

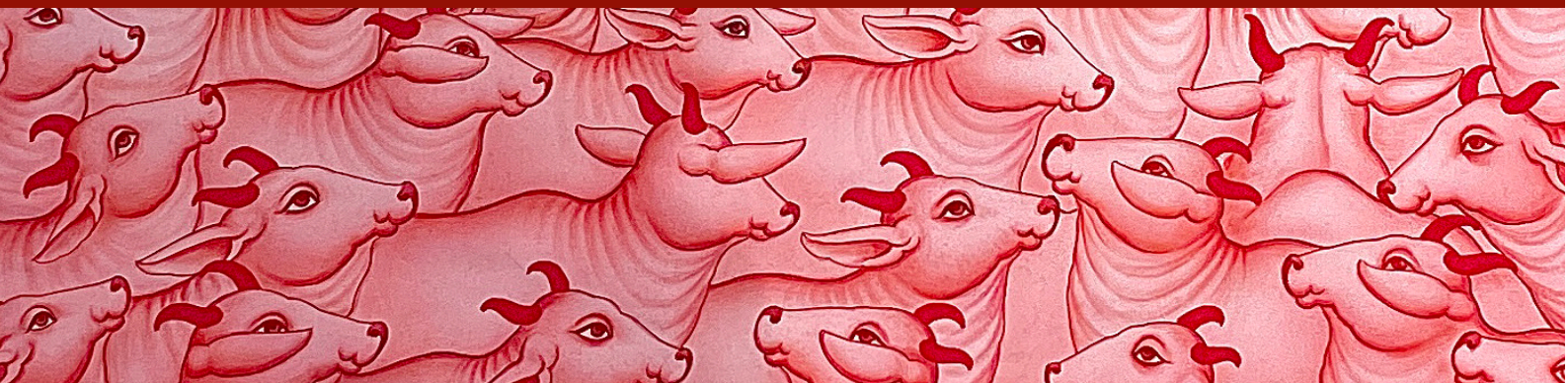


SACRED FORMS

A SOLO EXHIBITION BY JAI KHANNA



SANGEET SHYAMALA



Published in conjunction with the exhibition

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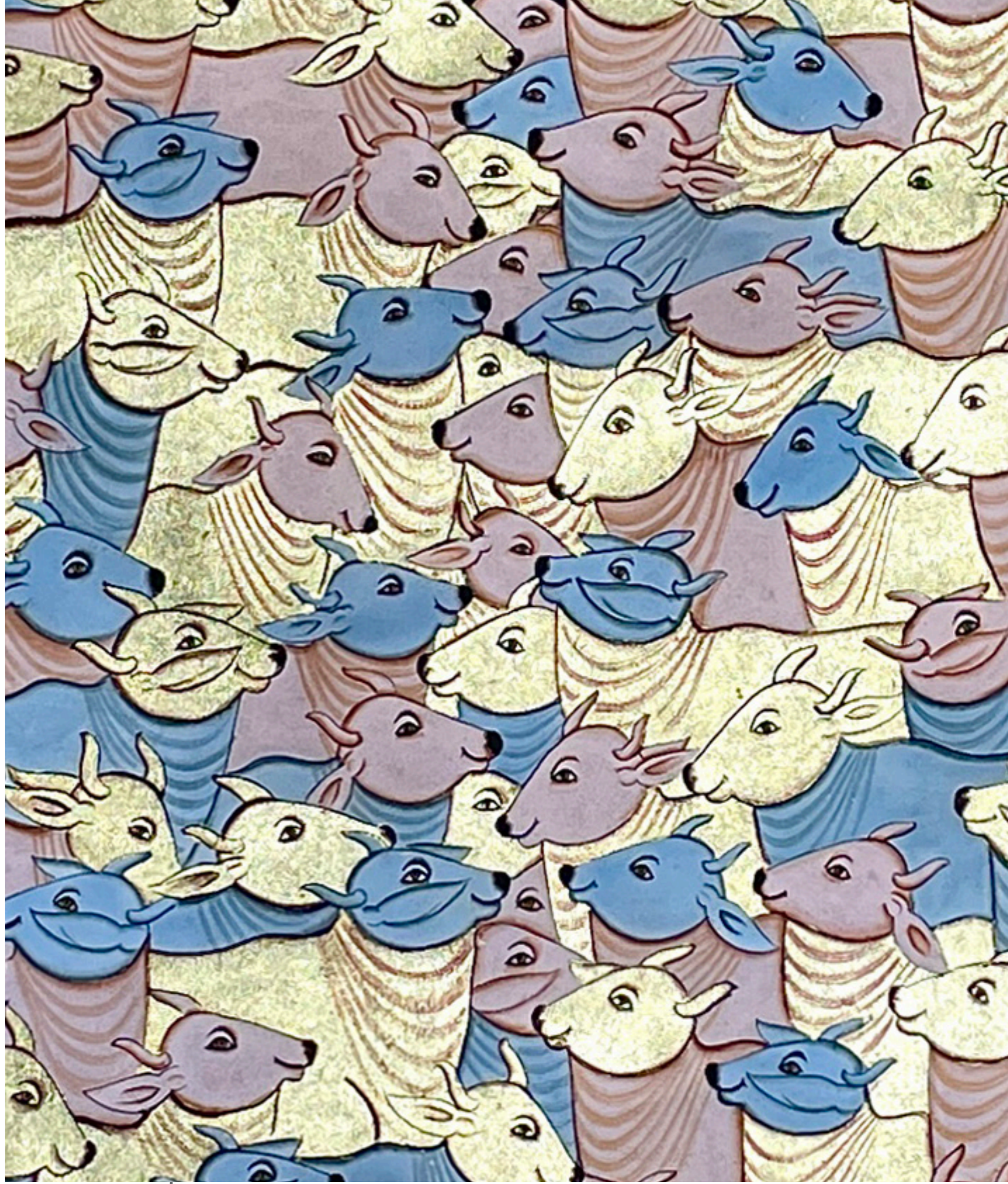
Presented by Sangeet Shyamala in collaboration with Art
Magnum. at Surrendra Paul Art Gallery, H567+VMM, A-12,
opp- 11/6, Block A, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi, Delhi 110057
from : 20th August - 11 September , 2023

Designer: Navyaa Maheshwari

Curatorial Advisor: Kiran K Mohan

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About the Gallery

Saurabh Singhvi

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.



Artist's Note

Jai Khanna

The root of inspiration is one that defines the dialogue between humanity and divinity when creating art that stems from spiritual realms. Jai Khanna uses his canvas to translate a prayer that sends ripples of chant - like elements. His engagement comes from literature, from ancient stories and from mythological practices & rituals. The sacred, and the deeply felt subconscious all come into a single plane wherein the mantra unfolds like a mandala waiting to be manifested onto canvas for modern day viewing. Emotive evocations unravel like incantations.

Through his work an absolute personal version of a traditional art form is achieved by way of unique settings, patterns, symbols & some unrealistic colours which is a major part of the artist process.

His last solo show "Inward trail" was a complete new contemporary take on Jainism which celebrated the journey of self discovery exhibited at the Bikaner house.

Curator's Note

Abundant August. Resonates the celebrations of the glorious forms of 'Shrinath Ji' in Swaroop of the Lallan, Gopal, Govind, Shyam Sundar, Giridhar, Gokul Chandrima with Dwarkadhish.

The Artist through his inimitable selection of natural colours has breathed beauty and devotion into these ingenious creations. The very conspicuous divine touch of gold as seen in a moon, is descriptive of the form of Radha and her close companions – 'cows', which are blessed by 'Shri'. The experimentation with the colours and forms says Jai Khanna.... "Creates energies that help us conquer and control the worldly desires and it's a true reflection of a supreme power".

The artworks portray traditional folktales with a delicate touch of contemporary miniature style. Profusion of Mother Nature's beings: flora & fauna along with the monkey, peacocks, parrots & cows that encapsulate the stories of Krishna's birth and childhood. Enthralling expressions and moods of each of these beings capture the audiences to know and understand the depth of each divine 'bhavam' of pure love, compassion and reverence in admiration, where the transformation from 'Gopal' to 'Govind' is flawless, witnessed by the 'braj vaasi'.

The artist has astoundingly put together this body of artworks, which has a story to convey in itself, emphatically mesmerizing and attracting not only the cows but also the fellow beings when Krishna played his flute. The whole universe surrenders to this calling.

Expedition to Dwarka: Journey of a true Gopal, is one of the highlighted & most eccentric artwork in the entire collection, documenting a magnificent journey of beliefs & traditions that shape our religion. And how a 'Gopal' transforms into 'Shrinath ji' and finally becomes 'Dwarakadhish' - The King of Dwarka. An intricate artwork of three different darshanams, the origin of Gopal from the forest of Goverdhana to Shrinath ji of Nathdwara and finally becoming Dwarkadhish of Dwarka. Every darshan is the story in itself and the artwork transforms & captures each stage of change. With darshans one experiences the unique design elements of motifs of parrots, lotus & cows representing the nature of 'swaroopams'.

Dive into this inviting journey to connect with your soul within.

Gopala! Gopala! Govinda! Govinda!

KIRAN K MOHAN



SHYAMA BALMUKUNDA

Natural colors on Cloth
24 x 36 inches, 2023

This colorful artwork celebrating the exquisiteness of 'shyam' rang (colour) with the rest of the colours of the world. Balmukunda is referred to as the baby version of Krishna along with all the companions. The various colorful plates with individual companions are a reflection of the world & the people who are engrossed in their worldly desires – only a true color of 'Shri' can help to conquer and control the desires and it's a true reflection of a supreme power. The one's closer to 'Shri' – gets the divine touch of gold as shown in a moon on the top, as a form of Radha and the cows are blessed by 'Shri'.

LALLAN AND ITS COMPANIONS

Natural colors on Cloth
30 x 36 inches, 2023

Marking the arrival – This joyful artwork celebrates the birth of Krishna & his childhood stories along with all his companions – monkey/peacocks/cows & parrots. These are an integral part of Krishna's childhood. They depict various moods & expressions of individual buddies who are as amazed, awakened, delighted, surrendered, surprised, safe & complete in his presence sheltered by Radha on the top (in the artwork) in the form of a golden moon.





VRIKSHA GOVINDHAM

Natural colors on Cloth
30 x 36 inches , 2023

This is the story of deep love & compassion. Govind as a form of Krishna is sheltered by a giant tree of life (vriksha) which is a representation of Radha, which has some unique composition of flowers. Govind is being decorated by the flowers of the same tree – such divine bhavam of pure love & compassion has melted the hearts of all the animals of 'braj' – contrarily have been made expressionless in admiration of love where Gopal becomes Govind.

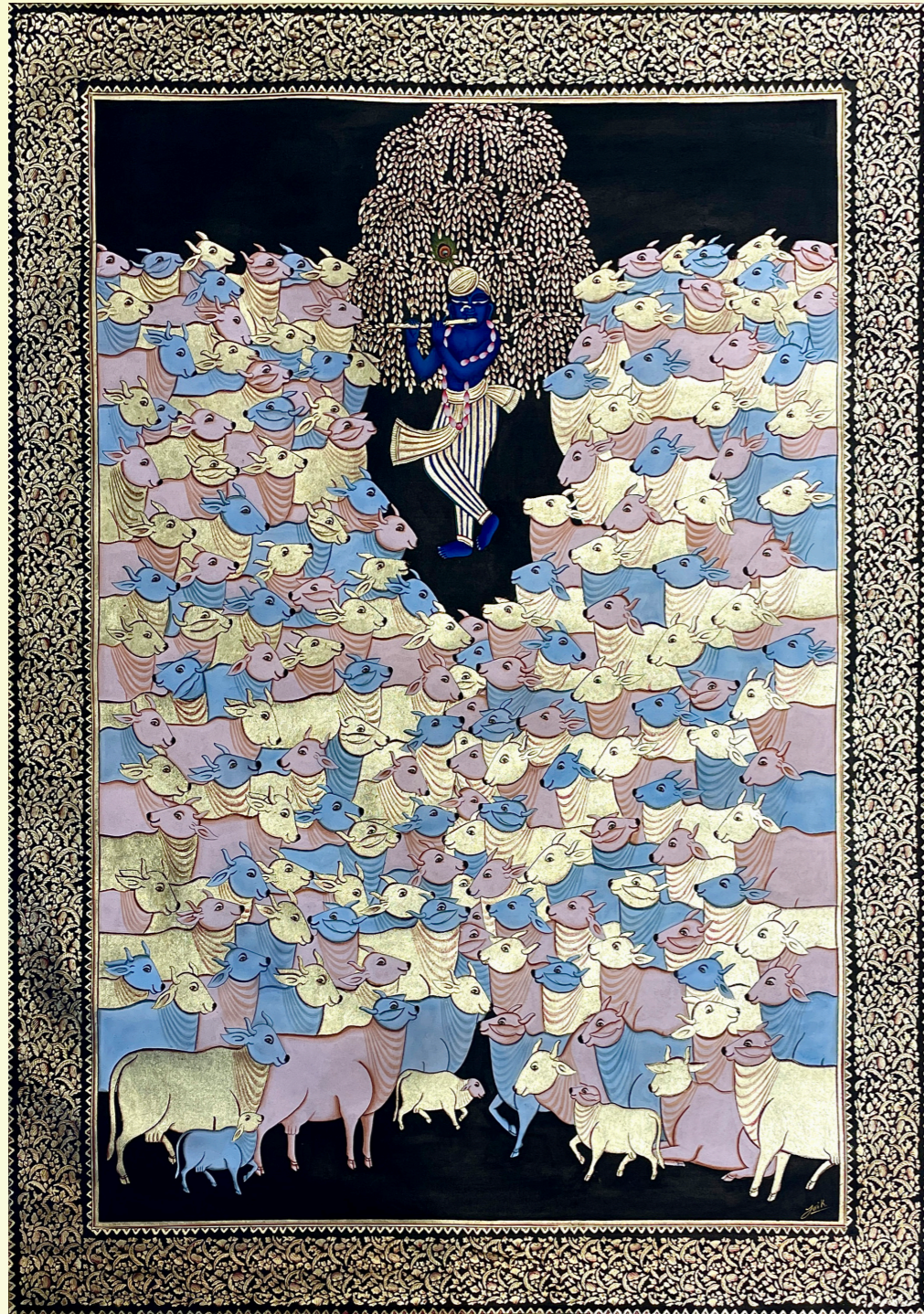




ADVENT OF BLISS

14 x 18 inches,
Natural colours on board, 2023

This symbolic representation of parrots celebrating in joy & pleasure signifies the advent of Bala gopal as Lallan. The expressions are the purest form of happiness & Ecstasy ever portrayed.



GOPASTHAMI OF MADNESS

36 x 48 inches,
Natural colours on Cloth, 2022

Madness of being completely immersed in devotion marks the foundation of this "Gopashtami" artwork – this representation celebrates the real moment of an actual event of cows being spellbound by the sound of flute, entrancing that they are not in a position to control their mind and soul – the magic spell of a 'gopal' is all over them – a sparkled body with gold celebrates this bhavam . The border of this detailed artwork is filled with unique flowers and pomegranates in an intricate miniature style which has taken four months for the artist to complete this artwork

SHINY BLUE NIGHT "PURNIMA"

36 x 38 inches,
Natural colours on Cloth, 2022

The concept of Gopashtami is a celebration of Shrinathji as a Gwala or cowherd surrounded with some unique composition of cows and their "bhavams of playfulness" constituting a remarkable combination. On a dark night under a magnificent golden tree resides a beautiful 'Gokul chandrima ji', in its full sublime form, playing the flute which is so captivating that all the cows in the forest have lost their mind and soul – their mind and body is depicted in different colours & sizes. The major highlight about this work is the deep intricate border of rare pomegranates with intricate flowers in gold which is done in profound miniature style.





RADHA'S HEART - UNIVERSE OF LOVE

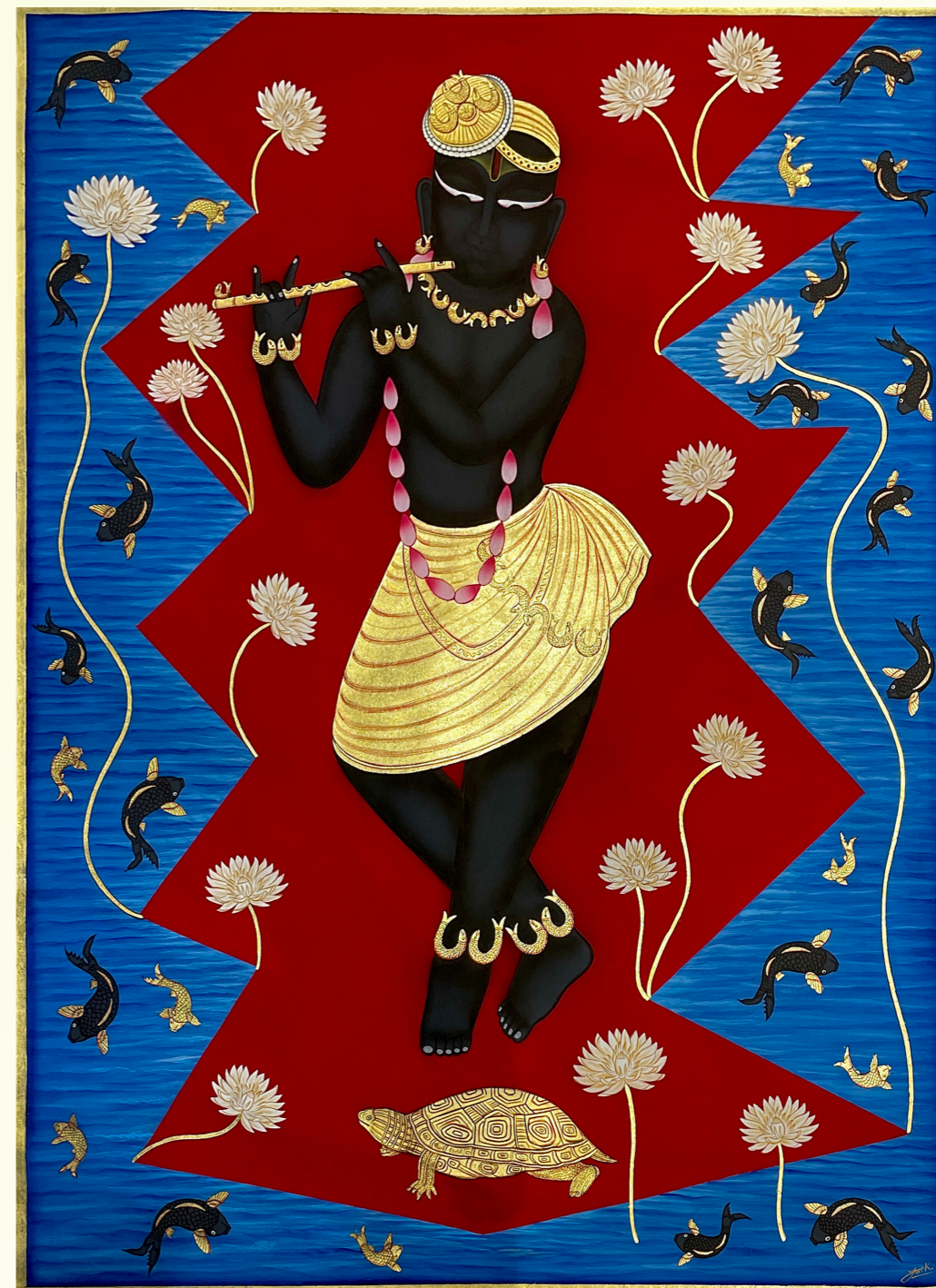
Natural colors on Cloth
48 x 48 inches , 2023

This special artwork is straight out of my dreams where I have seen a magical universe from the heart of Shri Radha – Gopal in a form of Sudarshan Ramana is so magnificent & beautiful – nothing in the world is even near to such divine beauty right from his eyes & magical ornaments of pearls expresses the artist. This artwork captured the moment of supreme happiness when the flute is played and everyone around the gopal is completely mesmerized – the postures of peacock flying & coming closer to gopal is pure ecstatic. This entire leela has melted Radha's heart being the universe converted into a pink colour that's a colour of Radha's heart.

MATAYSA GOPALA

Natural colors on Cloth
36 x 48 feet , 2023

The complete incarnation – This artwork is built on a strong bhavam of respect and love. The fish of braj bhumi are so left behind when it comes to various leela's & playful pastimes of the divine. To honor and respect – Gopal takes a form of a "Mataysa Gopal" where the fish is seen in its every ornament from head to toe with 16 lotuses appearing in the entire composition standing for number 16 which denotes 16 full kala's of Krishna as a complete incarnation of Vishnu. This magical moment is witnessed by a giant turtle which is appointed by the 'shri'to control the fishes, who are uncontrollable because of the divine sound of flute.



EXPEDITION TO DWARKA - JOURNEY OF A TRUE GOPALA

36 x 60 inches,
Natural colours on Cloth, 2021



This is one of the highlights and the most eccentric artwork from the entire collection showcasing a magnificent journey of beliefs & traditions which shapes up our religion and how a Gopal transforms into Shrinath ji and finally becomes Dwarakadhish, King of Dwarka. An intricate artwork of three different darshanams, the origin of Gopal from the forest of Goverdhana to Shrinath ji of Nathdwara and finally becoming Dwarkadhish of Dwarka. Every darshan is the story in itself and the artwork transforms & changes with darshans as it can be experienced from the uniqueness of design elements of parrots, lotus & cows depicting the nature of swaroopams.



THE LIGHT OF SWAMBHU GOPALA

14 x 18 inches,
Natural colours on board, 2021

This artwork celebrates the moment of Krishna qualification as a Gopala - to take cows in the forest - he becomes swambhu when he appeared with all the cows around him - this magical moment is celebrated with divine angles showering blessings on him and at this moment even the sun & moon come together to hold the moment which is golden. This artwork is a fine miniature with a unique finish of gold all over using natural colours.

BHAVA ROOPAM MINIATURES

Natural colours on thin board

Celebrates the closest dedication towards the knowledge of appearances with correct measures & structures coupled with most important aspect of Bhava which are feelings with my own definitions & presentations.

The process of bhava roopam miniatures is a complex painstaking one which involves starting with a light sketch on a thin board as a base with intense distillation of flower based natural colours done 4-5 times to develop a thin texture to be used with brush of around 6" made with special type of bristles. Sometimes the canvas is so small like 1 or 2 inches where mixing of colours is done with glue to ensure a stronger hold.





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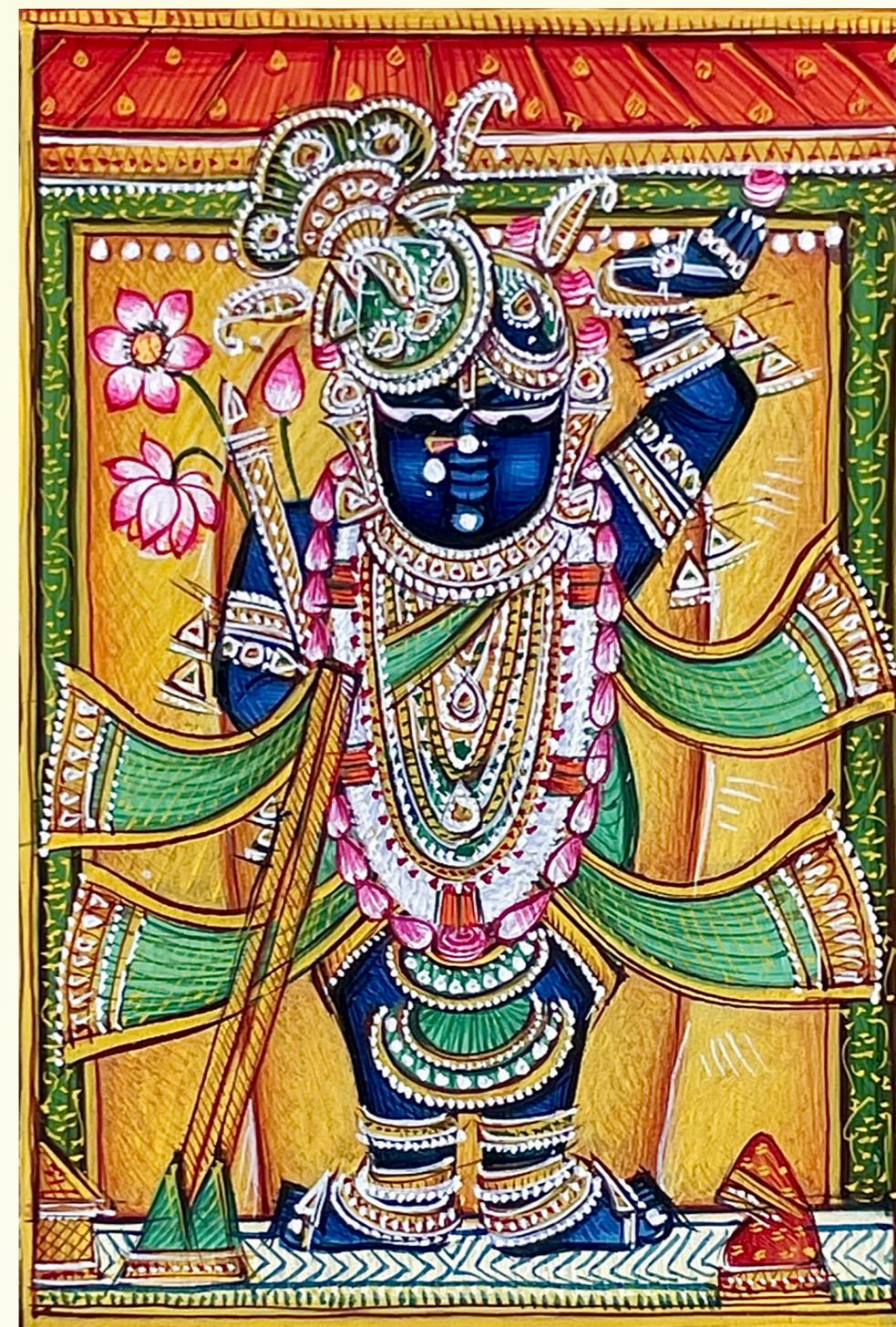


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