





SUJATA BAJAJ

# ganapati

Exhibition on view from  
6<sup>th</sup> November - 20<sup>th</sup> December 2017

at

**K A L A K R I T I**

**ART GALLERY**

468, Road No.10, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad - 500 034

Tel : +91-40-6656 4466 | [info@kalakriti.in](mailto:info@kalakriti.in)

[www.kalakritiartgallery.com](http://www.kalakritiartgallery.com) | [fb.com/kalakriti](https://fb.com/kalakriti)



# सुजाता सुजाता...

Deeply embedded in Indian culture and present in many ways in myriad households, Ganapati has been the subject for artists and craftsmen since times immemorial. But hardly any artists have embraced the figure the way Sujata has done. The inexhaustible character of the form explains why it has taken the artist more than 30 years for this project to mature. For any artistic project, an incubation of this length is something quite out of the ordinary.

For Sujata Bajaj, Ganapati is her reservoir of color as she claims with great reverence. Speaking on her inspiration, "To me the form of Ganapati has a distinctive individuality in my empathy and in my creative being. It is the most boundless and playful form absorbed with positivity and optimism, it gives me a feeling of confidence and buoyancy and eliminates the presence of apprehension from within."

The Lord of Beginnings, Ganapati is ananta, beyond time and at the heart of an evolving mythology whose interpretation and inspiration yield practical life instructions. This path moves in spontaneity beyond form, dogma and personality. Artist Sujata Bajaj's fascination with him is – like the deity – abiding. Consisting of a wide body of work spread over three decades, she has painted, etched and sculpted, yielding an artistic abundance that is happily contradistinct with her early life, primed for Gandhian austerity. This series offers a selection from her recent works on Ganapati – a collection of work that we are privileged to showcase.

*Colours are food for my soul. They speak to me in a  
secretive powerful code. Somewhere the intuitive mind  
takes over and directs the flow.*

**SUJATA BAJAJ**







*“These collages, done during 2010-2015, were an attempt to get past and present together. The*

*choice of materials reflects the influences of the various countries and cultures that have moulded and collected over the past three*

*decades: it could be a piece of newspaper received at the time of the Ganapati Utsava, or a music*

*score sheet or part of wallpaper in a Parisian room. Inspired by*

*The paper cuts of Matisse, and technique (gouaches découpés) has been experimented and used in a few of the collages.*

*Each set has been produced as a limited edition of 25”*

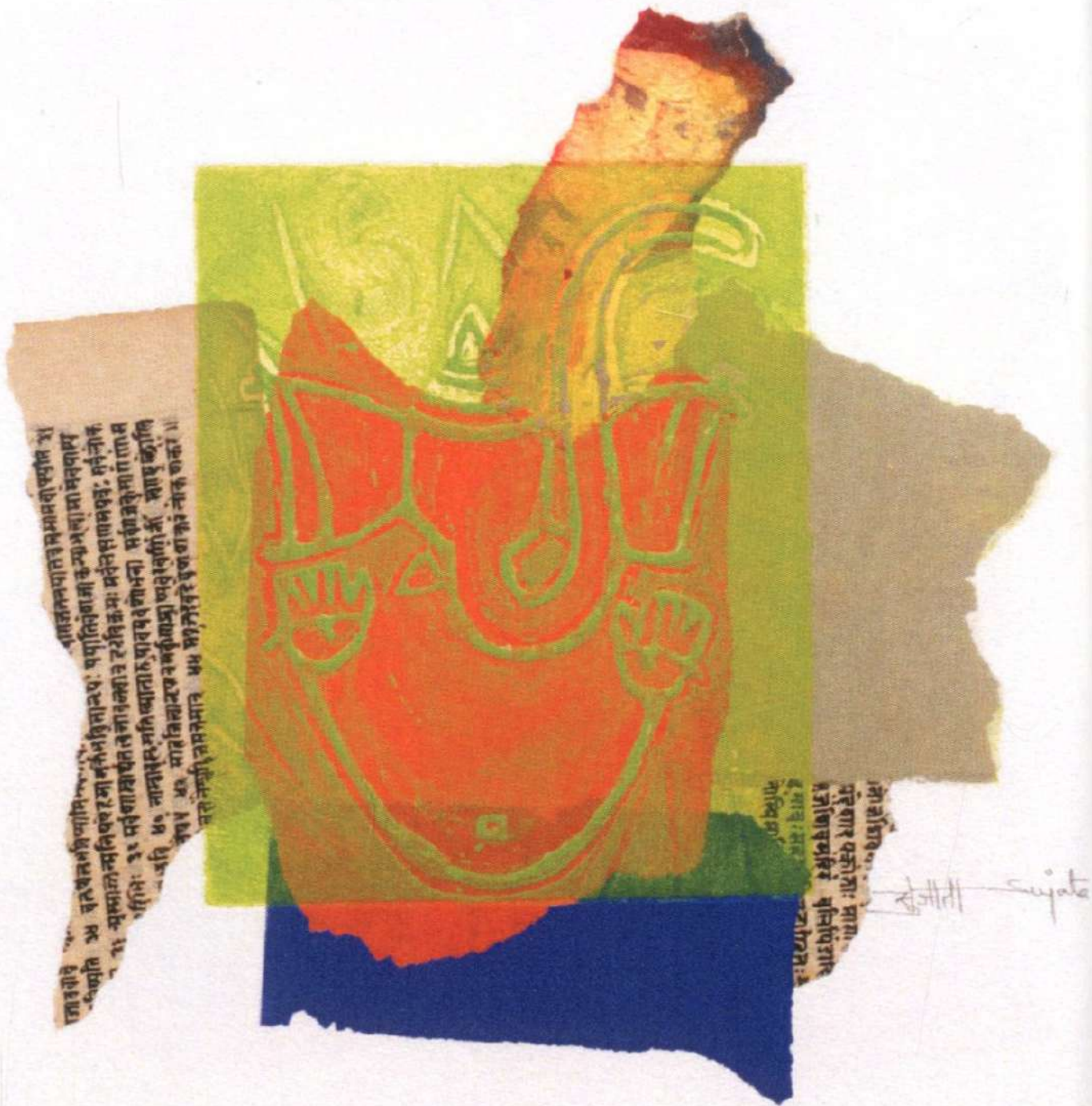
Mangalmurti  
Set of 5 etching collage



Chaturbhuja  
28 x 32 cm



Rudrapriya  
36 x 31 cm



Muktidayaka  
30 x 28 cm



Bhupati  
28 x 28 cm



Siddhipriya  
29 x 28 cm

*Sujata reveals a direct perception of form and colour in a very personal concept. To my mind, her work is an important and original contribution to contemporary Indian Art.*

*A more secretive part of her work is a vast collection of Ganapati drawings made over the years. I do not miss any opportunity to see these drawings whenever I visit Sujata in her studio. They always inspire me. I have also seen her experiment with the form in different mediums. The result is overwhelming. I have a strong wish to see Sujata one day exhibiting these works.*

**S.H. RAZA**  
PARIS, 2006

# Ashtavinayaka

Set of 8 etching collage



Avighna  
38 x 31 cm



Bhavagamyā  
35 x 29 cm



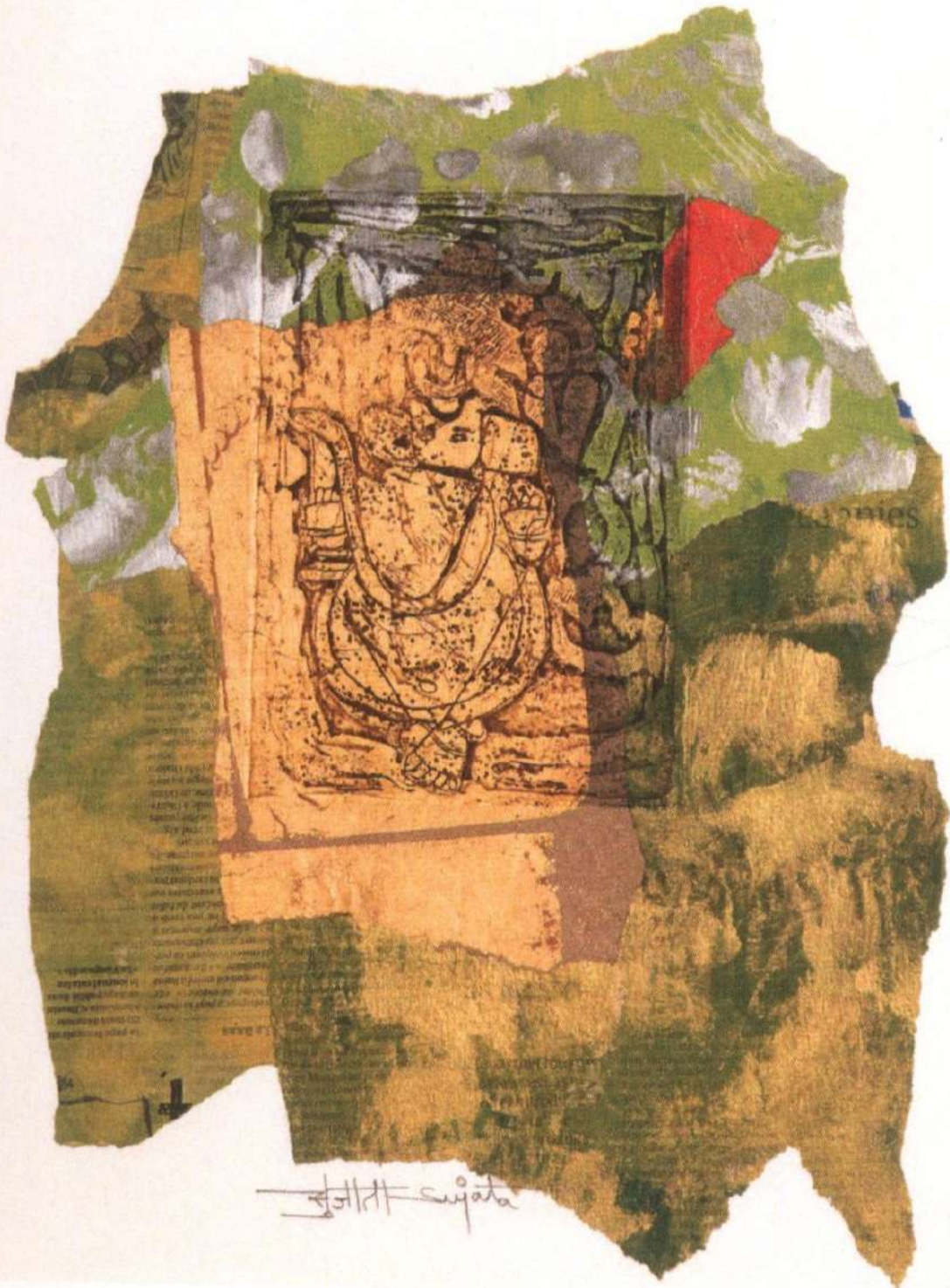
Chamikaraprabha  
40 x 33 cm



Dharmika  
38 x 37 cm



Ghirini  
39 x 37 cm



Jishnu  
40 x 28 cm



Manomaya  
36 x 32 cm



Kulapalaka  
35 x 25 cm



*“Most of the mixed media works were done between the period 2009-2015. Mixed media work is a composition of different elements woven together through various materials and processes, very much like my life. This medium allows for extensive experimentation and crossing of artistic boundaries.”*

Mixed media : Gannapati



Jagadadhara  
Mix Media | 67 x 112 cm



Ganakreeda  
Mix Media | 83 x 50 cm



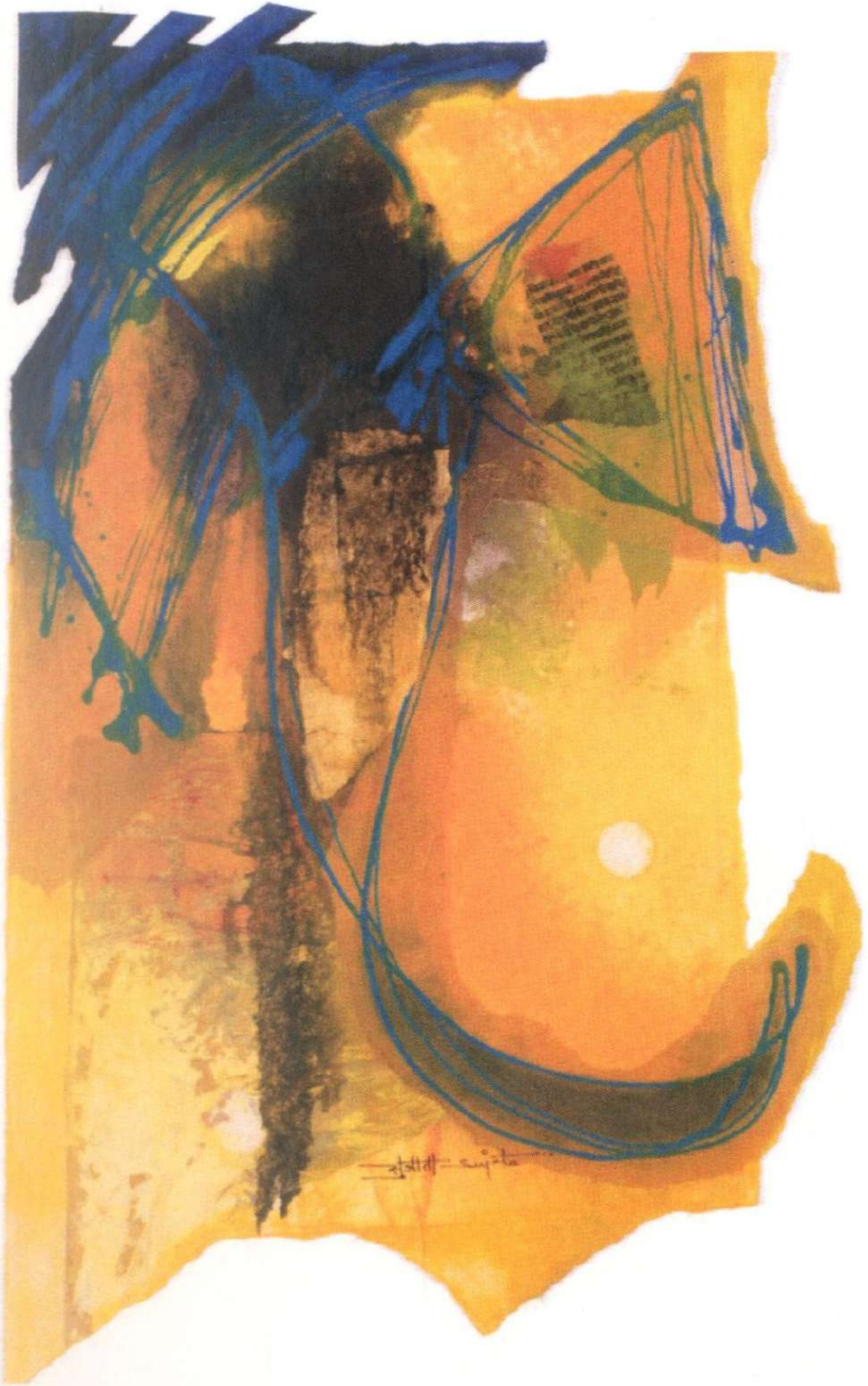
Sadyojata  
Mix Media | 86 x 52 cm



Chakrapani  
Mix Media | 82 x 46 cm



Unmattavesha  
Mix Media | 90 x 52 cm



Prabhu  
Mix Media | 80 x 50 cm

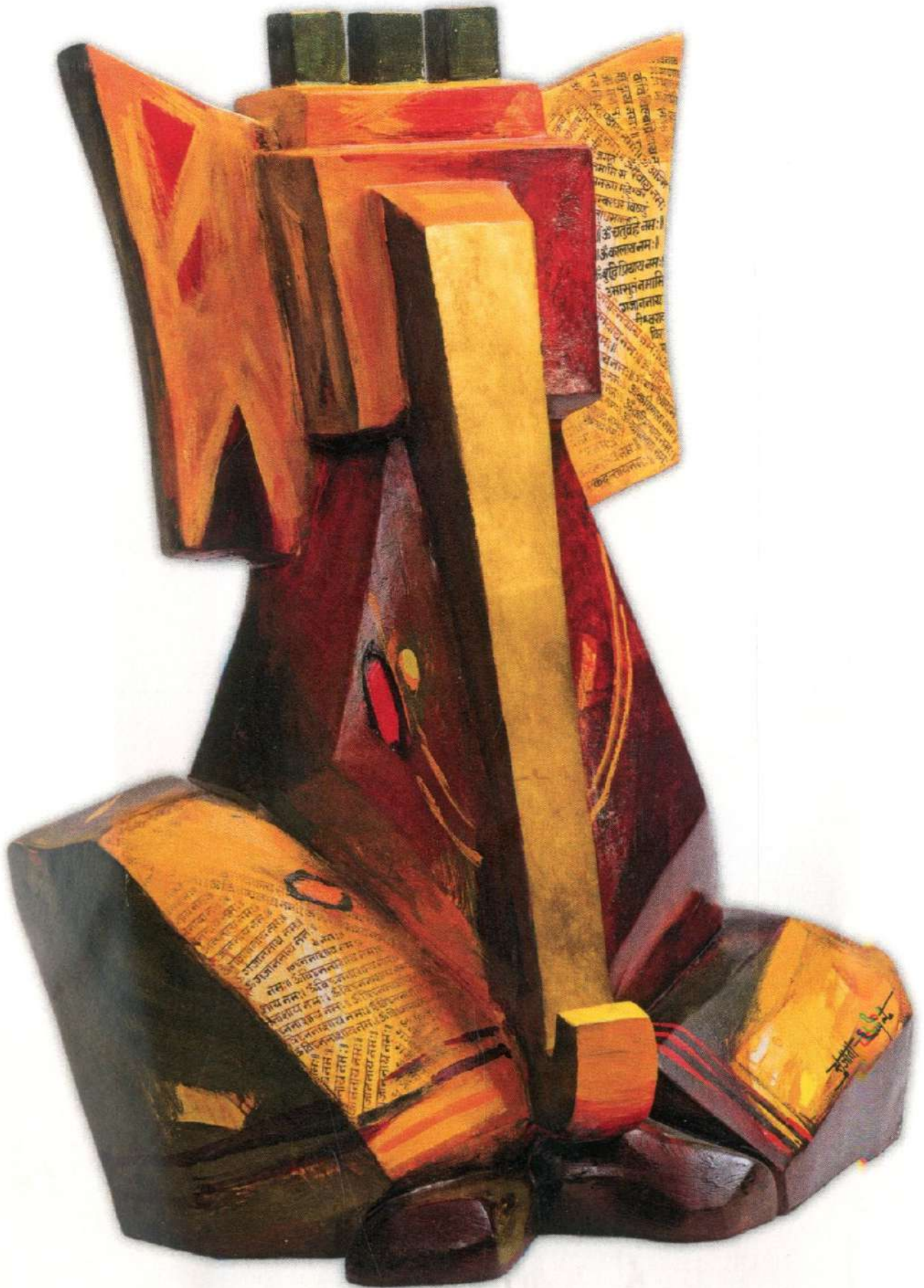


*“Sujata Bajaj’s endless imagination conjures the hopes and dreams through the use of gorgeous colours, arresting lines and compelling shapes. Sujata has lent her magic to third dimension as unveils her sculptures in fiberglass. These forms have been inspired by her etchings done over 30 years ago, and rendered in her contemporary and unmatched style.*

*The works were done during  
2009 -2015”*

# Sculpture

Gajakarna  
Acrylic & gold leaf on fiberglass | 83 x 65 x 46 cm





Vighnaharta  
Acrylic & gold leaf on fiberglass | 82 x 57 x 41 cm



*These Ganesha's are the expression of a joyful celebration, the celebration of spring. Seeing them assembled with such innovating audacity is the undeniable proof that Indian painting has conquered a new independence, in line with modernity, while preserving the depth and spirit of its myths.*

*Sujata Bajaj does not copy the past; she paves out its future.*

**OLIVIER GERMAIN - THOMAS**

PARIS, 2011

Sarasambunidhi  
Acrylic & gold leaf on fiberglass | 80 x 55 x 36 cm



Vijayasthira  
Acrylic & gold leaf on fiberglass | 83 x 57 x 66 cm



Vishvamukha  
Acrylic & gold leaf on fiberglass | 72 x 48 x 44 cm





*For Sujata, when a colour comes alive, life itself comes alive, yes, and the world is then a matrix of light and energy as reflected in her painting. Living colour is the freedom that spills over the frame of her canvas, the multiplicity that returns to the One; it is water making love to fire, the marriage of light and darkness, greater than all the sums of all the parts.*

*For then, there is Being. And Sujata Bajaj is seeking just that.*

**LORETTE NOBÉCOURT**

PARIS



Reds  
Mix Media | 51 x 54 cm



Reds  
Mix Media | 52 x 58 cm



Reds  
Mix Media | 55 x 58 cm



Reds  
Mix Media | 58 x 51 cm



*With her fondness for enigma, for  
mystery, for beauty as enigma,  
Sujata poses questions without  
asking us for an answer.*

*And she doesn't provide the  
answers either.*

*This colour springs from her as  
if by surprise. It is her need, her  
necessity, her deepest nature.  
It also springs, less overtly, from  
her native land. When I look  
upon some of her works, I feel she  
invented the colour red.  
Or even, shades of red.*

**JEAN-CLAUDE CARRIÈRE**

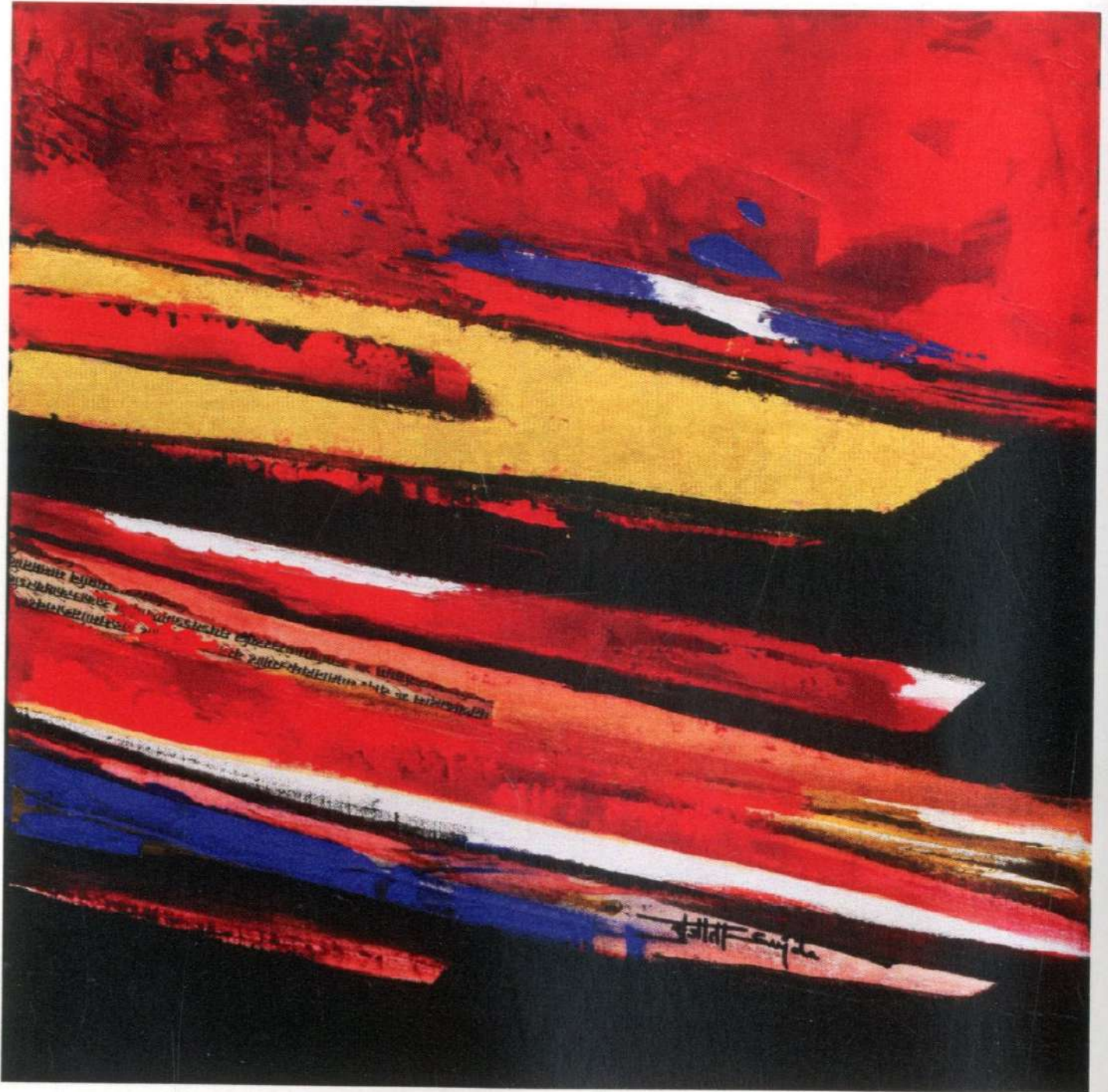
PARIS, 2015



Blues  
Acrylic on Canvas | 100 x 100 cm | 2015



Reds  
Acrylic on Canvas | 100 x 100 cm | 2015



Fragments  
Acrylic on Canvas | 50 x 50 cm

*Sujata's motivation is in a personal quest for which she has chosen Ganesha to be her guide, as a travelling companion, this figure she has known since childhood – not as a model to be imitated, or represented. And that quest, which progresses from painting to painting with a sudden appearance of some texts, is, above all, the search for herself. Without suspecting it, perhaps, she unveils, in each form, in each assembly of colours, in each 'impression' we receive, something of the chaotic, ineffable ensemble that makes her who she is – and us who we are.*

*And we are also, with her and thanks to her, taken on this unique journey.*

**JEAN-CLAUDE CARRIÈRE**

PARIS, 2015



# SUJATA BAJAJ

Daughter of Radhakrishnaji & Anasuyadevi Bajaj, Wardha, India

- Born and schooled in Jaipur, India
- Higher education from Pune, India
- First Class, First in B.A. and M.A. (Art and Painting), S.N.D.T. College, Pune



- Ph.D. in Fine Arts, S.N.D.T. University. Thesis on Indian Tribal Art : Special features of Indian tribal art and its influence on contemporary trends in art
- 1988-89 French Government Scholarship
- Studied at École Nationale des Beaux-Arts, Paris
- Worked in Studio Claude Viseux, Paris
- Married to Rune Jul Larsen. Daughter: Helena Bajaj Larsen

## **Achievements**

2003 Raza Award.

1991 Bombay Art Society Award.

1986 Selected for International Youth in Achievement,  
Cambridge.

1986 Best painting award, Nasik Kala Niketan.

1985 Painting selected for inclusion in the National Collection.

1984, 1979 State Art Award, Maharashtra.

1983 Outstanding Young Person of Maharashtra.

1982 Outstanding Young Person of Pune.

1979 Chancellor's Award, S.N.D.T. University, Mumbai.

## **International solo exhibitions**

2014, 2010, 2008, 2006, 2005, 2004, 2002 Galleri Sult,  
Stavanger, Norway.

2013 Indigo Blue Art, Singapore.

2009 Galerie Patrice Trigano, Paris, France.

2008 Saffronart and Osborne Samuel Gallery, London, U.K.

2004 Galerie Art & Littérature, Paris, France.

2003, 2000, 1997, 1993 Galleri Nordstrand, Oslo, Norway.

2001 Galleri Tendenes, Stavanger, Norway.

2000 Varatun Gaard, Stavanger, Norway.

1999 Atlantic Gallery, New York, USA.

1999 Stavanger Kunstforening, Norway.

- 1998 Galleri Aakern, Kongsberg, Norway.
- 1998 Galerie Mohanjeet, Paris, France.
- 1995, 1993, 1992 Galerie Art & Data, Frankfurt, Germany.
- 1994 Galerie Argile, Bruxelles, Belgium.
- 1994, 1991 Galerie Christine Marquet de Vasselot, Paris, France.
- 1993 Maison de Norvège, Paris, France.
- 1989 Galerie Bernanos, Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale, Paris, France.
- 1989 Galerie Jean-Louis Voisin, Pourville-sur-Mer, France.
- 1989 Centre d'accueil des étudiants du Proche-Orient, Paris, France.
- 1988 American Cultural Society, Washington DC, USA.
- 1988 Mac-Robert Art Centre, University of Sterling, U.K.
- 1988 Commonwealth Art Gallery, Edinburgh, U.K.

### **Solo exhibitions in India**

- 2016, 2012 Ganapati, Gallery Art & Soul and Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai.
- 2016 Ganapati, Art Alive Gallery and Visual Art Gallery, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.
- 2011 Art Alive Gallery and Palette Art Gallery in association with the French Embassy, New Delhi.
- 2007 Sublimation (ceramic creations), Gallery Art & Soul, Mumbai.

2007 Tao Art Gallery, Mumbai and Palette Art Gallery, New Delhi.  
2006 Transcendence, Gallery Art Musing, Mumbai.  
2005 Fire and Water, Chemould Art Gallery, Mumbai.  
2002, 1995, 1993, 1991 Apparao Gallery, Chennai.  
2002, 1995, 1985 Triveni Kala Sangam, New Delhi.  
2000, 1996, 1992, 1989, 1984, 1980, 1979 Jehangir Art Gallery,  
Mumbai.  
1991 Birla Academy, Kolkata.  
1988 Sarala's Art Centre, Chennai.  
1987 Karnataka Chitra Kala Parishath, Bengaluru.  
1987, 1979 Kamalnayan Bajaj Art Gallery, Mumbai.  
1986 Taj Art Gallery, Mumbai.  
1982 Academy of Fine Arts, Kolkata.  
1987, 1985, 1984, 1982, 1980, 1978 Bal Gandharva Art Gallery,  
Pune.

**Participated in more than 49 group exhibitions held worldwide.**

## Books on the artist

Sujata Bajaj, *L'Ordre du monde*; Texts by Jean-Claude Carrière, Lorette Nobécourt,

French edition, Albin Michel, Paris, 2007, English edition, Albin Michel, Paris, 2007; reprinted 2009

Sujata Bajaj, collection "Mains et merveilles"

Text by Michel Waldberg; French edition, Éditions de la Différence, Paris, 2009;

English edition, Éditions de la Différence, Paris, 2009

Ode to the Monumental (with other artists) Saffronart,  
Mumbai-Delhi

Seven (With other artists), Text by Ashok Vajpeyi, Ravi Kumar  
Publisher, Artemisia Ltd Hongkong, Bookwise (India) Pvt  
Ltd

Forms of Devotion: The Spiritual in Indian Art (with other  
artists)

Editor: Sushma K. Bahl Published 2015 by MOSA, Belgium &  
Niyogi Books, New Delhi

### **Talks on tribal art**

1991 École Nationale des Beaux-Arts, Paris, France.

1990 Ulster University, Belfast, U.K.

1990 Mandapa, Paris, France. 1989 Centre d'accueil des  
étudiants du Proche-Orient, Paris, France.

1988 Commonwealth Centre, Edinburgh, U.K.

1988 London and Hartland, U.K.

1988 American Cultural Society, Washington DC, USA.

1988 Princeton University, Princeton, USA.

1988 George Washington University, Washington DC, USA



Kalakriti India is an umbrella brand whose mission is to acquire, preserve and promote the art of Indian origin. A Fine Art Gallery, Contemporary Art Gallery, Art Gallery with Alfresco Dining, Art-themed Gifting Solutions Manufacturing are some of the commercial ventures in the Kalakriti India brand. An Artist Residency Program, Archives of Rare Photos and Antique Maps and Art and Culture promotion foundation are some of the non-profit ventures under the Kalakriti India umbrella.

The Kalakriti Art Gallery and Kalakriti Contemporary Art Gallery: Started in 2002, the Kalakriti Art Gallery focuses on the exhibitions of contemporary artists and masters. Through untiring efforts, the gallery has conducted solo shows of renowned artists such as Anju Dodiya, Jogen Chowdhury, K G Subramanyam, S H Raza, Surya Prakash, T Vaikuntam, Radhakrishna, Seema Kohli, Manish Pushkale to name a few. Art critics like Alka Pande, Jyotirmaya Sharma, Nancy Adajania, Ranjit Hoskote, and many more luminaries have held interactive sessions with the Hyderabad audience. The Gallery organises workshops, panel discussion, film screenings that are centered around and art actively ventures into collaborative programs with Alliance Francaise, Goethe Zentrum, University of Hyderabad, etc. and has participated in few National Art Fairs, namely Art Expo, Mumbai, India Art Fair, New Delhi and The Luxury Expo, Hyderabad.

Kalakriti, in association with reputed institutions and organizations, has arranged a couple of seminars and cultural activities. The Krishnakriti Arts and Culture Festival in January is an annual expression of this objective. The

Krishnakriti Foundation : Incorporated in the memory of Shri Krishnachandra B. Lahoti, since 2003, a non-profit activities for the upliftment of the artist community and promotion of rare forms of art and culture of India. The Annual festival of art and culture at Hyderabad will celebrate its 15th edition in January 2018. The cultural extravaganza agglomerates eminent artists in art and culture and literary stalwarts to showcase their finest achievements. The Krishnakriti Foundation provides scholarship to deserving students in the field of fine arts. Krishnakriti Foundation is starting a trust called "Friends of France" purely to encourage students across India from different disciplines to study in France.

In 2017, the Krishnakriti Foundation entered into an association with France's premier college of architecture - The INSA Strasbourg to offer 6 months fellowship for qualified architecture students of India. The Krishnakriti Artist Residency program invites artists from India and across the world. The Artist Exchange program was begun in association with the Embassy of France in 2016, a similar programme is announced with the city of Bordeaux. Krishnakriti Foundation works with the Department of Prisons of Govt. of Telangana to conduct art camps, which serve as creative outlets for the inmates. In November 2016, Krishnakriti Foundation and Art@Telangana associated with the Govt. of Telangana, Municipal Corporation of Hyderabad and the Street Art Foundation to jointly conduct the Annual Telangana Kala Mela and the Street Art Festival.

The festival culminated with the installation of the iconic Love Hyderabad sculpture on Tank Bund Road - an unforgettable impression of the city.

In 2017 Kalakriti Art Gallery participated at AGORA, Bordeaux; an exclusive exhibition of photographs of Hyderabad called

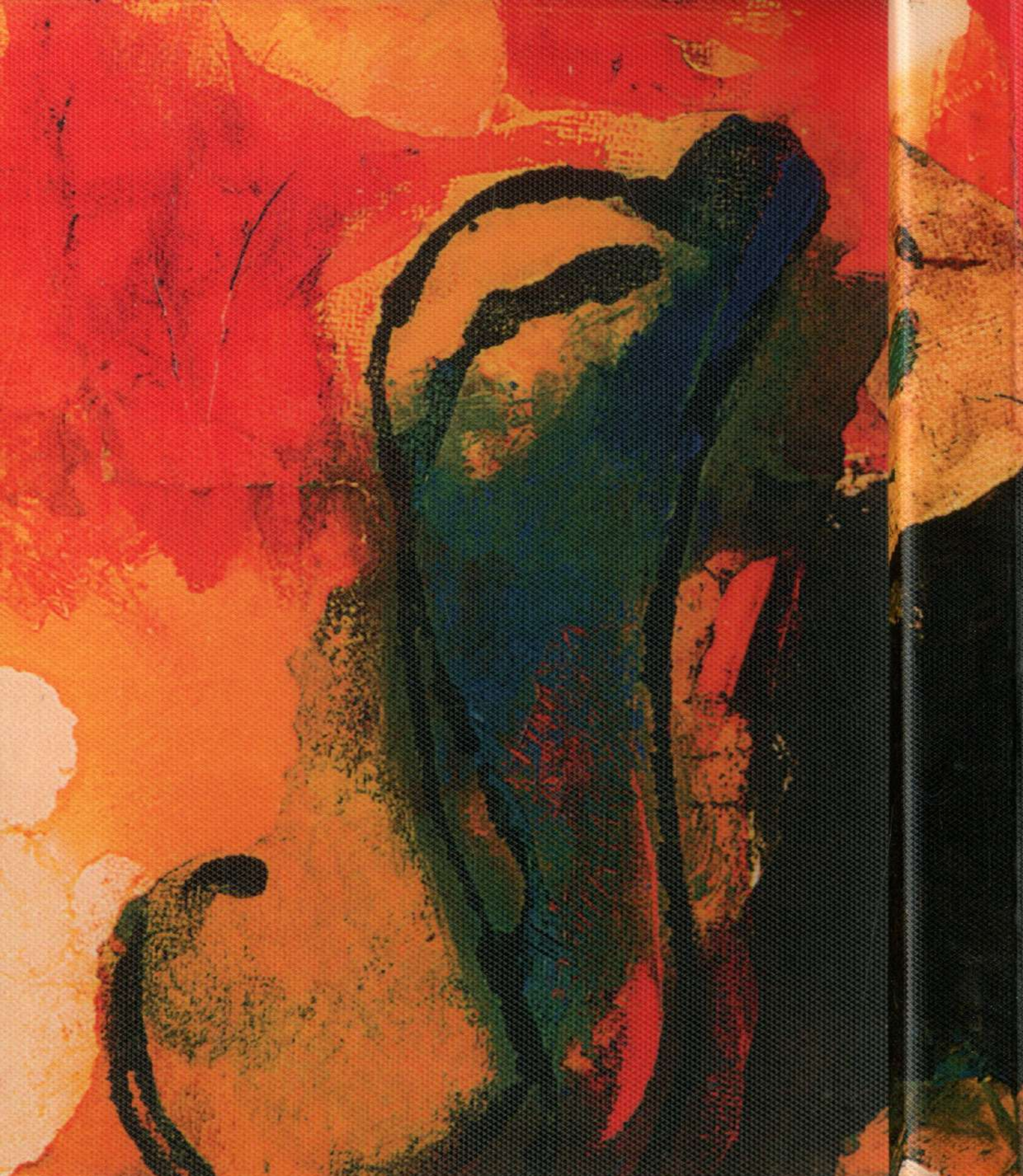
- "Photography, a Reflection of Yesterday Truth and Today's Imaginations".

The Krishnakriti Foundation has been closely associated with Bonjour India for Krishnakriti Festival of Art and Culture in 2010, 2013 and will again be partnering on the "Cosmology to Cartography" (a cultural journey of Indian Maps) exhibition at the 2018 Krishnakriti Festival, followed by an extension of the same exhibition at Indian Institute of Science (Bengaluru).

In 2017 the Foundation has organized an exhibition of Sumantra Sen's 'Hahakar' with Alliance Francaise of Hyderabad.

For his efforts in the bilateral promotion of art and culture, Mr Prshant Lahoti was awarded the French government's civilian award for art, "Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres".





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