



arup lodh

sandip roy

Mon Art Gallerie
presents

Lyrical
Journeys

sudip roy

Lyrical Journeys

a group show of watercolours

at

6, Picasso Bithi (Hungerford Street)
Regency, 3rd Floor
Kolkata - 700 017
West Bengal
India

From 30th September to 29th October 2011

Lyrical Journeys

Watercolours are among the hardest of artistic techniques to master, for unlike oil or even acrylic painting, where the paint stays where the artist put it, water-soluble paints are runny and difficult to control. Mistakes cannot easily be painted over. The artists in this show, however, all have considerable mastery over the medium and it is always particularly interesting to see what it is about the principles by which their art is controlled and the methods they employ in their practice. It is, of course, in their work, in the things they create, that they give the complete expression of their convictions and that the full product of their experience is embodied, but they are also able to declare the intentions by which their expressions have been directed and also to explain the technical processes which have enabled them to arrive at their results.

In the hands of these artists, watercolours are the instruments of paintings of great refinement. Their achievements are multifaceted, at once technical and emotional. There is, however, more to their art than mere technical skill. They are always infused with a highly charged mood; a kind of wonderful tremulousness which is evocative and delightful. This tendency to infuse such scenes with a strongly emotional content can be traced in part to the Romantic notion that views, through the careful arrangement of forms, could convey intellectual ideas of the sort traditionally thought to belong to more exalted branches of art.

All these artists are able to enter the observed scene and immerse themselves in it with rare boldness. The swift and deft laying on of colour captures tonal subtleties and the nuanced

luminosity of a place or moment. This structured luminosity gives the most unexceptional of scenes an air of expectancy by emphasizing light and shadow. It is a demonstration of how the discovery of an effect, in certain conditions, transcends its surroundings and becomes an event in itself. Also, it is unassuming and intimate but rigorous in its presentation of the incidental. While there is intimacy in these works, there is also a deep understanding of the weight and force of light. It is the pursuit of the momentary and transient through endless variety and constant change and the sense of a moment captured that are some of the most exciting elements of these watercolours. The pictorial surface is brought to life, and everything is held in the most precise and tranquil of balances. The movement is slight but the harmony of the whole is never in peril. Thus, each element is articulated without, in any way, overwhelming the others.

These works are emotionally vivid and capture the ephemeral reality of moods and moments. These are artists who work on their art: constantly tinkering with new ways to produce it but figuring out exactly what they want to achieve. Each painting is a journey and they have only a very slight idea of where those journeys will end. The sense of individuality about each of the works responds to the individuality of each phenomenon they observe. Looking at these works, one feels that they are expressions of the minds and hearts of three talented artists whose paintings embody an entire culture and tradition of great art.

Anirudh Chari



Desirous Noon - I



From 10th Floor



Practice Hours - II



Essence of Old Afternoon



Practice Hours - I



Practice Hours - III

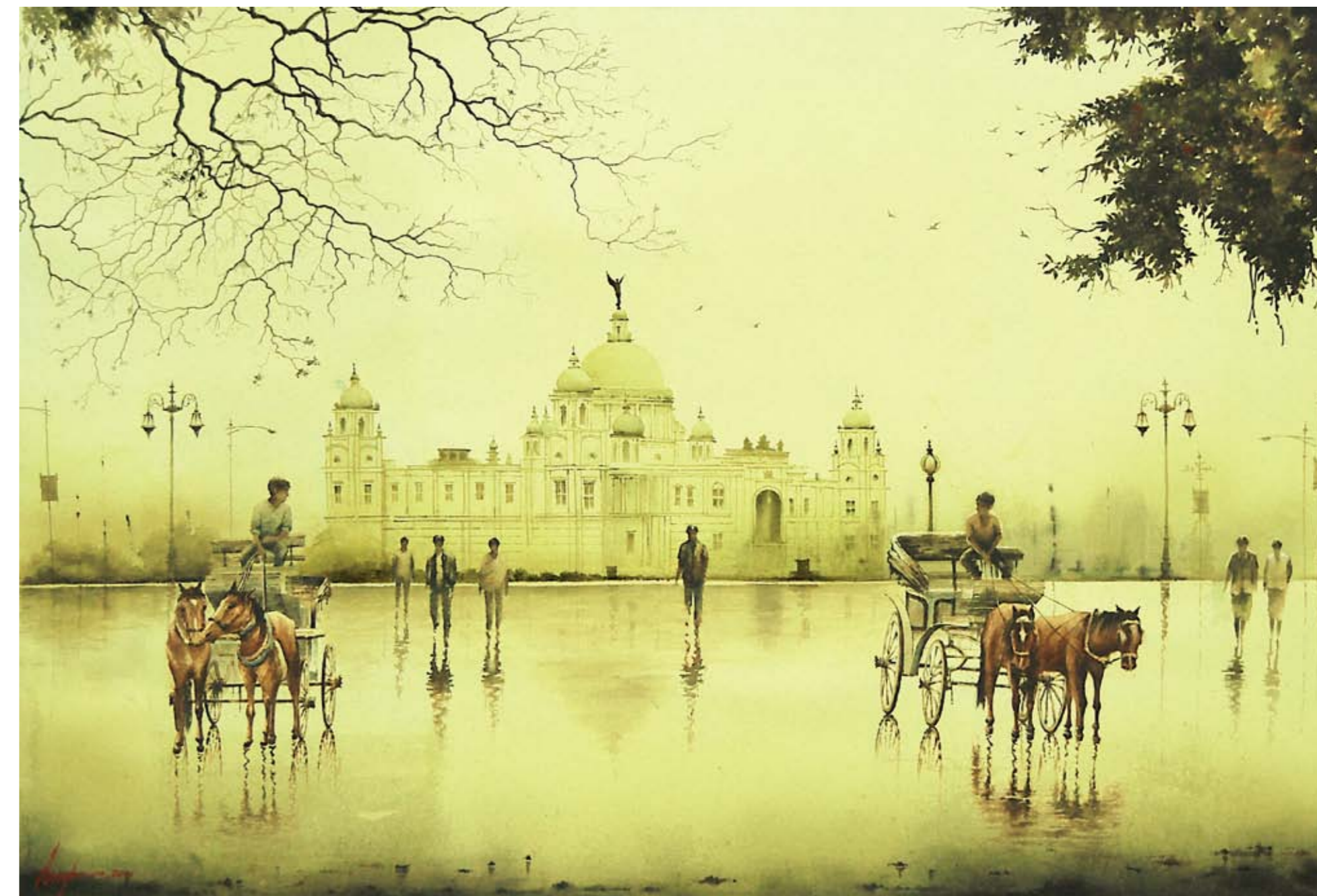
Arup Lodh



Arup Lodh, was born in 1980 in Kolkata, India. He completed his Diploma in applied arts in 2000 from M.E.E. dept of Govt. of West Bengal, India.

Arup Lodh's works are atmospheric and combine a unique accuracy of observation with incredible technical precision. He has a deep and intuitive understanding of the special advantages of this fluid and sensitive medium for capturing the feel of a particular place or moment and appreciates the inner vibrancy of the city of Calcutta and conveys its indescribable mystery and romance through sensitive forms and tones. All temptation towards grandeur and obvious drama are avoided. Instead, he develops the intimacy and atmosphere of the incidental. His works are pregnant with atmosphere, mystery, wistfulness and nostalgia and bring to life the many facets of Calcutta.

In these evocative depictions he uses a large and varied visual vocabulary: part traditional, part modern, part reinvented and part unabashedly harkening back to earlier forms. He, therefore, finds as great a freedom in the past as he does in the present. There are, of course, numerous ways of using watercolours as a medium within which multiple visual discourses have existed simultaneously. It is anything but fixed and leaves a vast amount of room for experimentation. Unlike many of his contemporaries, though, Arup Lodh has not been restricted by the more hidebound aspects of the watercolour tradition, in particular its self-referentiality and the lack of a context outside itself.



Desirous Noon - I || Water Colour on Canson Paper || 29" x 42" || 2011



From 10th Floor || Water Colour on Canson Paper || 29" x 42" || 2011



Practice Hours - II || Water Colour on Canson Paper || 29" x 42" || 2010



Banaras



Dhopi Ghat Banaras



Early Morning in Banaras



Trisangam Allahabad



Ganges in Banaras



Snanjatra In Allahabad

Sandip Roy



Sandip Roy, was born in 1981 in Kolkata, India. He completed his BFA Degree from college of visual art in Kolkata.

A sense of divinity is implicit Sandip Roy's watercolours of Varanasi and Allahabad. This fascination with a spiritual force does not always linger on a single theme. Its exploration is extensive as well as intensive but never exaggerated. He records what he witnesses with delicacy, luminosity, force and cohesion. His accuracy of observation and sense of precision are what make his exploration of atmospheric effects so very telling.

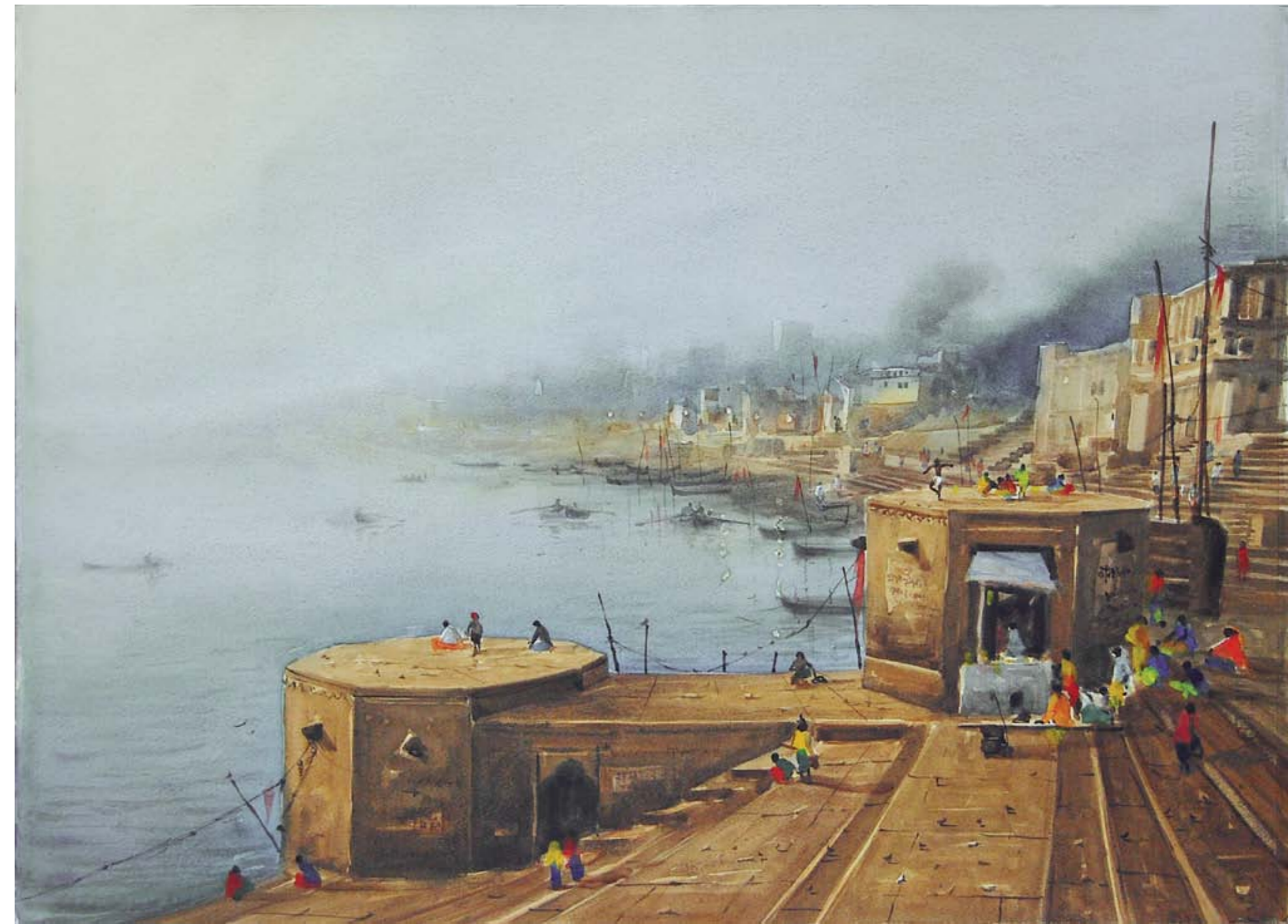
As a watercolourist, he understands the special advantages of his fluid and sensitive medium for capturing the feeling as well as features of these unique cities. He combines quiet charm with atmospheric drama and conveys the action that he wants entirely through his dexterity with the medium. He presents these most sublime of India's cities with astuteness and gauges the tonalities of his pictures to accord with their content. This relationship between place and moment, indeed at a deeper though more basic level the investigation of experience and representation, is a dominant theme in the artist's oeuvre. Even when at his most dramatic, Roy never ceases to explore lyrical tranquillity and his renditions of exciting structures are, by the very nature of their circumstances, allusive; leaving the silent and the static to be explored with greater care.



Banaras || Water Colour on Paper || 24" x 41" || 2010



Dhopi Ghat Banaras || Water Colour on Paper || 22" x 30" || 2011



Early Morning in Banaras || Water Colour on Paper || 22" x 30" || 2011



Landscape I



Kolkata I



Kolkata II



Landscape II



Kolkata III



Kolkata IV

Sudip Roy



Sudip Roy, was born in 1974 in Kolkata, India. He completed his Master of Visual Arts (Print Making) from Govt. College of Arts & Craft, in the year 2001. And the Bachelor of Visual Arts (Fine Arts in Painting) from Govt. College of Arts & Craft, in the year 1997.

Sudip Roy is acutely aware of the fact that watercolours come with a set of rules. It is not at a conceptual level that those rules are played out. It is in the act, in the materiality, the seductiveness of the surface, the submission and the hours that are put in to create a sense of sublime translucence. To this end, his watercolours are very meditative and meaningful gestures, much like rituals and more about subverting modernity that subverting tradition in the sense that they are spontaneous and gestural. They are open and democratic with a sense of rigour rather than being fussy or fetishistic. These works are about the process of image making and, thus, akin to artistic journals or dairies.

It is, however, never a decision to go create an image with the goal of unearthing a set of experiences. There are, in fact, moments when a slower, more controlled pace sets in and the image unravels itself as a series of steps. Step one sometimes leads to step ten: the structure, the build up of materials, the finishing. In the end, though, there is always the risk that the piece could be lost. There are moments when one looks at a Sudip Roy image and wonders: how can he be so incredibly fluent? He is not interested in living up to past standards of excellence in watercolour painting. Instead, it is the simultaneous existence of two forms of exploration within a single space that he is interested in which, consequently, infuses the work with its transcendental qualities.



Landscape I || Water Colour on Paper || 22" x 30" || 2011



Kolkata I || Water Colour on Paper || 21" x 29" || 2011



Kolkata II || Water Colour on Paper || 21" x 28.5" || 2011



Practice Hours - I



Trisangam Allahabad



Landscape II

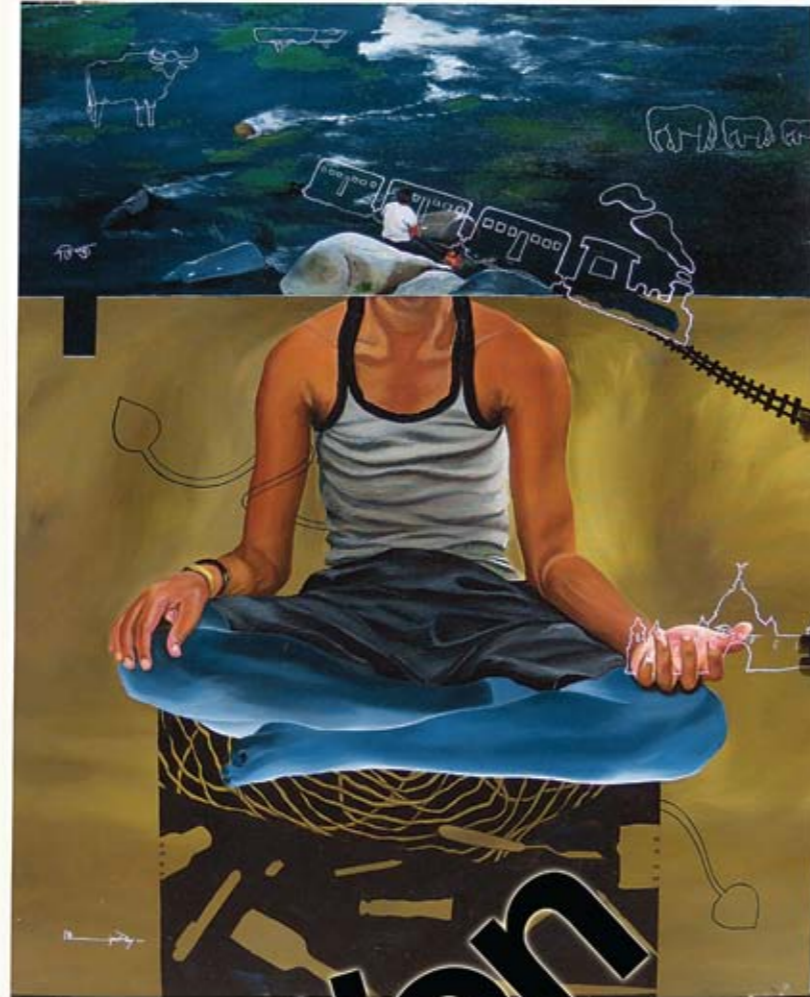




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Mon Art Gallerie
presents

dream and destination

Preview on
4th Nov '11

Text : Anirudh Chari

Design, Photography & Print : Mon Art Team

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