



Soaring Beyond the Self

by Renuka Sondhi Gulati



The Proper Way
Oil and Acrylic on Canvas | 48 x 60 in. | 2013

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Exhibition is on view till 17th April, 2018

11am – 7pm | Monday – Sunday

K A L A K R I T I
ART GALLERY



Renuka Sondhi Gulati

Existence in the multiple spheres and their skilful juggling like a clever goddess make a contemporary woman relevant unto herself and to the rest of the world. Thus, a woman in the contemporary world is expected to hold, analyse, understand and act upon her own life instead brooding over the lost chances and bygone opportunities. In such a life whatever she creates becomes an expression of her own freedom as well as a model of freedom that the women around her could emulate. Looking at the present body of works by Renuka Sondhi Gulati, as an art critic who has written on her works earlier, one could definitely say that she has become a person who has successfully fused the public and private selves into one. In these works one could see the vigorous negotiations between spaces, a critique on the technological and emotional submission of women by the socio-economic forces, the external spaces of self assertion and the internal spaces of contemplation and reconciliation.

While Renuka as an artist employs the image of an eagle as a symbol of feminine freedom, ambition and ability to fly high, she very skillfully brings forth her own self as well as a surrogate self and attributes them with a sort of iconic nature. Eagle is a bird that



Illusions at Rest II
Oil and Acrylic on Canvas | 36 x 48 in. | 2011

could soar high up in the sky and also see its preys down. Eagles do prey as they float in the air but there are times they simply move like idle beings and in the very flotation itself they find their happiness. Here in Renuka's painting we see an eagle as the paraphrasing of the artistic self and interestingly one of the works where we find the eagle imagery quite dominant is titled 'Let Me be Free'. 'Soaring High Through Her Vision' is another work where the presence of a neck scarf worn by young executives in the job sector makes the newer roles of women in the contemporary society. Perhaps they are tied down by the noose around their necks as the jobs demand but they have all the freedom to fly high using their newly found economic and social freedom.

While the female protagonist is capable of declaring her freedom to the world and soar high with her own energy, agency and might, she sees and almost sympathizes with those women who despite having good jobs and pay checks, are forced to live a submissive life under the yoke of patriarchy or its social set up called marriage. Look at the work titled 'The Silent Submission'. The anthropomorphic imagery has some kind of an ironic indication. Though the head of this figure is that of a contemporary girl with a scarf around her neck her body is that of a goat. At the same time, there is a slight critique forwarded by the artist as she indirectly suggests the form of Kamadhenu, the female divine being with cow's body and human head. She is divine and powerful, but when she is brought to this world she becomes absolutely powerless. Renuka indirectly suggests that such a situation cannot be allowed for long.



The Silent Submission
Oil and Acrylic on Canvas | 48 x 60 in. | 2016

The two works that almost appear as the manifesto of the artist are titled as 'In My Dreams' and 'My Roots in My Country'. As mentioned earlier, the protagonists are in a creative slumber. In the former work, the female protagonist is on a happy structure which no longer

has the pain of the bed of arrows as experienced by Bheeshma in Mahabharata. Sleeping among the clouds, like the Lake District Poet, she sees the vision of creations with eyes closed. The same contentment and happy face we witness in the latter work where



The Visual Saga
Oil and Acrylic on Canvas | 48 x 60 in.

the woman is seen sleeping under a Banyan tree, depicts the tree of enlightenment. What makes this work interestingly intriguing and specifically bold is the artist's daring to make her protagonist sleep under the Banyan tree, snatching the right to enlightenment from the male hands and also daring to sleep under a tree like a mendicant devoid of the fear of theft or molestation. It is a sort of reclaiming the spaces for herself and for all the women in the world.

Taking a cue from the changing times and the moods of the country, Renuka has emphasized her love for the mother land. According to the artist, the empowerment of the country has a lot to do with the empowerment of women and she is ready to go by the present day mainstream discourse of patriotism and she does find it as a morale booster for the artist in her. In the sculptures, she emphasizes how important it is to believe in the ideological apparatuses like family and society and to conform with the given. She affirms her indebtedness to her country and family and celebrates it in her works uncritically. Onlookers could resort to the poetic understanding of her works through willing suspension of disbelief, and Renuka Sondhi Gulati is an artist of our times who would stand for the country and the family, come whatever may.



Search For Eternity
Oil and Acrylic on Canvas | 40 x 60



The Bonding
Bronze | 13 x 15 x 16 in. | 2013 | Edition 2 of 9



Esoteric III
Bronze | 18 x 7 x 10 in. | 2014



In Conversation
Fiberglass | 16 x 15 x 14 in. | 2013



Compassion
Bronze | 18 x 11 x 12 in. | 2015





My Roots In My Country
Bronze | 20 x 11 x 10 in. | 2017



Expanding Horizons
Bronze | 17 x 12 x 10 in. | 2016



Soaring High
Bronze | 22 x 4 x 5 in. | 2017



The Phoenix Woman
Bronze | 15 x 7 x in. | 2013





Flights of Thoughts
Fiberglass | 45 x 25 x 18 in. | 2013 | Edition 4 of 9



The New Journey(Single Woman)
Bronze | 20 x 6.5 x 6 in. | 2016



Our Song
Bronze | 15 x 8 x 13 in. | 2012 | Edition 3 of 9



Searching the Divine
Bronze | 9 x 11 x 11 in. | 2011 | Edition 4 of 9



My Valentine
Bronze | 15 x 12 x 12 in. | 2015



My Inner Search
Bronze | 13 x 10 x 17 in. | 2018



Expansion
Bronze | 15 x 11 x 11 in. | 2013 | Edition 2 of 9



Illusions At Rest III
Oil and Acrylic on Canvas | 48 x 60 in. | 2013



The Prayer Way
 Oil and Acrylic on Canvas | 48 x 60 in. | 2013



Gracefull Stripes
 Oil and Acrylic on Canvas | 24 x 30 in. | 2012



On Duty
Oil and Acrylic on Canvas | 73 x 30 in. | 2014



The Amazing Grace
 Oil and Acrylic on Canvas | 48 x 60 in. | 2012



The Power of Thought
 Oil and Acrylic on Canvas | 36 x 48 in. | 2017

My Roots In My Country
Oil and Acrylic on Canvas | 48 x 60 in. | 2017





Search For My Inner Self
Oil and Acrylic on Canvas
32 x 48 in. | 2017



Feeling the Freedom
Oil and Acrylic on Canvas | 48 x 72 in. | 2013



The flying Time
Oil and Acrylic on Canvas | 45 x 72 in. | 2013



The Hallowed Abode
Oil and Acrylic on Canvas | 36 x 48 in. | 2014



The Binding Thread
Oil and Acrylic on Canvas
46 x 29 in. | 2015

Fantasia
Oil and Acrylic on Canvas
20 x 30 in. | 2011



Save Me Save The world
Oil and Acrylic on Canvas
24 x 40 in. | 2009





Mystical Resonance
Oil and Acrylic on Canvas | 24 x 30 in. | 2009



Eternal Leaf
Oil and Acrylic on Canvas | 24 x 30 in. | 2009



The Healing Touch Series (Set of 9)
 Charcoal on Paper | 13 x 19 in. | 2013



Designer Stool and Sculpture Head
 Oil and Acrylic on Wood | 20 x 30 x 12 in. | 2013



Save Me Save the World-II
oil and Acrylic on Fiber Glass | 20 x 28 in. | 2012



“Gurugram Gaurav Samman Award ” are given to who have specialized in various fields like culture, education, industry, fine arts , journalism & social work in lieu of the yeoman services rendered by them with excellence in their respective fields. In view of Exemplary Work done by you for propagating awareness in the field of visual arts among masses .





Renuka Sondhi Gulati

QUALIFICATION

B.A., B.Ed, M.A., Diploma in Textile Design

FELLOWSHIP

Awarded Senior Fellowship, Visual Art (Ministry of Culture, Govt of India, 2012-13)

Date of Birth 26.03.1967

SOLO SHOWS

2017	Soaring Beyond the Self , at Workmixcafe, Napa Valley, California, USA
2017	Cabinet Secretariat, New Delhi
2014	The Phoenix Woman, Shridharani Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, 6-16 March, New Delhi
2013	The Divine Grace, Taj Palace Hotel, 18-24 February, New Delhi
2013	The Divine Grace, Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Azad Bhawan, 1-6 Feb, N.Delhi
2011	Life.. a Journey, At Hotel Taj Palace Delhi, 31st Oct -13th November
2010	Mystical Resonance, Triveni Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, New Delhi, March
2007	'Elements in Space' Triveni Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, New Delhi, August

AWARDS / RECOGNITIONS

2018	Painting selected for 59 th National Exhibition
2018	Sculpture selected for 90 th AIFAC
2018	ainting & Sculpture selected for Confluence '18
2017	Painting selected for 58 th National Exhibition by Lalit Kala, Bangalore.
2016	Painting selected For 89 th AIFACS, Rafi Marg, New Delhi, Sep-tember

2016	Won Second Award at Live Yoga Painting Competition at India International Yoga, Health & Wellness Exhibition, “The Yog Shala Expo 2016”, Ministry of AYUSH, Namo Gange, New Delhi, June
2016	Selected for 57 th National Exhibition by Lalit Kala, Lucknow
2015	Selected for 29 th National South Central Zone Cultural Centre, Nagpur
2015	Selected for CAMLIN Art Contest
2015	“Confluence ‘15 (An International Artist Show) –Third Edition 2015”.
2014	“Confluence ‘14 (An International Artist Show) – Second Edition 2014”.
2014	Painting selected by The Lalit Kala Akademi (National Academy of Fine Art) for 55 th National Exhibition, 2014
2012	Sculpture selected for 85 th AIFACS New Delhi
2012	Haryana Institute of Fine Arts “Honourable Mention” Award
2011	Won ‘Sculpture Prize 2011’ at 9 th International Art Biennale at Malta, Europe.
2011	Painting as well as Sculpture selected for 84 th AIFACS, Rafi Marg, New Delhi
2010	Sculpture selected for 83 rd AIFACS, Rafi Marg, New Delhi
2009	Sculpture selected for 80 th & 81 st AIFACS, Rafi Marg, New Delhi
2009	Work selected in Rang Rasia Art competition
2007	Painting selected for 79 th AIFACS, New Delhi

2006	Bronze Medal at Agnipath, National Level Competition & Exhibition at Travancore Art Gallery, New Delhi
2005	Gold Medal at Agnipath National Level Competition & Exhibition at Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi

Participated in more than 70 group shows nationally.

WORKSHOP / ARTIST CAMP

2017	58 th National Art Conclave March 2017, Bangalore.
2017	International Artist Camp 17.17.17 by Lalit Kala Chandigarh
2016	International Artist Camp, Arts form Scrap by DMRC at Shashtri Park, Metro Station.
2016	National Art Camp for Painting in Ujjain.
2016	National Camp at Udaipur for Stone Carving.
2016	57 th National Art Conclave, Lucknow
2016	Acad Group Camp Chikaldhara, Maharashtra
2015	Camp By “Master Sansar Chand Memorial Trust”, at Patnitop, Jammu & Kashmir
2015	Sahitya Kala Academy Camp at Shimla, HP
2015	The Senior Artists Camp AIFACS, New Delhi
2014	FIPA-RCSC Annual Art Camp at Russian Centre of Science & Culture
2013	IILM Artists Camp, IILM Campus Greater NOIDA
2011	North Zone Cultural Centre, Chandigarh, 16-30 September

2011	Sahitya Kala Akademi, Delhi Painters Workshop 5–15 Feb
2008	Workshop Conducted By “KHUSHII” (NGO)
2007	Camp by TMZ group Connaught Circus, New Delhi

INSTALLATIONS

2017	One installation at Kalka Ji Metro Station
2017	One installation at Greater Kailash Metro Station
2017	Two installations at OKHLA NSIC station
2017	One installation at Botanical Garden Station
2016	Sculpture from Scrap at Shashtri park, Delhi Metro
2015	Two Artworks 1100 sq ft. each selected for permanent installation at ITO Delhi Metro Station
2018	Mural 40’ x 11’ made for OMAXE’s Faridabad

COLLECTIONS

- **Private galleries: Burland Galleries Scotland, Ati Gallery; Suryaveer Kohli Art, Chandigarh Airport, North Zone Cultural Centre, Chandigarh, Sahitya Kala Akademi, Delhi, Lalit Kala Akademi,**
- **Private collections:**
Rashtrapati Bhawan – With President of India, Mr. Ram Nath Kovind
Shri M. Hamid Ansari, Ex-Vice President of India.
Ms. Sheila Dixit, Ex-Chief Minister.

**Omaxe Builders, Spaze Builders, Burmans,
Dabur & Akash Institute.
Galleries and private collections in India & Abroad**

GENERAL

**Engaged in Social work with an NGO AAPSI co-founded by her husband
Sunil Kumar Gulati, IAS**



Kalakriti India : Kalakriti India is an umbrella brand whose mission is to acquire, preserve and promote the art of Indian origin or art that features India as the subject. Kalakriti India is formed of independent SPV companies that have unique identities and purpose, yet interconnected and working towards the common purpose set by the parent brand.

Kalakriti India comprises of Fine art gallery, a contemporary art gallery, archives of rare photos and antique maps, alfresco Dining in art environment, art based premium lifestyle products retail and manufacturing facilities. Kalakriti India also runs an Artist Residency Programme, conducts an annual festival of Art and Culture and provide e-commerce opportunities to artists for the holistic welfare of artists.

The Kalakriti 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, which has helped the Hyderabad art scenario to mature over the past few years.

Art has exceeded the boundaries imposed by the conventional medium of paint and canvas. Art forms like photography, installation art, video art and performance art are considered as mainstream fine-art now and Kalakriti Art Gallery seeks out different forms of art to promote a different perspective to its audience.

Kalakriti Art Gallery regularly organizes workshops, panel discussion, film screenings that are centered around art. The gallery actively ventures into collaborative programs with Alliance Francaise, Goethe Zentrum, University of Hyderabad, etc. and has participated in National and International Art Fairs.

KAG Contemporary : The youngest entity in the Kalakriti India family is the KAG

Contemporary is an opportunity to experience the continuously evolving field of cutting edge art by upcoming and emerging young artists. Boundless imagination coupled with inventive methodologies result in fascinating interpretation of thoughts and forms. The Contemporary Art Gallery serves art aficionados who are seeking nouveau forms of artistic expression.

Kalakriti Residency : The Kalakriti Artist Residency program invites artists from India and across the world. The program is an opportunity for the artists to collaborate and re-invent themselves. In 2016, artists from France, Philippines, Pakistan and Italy were also invited to be a part of this program. The Artist Exchange program was begun in association with the Embassy of France in 2016. Artists from France and India visit the partner country to learn from mutual cultures. Kalakriti India, Hyderabad and Bordeaux Metropole, France announced a similar program with the city of Bordeaux.

The Gallery Cafe : An offshoot of the Kalakriti Art Gallery is The Gallery Cafe. A gallery for debuting artists and discovering latent talent. The Gallery Cafe complements the Kalakriti Art Gallery by providing a space for contemplation and conversation. Art encompasses the environment at Gallery Cafe, be it the designer hand-painted furniture, or the art on the walls or the sculptures in the wall pockets. The Gallery Cafe has also become a hub of cultural activities and launchpad for musicians, poets, dramatists. Through cultural events being conducted every Wednesday, visitors to Gallery Cafe discover new talent at Hyderabad.

The Gallery Cafe is recognized by the New York Times as one of the top ten places to visit in Hyderabad for its art, ambience and food.

Art Cafe : Art Cafe is a start-up in the territory of bringing a touch of art into every discerning home and office. With the mission of making art affordable and affordable art available, Art Cafe is a digital agora of art by accomplished artists. Art Cafe products are representative of the rich heritage of India in art and culture. Art Cafe has a growing collection of original fine art by emerging and as well as established artists. It also has a collection of rare Oleographs and Lithographs. The artworks are curated by an expert panel. As part of its Art - Design - Living philosophy, Art Cafe products have signature artistic appeal and are a perfect fit for your designer home and office.

Giftosis : Giftosis specializes in the production of customized gifting solutions, lifestyle accessories etc with a manufacturing facilities span over 10,000 sq. ft. of space with installations of technologically advanced imported machinery, suitable for the production of components. A team of highly skilled and trained product designers, graphics designers, technical operators and quality control personnel operate the machinery to manufacture products with an emphasis on quality while delivering on short order-to-delivery time-lines.

Kalakriti Archives : KA is widely acknowledged as one of the largest private collections of antique photos and rare maps of South Asia. Kalakriti Archives participated in the Kochi - Muziris Biennale 2014 and exhibited its collection of regional and religious maps from the Indian sub-continent. In 2015 "Cosmology to Cartography" (a cultural journey of Indian Maps) was held at the National Museum, Delhi. 2018, the show "Time, Space and Place" was held during the Krishnakriti Festival at Hyderabad , followed by an extension of the same exhibition at Indian Institute of Science (Bengaluru) in March 2018.

The maps are also available on Google Cultural Institute platform. Following the exhibitions, two scholars sponsored by IFA and The Tata Trust are conducting research on the maps from the collection of Kalakriti Archives. Kalakriti Archives also presented an exhibition titled " Kal Aaj aur Kal " on Evolution of Hyderabad landscape at "Agora 2017" at the city of Bordeaux, France.

The Krishnakriti Foundation : Incorporated in the memory of Shri Krishnachandra B. Lahoti, since 2003, The Krishnakriti Foundation has been engaged in non-profit activities for the upliftment of the artist community and promotion of rare forms of art and culture of India. The cultural extravaganza agglomerates eminent artists in art and culture and literary stalwarts to showcase their finest achievements to the denizens and guests of Hyderabad. The festival conducts workshops, seminars, panel discussions, plays, book readings, screenings and concerts that appeal to a wide range of age and interests.

This year 15th Edition of the Annual Krishnakriti Festival of art and culture themed around Space, Time and Place : The Culture of Indian Maps, was proudly been celebrated at Hyderabad. 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 based on the merit of current achievements and potential. The Students are provided financial assistance, material assistance and networking and exposure to help them achieve higher objectives. In association with Govt. of France through their Embassy in India, the Krishnakriti Foundation provides fellowships to study fine arts and architecture at some of the finest educational institutes of France. At Hyderabad, Krishnakriti Foundation had jointly conducted "Bonjour India" - a celebration of art and culture of France in year 2010, 2013 and now 2017-2018.

Krishnakriti Foundation works with the Department of Prisons of Govt. of Telangana to conduct art camps at three jails - Chanchalguda, Cherlapally and Warangal. The art camps serve as creative outlets for the inmates through which they can express their emotions and desires. A periodic invitation of the art created by the inmates is conducted at Kalakriti Art Gallery and lots of artworks has won award's and the proceeds are used for the welfare of 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. As part of the Street Art Festival, the street of MS Maqta was given a much needed facelift with entire buildings acting as the canvas for artists that visualize and execute in Mega sized canvases.

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 Foundation has been instrumental in installation of the iconic Love Hyderabad sculpture at People's Plaza and Love Vizag, near TU 142 M Aircraft Museum, Visakhapatnam to create an unforgettable impression of the city.

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 etc des Letters".



KALAKRITI

ART GALLERY

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