

TOLD UNTOLD

An exhibition of paintings by
SAMIR AICH

Curator: Jyotirmoy Bhattacharya



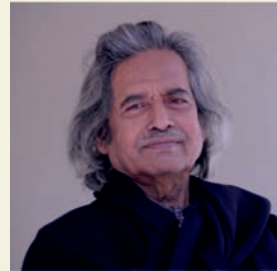
11 March - 12 April, 2023



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



I am quite familiar with the creation of the artist Samir Aich. Many times I have been to the exhibitions of his paintings on various series. The paintings in the current exhibition can be called a very meaningful representation of this period. A sensitive creation of the turbulent times we live in. Best wishes and congratulations to Samir.

Jogen Chowdhury



The struggle of common men's life and their faith in humanity, what I personally have observed throughout my life, Samir Aich's paintings represent the same. And that's why I find his work very powerful.

Manu Parekh

Curator's note



'There's only one difference between a madman and me. The madman thinks he is sane. I know I am mad'

— Salvador Dali

These lines haunt me when I see the surrealistic rendering of crippled society on Samir Aich's canvases. From primordial to now, paradise to perdition, divine or the godless, virtuous or evil — the paintings are vessels of powerful ideas born out of dilemmas spawned by the collision of these real yet strange forces, the colours ignited by the transition of time. Paradoxically, the expression of his thoughts is as compelling as the seeming urgency to obliterate the min a swipe. Yet, Samir Aich's subjects conjure the very real struggles that we experience in the loop of indestructible creation. The primitive beasts that repeatedly show up in his paintings are scathing brooders overseeing humanity's self-imposed wounds from time immemorial. The artist's hollow men have no wants or desires of their own, yet they are out to snuff out the last filament of thought, feeling or joy left in the world — they betray the underlying psychology of the artist's sociological perception. Perhaps, it's not possible to detoxify society. But the toxins can be clearly delineated. So, we see these impressive essays that mirror the artist's clear-eyed views.

Somehow, they lift our senses even in a heap of twisted pain. Aich skillfully presents humanity's savage instincts through his subjects. The structure and layout of his paintings create a deliberate drama that metaphorize society. In 1937, Picasso had said about his painting, *Guernica*: 'A painting is not made to decorate apartments. It is an offensive and defensive weapon against the enemy.' The architecture of Samir Aich's paintings seem to support that sentiment. I am as drawn to his portrayals of a bed in a concentration camp or the howling void of a hospital amid a pandemic, as I am to the scorched, bare-bodied beings that peep out of fissures. The emperor's throne wobbles on a chessboard; a lascivious creature recoils in the glare of fearless eyes; a grievously-wounded Jatayu lies on the floor — these are not just eloquent tropes. They force us to question our permanent state of defeat, wonder how many more blows we could take. So, I see these paintings in a different light altogether. Samir Aich's paintings hurl tough questions at the viewer on behalf of the exploited, people whose dreams have been crushed. By bluntly projecting cruel power in the form of a famished leopard, slobbering tongue out, in a swarm of humans, the artist is saying, 'Emperor, where are your clothes?' The artist's paintings remind me of Peter Paul Reubens' *Consequences of War*. Also of Salvador Dali's *The Face of War*; and John Nash's *Over the Top*. My mind goes back to Francisco Goya's *The Third of May, 1808* or even Umberto Boccioni's *Charge of the Lancers*. It also transports me to Samir Aich's own painting on the battle at Kurukshetra. The danse macabre does not weigh me down, rather its stinging beauty exhilarates.

Jyotirmoy Bhattacharya



Savin Bin ©2022



DANCE OF MONSTERS, Acrylic and oil on canvas, 48" x 84", 2020

THE GREED, Acrylic and oil on canvas, 72" x 66", 2023





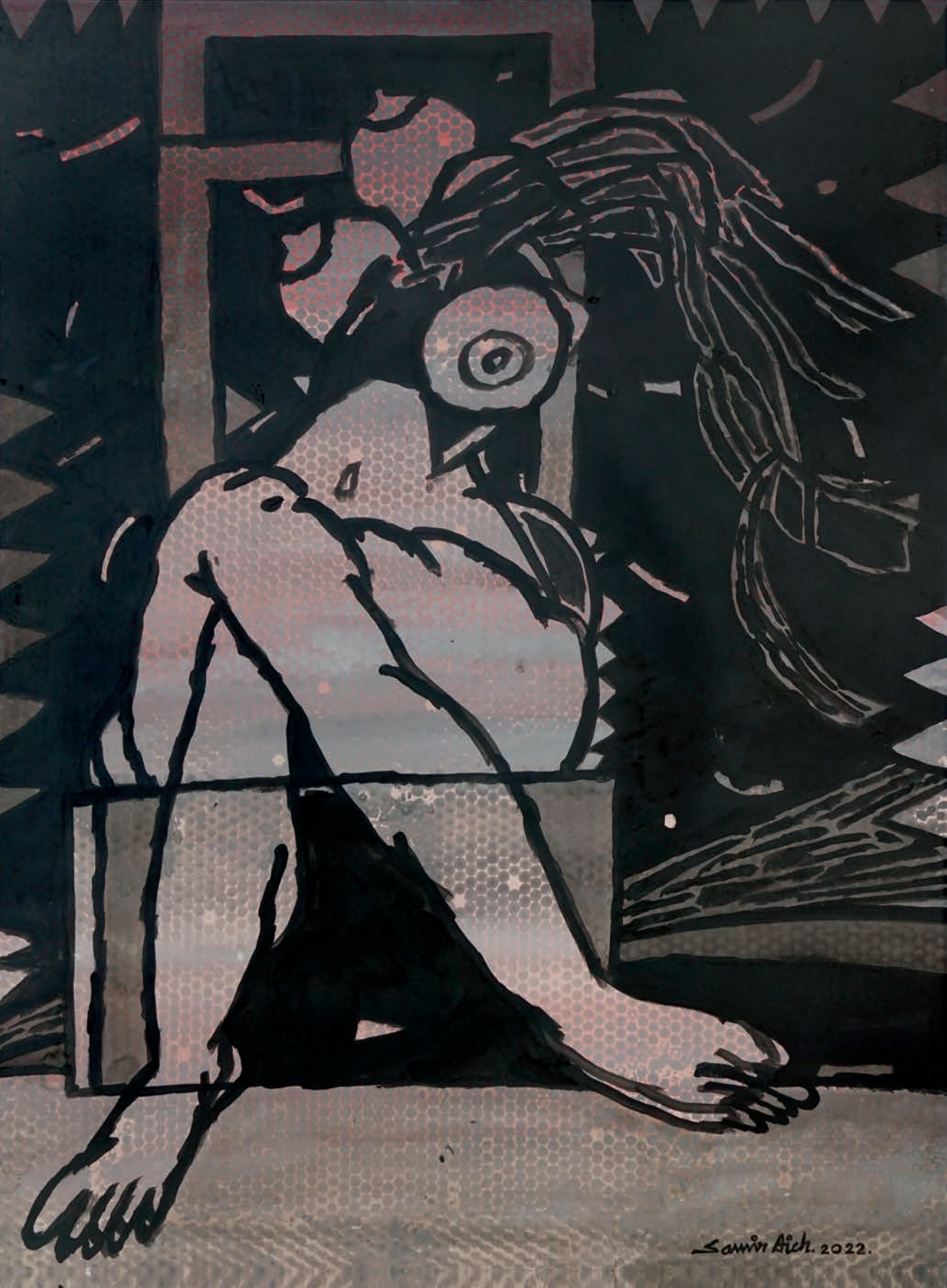
TURMOIL, Acrylic and oil on canvas, 36" x 96", 2020



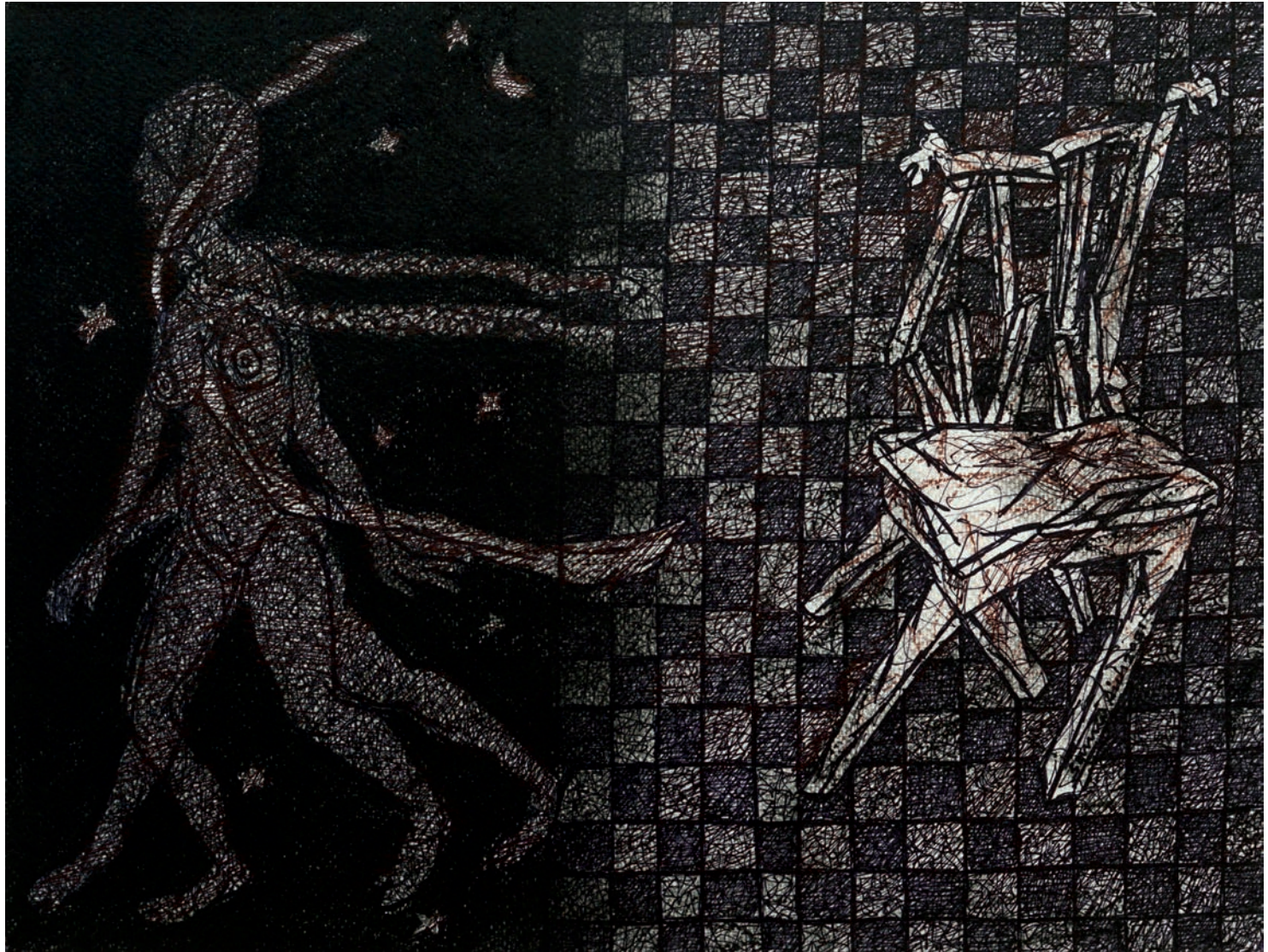
MOTHER II, Acrylic and conte on canvas, 72" x 66", 2022



MOTHER I, Acrylic and conte on canvas, 72" x 66", 2022



LEISURE TIME,
Dry pastel, acrylic, conte, pen,
ink and brush on
acid free fabriano paper,
47.5" x 35.5"
2022.



LEAVING BEHIND, Dry pastel, acrylic, conte, pen, ink and brush on acid free fabriano paper., 12" x 14.5", 2021



THE MYSTERY IN GREY, Acrylic and conte on canvas, 48" x 36", 2008



THE BIRD AT NIGHT , Acrylic and oil on acid free fabriano paper, 47.2" x 35.4" , 2022



EXISTENCE, Dry pastel, acrylic, conte, pen, ink and brush on acid free fabriano paper, 8" x 11.5" , 2021



THE PROTEST , Dry pastel, acrylic, conte, pen, ink and brush on acid free fabriano paper., 12" x 17.5", 2022



CITY LIFE, Dry pastel, acrylic, conte, pen, ink and brush on acid free fabriano paper, 15.8" x 11.9", 2021

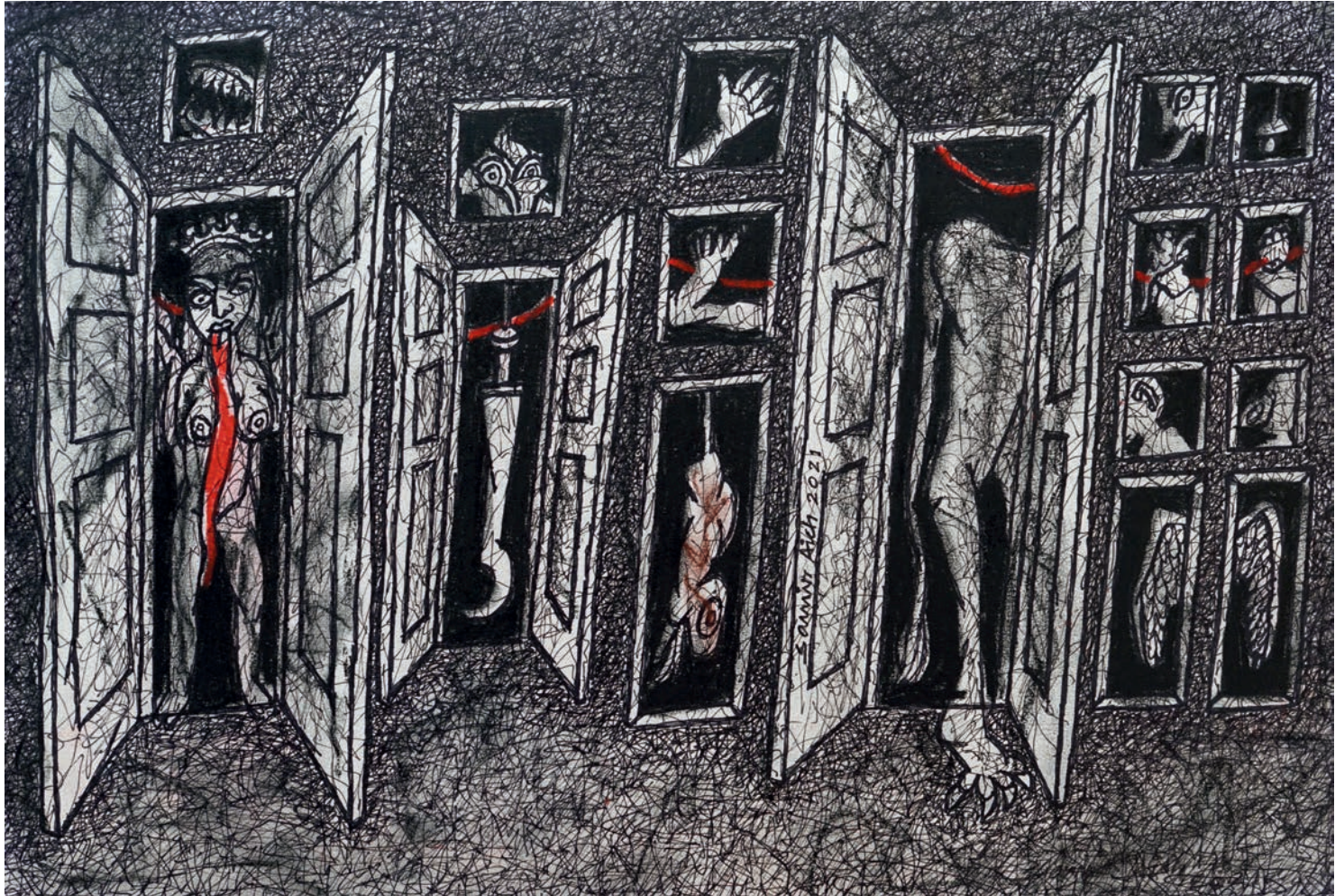


THE CHEETAH , Acrylic and conte on acid free fabriano paper, 47" x 35.2", 2022





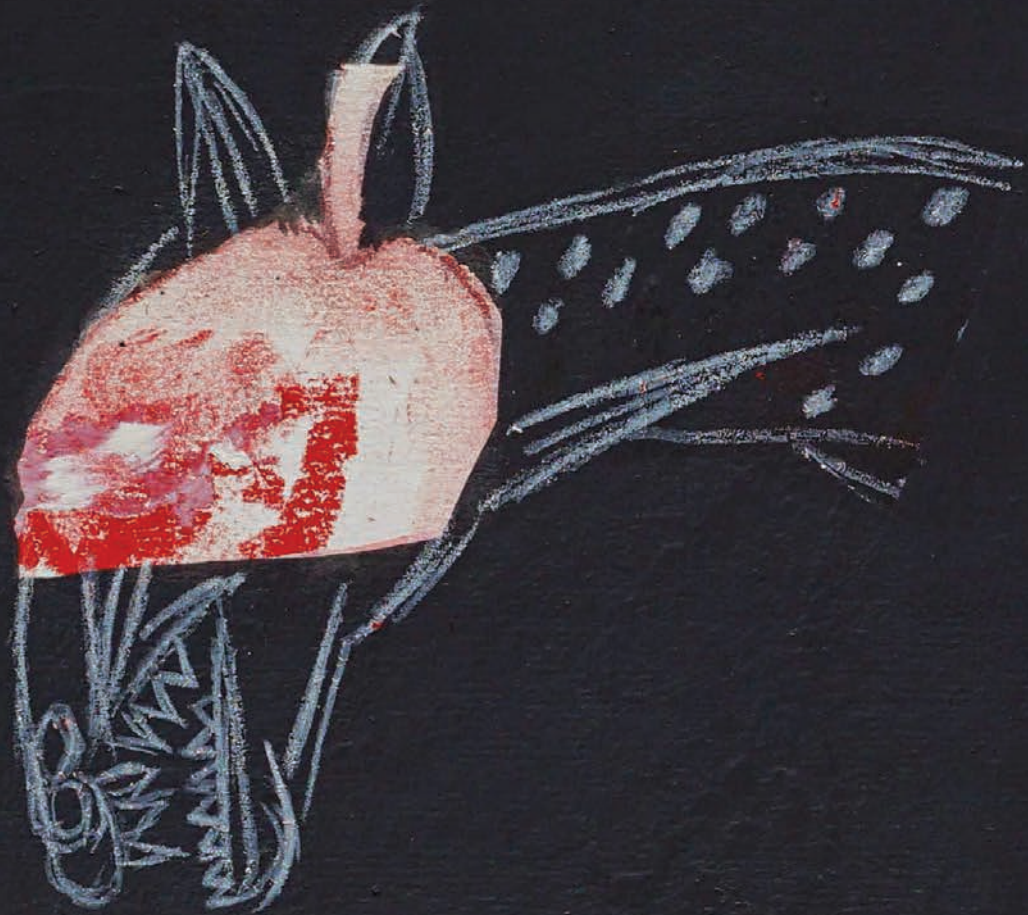
FALLEN BIRDS, Dry pastel, acrylic, conte, pen, ink and brush on acid free fabriano paper, 11" x 22.5", 2021



THE SHARE MARKET, Dry pastel, acrylic, conte, pen, ink and brush on acid free fabriano paper, 12" x 17.5". 2021



LOVE AND HATRED, Dry pastel, acrylic, conte, pen, ink and brush on acid free fabriano paper, 12" x17.5" , 2022





THE DINNER, Dry pastel, acrylic, conte, pen, ink and brush on acid free fabriano paper, 9" x 18.5" , 2021



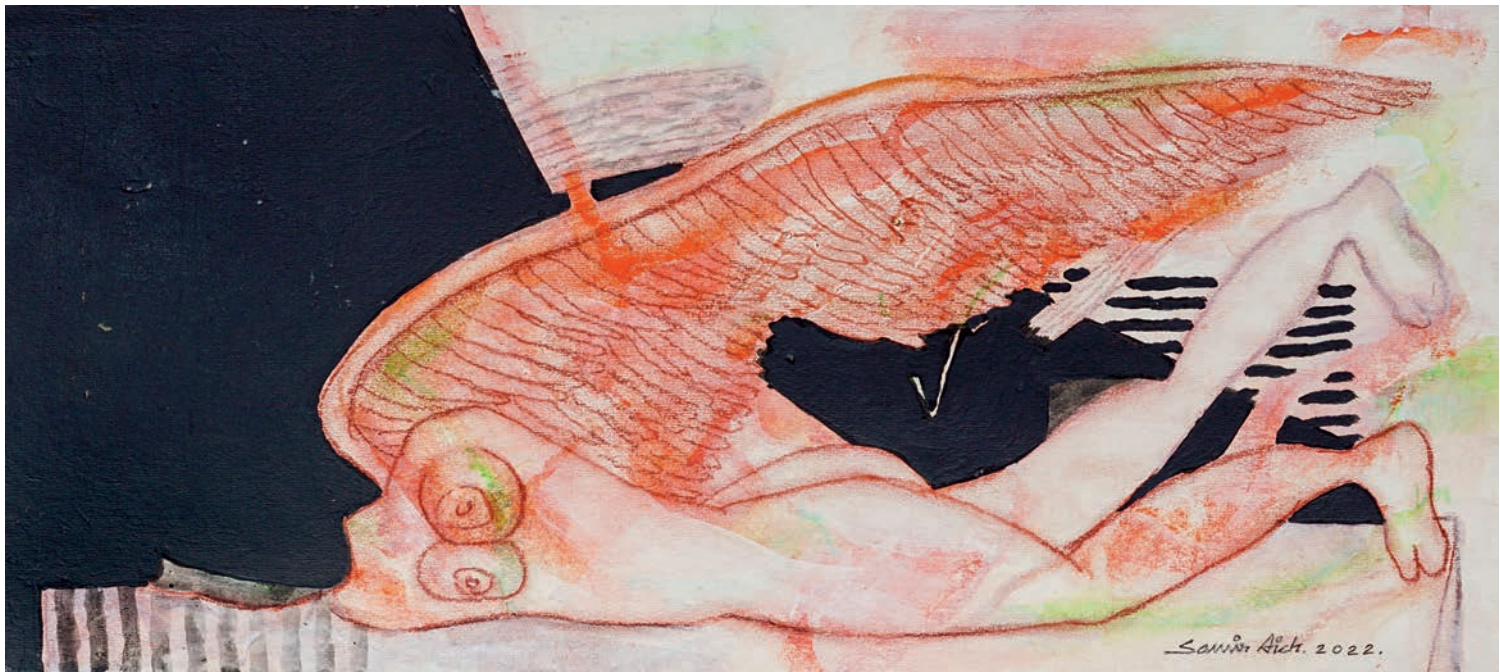
THE VIOLIN, Dry pastel, acrylic, conte, pen, ink and brush on acid free fabriano paper, 8.5" x 19", 2022



WAVE OF THE LIFE, Dry pastel, acrylic, conte, pen, ink and brush on acid free fabriano paper, 8" x 19.5", 2022



MOTHER & CHILDREN, Mixed media on canvas, 60" x 72", 2023

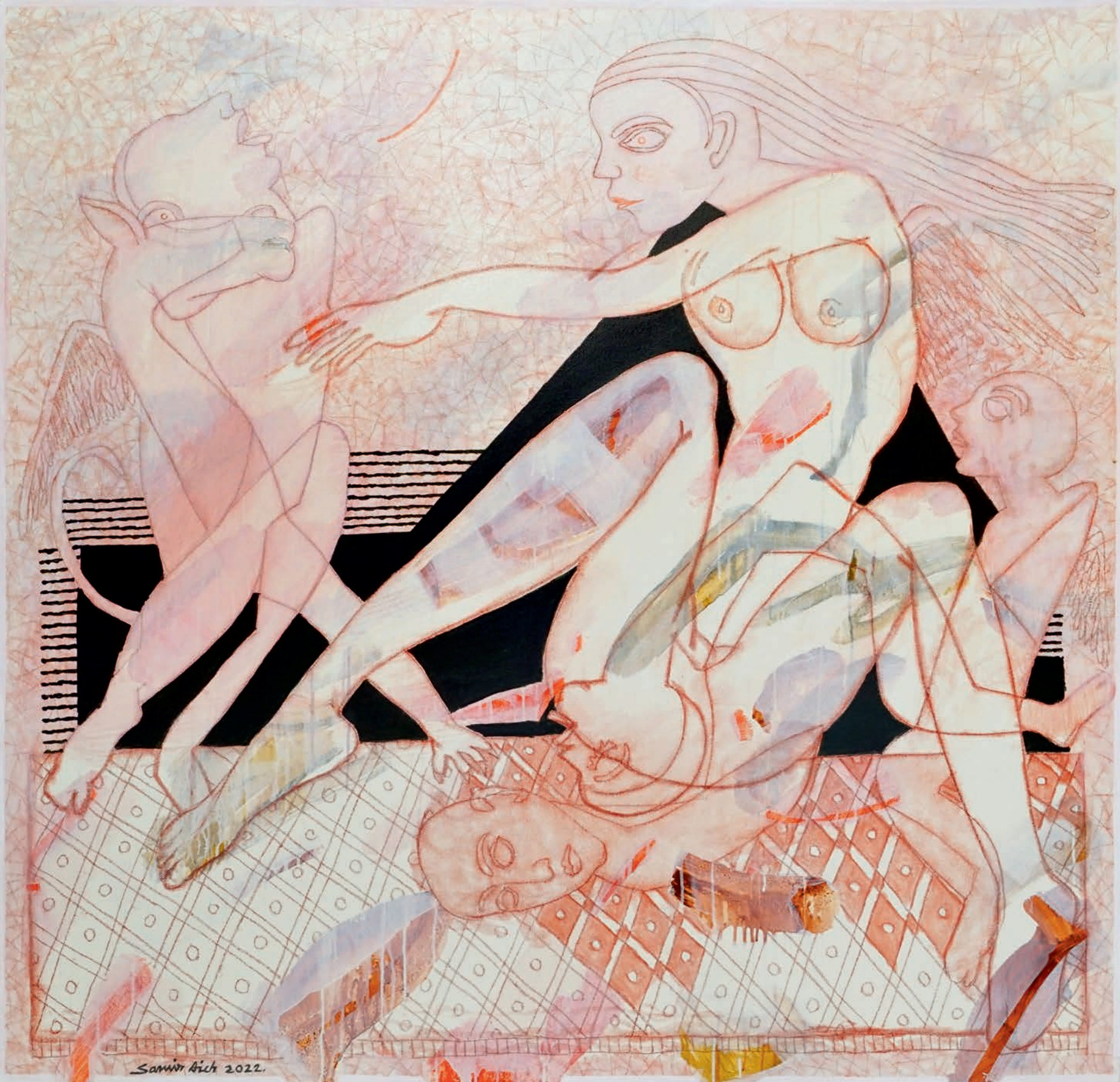


THE FALLEN DREAM, Dry pastel, acrylic, conte, pen, ink and brush on acid free fabriano paper, 9" x 19.5" , 2022



THE URBAN DREAM, Conte and acrylic on canvas, 72' x 110", 2021

ADORE , Mixed media on canvas, 60" x 60" , 2022



Samir Aich 2022.



Samir Aich (b. 1957)

Graduated from the Govt. College of Art and Craft, Calcutta in 1978. He has been painting almost for three decades now. He started out as a neo-realist and gradually moved into semi-abstract figurative themes. Since the turn of the last century, he has been constantly experimenting with new pictorial concepts and ideas. His sculptures and installations are complimentary to his painted expression. He has exhibited in New Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and Cehnnai. he has been participating in group shows in India and abroad since 1984.