

champa tree

CONTEMPORARY ART GALLERY

Presents



“A ROOM FULL OF PHOOLS”

फूलों से भरा कमरा

ABHIJIT SAIKIA | BALAJI PONNA | KEERTI POOJA | MANISHA AGRAWAL
NEHAL DESAI | RAJU THOTA | SAMIR MOHANTY | SANJAY BISWAL
SHIVAM KHANDELWAL | SONALI LAHA | VENKATESH DHULI

W-114, Greater Kailash-2, New Delhi-110048
Email: champatreeonline@gmail.com Ph: +91 98105 63000

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Preview : Friday, 04th August 2023 (6:00 ~ 8:00 PM)

On view : 05th August ~ 03rd September 2023
11:00am to 6:30pm (open all days except Monday's & Gov. holidays)

IN SUPPORT OF

A4A
ARTS FOR ALL
ARTIST RESIDENCIES

'A Room Full of Phools' a sensory journey, where fragrances intertwine with art to narrate stories of life, love, memories, and observations.

In the realm of sensory wonders, every corner of our world, from the heart of the kitchen to the verdant gardens, markets, places, books, and our favourite things, all exude an ethereal fragrance that transcends time and space. Amidst this olfactory tapestry, our cherished memories weave their aromatic tales, enveloping us in a poetic symphony of scents, creating an artistic ode to the essence of life itself. Many poets, artists, and writers revered flowers as the mistress of fragrances; in historical fiction, Sherlock Holmes can identify a variety of tobacco by its aroma; while in the world of nature Pheromones are used as a form of communication by bees. Smells have a strong connection to emotions and can trigger a plethora of feelings, such as happiness, nostalgia, disgust, or comfort and evoking powerful memories. Presently, our city's atmosphere is immersed in a symphony of clouds, carrying with them the delightful aromas of flowers and the refreshing scent of rain. These captivating scents evoke the rich histories and cherished memories of Delhi and cities elsewhere.

This exhibition invites viewers to experience the evocative power of scents, igniting powerful emotional responses and stirring long-forgotten memories. Through a collection of artistic expressions, we seek to celebrate the essence of nature and life's mysteries by awakening a profound appreciation for the sensory world, connecting us to our past, and illuminating the magic of fragrances that thread through the tapestry of our lives.

'A Room Full of Phools' brings together a diverse group of 11 contemporary artists, each offering their unique perspectives and interpretations as they explore the fascinating world of fragrances and their profound impact on human existence.

Participating Artists:

**ABHIJIT SAIKIA
BALAJI PONNA
KEERTI POOJA
MANISHA AGRAWAL
NEHAL DESAI
RAJU THOTA
SAMIR MOHANTY
SANJAY BISWAL
SHIVAM KHANDELWAL
SONALI LAHA
VENKATESH DHULI**

ABHIJIT SAIKIA
"A ROOM FULL OF PHOOLS"



Landscape on The Table
Oil and Acrylic on Canvas
72 x 48 Inches
2023

INR 1,75,000/-

ABHIJIT SAIKIA
"A ROOM FULL OF PHOOLS"



Khaat
Oil and Acrylic on Canvas
72 x 48 Inches
2023

INR 1,75,000/-

BALAJI PONNA
"A ROOM FULL OF PHOOLS"



Following Polaris
Oil on Canvas
46 x 78 Inches
2023

INR 5,40,000/-

KEERTI POOJA
"A ROOM FULL OF PHOOLS"



Collected Fragrances I
Watercolor on Wasli Paper
18 x 12 Inches (each)
2023

INR 65,000/- each

KEERTI POOJA
"A ROOM FULL OF PHOOLS"



Collected Fragrances
Watercolor on Wasli Paper
8 x 12 Inches (each)
2023

INR 40,000/- each

KEERTI POOJA
"A ROOM FULL OF PHOOLS"



Locating Memories
Watercolor on Wasli Paper
8 x 12 Inches
2023

INR 40,000/-



Untitled 430
Watercolor on Paper
35 x 47 Inches
2023

INR 1,25,000/-



Untitled 428
Watercolor on Paper
35 x 47 Inches
2023

INR 1,25,000/-

NEHAL DESAI
"A ROOM FULL OF PHOOLS"



Udyan
Oil on Coated Linen
42 x 66 Inches
2023

INR 4,30,000/-

RAJU THOTA
"A ROOM FULL OF PHOOLS"



Springling Fragrances I
Acrylic & Glass Marker on Canvas
24 Inches Diameter (each)
2023

INR 60,000/- each

RAJU THOTA
"A ROOM FULL OF PHOOLS"



Springling Fragrances I
Acrylic & Glass Marker on Canvas
24 Inches Diameter (each)
2023

INR 60,000/- each

SAMIR MOHANTY
"A ROOM FULL OF PHOOLS"



The journey
Watercolour on paper
30 x 42 inches
2023

INR 1,95,000/-

SAMIR MOHANTY
"A ROOM FULL OF PHOOLS"



Blue land
Watercolour on paper
13 x 22 inches
2023

INR 50,000/-

SAMIR MOHANTY
"A ROOM FULL OF PHOOLS"



Rebreathe I
Preserved Twigs, Flower Petals & Feathers
25 x 25 Inches
2023

INR 1,35,000/-

SAMIR MOHANTY
"A ROOM FULL OF PHOOLS"



Rebreathe II
Preserved Twigs, Flower Petals & Feathers
35 x 25 Inches
2023

INR 1,60,000/-

SANJAY BISWAL
"A ROOM FULL OF PHOOLS"



Chirping Woods
Acrylic on Canvas
55 x 43 Inches
2023

INR 1,90,000/-

SANJAY BISWAL
"A ROOM FULL OF PHOOLS"



Untitled
Acrylic on Canvas
36 x 42 Inches
2023

INR 1,35,000/-

SHIVAM KHANDELWAL
"A ROOM FULL OF PHOOLS"



Fragrances of my Memories
Acrylic Color on Box
6 x 6 Inches (each)
2022

INR 14,000/- each

SHIVAM KHANDELWAL
"A ROOM FULL OF PHOOLS"



Fragrances of my Memories
Acrylic Color on Box
6 x 6 Inches (each)
2022

INR 14,000/- each

SONALI LAHA
"A ROOM FULL OF PHOOLS"



Smell of Forest
Watercolor on Wasli Paper
30 x 20 Inches
2023

INR 1,25,000/-

SONALI LAHA
"A ROOM FULL OF PHOOLS"



Smell of Rain
Watercolor on Wasli Paper
30 x 20 Inches
2023

INR 1,25,000/-

SONALI LAHA
"A ROOM FULL OF PHOOLS"



Touch Me Touch Me Not
Tempera on Wasli Paper
32 x 56 Inches
2023

INR 2,00,000/-

VENKATESH DHULI
"A ROOM FULL OF PHOOLS"



The Sky
Painted Fiberglass & MS Rod
45 × 25 × 15 Inches
2023

INR 2,00,000/-

VENKATESH DHULI
"A ROOM FULL OF PHOOLS"



Flower Gatherer
Painted Fiberglass
44 × 20 × 19 Inches
2023

INR 2,00,000/-

About the works:

Abhijit Saikia's utopian landscapes, inspired by the hill terrains of upper and lower Assam, vividly capture the essence of his dreams and memories, brimming with life and presented through the table. **Balaji Ponna's** work depicts the fragrance of landscapes, the Polaris star, and petrichor while raising existential questions about humanity and balance.

Keerti Pooja's artworks delicately unravel life's mysteries, metaphorically capturing fleeting moments with a sense of calmness amidst chaos, revealing life's true fragrance. **Manisha Agrawal's** intricately rendered artworks depict the negative human impact on fauna, using familiar objects to raise ecological awareness. **Nehal Desai** engages in daily dialogues with nature intertwined with self-identity, meditation, and accurate visual representations, crafting a tapestry of sensory experiences and capturing the botanical world's fragrances. **Raju Thota's** works capture the nature and character of situations through fragrances, heightened by his lockdown experience in a flower garden, but his battle with COVID-19 and loss of smell brought a profound realization of their crucial role in enriching our lives. **Samir Mohanty's** artwork revolves around nature as the protagonist, exploring the intertwined reality of the human body and nature using living materials, reflecting his earthy roots and profound ideas of man-nature symbiosis, science, and spirituality. **Sanjay Biswal's** paintings capture the innocence and beauty of nature, presenting individual subjects with intricate detail and exploring every shade of green, revealing the inner beauty and conceptual aspect of the natural world while offering a glimpse of visual peace and boundless inspiration in the present moment. **Shivam Khandelwal's** artworks are infused with the fragrance of childhood memories spent playing in his father's shop and exploring the neighborhood market, shaping his life during his formative years. Driven by the transformative power of self-love and mindfulness, **Sonali Laha's** artworks weave together intricate realms of the human mind, body, and soul, guiding viewers on a path of self-discovery and enlightenment, emphasizing the fragrances of spirituality in the body and nature. **Venkatesh Dhuli's** sculptures embody the fragrance of the temple walls of southern India from his childhood, reflecting his profound connection with temple iconography and Chola Bronze sculptures, deepening his understanding of emotions and their relation to ancient humans' political and social life.

This show "A room full of Phools" showcasing 11 artists trying to visualize the association to the sense of smell through their paintings and sculptures

About the artists:

Abhijit Saikia (b.1989) completed his BFA from Government College of Art and Craft, Guwahati and MFA in Painting from College of Art, New Delhi. He was granted a scholarship in Fine Art in 2014 and secured a prize for two consecutive years during his educational period as well. He has participated in many exhibitions including the Bishnu Prasad Rabha Art Exhibition at State Art Gallery, Assam in 2009, the 7th North East Exhibition of Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra, 2011 etc. In addition to that, he has also been a part of various workshops such as the Unexplored Spaces National Artists Camp in Haryana. His works are in collections of various national and international art enthusiasts. He lives and works from his studio in Delhi.

Balaji Ponna (b.1980) completed his BFA in Graphics from Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh and MFA in Graphics from Visva Bharati University, Santiniketan, West Bengal. He is the recipient of a National Scholarship from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. He has participated in several art fairs, solo and group shows in India and internationally in New York, Hong Kong and Verona. Presently, he lives and works from his studio in Vadodara.

Keerti Pooja (b.1995, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand) completed her BFA in Painting from Andhra University in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, and is presently pursuing her MFA in Printmaking from M. S. University, Vadodara, Gujarat. She is the recipient of accolades from Prafulla Dahanukar Art Foundation for three consecutive years – Visakhapatnam City award for painting in 2016, Women Artist award for Andhra Pradesh in 2017 and Andhra Pradesh State award in 2018. She has participated in art exhibitions and Workshops in India. Presently, she lives and works in Vadodara.

Manisha Agrawal (b.1989, Indore, Madhya Pradesh) completed her BFA & MFA in Painting from Government Fine Arts College, Indore. Her list of accolades includes a gold medal and the Jury award by the Manav Sanket Academy, Ujjain, and the Honorable Mention Award at the 83rd All India Academy Exhibition of arts, Amritsar. She has been a part of various residencies, art camps and group shows. She marks her participation in numerous group exhibitions counting Female Artist Exhibition at State Lalit Kala Academy, Goa Art Fest at Museum of Goa amongst others. She presently lives and works in Indore.

Nehal Desai completed her BFA in Painting from the M. S. University, Vadodara, Gujarat, and MFA in Textile Design from the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, Gujarat. In 2006, she started a brand of clothing and home textiles by the brand name 'Nehal Desai' and led it for over a decade and a half, from her studio and workshop in Ahmedabad, a city known for its rich craft traditions. Her brand has been exhibited at Maison and Objet, Paris in 2018. Over the years she has collaborated with architects, spatial designers and textile brands to create artworks and textiles for their specific needs. In 2019, Nehal Desai made a transition from running a clothing and home textiles brand to focusing on studio art practice and textile consultation. By focusing on studio art practice, Nehal Desai can and is likely to explore her creativity and experimentation with textiles in new and exciting ways. Her artworks have been commissioned/acquired by clients in India and abroad. She presently lives and works in Delhi.

Raju Thota (b.1989, Baruva, Andhra Pradesh) completed his BFA in Painting from Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh & MFA in Painting from Govt. College of Arts & Craft, Kolkata, West Bengal. He is the recipient of several accolades, such as, National Scholarship by the Govt. Of India, Ministry of Culture 2013-15; Sponsorship Award in Painting at State Gallery of Art, Hyderabad in 2019 & 2022; and South zone Gold Award in Drawing from Prafulla Dahanukar Foundation 2018. His first solo exhibition "Sprinkling Fragrances" was held at State Gallery of Art, Hyderabad in 2023. He has participated in several art fairs, residencies, workshops and group shows in India and the international art fair - "H.E.A.T" Asian Contemporary Art Mela 2015, London, United Kingdom. His works have been published in the "ART ILLUSTRATED" Magazine for their Aug-Sept edition in 2014 and 100th edition in 2022. He presently lives and works in Hyderabad.

Samir Mohanty (b.1989, Odisha) completed his BFA in Painting from B.K. College of Art and Crafts Bhubaneswar, Utkal University of Culture, Odisha & MFA in Painting from S.N. School of Arts and Communication, Hyderabad Central University, Telangana. He has participated in several group shows and has received accolades in India. He lives and works in Delhi.

Sanjay Biswal (b.1981, Mayurbhanj, Orissa) completed his BFA from Govt. College of Art & Crafts, Khallikote, Utkal University of Culture, Orissa and MVA in Painting from Mangalayatan University, Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh. He has participated in several group shows, workshops and art camps in India. His works are in collection with private and institutional art collectors in India and overseas. He lives and works in Delhi.

Shivam Khandelwal (b.1995, Chhattisgarh) completed his BFA & MFA in Painting from IKS University, Khairagarh, Chhattisgarh. He has been a part of various group shows, such as, 55th annual art exhibition, Birla Academy of Art and Culture Kolkata 2022 & group exhibition at Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi in 2018 & 2019. He presently lives and works in Delhi.

Sonali Laha (b. Burdwan, West Bengal) completed her BFA from The Burdwan University, West Bengal & MFA from University of Hyderabad, Telangana. She is the recipient of accolades, such as, Junior Fellowship by Ministry of Culture, Government of India and Odisha Lalit Kala Academy All India Emerging Artist Award. Her works have been featured in several publications - The Art of India 2022 By the Times of India; Two Women, Two New Perspectives by The New Indian Express & The Moving Yarns at Alliance Francaise, Hyderabad, by The Pioneer. She has been a part of various artist talks, residencies, workshops and group shows across India. She presently lives and works in Bengaluru.

Venkatesh Dhuli (b.1994, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh) completed his BFA in Sculpture from Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh & MFA in Sculpture from Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. He is the recipient of accolades HRD young scholarship by HRD minister 2018-2019 and Delhi City Award by Prafulla Dahanukar Art Foundation 2017. He has participated in several group shows and workshops in India. He lives and works in Delhi.

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 [gallerychampatree](https://www.instagram.com/gallerychampatree)