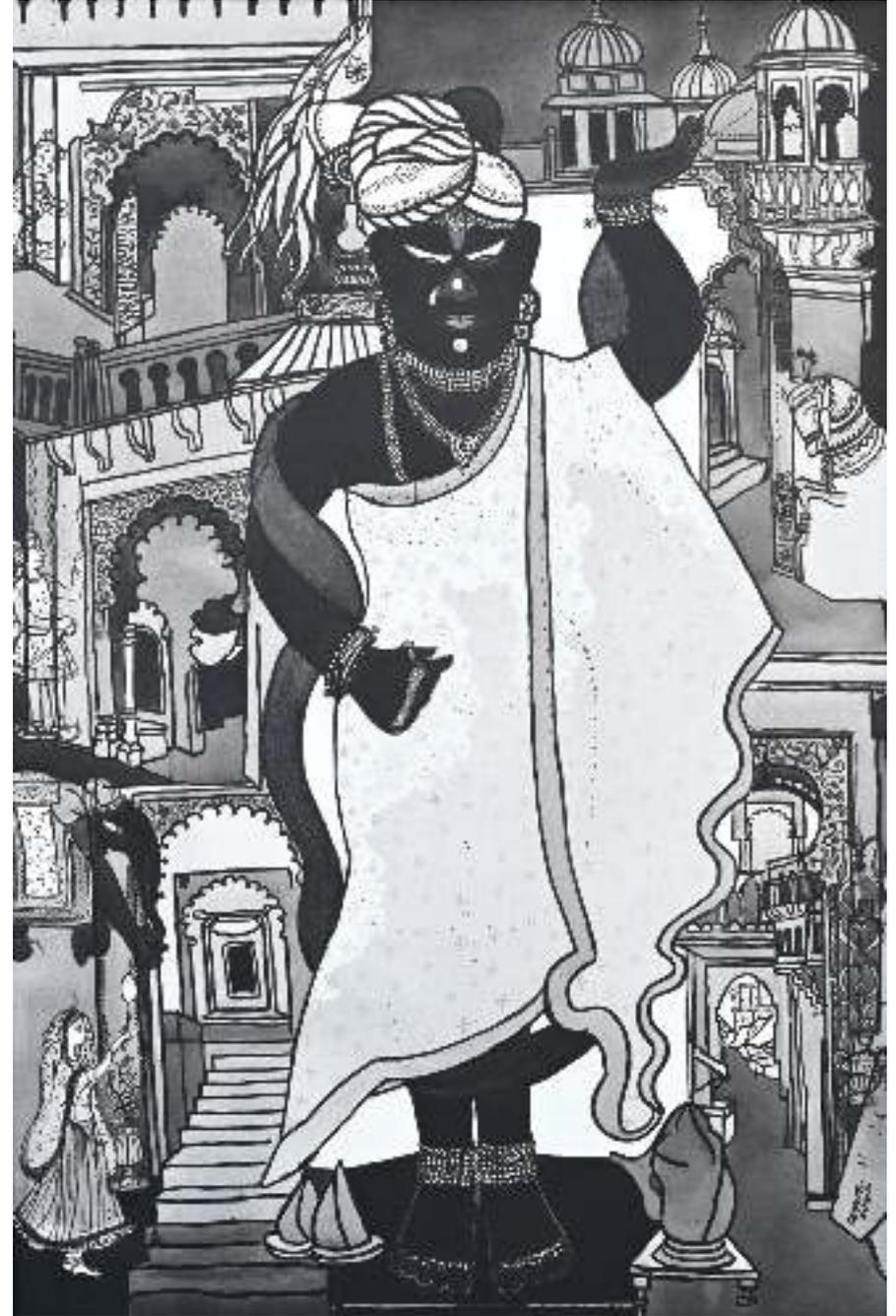




Vrindavan Solanki  
Devi, Tea stall and more-Nathdwara, Mixed Media on Paper, 21.5" x 29.5", 2025



Vrindavan Solanki  
Bala Gopal, Acrylic on Canvas, 60" x 40", 2007/2013/2019

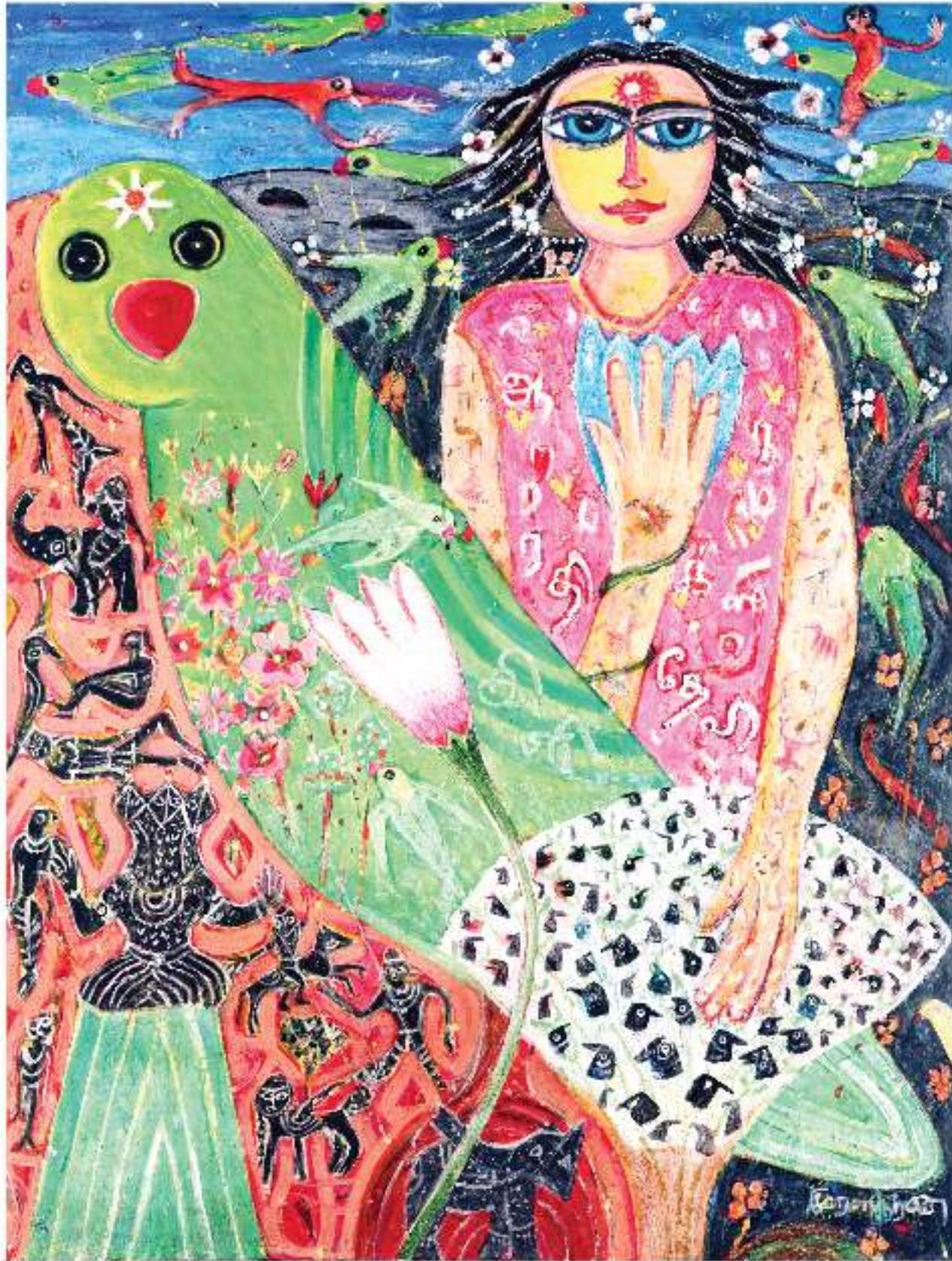


Vrindavan Solanki  
Impression Nathdwara, Acrylic on Canvas, 60" x 40", 2025



K. Muralidharan  
Damayanti, Acrylic on Canvas, 48" x 48", 2025





K. Muralidharan  
Rathi, Acrylic on Canvas, 48" x 36", 2025



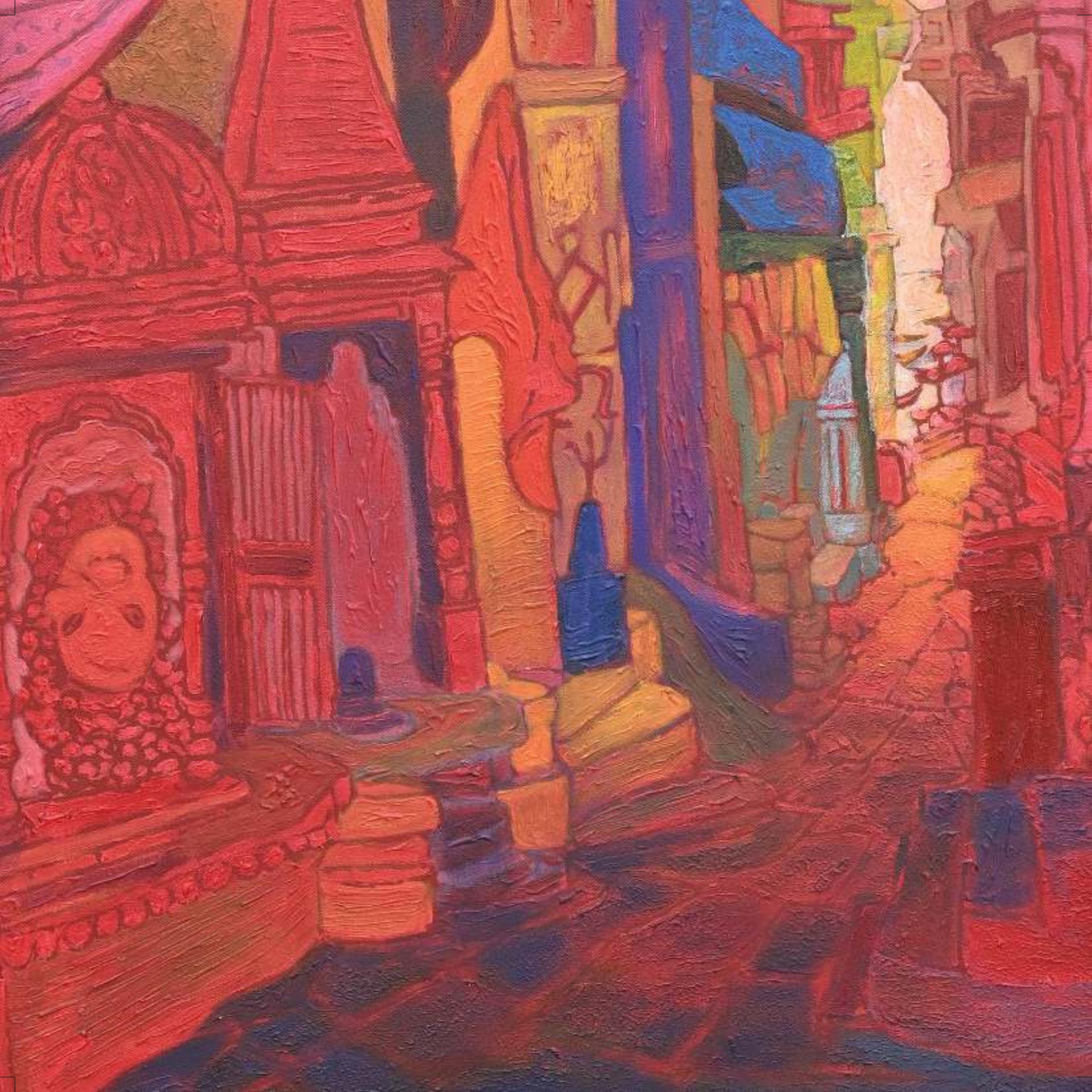
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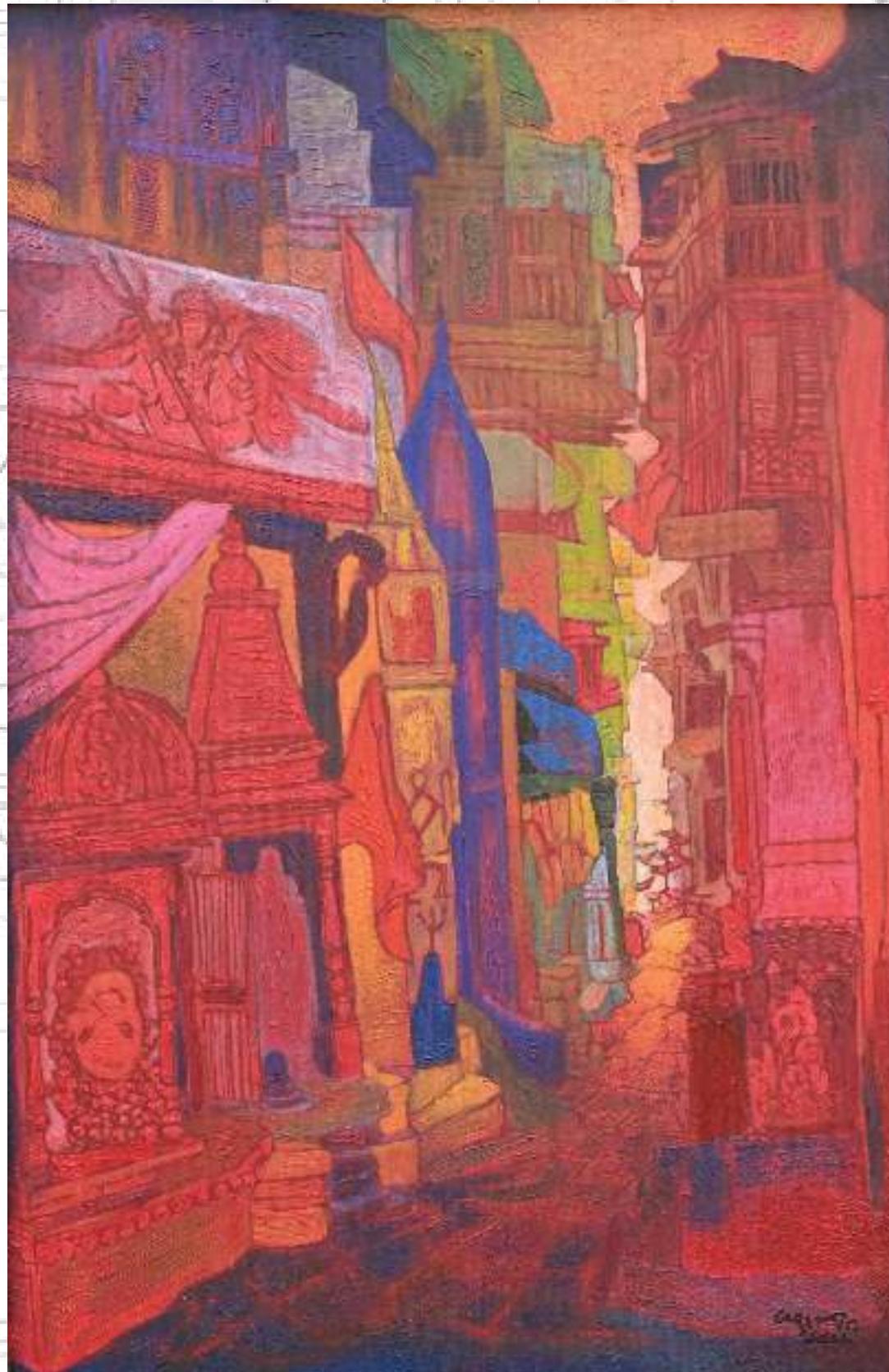
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1980



K. Muralidharan  
Laxmi - I, Acrylic on Canvas, 60" x 48", 2018



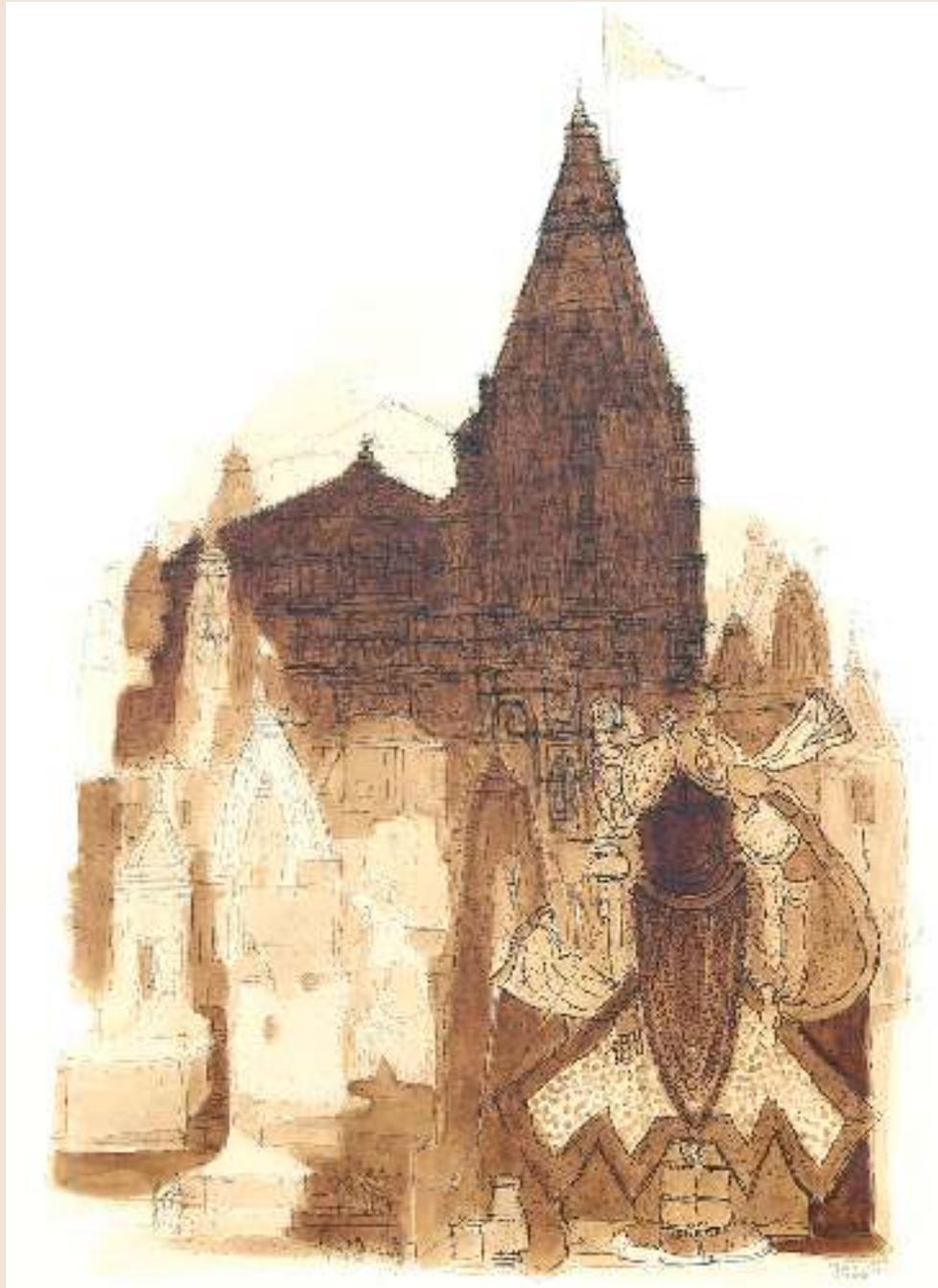


Vrindavan Solanki  
Banaras-II  
Acrylic on Canvas  
36" x 24"  
2025





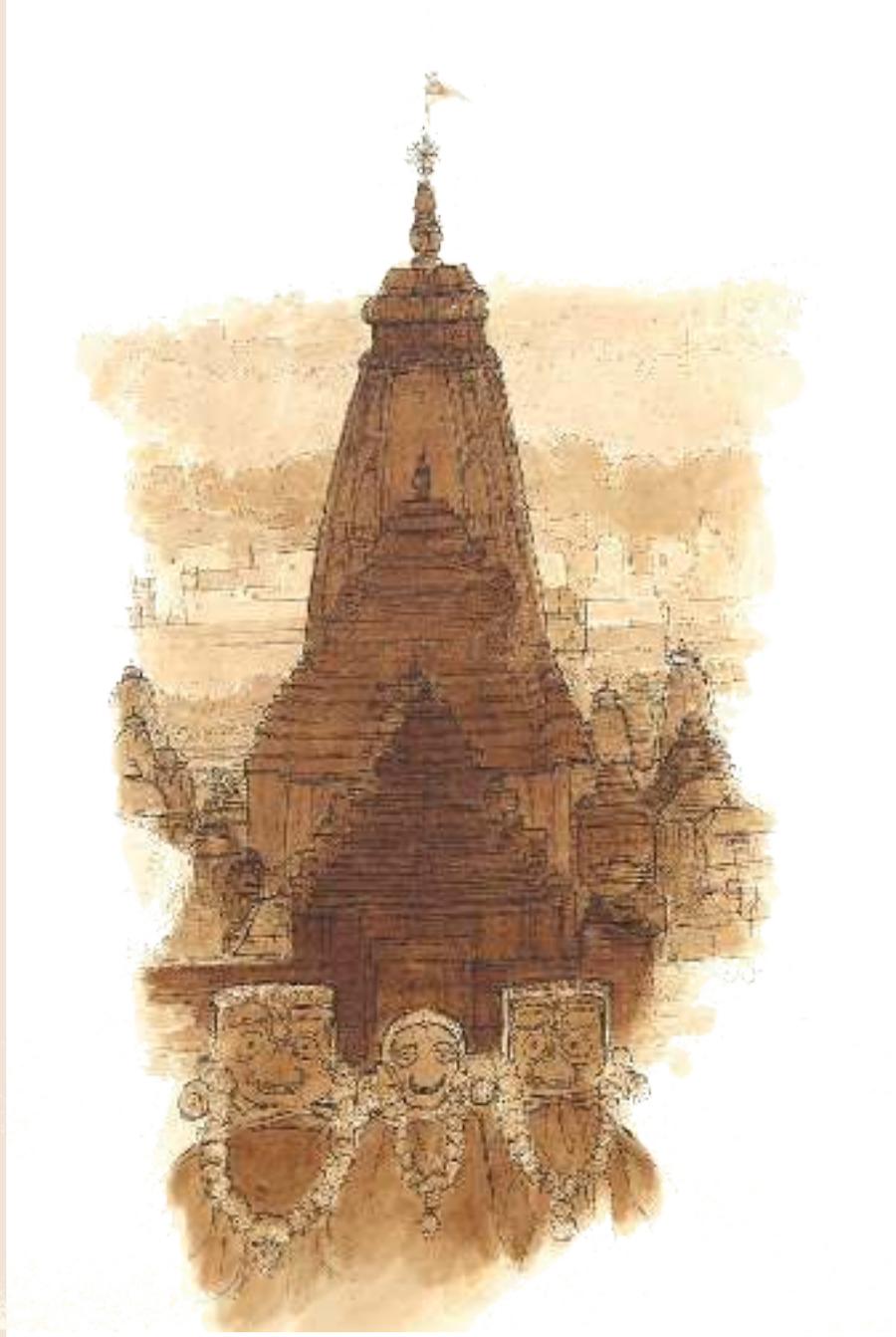
K. Muralidharan  
Kinnara, Acrylic on Canvas, 36"x 48", 2024



Vrindavan Solanki  
Dwarkadhish, Ink and Tea on Paper, 29.5" x 21.5", 2025



Vrindavan Solanki  
Balaji-Tirupati, Ink and Tea on Paper, 29.5" x 21.5", 2025



Vrindavan Solanki  
Jagannath-Bhubaneswar, Ink and Tea on Paper, 29.5" x 21.5", 2025



Vrindavan Solanki  
Kalighat Kali-Kolkata, Ink and Tea on Paper, 29.5" x 21.5", 2025



Vrindavan Solanki  
Mahakal-Ujjain  
Ink and Tea on Paper  
21.5" x 29.5"  
2025



Vrindavan Solanki  
Mata Harsiddhi-Ujjain  
Ink and Tea on Paper  
21.5" x 29.5"  
2025



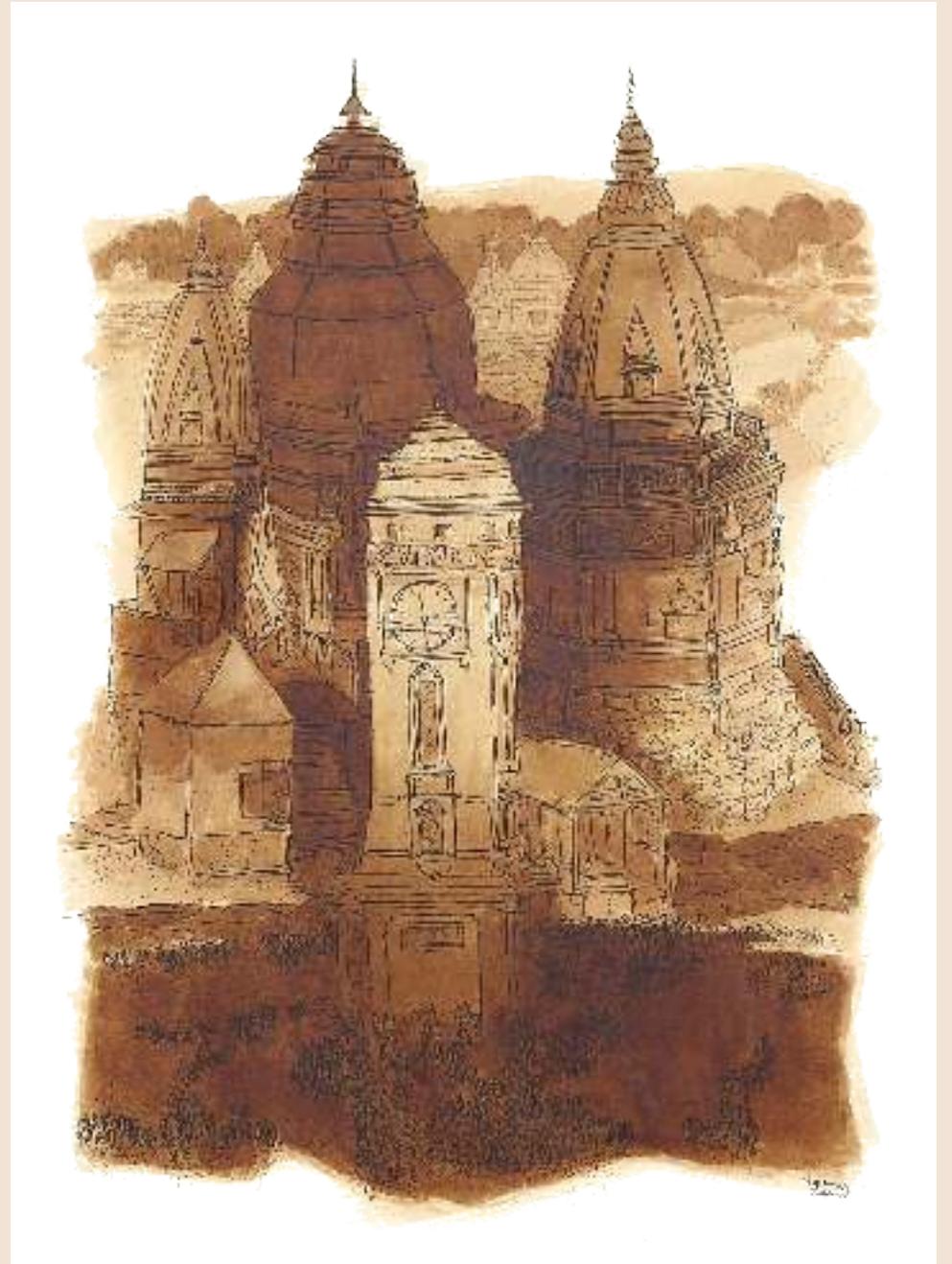
Vrindavan Solanki  
Bagalamukhi-Nalkheda, Ink and Tea on Paper, 29.5" x 21.5", 2025



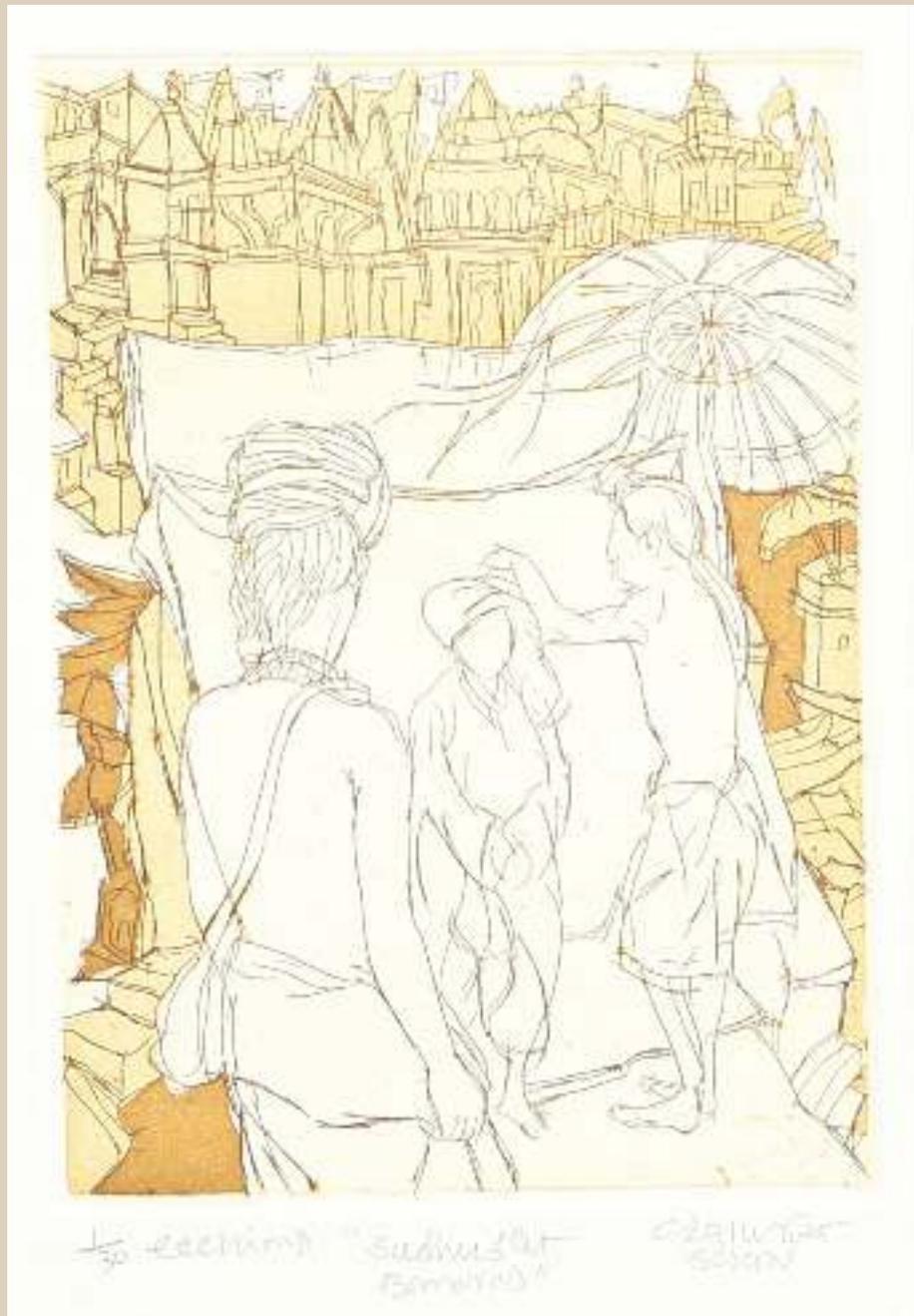
Vrindavan Solanki  
Narshimha Avatar, Ink and Tea on Paper, 29.5" x 21.5", 2025



Vrindavan Solanki  
Bhavnath Mandir, Ink and Tea on Paper, 29.5" x 21.5", 2025



Vrindavan Solanki  
Haridwar, Ink and Tea on Paper, 29.5" x 21.5", 2025



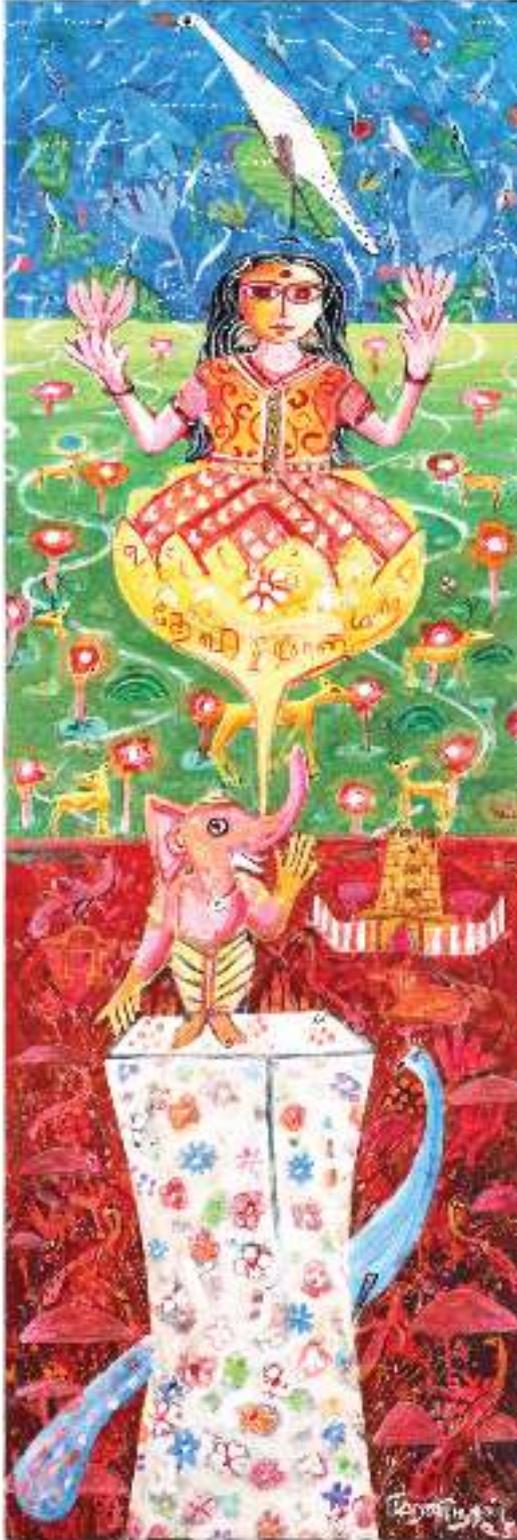
Vrindavan Solanki  
Sadhus at Banaras, Etching, 6.25" x 4.5", 2025



Vrindavan Solanki  
Old Man at Banaras, Etching, 6.25" x 4.5", 2025



Vrindavan Solanki  
Banaras-III, Acrylic on Canvas, 36" x 36", 2025



K. Muralidharan, Mystic Valley  
Acrylic on Canvas, 60" x 20", 2025



K. Muralidharan, Girl with Peacock  
Acrylic on Canvas, 48" x 36", 2017

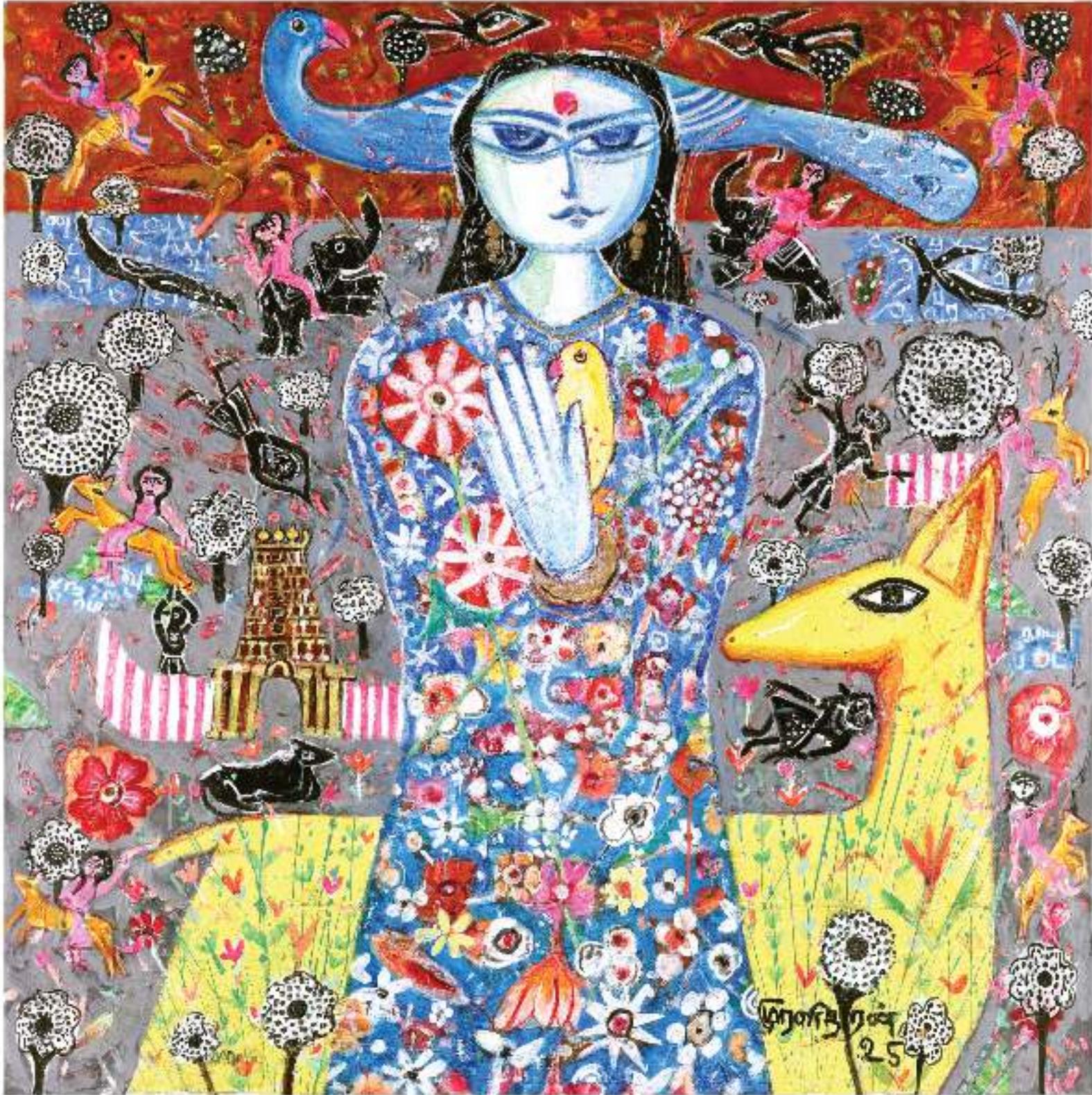


Vrindavan Solanki  
Mother and Child, Oil on Canvas, 48" x 48", 2008/2016



K. Muralidharan  
Laxmi - II, Acrylic on Canvas, 60" x 60", 2025





K. Muralidharan  
Sita and Golden deer, Acrylic on Canvas, 48" x 48", 2025



Vrindavan Solanki  
Impression of Jaisalmer, Acrylic on Canvas, 40" x 50", 2025



K. Muralidharan  
Airavata - I, Acrylic on Canvas, 60" x 60", 2025



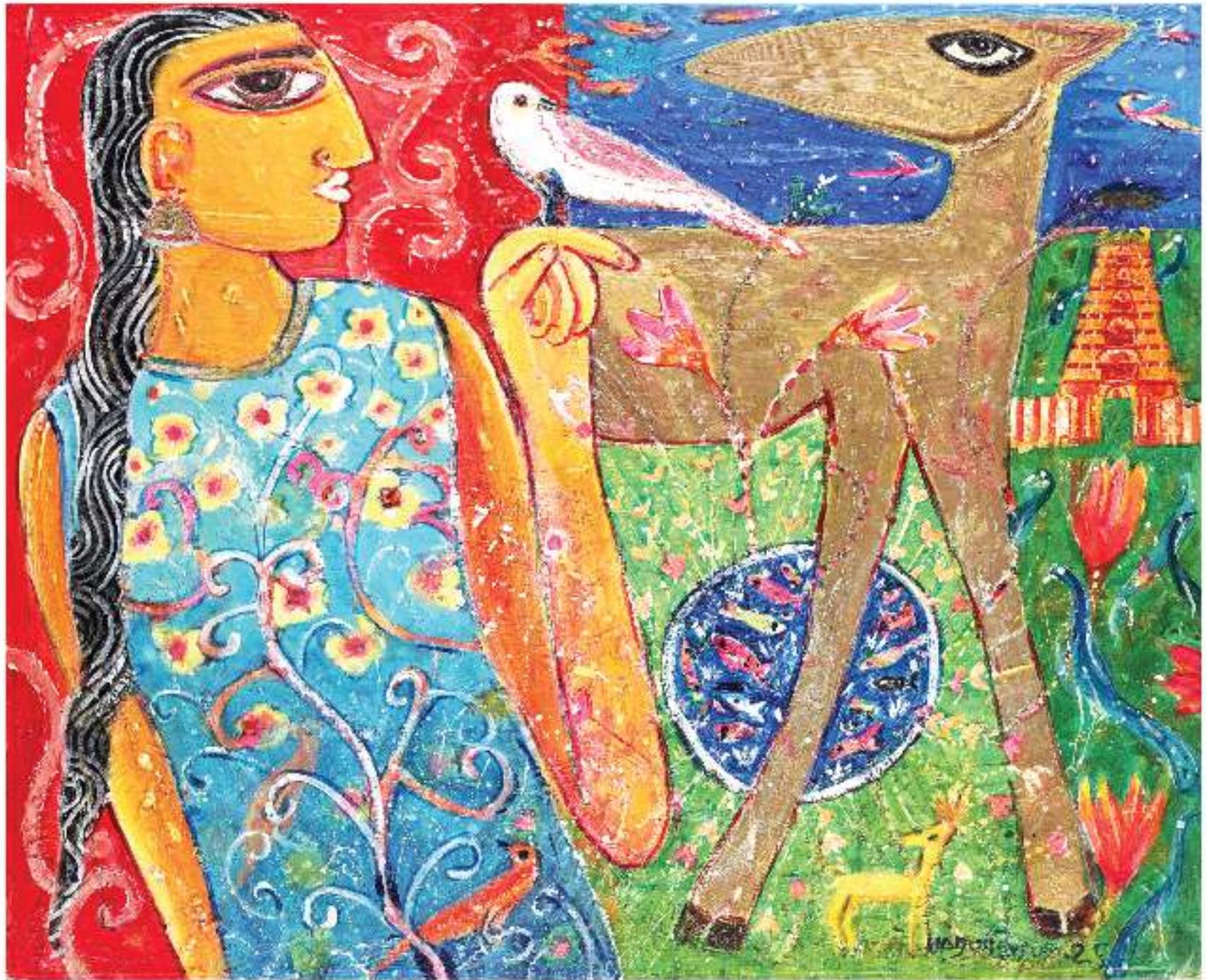
K. Muralidharan  
Airavata - III, Acrylic on Canvas, 60" x 60", 2025



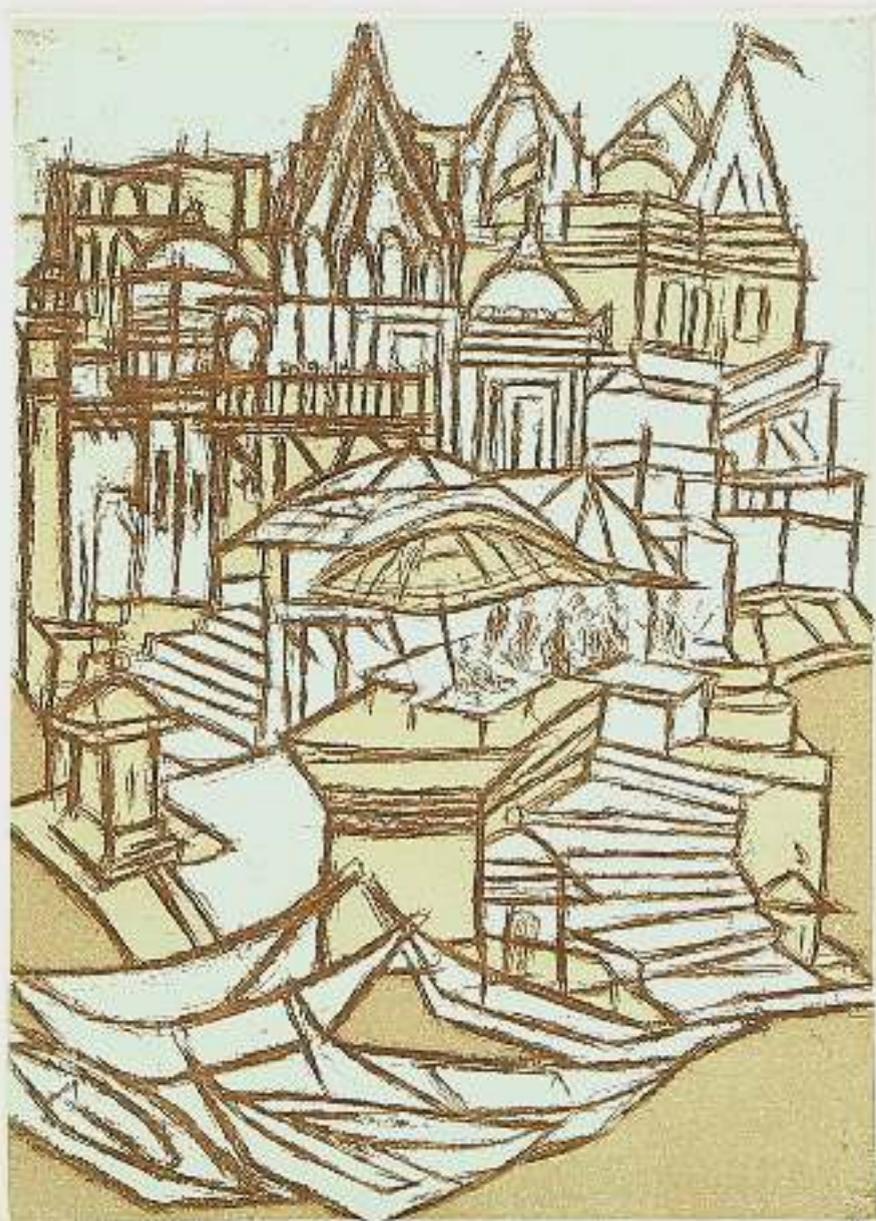
K. Muralidharan  
Airavata - II, Acrylic on Canvas, 60" x 60", 2025



Vrindavan Solanki  
Kalbhairava, Mixed Media on Paper, 21.5" x 27.5", 2025

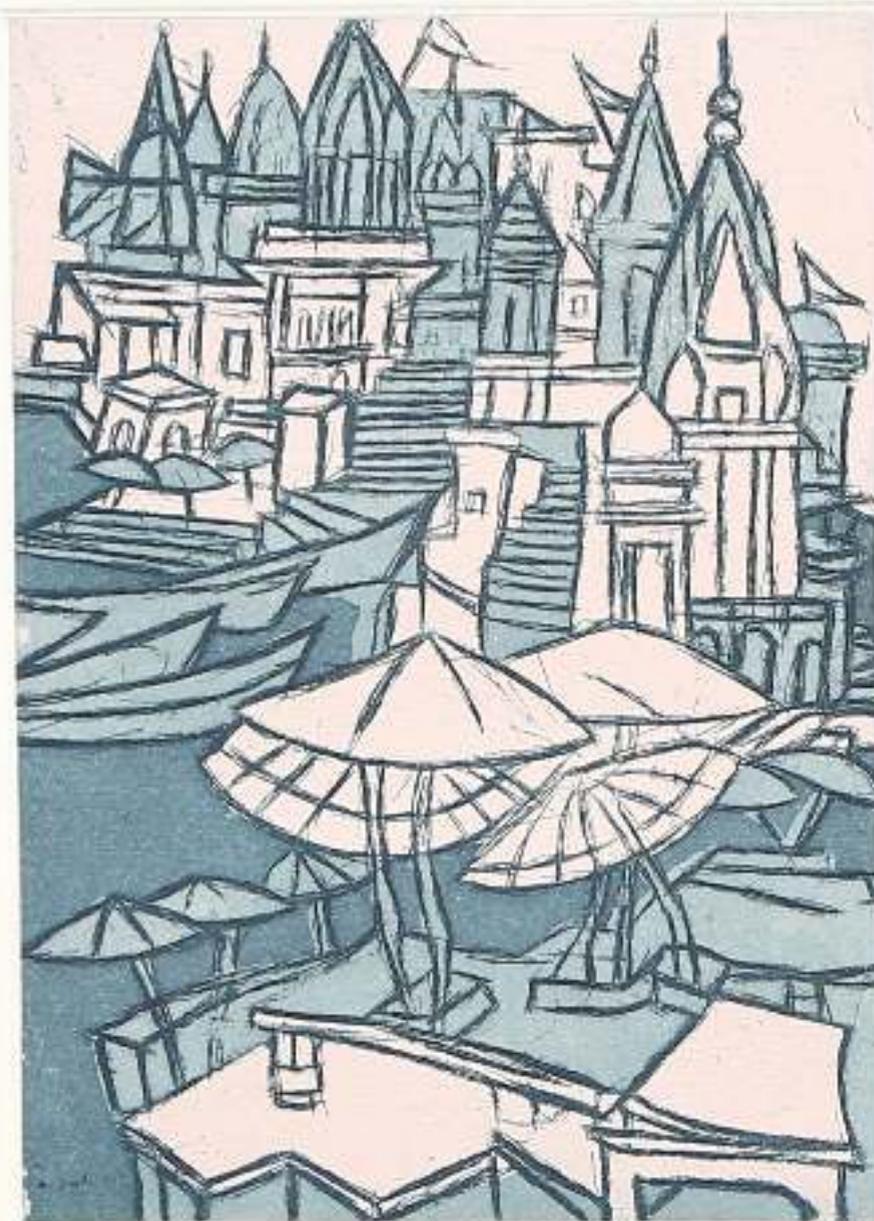


K. Muralidharan  
Golden Deer, Acrylic on Canvas, 30" x 36", 2025



1/30 Etching "Banaras-II" Vrindavan Solanki

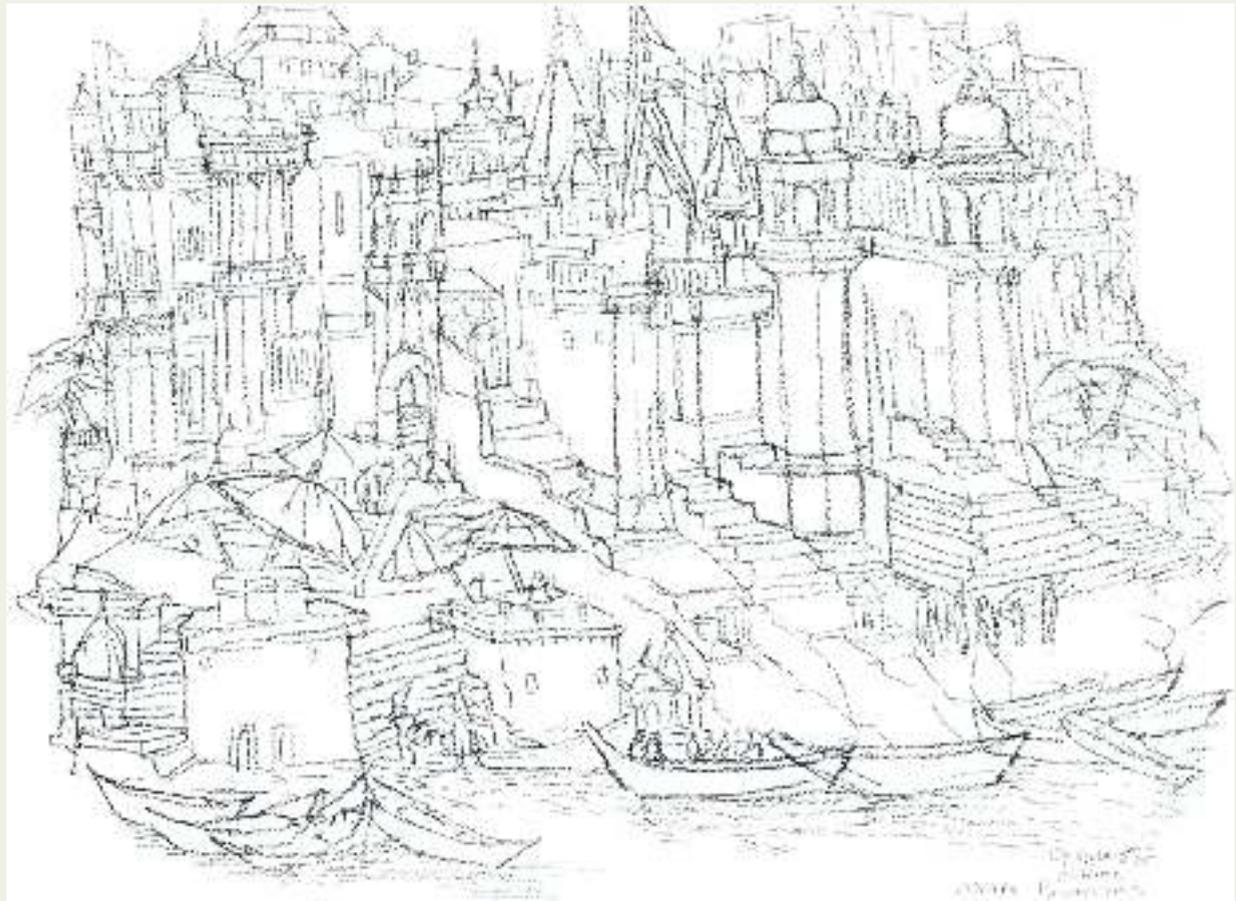
Vrindavan Solanki  
Banaras-II, Etching, 6.25" x 4.5", 2025



1/30 Etching "Banaras-I" Vrindavan Solanki

Vrindavan Solanki  
Banaras-I, Etching, 6.25" x 4.5", 2025

Vrindavan Solanki  
What I saw at Banaras - I  
Charcoal on Paper  
11" x 15"  
2025

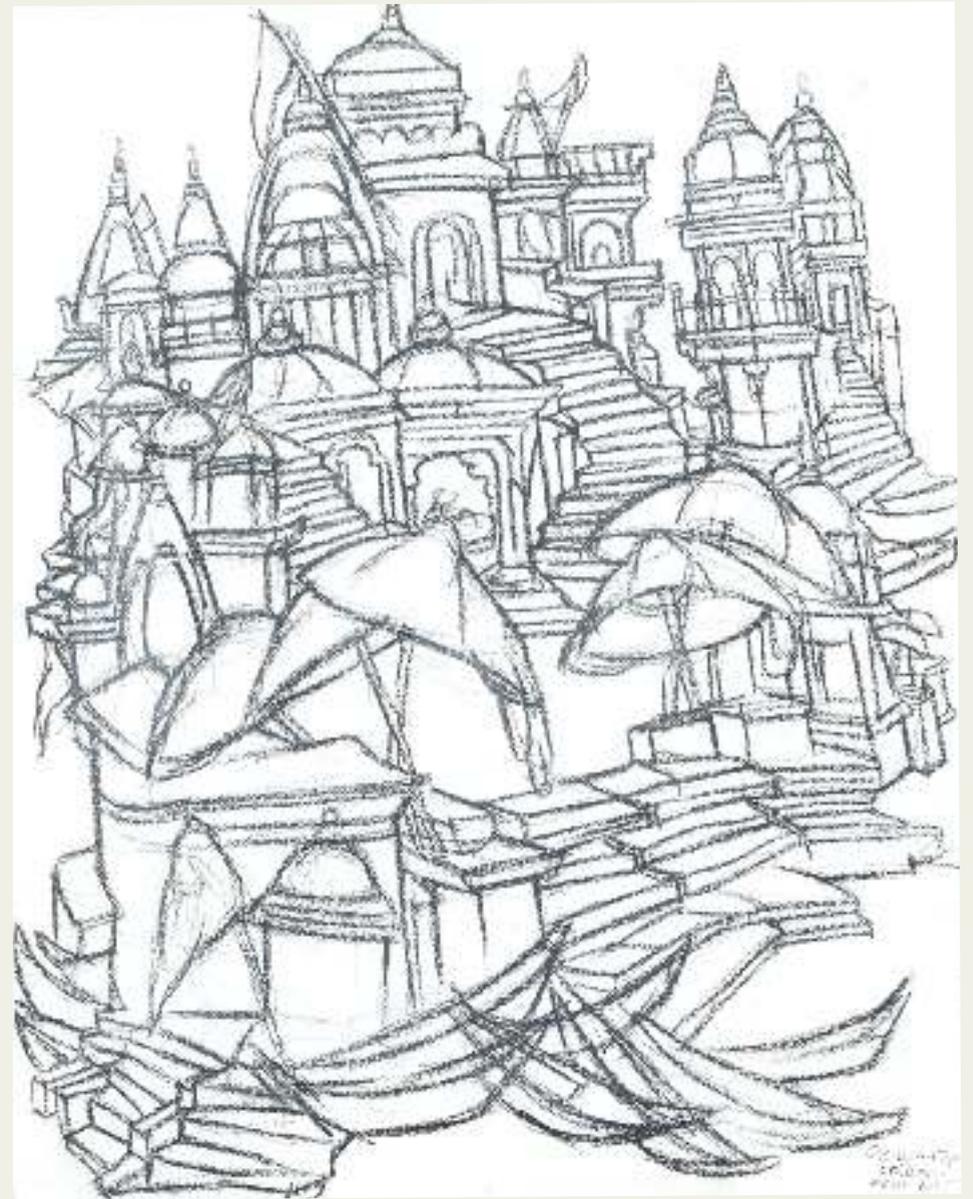


Vrindavan Solanki  
What I saw at Banaras - II  
Charcoal on Paper  
11" x 15"  
2025

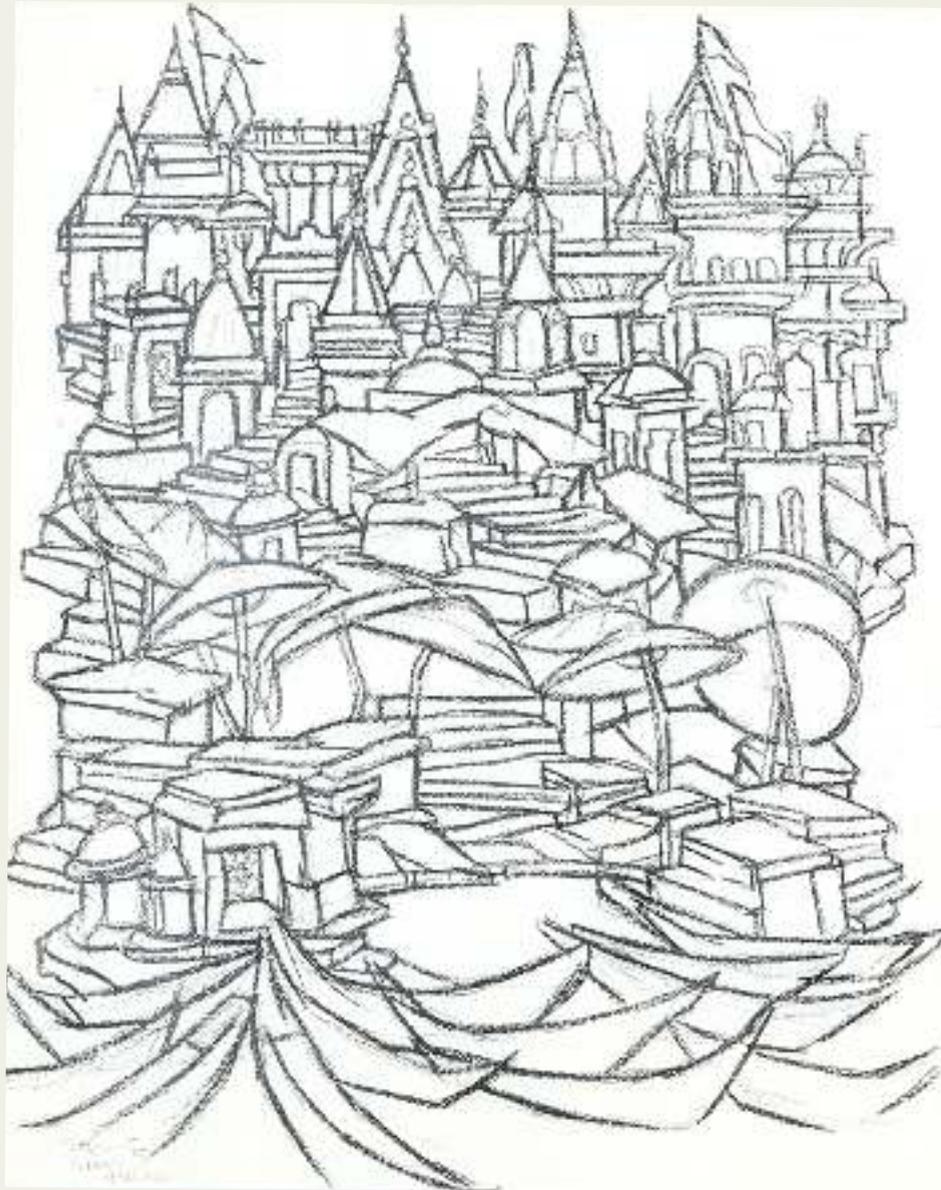




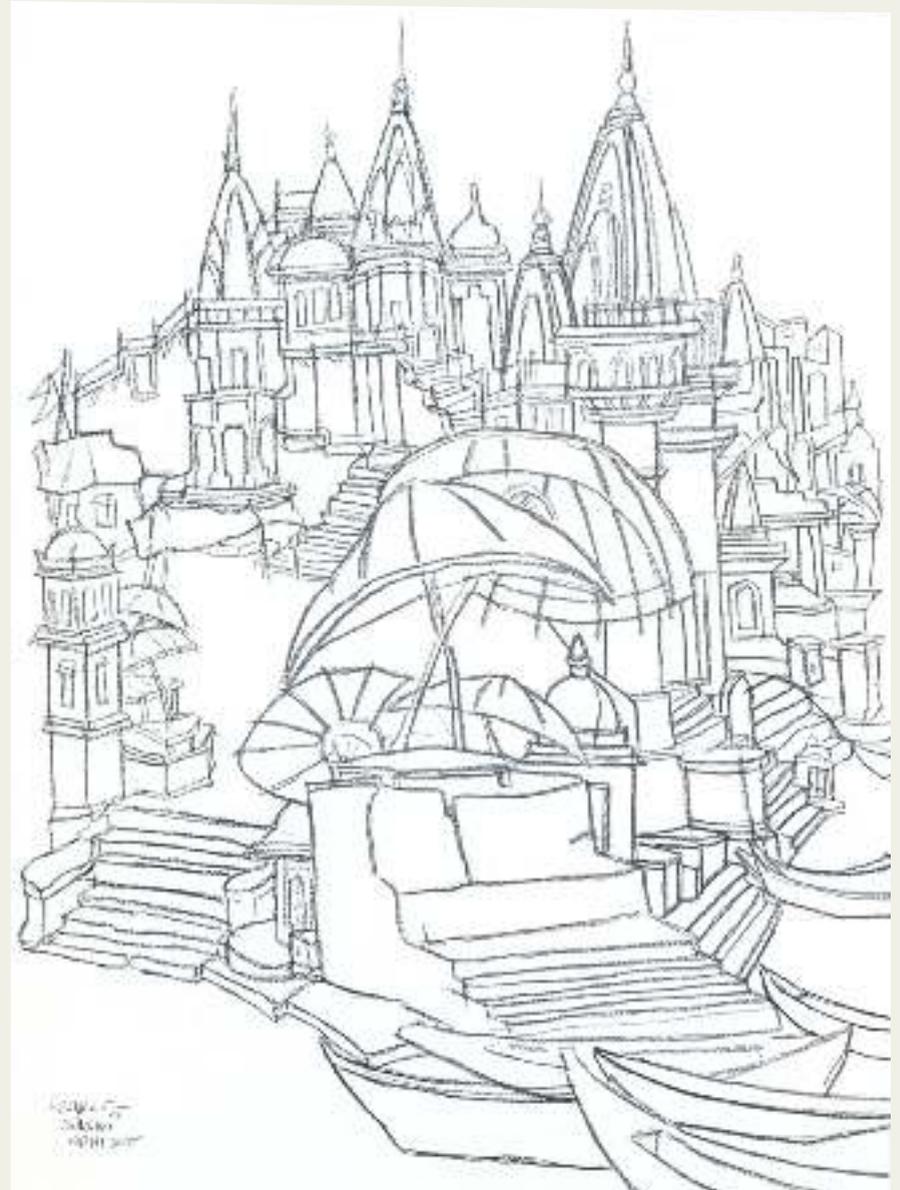
Vrindavan Solanki  
Banaras Ghat - I, Charcoal on Paper, 23.5" x 17.5", 2025



Vrindavan Solanki  
Banaras Ghat - II, Charcoal on Paper, 29.33" x 23", 2025



Vrindavan Solanki  
Banaras Ghat - III, Charcoal on Paper, 29.33" x 23", 2025



Vrindavan Solanki  
Banaras Ghat - IV, Charcoal on Paper, 23.5" x 17.5", 2025



Art Magnum's vision and mission is to showcase South Asian art in its austere authenticity and magnificence on a global platform. Since its inception in 1986, it has been nurturing both the emerging and noted artists to further the cause of championing and patronizing South Asian art. Its founder Lt. Shri Prakash Chand Singhvi was a visionary whose passion and enthusiasm was the driving force behind the gallery. Presently, Art Magnum's enterprising director, Saurabh Singhvi, is skilfully taking his legacy forward. The gallery has been proudly presenting different mediums of artistic expression ranging from the traditional to the modern, and the contemporary and the experimental. Housed at a contemporary space with ultramodern infrastructure located in the heart of South Delhi, the gallery attempts to give voice to the novel and noteworthy talents through a roster of shows that present the news makers of contemporary genre and also the old masters and marvels of Indian art from the pre and post-independence era.

Art Magnum has innovatively kept striving towards new paradigms reroute to its journey, and has achieved multiple milestones and mammoth goals. The firm has successfully organised elite art events at art capitals across the globe including at New Delhi, Dubai, Singapore, etc. and has received critical and popular acclaim for the same. The collection of the gallery includes works of M. F. Husain, S. H. Raza, F. N. Souza, Somnath Hore, Suhas Roy, K. G. Subramanyan, Paresh Maity, T. Vaikuntam amongst the others. Going forward, Art Magnum shall act as a catalyst for the talented young artists striving for creative excellence and shall keep inspiring the art aficionado by showcasing the contemporary and the classic path breakers of South Asian art.

Saurabh Singhvi  
Director, Art Magnum

