



The Inward Trail

A SOLO EXHIBITION BY JAI KHANNA

Published in conjunction with the exhibition

THE INWARD TRAIL

A solo exhibition of Jai Khanna
organised by Art Magnum at CCA building, Bikaner
House between Pandara Rd, &, Shahjahan Rd, India
Gate, New Delhi, Delhi 110011
from 17 February to 27 February 2023.

Curator: Promila Jain Bahri

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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.



Jai Khanna

Artist's Note

Artist Jai Khanna grew up in a spiritual presence of Shrinathji gaining him a very personal and experiential understanding of God. It is about obsession & interpretation of a form, how a swaroop (Image of God) is seen, evolves its existence through its vision and presented to the world. His journey begins from its dreams & stretches to a deep conceptualization of various forms/patterns/events/festivals where God can be seen & celebrated. Through his work an absolute personal version of a traditional art form is achieved by way of unique settings, patterns, symbols & some unbelievable colors which is a a major part of the artist process. His works were exhibited in a solo show in 2019 "Shrinath ji Swaroopam" based on inventing a complete new language of the vision of dreams "forest series" in which a solitary devotee wanders in a dense forest

followed by a grand solo show in 2021 in Ahmedabad "Dreams of my Divine" where every piece of art celebrates various different moods & festivals in a unique way. His artwork is a part of collection of Kiran Nadar Museum.

"Inward Trail" is a journey of my self-discovery. It is a result of my personal calling, which drew me to the peaceful, perfect realm of life. My experiments with Jainism and its message of looking at life from a simple vantage of live and let live (Ahinsa), stemmed from an unflinching belief in a higher self or soul, that is endowed with the properties of, Siddha, or complete, Buddha, or perfect, Mukti, or liberated self. The opportunity to visit sublime pilgrimages of Palitana, Girnar & Shikarji was a once in a lifetime experience. Forever grateful!!!!



Promila Jain Bahri

Curator's Note

As a daughter of an astute Jain family I always marvelled at the sounds of silence that pervaded over our otherwise abundant home in Old Delhi. In my parents' home I witnessed firsthand, the spiritual tact of believers who could, with great finesse, reside within. Faith driven souls who knew the dichotomy between inner peace and outer turmoil, the truth that no matter how tumultuous a movie might be, it still leaves the screen untampered and pristine.

It was this inner peace, a feeling of being centred, that first drew me to young artist Jai Khanna. Much before I got to witness his art I was regaled by his animated tales of spiritual sojourns to Jain shrines where he invariably conquered gusty winds and truant weather before he set eyes of shrines of the Tirthankaras. He also shared, with intense emotions, the many vivid dreams that guided him in creating his art. Dreams that took him through

deep jungles and high mountains where he found his gurus. These surreal trysts compelling him to link nature with faith.

Indeed, in Jai Khanna's art I saw a deep depiction of forests full of trees, hillocks, flora and fauna that seem to kiss the feet of his Gods. Large canvasses in which the playful Lord Krishna in his intense Shrinathji avatar is seen perched on a dark Govardhan; the much revered Mahavir Swami emerges in his Pitamber form, surrounded by thick foliage rendered in brushes of dull gold; where Parashvanathji is seen in a recurring cameo just as Jai had seen him in his dreams. It is almost as if through his art he takes us to an 'inward trail' that pierces through the eyes and hits the heart, settling down deep within the soul.

Jai Khanna's solo exhibition "The

Inward Trails" is a journey of self-discovery. It is a result of his personal calling, which drew him to the peaceful, perfect realm of life. His experiments with Jainism and its message of looking at life from a simple vantage of live and let live (Ahinsa), stemmed from an unflinching belief in a higher self or soul, that is endowed with the properties of, Siddha, or complete, Buddha, or perfect, Mukti, or liberated Self. The tranquil demeanour of the Tirthankaras in his works, inspired to unveil these properties in yourself. On doing so we inch closer to answering the question of "Who Am I?" In this solo show Jai celebrates Jainism which is steered by the firm belief of being a Jain. And his deep, spiritual connect with it can be seen emerging in several cameos that touch your soul.

The serpent hood, on Tirthanka-

ra Parsvanatha, depicted by the artist also confirms this perfect state of the soul. This symbolism denotes the power and strength of the soul in the face of calamity that is termed as "Upsarg" in Jain philosophy. It also destroys the myth about the interdependence of the soul and karma.

For the believer, Jai Khanna's solo show offers a chance to follow your own inner trail. For an aesthetics seeker it is a show that celebrates the beauty of perfection. A visual treat where not even a leaf is seen out of place.

For me Jai is a spiritual seeker whose art compels you to question your existence. An answer to which is provided in his art itself!



FIRST GLIMPSE OF ADINATH IN PALITANA

14 x18 inches,
Natural colours on board , 2021

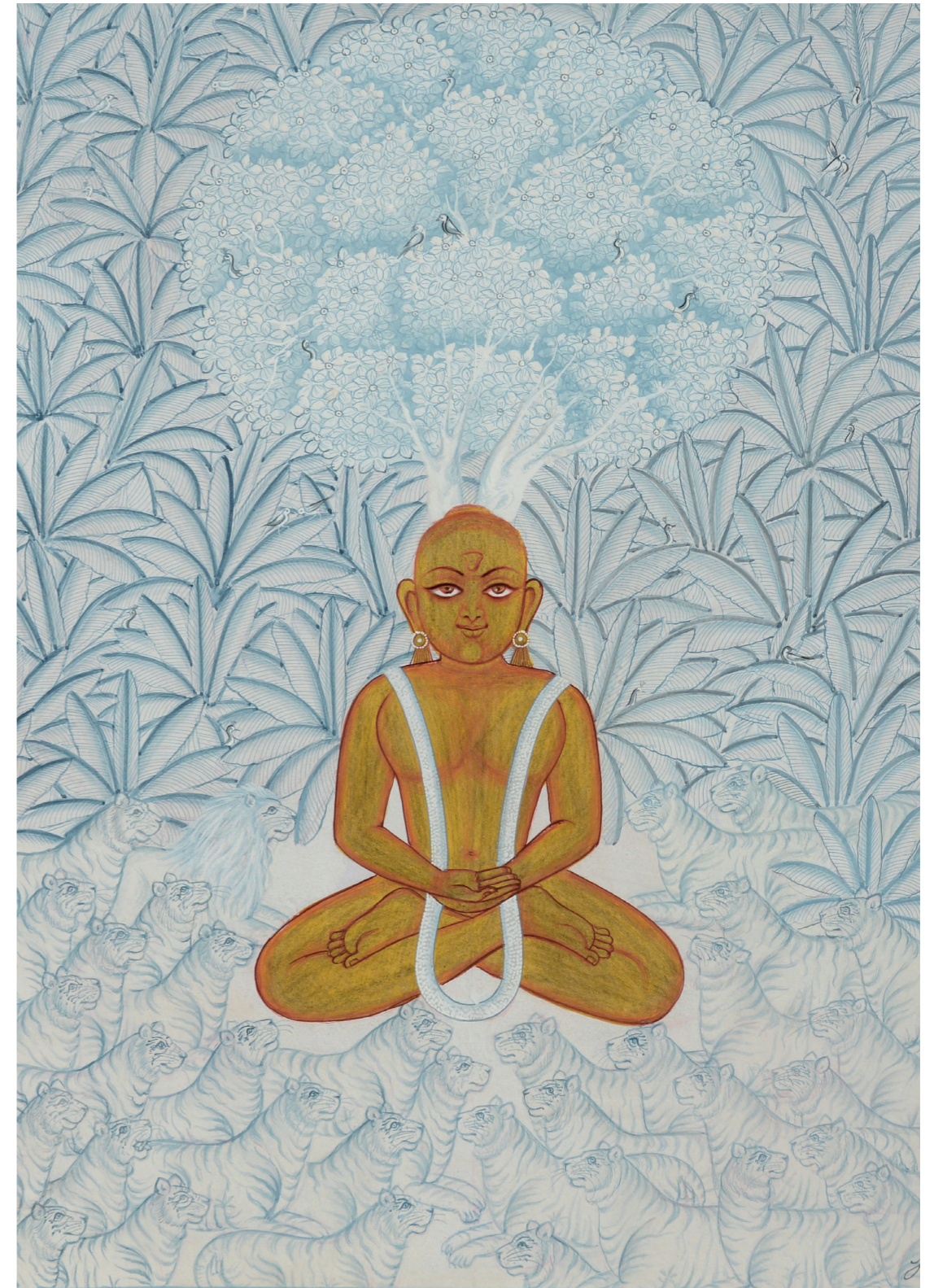
This artwork celebrates my first darshan of Adinath ji in Palitana - I observed a moment of unbelievable calmness on his face like I am in continuous interaction with the divine.

I saw the sacred Palitana hill full of bulls running around Adinath ji. This artwork captures the same moment of the divine & magical speaking bhavam of Adi dada.

FIRST GLIMPSE OF MAHAVIRA

14x18 inches,
Natural colours on board , 2021

This supreme darshan of Mahavira is influenced by my first glimpse of darshan of Palitana hill. One beautiful temple dedicated to Mahavira on twin Palitana hills inspired me to create a divine form of Mahavira around the Palitana hills in a dark dense forest – meditating around the cluster of animals.



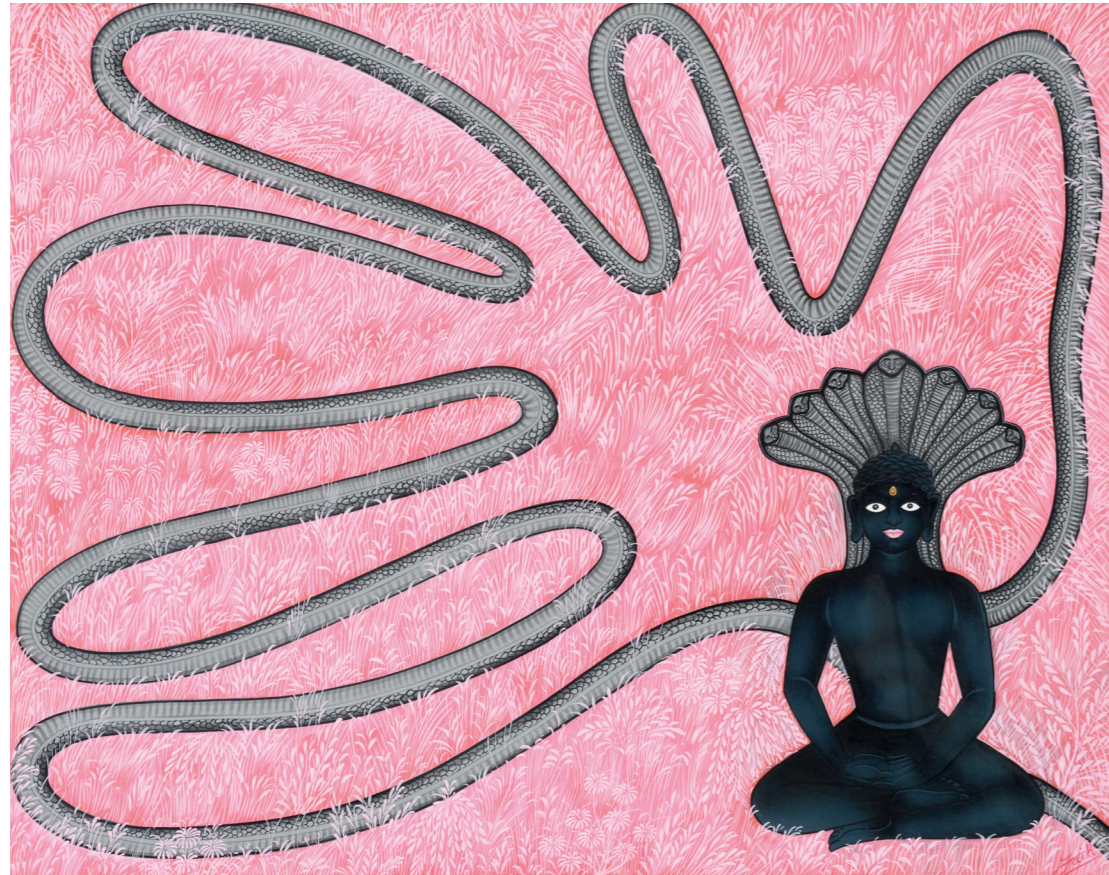
ADVENT OF SHANTINATH JI

14x18 inches,
Natural colours on board, 2021

A huge cluster of deers running around in a dark deep forest surrounded by Shantinatha ji - this artwork is very special and the one of the very few artwork's dedicated to Shantinatha ji in the entire collection -the swaroop is done in dull gold miniature style with each & every minute details are captured in forest. There is some strange sense of quest seen on deers which are running all towards him.







**LOTUS NAGA
OF PARSHAWANATH JI**

16 x 20 inches,
Natural colours on board, 2022

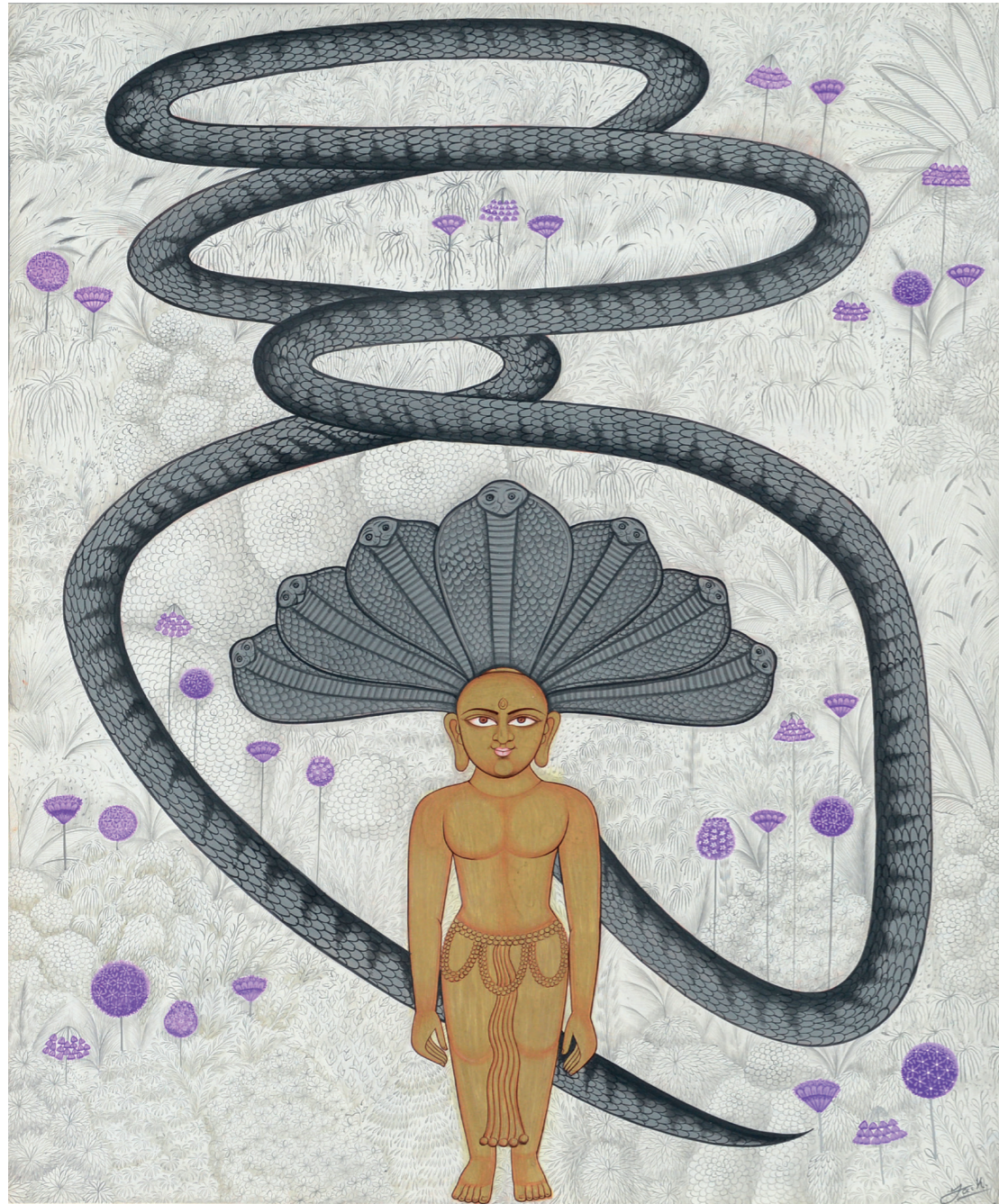
Parshvanatha ji sitting with a gaint Sheshnaga revolving
like the parts of a Lotus flower.

THRONE OF PARSHVANATHA JINATH

16 x 20 inches,
Natural colours on board, 2022

Parshvanatha ji standing with a gaint Sheshnaga
revolving a making a shape of a throne over him.





ENTERING SHIKHAR JI - A DIVINE DANCE

16 x 20 inches,
Natural colours on board, 2022

Parshvanatha ji standing in a beautiful deep forest full of some rare flowers with a gaint Sheshnaga dancing over him.

GLORY OF PARSHVANATHA JINATH – THE MAGICAL FOREST OF SHIKAR JI

24 x 36 inches,
Natural colours on cloth, 2022

This glorious artwork came from the moment where I got the complete darshan of Parshvanatha ji in my dreams – covering the true glory & beauty of the forest of Shikhar ji. This extremely special artwork is done in sindoor portraying some really unique old types of trees in the forest. The image of the lord sheltered with Sheshnaga reflects the majestic bhavam of innocence on lord Parshvanatha ji. The image of Sheshnaga is an extremely special one assigned with lord done in pure gold.

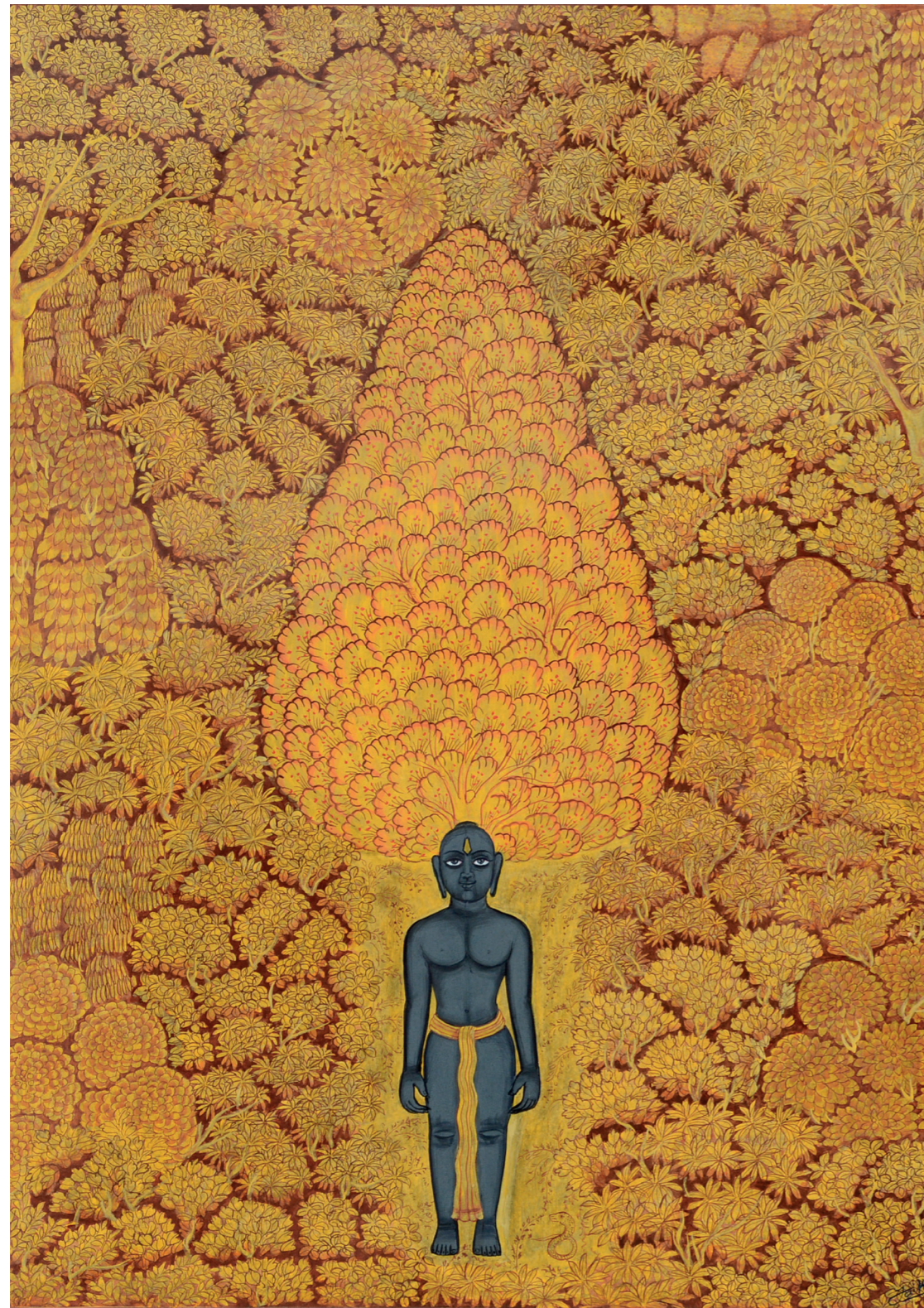




EVOLUTION OF SHIKARJI (END)

36 x 48 inches,
Natural colours on cloth, 2022

This artwork celebrates the end of that majestic dream where Parshvanatha jinath ji disappears in the end, and I got to see the full picture of all the peaks of shikarji in an aerial holistic view where his Naga captured the peak of Shikhar ji celebration of this divine evolution becoming into a pilgrimage. The tree on the top of the peak represents Parshvanatha ji and his continuous presence around this sacred Pilgrimage showered by a love of snake angles around the sacred mountain.



CELEBRATING SHIKAR JI (NEW BEGINNING)

18 x 24 inches,
Pure Gold and Natural Colours on board, 2022

Revelling the moment of true divinity when Parsawanth ji re-appeared in its true divine form in Shikhar ji. This is an extremely special artwork capturing a moment when the world turns golden in anticipation of an avatar of a divine form of Lord. Efforts are made to capture the divine forest in its true glory with a sublime energy coming out of Parshvanatha ji.

DIVINE OFFERING

48 x 48 inches,
Natural colours on cloth, 2022

This artwork is about the true glory & beauty of Lord Parshvanatha ji meditating – celebrates the moment when eyes are open for the world to be blessed. The exact form & colour combinations are portrayed in same manner the way it has appeared in my dreams. The appearance of snake angels showering their love & respect by offering a “Shyam Kamal” to the divine lord.





THE DANCE OF NAGA

48 x 48 inches,
Natural colours on cloth, 2022

This divine artwork celebrates a unique setting in my dream where the Sheshnaga danced for Lord Parshvanatha ji. I saw an extremely thick nag in the exact same posture giving its true sublime darshan along with Parshvanatha ji.

THE ELEMENTARY UNIVERSE

36 x 48 inches,
Natural colours on cloth, 2022

This rotating artwork illustrates the magical pilgrimage of Shikhar ji where divine Parshvanatha ji overlooks the world where the holistic view of the entire mountain range is seen with the Naga all over it. These artworks celebrate my dream which is extended and seen many times and presented in various shapes & views.





THE ELEMENTARY UNIVERSE

36 x 60 inches,
Natural colours on cloth, 2022

This unique series celebrates the divine elementary universe of Jainism celebrating the existence of all 24 Tirthankaras in the current world. Efforts are being made to represent all the 24 signs in a simple manner to portray the message of solidarity and peace and continuous existence & blessings of our Lord. These artworks are one of the super detailed works in the show with a very fine miniature scale on each and every symbols. The bhavams on even the wild animals shows a lot of calmness around them which is a true meaning of this show to reflect that everyone can live with peace.

GURU SWAROOPAM

36 x 60 inches,
Natural colours on cloth, 2021

This is one of my primary artworks in the collection talking about the story of 5 Tirthankaras residing in a divine forest in their true glory with symbols (Bulls, conchshell, Snake, Lion & Deer) related to each Tirthankara's around them. Lord Adinath takes the center position celebrating the magnificent bhavam of "Prakatswaroop" – special attention is given to carve the same bhavam on the face.





MAHAVIRA- THE LAST ONE

72 x 48 inches,
Natural colours on cloth, 2022

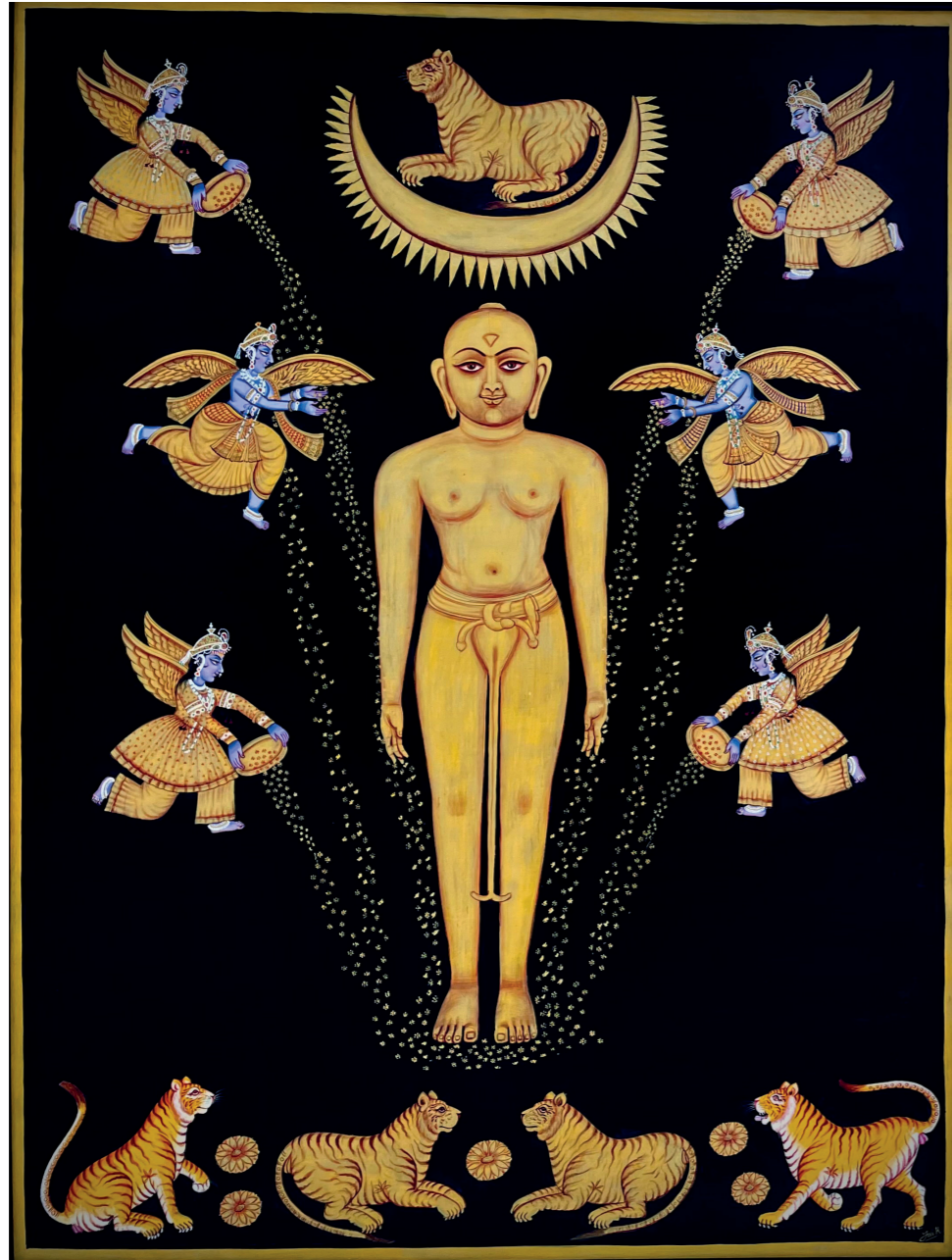
This is one my favourite concepts in the entire collection – artworks portray the last Tirthankara “Mahavira” in its true glory walking with all the rest 23 Tirthankara’s with him. In the left hand holding 12 divya kamals and 11 in the right hand. This is a concept of divinity of all the Tirthankaras together representing solidarity walking together with Mahavira – the last one.

NAMI PADMA,

24 x 36 inches,
Pure gold & natural colours on board, 2022

This unique artwork celebrates the union of 2 Tirthankaras – Padmaprabhu & Naminath. Red lotus & Blue lotus are their respective symbols. 2 trees on the opposite side of the riverbanks are bend down talking to each other with the flurry of red & blue lotus in the river. This artwork is done on a detailed miniature style with use of mix gold & natural colours of flowers. The red colour is carved from Sindoor and efforts are made to make a harmonious composition which reflects the beauty of symbolism from our Guru's.





THE GOLDEN MAHAVIRA

36 x 48 inches

Pure gold and natural colours on cloth, 2022

This artwork truly celebrates the divinity of Mahavira in the most grandeur form - as the last Tirthankara. The glory of Mahavira is so magnificent and beautiful even the angles have come to shower the love & blessings. The swaroopam of Mahavira is carved in pure gold with the divine bhavam of Aakarshan with a virat darshanam.

THE ARIHANTA

36 x 60 inches
natural colors on cloth, 2022

This artwork celebrates the ultimate stage of meditation destroying all kind of karmans. Mahavira got free from all impurities, he now became an Arihanta. The story portrays his divine presence in a deep forest and also the 24 trees depicted in this artwork is the representation of 24 Tirthankar's.



Shrinath ji as a form of Krishna is my childhood inspiration and way of life. My art starts & revolves around him. Presenting my two earlier works on Shri ji celebrating the inner festivities of its dreams.





DHOL UTSAV

Pure Gold and Natural
Color in Bareek Kalam on Cloth
36 x 24 inches, 2022

Dhol Utsav, the celebration of arrival of Shrinathji at the gates of Nathdwara with the majestic blue elephants welcoming him at the gates for celebrating the festival of colours, the Holi. Peacocks and parrots are welcoming him from the heaven and the birds in gulaal and gold form the background of this artwork where the Swaroop of shrinath ji is adorned in gold in bareek kalam expressing the bhavam of playfulness as that of a young "Gwal".

ADVENT OF GOKULCHANDRIMAJI

Pure Gold and Natural Color in
Bareek Kalam on Cloth
36 x 24 inches
2022

Advent of Gokulchandrima ji in Nathdwara - Is a novel concept depicting the auspicious time of the advent of Gokul Chandrimaji from Kamvan to Nathdwara. On this occasion of "Milan" the night goes red in celebration with the appearance of sun & moon together for the union of these two supreme beauties. The red colour in the artwork signifies the colour of celebration which becomes a dvar in the background for the arrival of the Lord. The Swaroop of Gokul chandrami ji is done in gold where each & every minute detail covers his bhavam of "surprise".





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