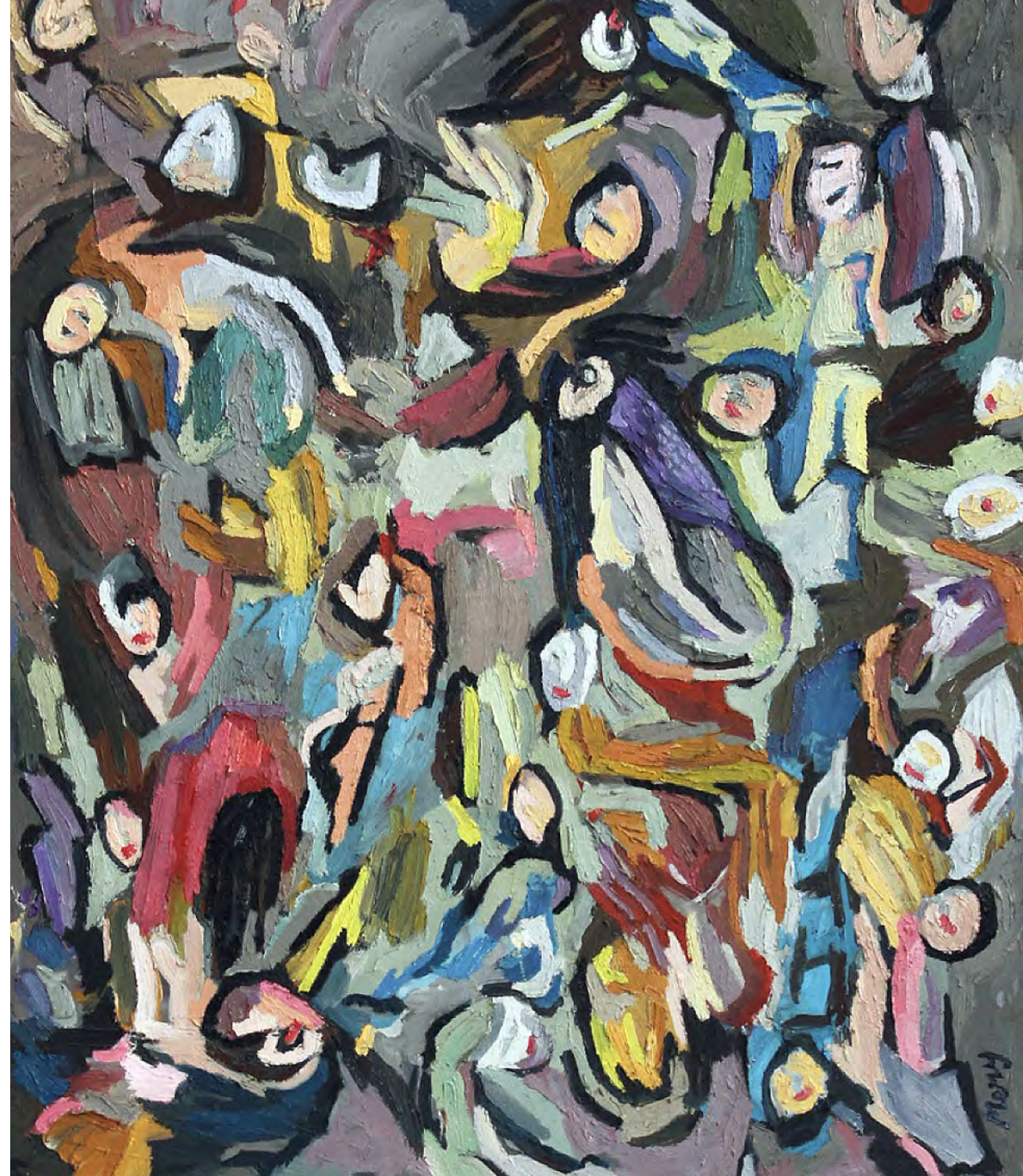


LOVE POURS FROM MY WOUNDS

MERY BORAH

CURATED BY SHAUNAK MAHBUBANI

24 AUG - 01 OCT, 2023



Mery Borah's densely layered impasto canvases hold a palimpsestic richness of emotional experiences. Presenting a body of work created over eight years for her first solo exhibition at Vida Heydari Contemporary, the artist channels the thoughts of Chicana writer Gloria Anzaldúa, who asks, "*We speak in tongues like the outcast and the insane...how dare we reveal the human flesh underneath.*" Here, subverting these patriarchal constraints, Borah deploys the raw power of abstract figuration to claim her own voice.

Raised in a small village in Eastern Assam, Borah came to Kolkata to pursue her MFA. The pressure of the big city is a prominent character in many of her paintings and drawings. The feeling of being subsumed by the crowd is recurrent, corporeally in the bustle of the streets, and also as a young artist navigating the opaque corridors of the art world. The artist recounts her process in creating these works as deeply intuitive, often without a detailed sketch or plan, directly channeling experiences such as repeated micro-aggressions in public spaces, or the struggle of finding safe housing. Affected by these everyday experiences, the figures break out of their two-dimensional plane, distorting, melding into one another, and losing discerning features, evocative of Karl Marx's ever pertinent writings on *alienation* in a capitalist society.

The artist is passionate about examining the factitious barrier between humans and nature. In a series of paintings reminiscent of Giuseppe Arcimboldo's fruit and floral faces, Borah constructs her painted bodies via an assembly of consumer objects, from packaged food to beauty products. One can read a presence of hope in the artist's mind as the series pivots to a damaged, yet uneasy calm within compositions of paint tubes, brushes, and colouring sticks.

*Your cruelty is no match for my spirit.
Try to break me
and you will see
love that pours like blood from my wounds.*

— Aija Mayrock

Borah's paintings underscore the value of creative acts in a fractured world, a process through which these memories are galvanized. In the encounter with these deeply vulnerable works, we too, are given the freedom to voice our own restrained emotions. Their presence goes beyond recounting a series of incidents, becoming charged emblems of creative alchemy, resilient acts of love.



LOVE POURS
FROM MY WOUNDS

BY NICKI DUBOVIK

LOVE POURS FROM MY WOUNDS
Nicki Dubovik's work is a powerful exploration of the human condition, focusing on the themes of love, pain, and resilience. The painting 'Love Pours from My Wounds' is a testament to the artist's ability to transform personal experience into a universal statement. The dense, colorful composition is a visual metaphor for the complex and often painful journey of healing and self-discovery. The artist's use of bold, expressive brushstrokes and a rich palette of colors creates a sense of movement and energy, reflecting the turbulent nature of the human psyche. The painting is a testament to the power of love to heal even the deepest wounds, and a celebration of the human spirit's capacity for growth and transformation.



MERY BORAH
Rhythm of My Colour Palette 2 , 2019

Oil on Canvas
120.5 x 91.5 cm (47 x 36 in)

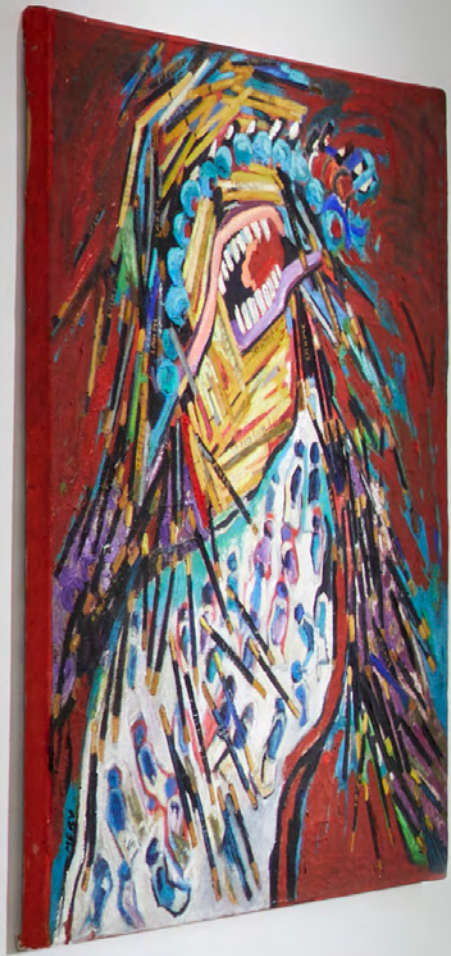






MERY BORAH
Chaos, 2017

Oil on Canvas
152.5 x 122 cm (60 x 48 in)



MERY BORAH
Local Train, 2016

Oil on Canvas
183 x 134.5 cm (72 x 53 in)





MERY BORAH
Untitled Rhythm, 2018

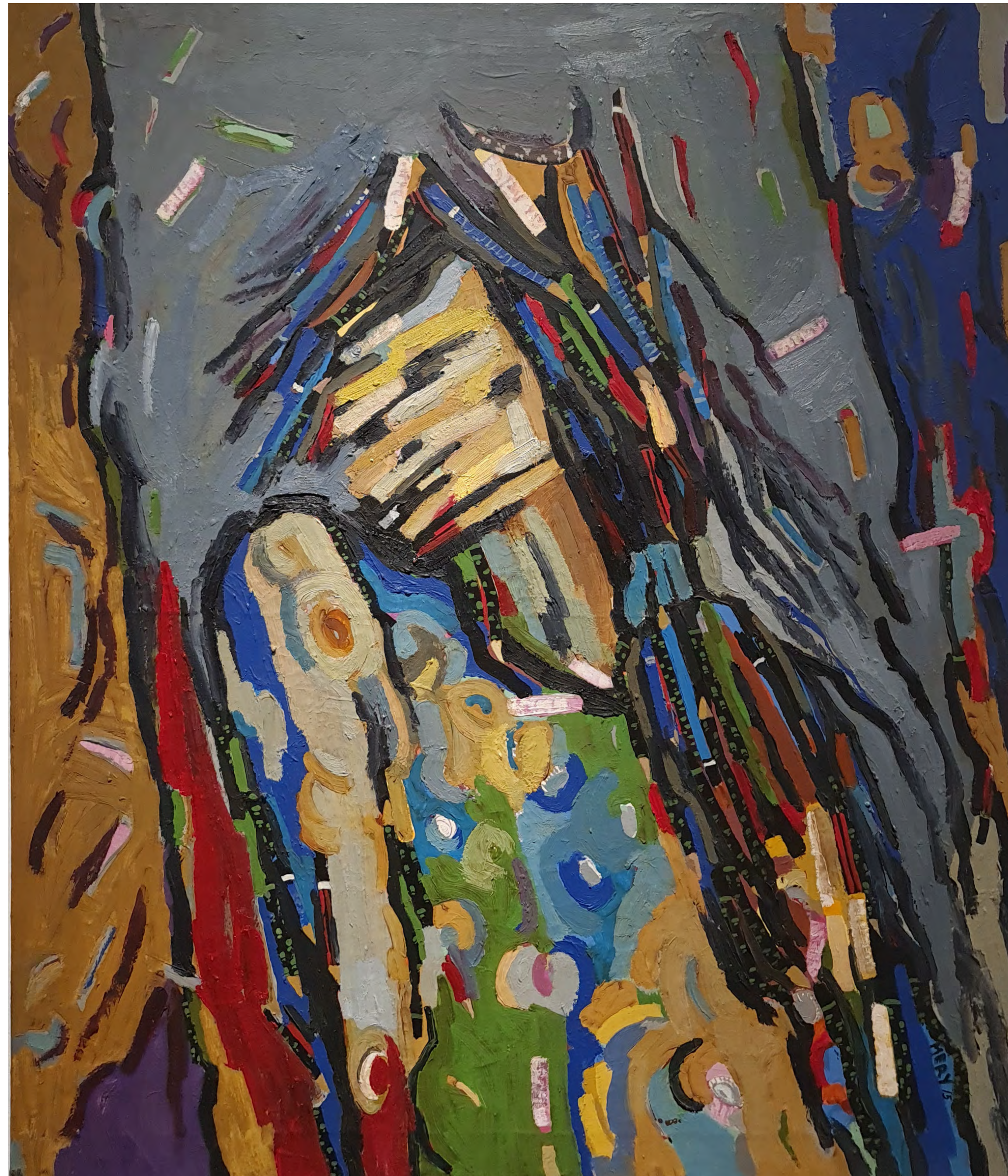
Oil on Canvas
120.5 x 91.5 cm (47.5 x 36 in)



MERY BORAH
Rhythm of My Colour Palette 1, 2018

Oil on Canvas
120.5 x 91.5 cm (47.5 x 36 in)





MERY BORAH
Hope, 2015

Acrylic and Oil on Canvas
89 X 76.5 cm (35 x 30 in)



MERY BORAH
Untitled, 2023

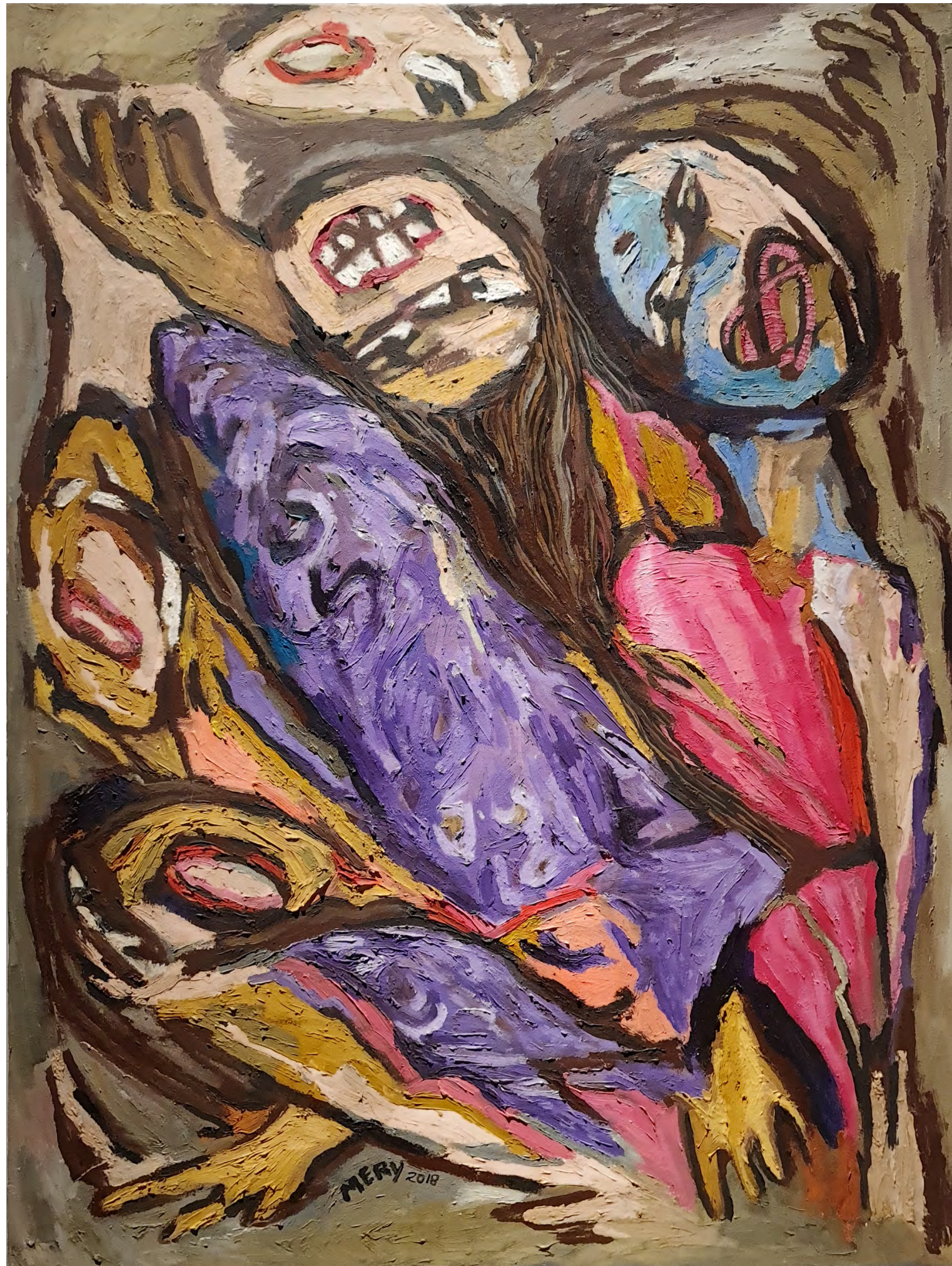
Acrylic on Canvas
52 x 40.5 cm (20.5 x 16 in)



MERY BORAH
Untitled, 2023

Acrylic on Canvas
92.5 x 76 cm (36.5 x 30 in)





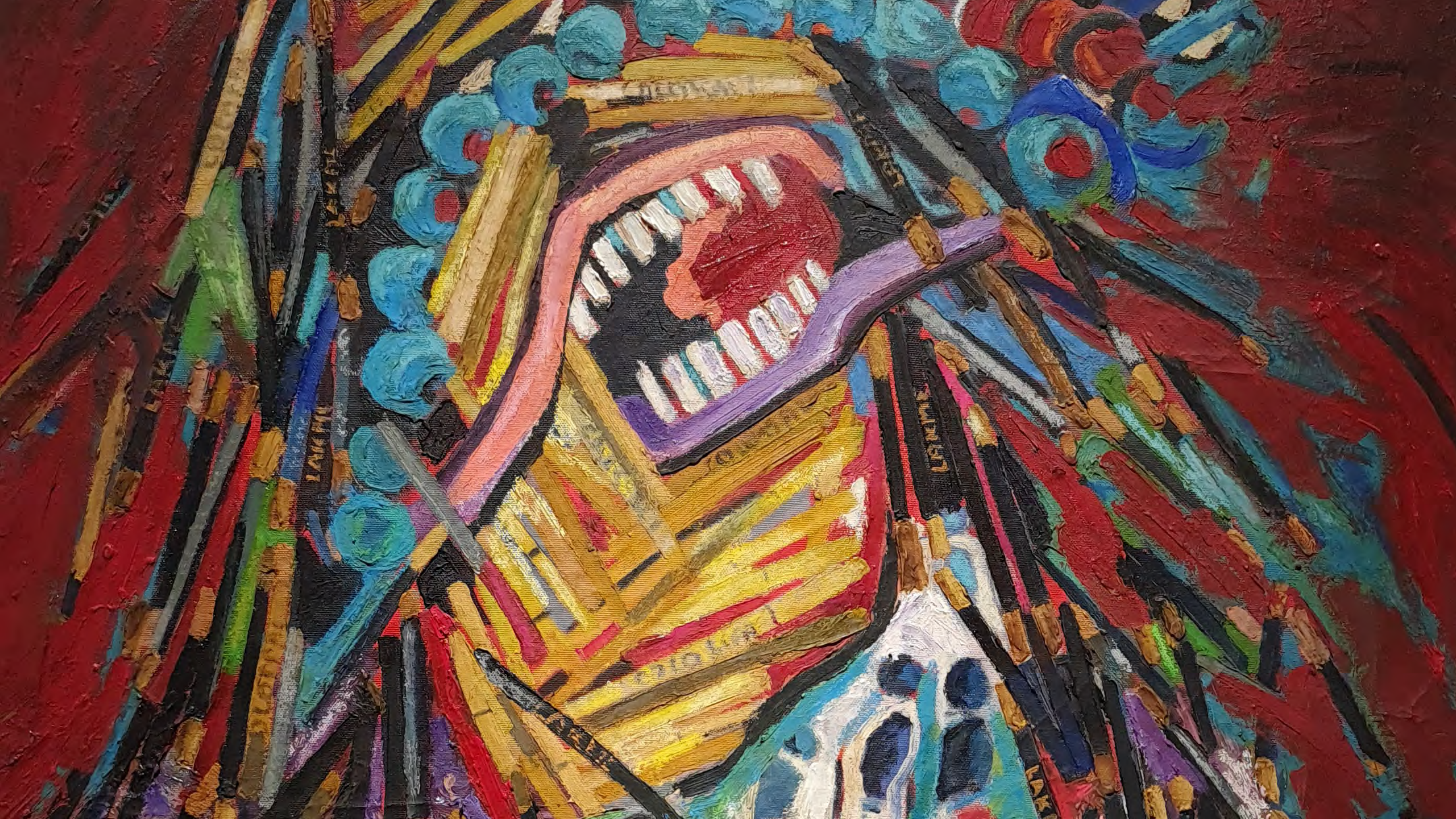
MERY BORAH
Untitled, 2018

Oil on Canvas
100 x 76 cm (39.5 x 30 in)



MERY BORAH
Sceam, 2014

Oil on Canvas
89 x 76 cm (35 x 30 in)





MERY BORAH
Struggle, 2015

Oil on Canvas
116.5 x 89 cm (46 x 35 in)

MERY BORAH
Violence, 2013

Oil on Canvas
120.5 x 91.5 cm (47.5 x 36 in)







MERY BORAH
Untitled, 2016

Mixmedia on Paper
28 x 24 cm (11 x 9.5 in)



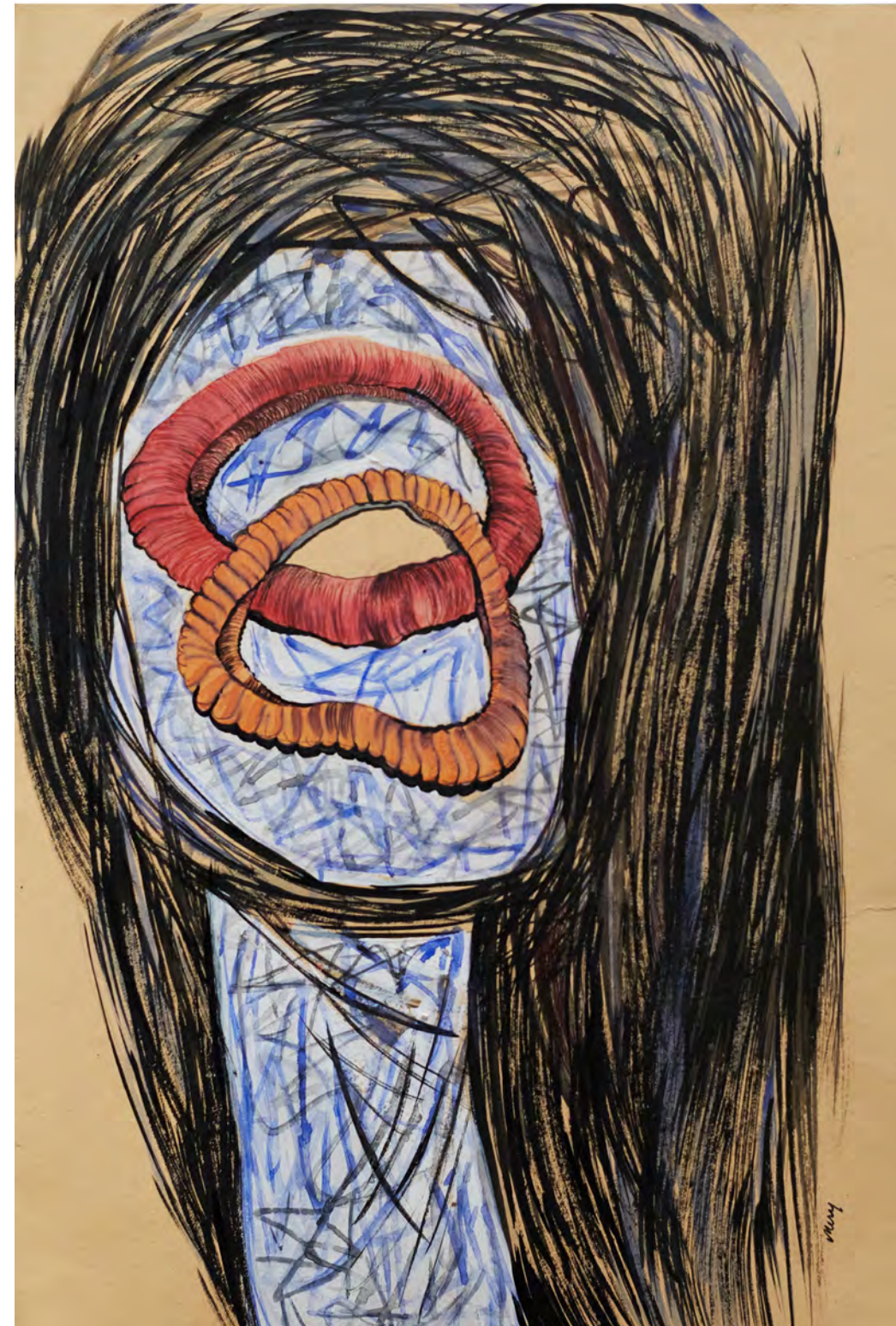
MERY BORAH
Scream, 2016

Watercolour, Pen, Ink on Paper
28 x 24 cm (11 x 9.5 in)



MERY BORAH
Untitled, 2016

Mixmedia on Paper
28 x 24 cm (11 x 9.5 in)



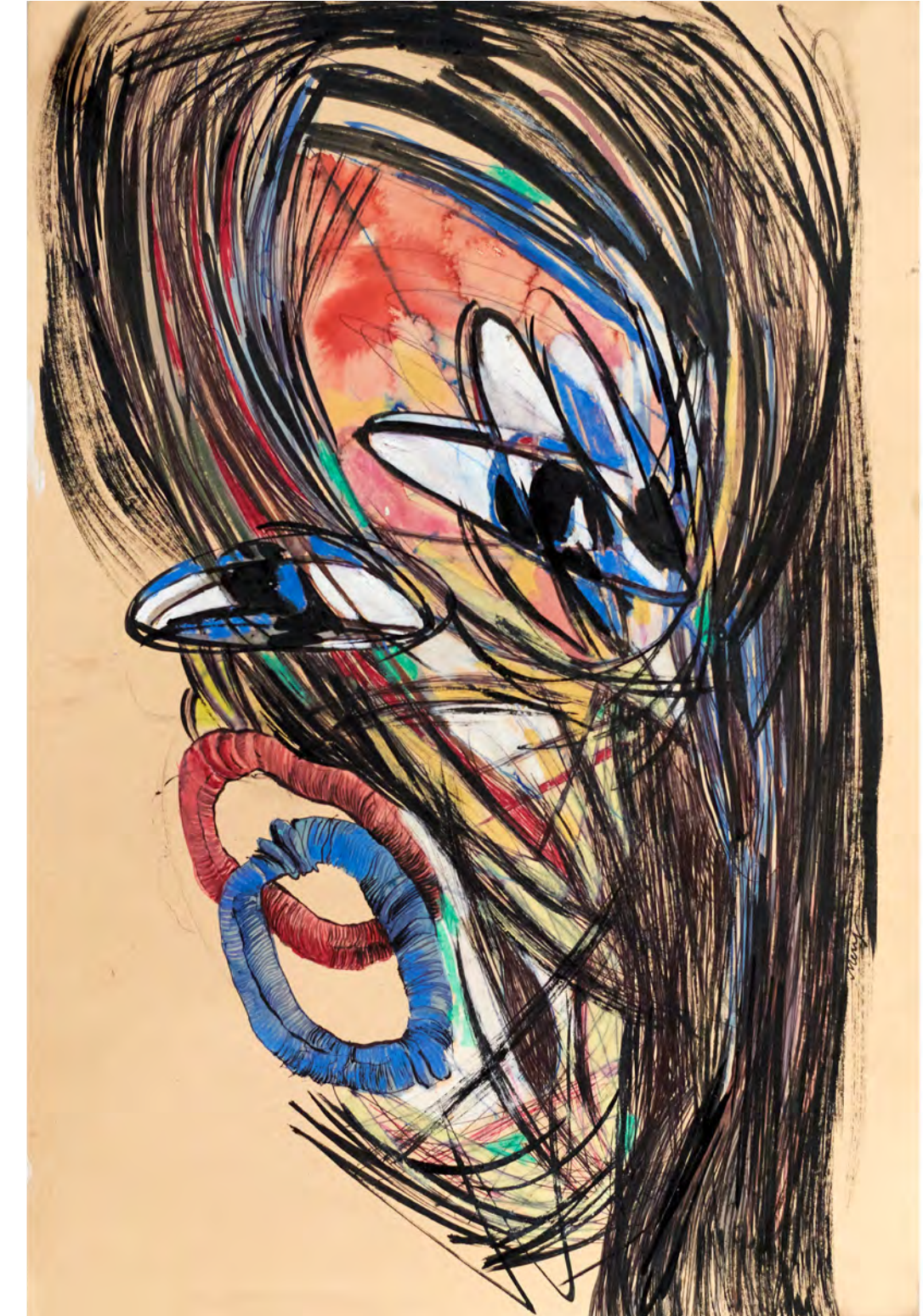
MERY BORAH
Insecure Face, 2017

Watercolour, Ink on Paper,
38 x 25.5 cm (15 x 10 in)



MERY BORAH
Insecure Face, 2017

Watercolour, Ink on Paper
38 x 25.5 cm (15 x 10 in)



MERY BORAH
Insecure Face, 2017

Watercolour, Ink on Paper
38 x 25.5 cm (15 x 10 in)



MERY BORAH
Insecure Head, 2016

Acrylic, Ink on Paper
70 x 51 cm (27.5 x 20 in)



MERY BORAH
Expression, 2018

Watercolour, Pen, Ink on Paper
25.5 x 18 cm (10 x 7 in)



MERY BORAH
Face 3, 2017

Watercolour, Pen, Ink on Paper
40.5 x 33 cm (16 x 13 in)





MERY BORAH

Born in 1986 in Jorhat, Assam, Mery attained a BVA in Painting from the Government College of Art and Craft, Guwahati, in 2012, followed by an MVA in Painting from the Government College of Art and Craft, Kolkata, in 2014.

Through works executed in oils, acrylics, water-based colours and drawings on paper, and inquiries centred on the world of objects that create our immediate environments, Mery draws deeply from the feelings of insecurity and restlessness to express the vulnerable state of the body and mind. Her paintings become a conduit for expressing the violence in contemporary society inflicted by the self-centred and animalistic nature of man. The act of breaking the illusion of linear perspective which eventually leads to abstract figuration, becomes a device for Mery to evoke one's daily confrontation with aggression and reality.

She has participated in numerous group shows over the years, with works being exhibited at the Lalit Kala Akademi, Kolkata, the Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi, and the Rabindra Bhawan, Guwahati, among others. Mery is a recipient of the Young Talented Artists Award, 2010-11, conferred by the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India.

Mery Borah lives and works in Kolkata, India.

ARTIST CV

Education

2014 - MVA in Painting, Government College of Art and Craft, Kolkata, India

2012 - BVA in Painting, Government College of Art and Craft, Guwahati, India

Group Exhibitions

2017 - International visual art exhibition, Srimanta Sankardev Kalaskhetra , Guwahati, India

2017 - Impetus, Lalit Kala Akademi, Kolkata, India

2016 - Lalit Kala Annual Exhibition, Lalit Kala Akademi Kolkata, India

2015 - Creative Impulse, Lalit Kala Akademi, Kolkata, India

2014 - Sangam, Lalit Kala Akademi, Delhi, India

2013 - My City, Lascar Memorial, Kolkata, India

2013 - SPACE, Gaganendra Art Gallery, Kolkata, India

2013 - Annual Exhibition, Govt. College of Art And Craft Kolkata, India

2011 - Group Exhibition, Rabindra Bhawan, Guwahati, India

2009 - Rong, Dighali Pukhuri, Guwahati, India

2009 - Group Exhibition, Rabindra Bhawan, Guwahati, India

2007 - North East Exhibition, Srimanta Sankardev Kalaskhetra, Guwahati, India

Award

2010 - 11 - Young Talented Artists Award under the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India



SHAUNAK MAHBUBANI

Shaunak Mahbubani (they/she) is a nomadic curator and writer. They primarily pursue projects under the exhibition series 'Allies for the Uncertain Futures' focussed on exploring possibilities of co-visioning futures grounded in the pursuit of non-duality. The fourth iteration in this series, AUTOPOIESIS, had manifestations and cross-pollinations across Mexico City, New Delhi and Berlin in 2022-23. They will curate The Albanian Conference at the upcoming Lagos Biennale, in 2024. Other recent curatorial projects include Party Office at documenta fifteen, Kassel, in 2022, co-curated with Vidisha-Fadescha; A—ligning the Un—certain, Maxim Gorki Theatre, Berlin, in 2022; Skin To Skin, Experimenter, Kolkata, in 2023; Entre Sures, Mexico City, in 2021, co-curated with Eli Moon; Seeds are Being Sown, PRAF, New Delhi, in 2020; Reality is Post-Produced, TIER, Berlin, in 2019; Saavdhaan: The Regimes of Truth, New Delhi, in 2018 and Towards Resistance, Pune, in 2017.

Mahbubani's art writing has appeared in Artforum, Critical Collective, Mezosfera, ifa Biennale stories, STIR World, Hakara Journal and other platforms. They have been awarded residencies, grants and engagements from Goethe-Institut, ISCP New York, La Napoule Art Foundation France, The Gujral Foundation, Inlaks Foundation and IFA India. Since 2019, they have been collaborating with artist-curator Vidisha-Fadescha under the moniker 'After Party Collective,' creating momentum towards the affirmation of trans*, intersex, and gender-dissident bodies through curatorial and performance projects, including DANCE TRANS* REVOLUTION, New York, in 2021 and publication series Consent of The Governed, co-edited with Party Office, 2021-ongoing.

Shaunak Mahbubani is currently based between Berlin and India.



VHC is founded by Vida Heydari, a curator and gallerist with over 14 years of diverse experience in the global art world. She has worked with accomplished Indian, Iranian and Chinese contemporary artists and has also consulted for various private and public collections.

Established in 2020, VHC is Pune's newest contemporary art gallery. VHC celebrates art by partnering with artists, promoting their work and connecting them to art lovers. The gallery showcases works by local and international artists and through its collateral programs aims to contribute to the cultural fabric of Pune city. VHC endeavours to create a platform to encounter and engage with relevant contemporary art practices from around the world.

VHC
VIDA HEYDARI
CONTEMPORARY

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