

MEDITATIVE MEDIATIONS

Curated by Vaishnavi Ramanathan.

Four artists... four different perspectives and techniques... one mood of reflection and introspection...

For any artist, art is a form of meditation that connects him/her with an inner sense of quietude. While this is true of all art works some art works convey the joy and inherent meditativeness of the creative process more deeply than others. Art then becomes a state of mind where time flows at a slower pace and the energy of frantic action is replaced by self-reflection. This show looks at the works of four artists whose works emerge from deep observation borne out of mindfulness and deliberation rather than desperation. This is reflected in the materials they use, their work process and visual language. These artists urge us to look into our inner world and draw from the calmness within.

The process of making and viewing art is often a meditative process where the boundaries between the artist and the art work, the art work and the viewer dissolve. While this is true of all art, some works convey the stillness and meditativeness of the creative process more deeply than others. Art then becomes a state of mind where time flows at a slower pace and the energy of frantic action is replaced by self-reflection. This show looks at the works of four artists, K. Aishwaryan, G. Gurunathan, C.Krishnaswamy and K.Rakshith, whose works emerge from deep observation borne of mindfulness and deliberation rather than desperation. This is reflected in the materials they use, their work process and visual language. These artists urge us to look into our inner world and draw from the calmness within. - **Vaishnavi Ramanathan**



K. Rakshith: Based in rural Karnataka where agriculture is a way of life, K.Rakshith's works emerge from his observation of nature as he works in the fields. Moth eaten leaves, dung balls made by insects and cocoons are starting points for his work. He then translates these observations to images through a process where the medium and the notion of labour have a crucial role to play. He labours over his images, mindfully repeating each form; evaluating its formation and its relationship with forms around. Since his vocabulary is based on repetition he prefers to work with basic forms - the dot, circle or square. These units allow him to explore the transition of space and time as with the addition of each unit over time, the space changes and at the same time remains same; an evolving relationship between the part and the whole.



The exhibition will be on view
at The Gallery @ InKo Centre
from **9 October to 7 November 2017.**



C. Krishnaswamy: Chennai-based artist and Yoga practitioner C. Krishnaswamy's works are a quest to understand the mysteries of creation and existence. He does so by using his personal experiences, of growing up in rural Tamil Nadu and his current life in the city, to interpret philosophical questions of identity and self. In his current series of works, he begins by creating a diary of words and concepts that intrigue him and then proceeds to dwell deeply on the word-image; he transforms the thinking process into a performance by working over and erasing the image over a period of time. For Krishnaswamy, this fluid process by which the image is created, nurtured and finally erased, is a metaphor for the nature of his quest - at times lucid and at other times incomprehensible.



G.Gurunathan: Chennai-based G.Gurunathan believes in living in the present. This is reflected both in his attitude to art and his work process. His works emerge from the sights, sounds and impressions of his travels. For him, travel is an important tool of self-awareness since it grounds him in the moment of travel and later in the immediacy of creating an image based on the travel. His work on display is also based on the notion of travel, but not of the physical kind. Here he has created an immersive work inspired by the calm of meditation and invites the viewer to participate in a journey through this experiential landscape. Using indigo, a material that undergoes a long process of refinement before it can be used, he dyed and created a painterly fabric. Foregrounding the unpredictable effects created by the interaction of the dye and the fabric, the work reflects Gurunathan's desire to live and embrace the present.



K. Aishwaryan: Bangalore-based Aishwaryan's works are autobiographical in nature, drawing from his experience and observation of everyday life. However he recognises that there is no 'self' without the 'other'. Hence he keenly observes and refers to the works of other artists, incorporating aspects of their imagery and techniques into some of his works. Amidst the flurry of interacting with fellow artists and art works, Aishwaryan also pauses to introspect on his own work; the creative and technical tools he uses, the way his thought process shapes up as well as the success of its outcome. The reflective nature of his work is evident in his visual language. Large, silent and potent spaces envelop figures lost in their own world of activity. Through such moments of quietude and looking within, Aishwaryan finds the insight to engage with a world replete with images, information and activity.

