



AUROVILLE
ART CAMP
MARCH 2021
2ND EDITION
MARCH 20TH TO 27TH

#MARCH 2021

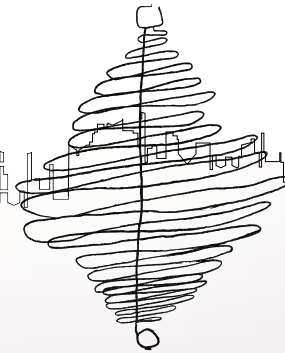
THE CITY OF DAWN

AUROVILLE ART CAMP SECOND EDITION - CATALOG OF THE

SELECTED ARTISTS

AUROVILLE ART CAMP 2021

AUROVILLE, TAMIL NADU, INDIA



WE MUST STRIVE FOR BEAUTY

The Mother, Mother's agenda, April 4th, 1972

"We must strive for Order, Harmony, Beauty and... collective aspiration—all the things which for the moment are not there. We must... you see, being the organizers, our task is to set the example of what we want others to do. We must rise above personal reactions, be exclusively attuned to the divine Will—we must be impersonal, without any personal reaction. We must 'be' in all sincerity. What the Divine wants—let it be. That's all. If we can be that, then we are as we ought to be, and that is what we must become. For the rest... for all the rest, we do the best we can.

I know it's not easy, but we are not here to do easy things; the whole world is there for those who like an easy life. I would like people to feel that coming to Auroville does not mean coming to an easy life—it means coming to a gigantic effort for progress. And those who don't want to keep up with it should leave. That's how things stand. I wish it were so strong—the need for progress, for the divinisation of the being, so intense—that those who are unable (unable or unwilling) to adjust to it would leave by themselves: 'Oh, this is not what I expected.' As it is now, all those who want an easy life and to do what they please as they please, say, 'Let's go to Auroville!' It should be just the opposite. People should know that coming to Auroville means an almost superhuman effort for progress.

It is the sincerity of our attitude and effort which makes a difference. People should feel that insincerity and falsehood have no place here—they just don't work, you can't fool people who have devoted their entire life to go beyond humanity.

There is only one way to be convincing—it is to be that.

Then we'll stand strong, we'll have all the divine force on our side.

We are here to prepare a superhumanity, not to fall back into desires and easy life—no.

People must feel it; it should be so strong that the sheer force of our sincerity would drive them out—that's what they have to feel. At that point, we will be what we should be. The power of the realisation—of the sincerity of the realisation— is such that it's unbearable to whose who are insincere.

(Silence)

" That's all. "



Photo credits The Drone Zone, Auroville

INTRODUCTION

The second edition of the Auroville Art Camp

Sri Aurobindo and the Mother assign a highest status to Art which serves as revealer and teacher of a quest for the All-Beautiful.

In this spirit, we decided in 2018 to organise an Artist camp with Artist residency taking place in Auroville for artists. Art is a profound centre of this journey towards the future. The Ambition of the previous art camp which took place in 2019 was to try to evoke a New World.

By organising an art camp with artists from all over India, we tried to create a concentrated atmosphere in which we could work on this new world to come through Art and the search of Beauty which is an ideal to be.

The Art Camp focuses on the collaboration of Indian national artists with Aurovilians artists, working on a specific theme during one week. One of our intentions is to create a bridge between Aurovilians artists and Indian national artists. Art Students are also invited to participate as this is a great platform for exchange and learning.

The theme of this second edition of the Auroville art Camp is the "City of Dawn" for which the selected artists will work on their own interpretations

One of our inspirations to choose the theme was several passages of Savitri, the epic poem of Aurobindo Ghose and of course by what the dawn represents in a symbolic manner.

We published a call for artists which lasted two months. We received applications from Auroville of course, and from all over India, many of them coming from New Delhi, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Telangana and Karnataka.

The diversity, richness and quality of the bodies of works we received, was stunning. We have gone through strong and inspired artists statements. Their interpretations of the theme the "City of Dawn" have been, for many of them, so unique, with so much sensitivity.

Regarding the students category, we received applications mainly from students of the Art Colleges of Santiniketan, JJ Mumbai and Jama Millia Islamia.

We selected 8 Indian Nationals artists, 9 Aurovillian artists, 1 Indian national art student and 2 Aurovilians art students.

In this catalog we wish to introduce the selected artists and art students of the Auroville Art Camp 2021.

Herve

Curator and organiser of the Auroville Art Camp



BASUKI DASGUPTA

TUMKUR, KA

Basuki Dasgupta's oeuvre is rich and varied, from his free-associative, non-representational works, to paintings featuring his much loved, slant-eyed, puppet-like men and women.

He casts a wide inspirational net, drawing from Bengali tribal lore and folk traditions, the symbolism of goddess Durga, the principle of Shakti and Baul music.

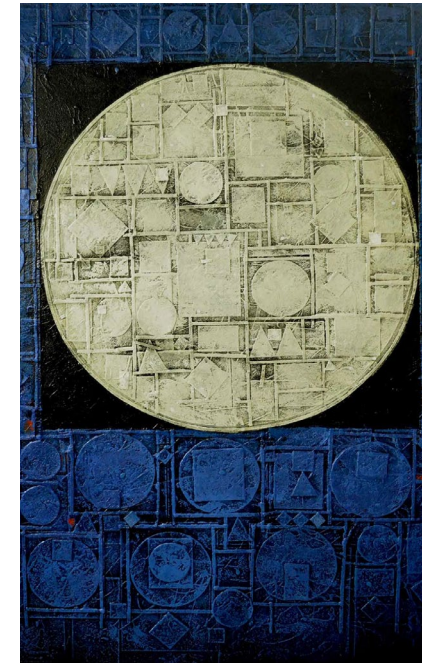
Basuki Dasgupta grew up in Bishnupur, a small town in West Bengal, known for its 18th century terracotta temples.

The earthy feel, textures and patterns found in these temples are mirrored in his rough-hewn and highly textured murals-on-canvas.

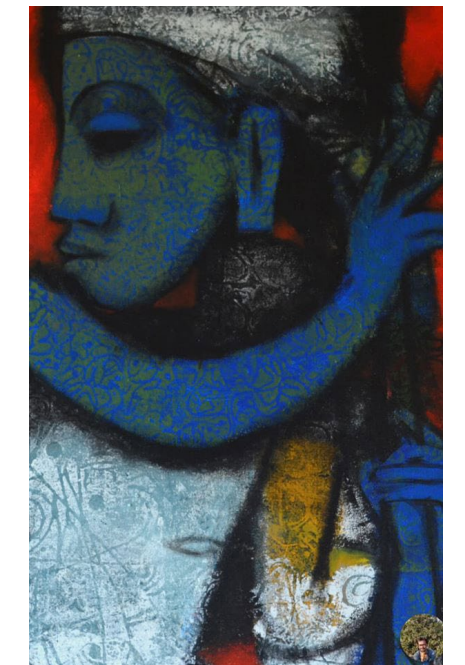
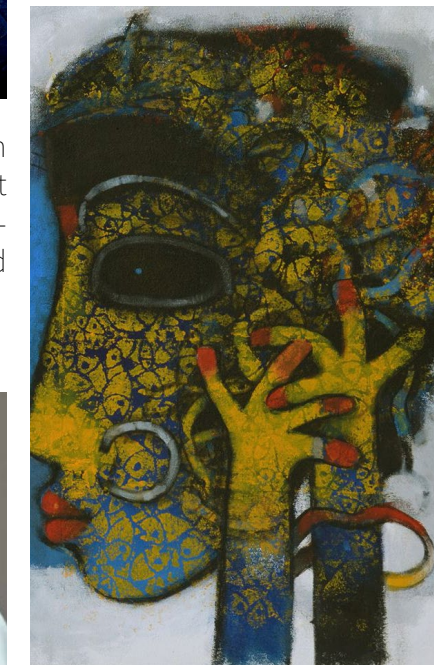
Basuki, who now lives and works in Tumkur, transforms the traditional decorative motifs of Indian temple architecture into dynamic and abstract shapes and forms.

A master of the genre of contemporary folk art, Basuki Dasgupta's figurative and non-figurative works, steeped in

In 1987, at the age of 19, Basukinath Dasgupta, arrived in Shantiniketan Visva Bharati, to pursue his love of art, graduating in 1992. Under the tutelage of K.G.Subramanyan, he completed his Masters in Murals, in 1994



saturated colours, symbolism and mythology, make poignant statements about the divide between rustic and modern, and the divine and human.





DEBASISH DUTTA

VADODARA, GJ

Born in 1973 in Balurghat, West Bengal, Debasish completed Bachelor in painting from the Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, and then went on to pursue his masters in Graphics from the Faculty of Fine Arts, M.S. University, Baroda.

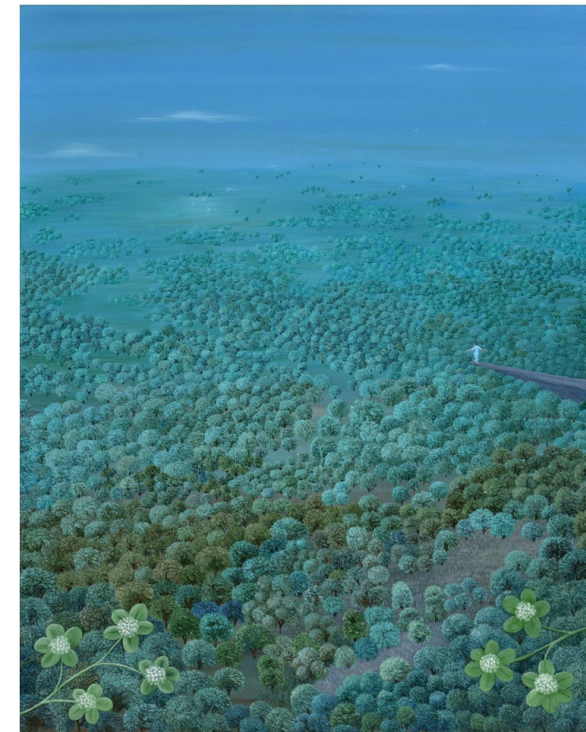
His paintings speak about life; or rather they narrate his experiences and his ways of seeing the world around him.

Indian miniature painting greatly influenced the artist's style of representation. The artist consciously minimizes the size of work giving the viewers a break from the reality of the chaotic urban lifestyle.

His narratives fit as much life as possible in a single frame. Numerous figures, each busy with their own labours, become the protagonists. These multiple characters are significant individually as well as in a group.

Dutta's work is a continuous train of thought, varying from the actuality of existence and the necessity of survival.

Debasish has received the National academy award 2017-18 for his work Journey III. Debasish has been exhibiting his works in many group shows and solo shows since 1988.

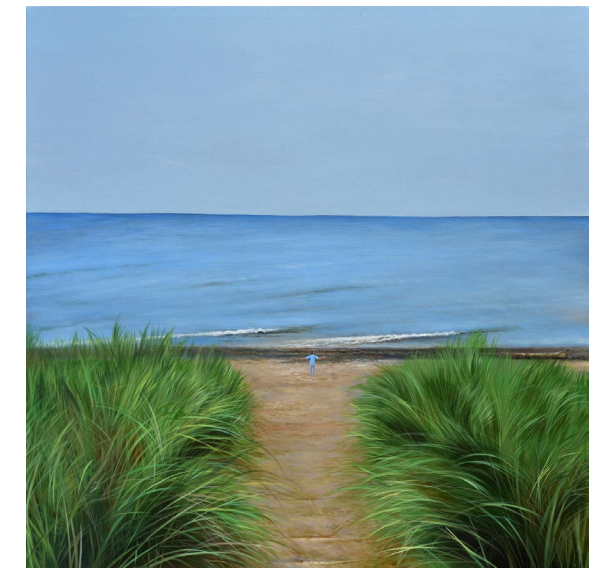


Working with acrylics and oils on canvas has enabled the artist to display his perspective of the vibrancy and drudgery of urban life.



"Since childhood I have been fond of folktales and fables. In my work, these small village stories get blown up into large-scale fantasies."

The artist presently lives and works in Baroda.





MADHURI KATHE

MUMBAI, MA

Madhuri Kathe is an established artist known for her mixed-media abstract artworks.

Deeply spiritual, she believes that art is a vivid reflection of the inner beauty of the cosmos.

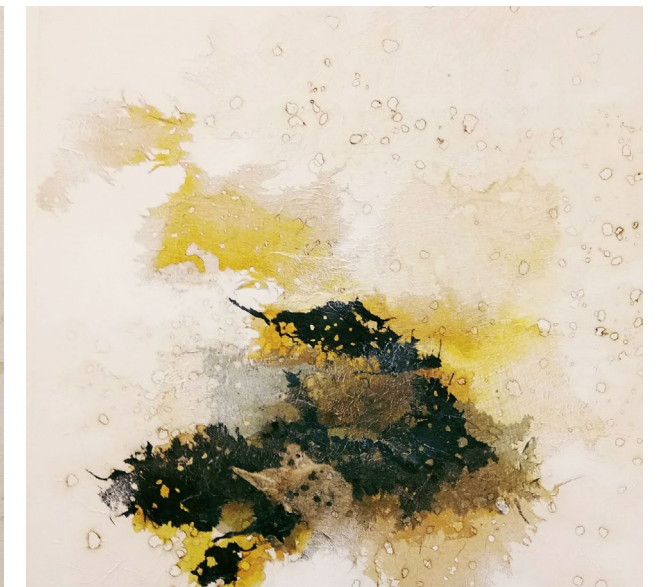
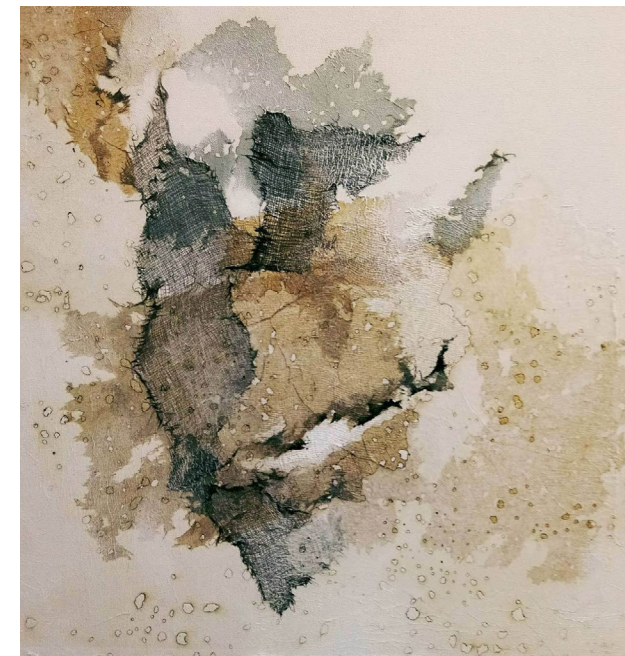
“Artists are born with the gift to look beyond the façades around us, and to show the world the inner beauty of the universe.”

Madhuri uses unusual materials such as medical gauze, tissue, and handmade papers from Korea, combining them with acrylic colours to create magic on canvas.

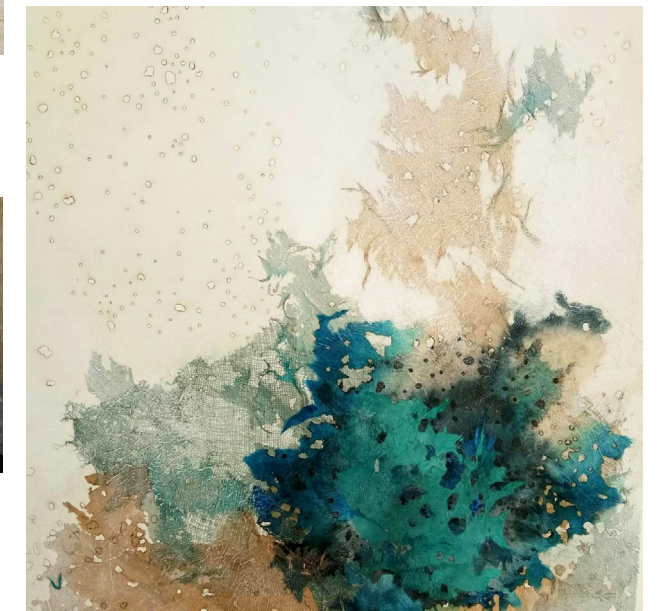
Her colour palette consists of calming hues such as sea-green, blue, burnt orange, purple, pale yellow and white. Nature is a source of continuous inspiration to her.

Madhuri grew up listening to philosophies of various Indian ‘sants’, and has a deep understanding of spiritual practices. She believes in the concept of ‘nirankar’, or formlessness, which inspires her art.

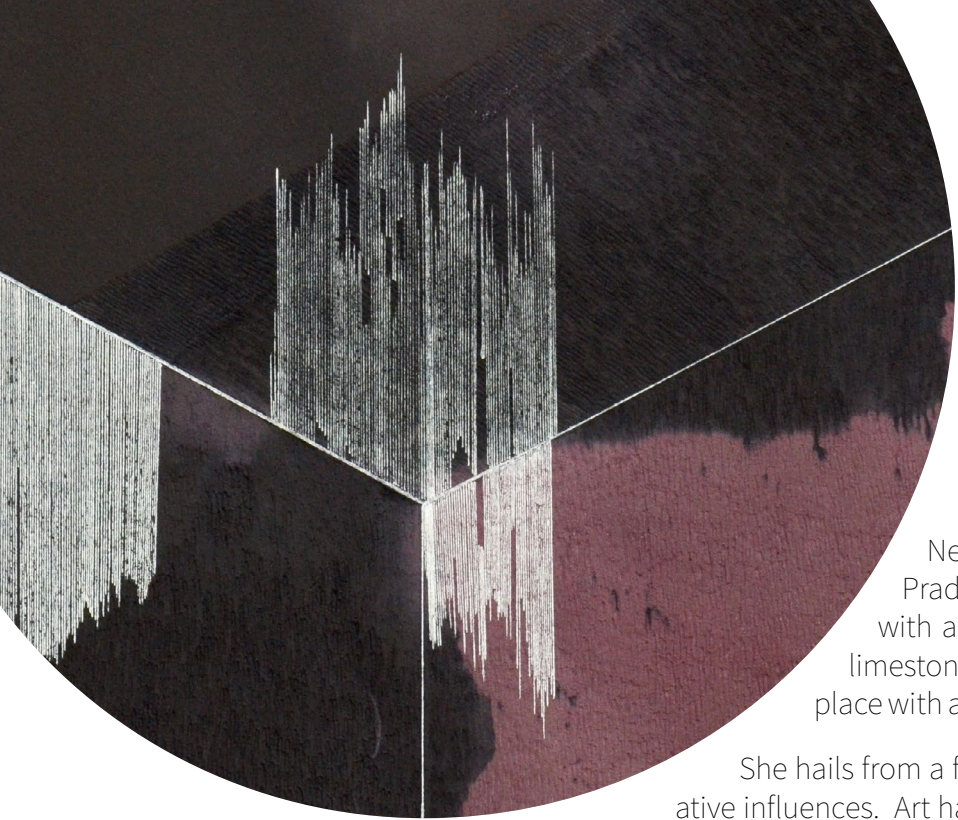
She holds a Master’s degree in Drawing and Painting from Vikram University in Ujjain, and another Master’s in Ancient Indian History and Archaeology. She has also completed a PhD in Miniature Paintings.



Abstract was not always Madhuri’s chosen artistic style. Until 2000, she mostly created figurative works. But as her understanding of the spiritual world grew deeper, her focus shifted from figurative to abstract. She believes that a “higher source” guides her fluid strokes.



Madhuri Kathe has participated in various solo shows and group exhibitions both in India and abroad.



NEERAJA DIVATE

NEW DELHI, DL

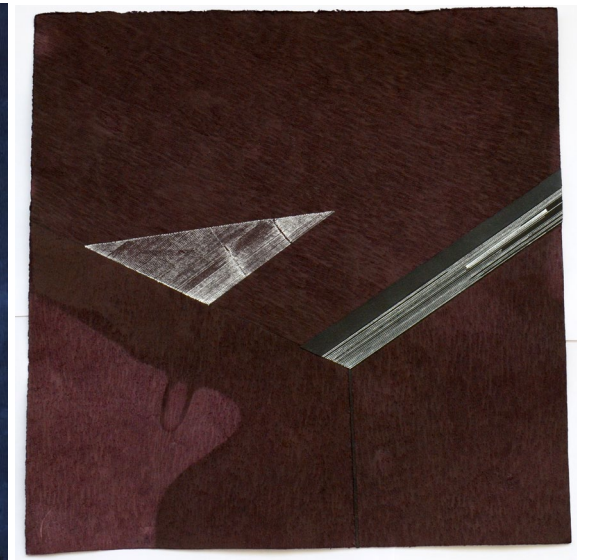
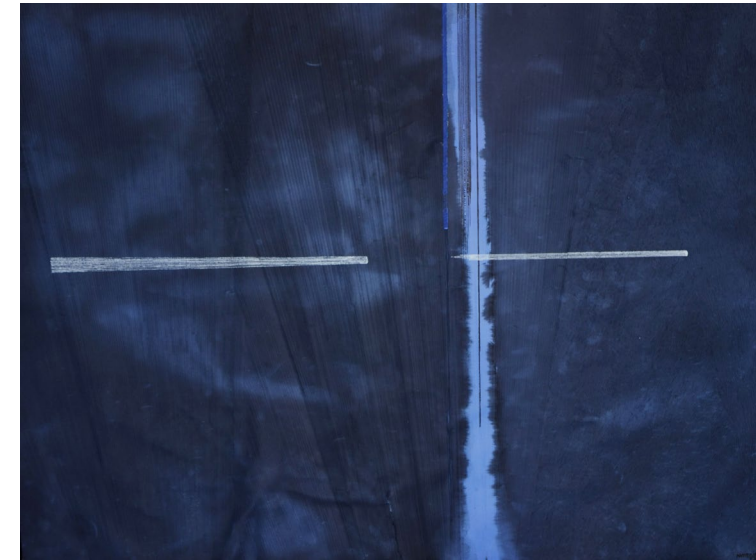
Neeraja was born in Andhra Pradesh (Adoni) a small town with abundance of minerals and limestone deposits, an isolated place with arid land and scanty rainfall.

She hails from a family who has its own creative influences. Art has been an integral and essential part of her life since her childhood.

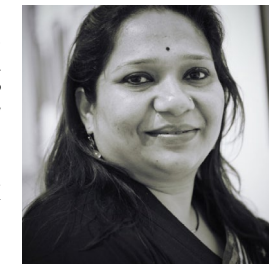
During her childhood days her mentor acknowledged her creative skill and further motivated her. It had a great impact on her creative aspect. She continued art as her passion under the guidance of Mr. Rameshwar Broota at Triveni Kala Sangam, New Delhi.

Neeraja's work is non figurative. Using a limited palette of monochromatic colours with fine delicate embedded lines, she embarks to create a paradoxical sense of space. The rawness in her works is achieved by infusing the paper in colour pigmented water which has been derived from the vegetables. She works while the paper is wet to achieve these results.

Neeraja received the Senior Fellowship from CCRT, Ministry of culture for the years 2017-19.



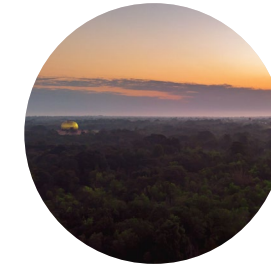
"My compositions feature my personal view of inanimate everyday visuals capturing a moment in time. For me the magic of abstraction is it can show a new way of looking at ordinary things around us, like water flowing from hosepipe, the energy that is produced when you light a candle, that moment of flow or glow is imbued with a life beyond ordinary. Their existence becomes recorded in time with a new beginning."



Neeraja has participated in various group exhibitions since 2001.



Photo credits The Drone Zone, Auroville



Sri Aurobindo – Savitri, Book III The Book of the Traveller of the Worlds,
Canto IV The Kingdoms of the Little Life

“I saw the Omnipotent’s flaming pioneers	Faces that wore the Immortal’s glory still,
Over the heavenly verge which turns towards life	Voices that communed still with the thoughts of God,
Come crowding down the amber stairs of birth;	Bodies made beautiful by the spirit’s light,
Forerunners of a divine multitude,	Carrying the magic word, the mystic fire,
Out of the paths of the morning star they came	Carrying the Dionysian cup of joy,
Into the little room of mortal life.	Approaching eyes of a diviner man,
I saw them cross the twilight of an age,	Lips chanting an unknown anthem of the soul,
The sun-eyed children of a marvellous dawn,	Feet echoing in the corridors of Time.
The great creators with wide brows of calm,	High priests of wisdom, sweetness, might and bliss,
The massive barrier-breakers of the world	Discoverers of beauty’s sunlit ways
And wrestlers with destiny in her lists of will,	And swimmers of Love’s laughing fiery floods
The labourers in the quarries of the gods,	And dancers within rapture’s golden doors,
The messengers of the Incommunicable,	Their tread one day shall change the suffering earth
The architects of immortality.	And justify the light on Nature’s face.”
Into the fallen human sphere they came,	



PRADEEP AHIRWAR

BHOPAL, MP

Born in 1972, Pradeep Ahirwar obtained his B.A. in Drawing and Painting from the Hamidia College, Bhopal.

Pradeep has experimented working with different mediums and techniques.

“I am most comfortable working with acrylic on canvas. I thoroughly enjoy it. I also work with dry pastels at times. I am a modern contemporary artist.”

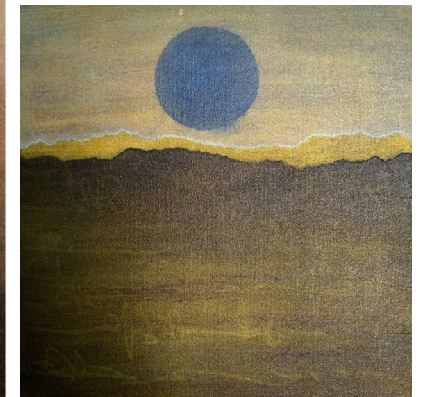
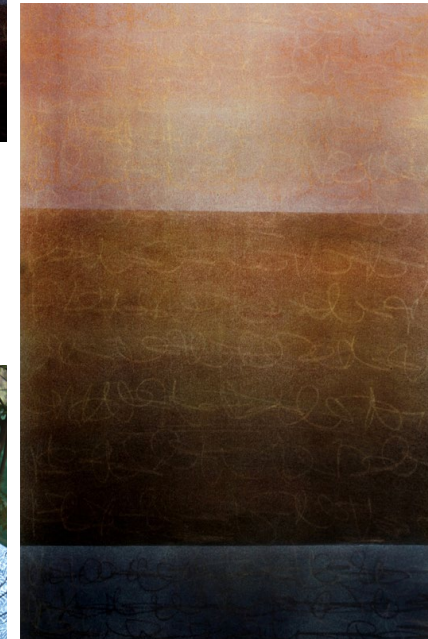
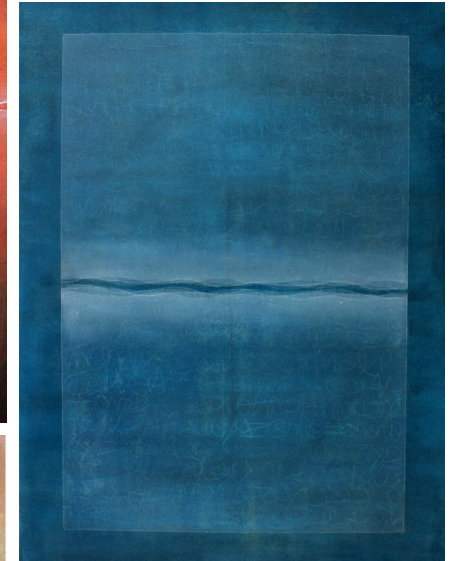
He believes that his paintings are a reflection of himself.

His abstract works are inspired by nature - the supple movement of clouds in the sky that harnesses the winds; the flowing of water - quick and graceful.

His sentiments and impressions are conveyed on canvas through his abstract works that embody nature’s spirit.

He has been a part of shows in New York, Malaysia, Bangladesh, New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore, Bhopal, Dehradun, Baroda, Jodhpur and others.

“Beauty may be indeed skin deep but the meaning is found elsewhere, more rooted in the heart and mind.”When the viewer connects with the painting, they too join this conversation and share its joy. I believe that there is beauty in everything.”



His works are a part of collections in India, U.S.A., France, U.K. Bangladesh, Malaysia.

Pradeep Ahirwar lives and works in Bhopal.





RAKESH RAY CHOUDBURY

GUHAWATI, AS

Born in Assam in 1986 Rakesh completed a MFA in the fine arts faculty of Baroda.

What really motivates him as a painter is the way in which objects and shapes make up a conversation.

His goal is to narrate a story, to help the onlooker discover new connections, to portray stages of transformation on a landscape, and put light on various aspects of matter and spaces. "I take reference from places, from my drawings; and objects from my kitchen."

Life is an ongoing process. Each place he visits contributes something to his sense of geography.

"It is both transformative and exciting to create. To figure out where to add, and where to deduce. "

He has a desire to build up a home space.

"Often, I approach my compositions as lucid maps, constructing a territory of objects and how it makes up a place. Sometimes my paintings fill up naturally, and sometimes they remain very spare, depending on the conversation that emerges as I paint. "

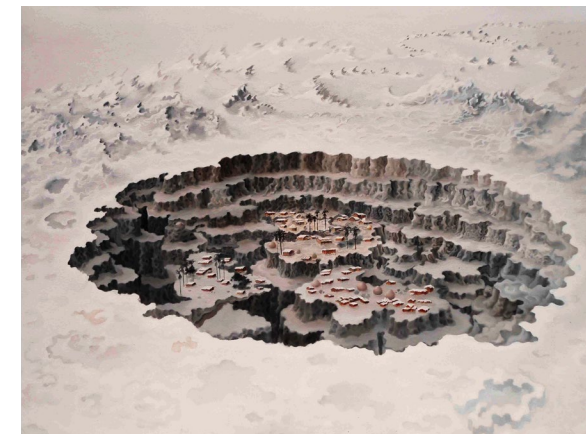
Rakesh has participated in several group shows in India and abroad, he received an international award in 2016.



His current works are based on the holographic nature of the world.



The landscape is both from physical and psychological constructs of human assumptions.





SHRIKANT KADAM

PUNE, MH

Born in 1973, Shrikant Kadam completed his General Diploma in painting from the Abhinava Kala Mahavidyalaya in Pune in 1995, followed by his Bachelor's degree in the same from the College of Fine Art, Pune, in 2008. He also completed a Diploma in Art Education from the Sir J.J. School of Art, Mumbai, in 1996.

Kadam's abstract art is an exploration of colour. Termed 'nature abstracts' by the artist, these paintings explore the varied hues and colours found in the natural world, paying an immortalising tribute to Nature. Shrikant's careful juxtaposition of contrasting colours adds drama to his compositions.

He tries to transform nature through his imagination and portray it in his special manner.

"Nature is a treasure of mystery, secrets and beauty. I constantly try to assimilate things like the size, space, images, texture and colors as they state my thoughts on canvas"

Shrikant Kadam has held solo shows in Pune, Mumbai and

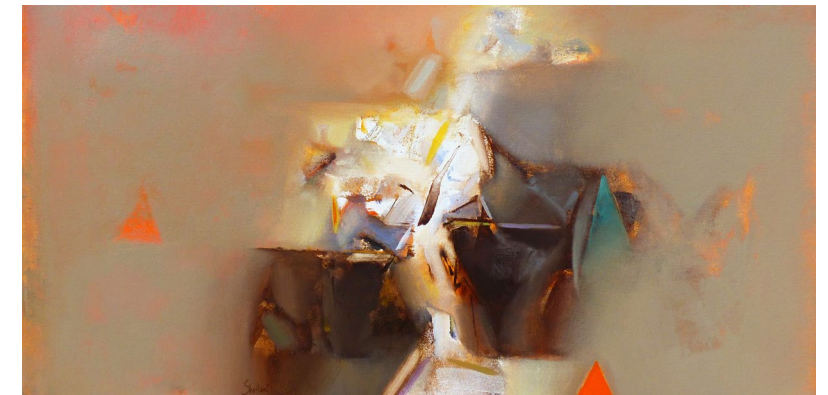
"I always try to paint, what I have experienced from life. That gives me the joy of connecting to that divine, lucid and uncompromising bliss. It also helps in strengthening my colouration, without the direct imitation of nature, I try to find Soul of nature, at the same time self-realization too. A formless nature with the divine feeling..."



several others in Western India. His work has also been featured as a part of group shows all over the world including galleries in the United Kingdom, Indonesia, France and India.



Kadam was conferred the 'Abhyudaya Sanman' by Kalavart Nyas Ujjani, Madhya Pradesh, in 2003, and the Maharashtra State Art Exhibition Award in 1998.





UDAY GOSWAMI

BHOPAL,MP

Uday Goswami was born in 1983 in Jhansi. He studied Arts in the Art Institute of Gwalior and obtained his MFA in 2008.

Through suggestive visions of associative biomorphic forms, we are able to approach a special world, in which strange fruits are the main subject. They have their very own consciousness, they rule the world Uday has created.

On his canvasses of enhanced colours and contrast, in every simple composition, the main role is given to a pulsating life that finds its way despite everything.

"I often depict different ideas of blossom and sprouting in my work. Nature has always intrigued me with its secrets and possibilities. The process of a seed germinating is a struggle similar to a child being born from a womb. It is simple and complicated at the same time.

The sprouting of a seed is a symbol of how life is constant and growing. It's not enough for the land to be fertile. The vitality of the seeds is also critical to the process. Yet, every sapling

Through Uday's meticulous approach of his technique, one can see the very beginnings of the human race, but at the same time its future.



that grows from the ground is a beauty to me. I worship the blossom of every seed and flower."

Uday has participated in several group shows since 2004.

Uday has been the recipient of the Raza Award in 2011 and of the MP state award in 2014.





GIVING BIRTH TO THIS DAWN

The Mother, Prayers and meditations, March 31, 1917

"Tell me, will Thou grant me the marvellous power to give birth to this dawn in expectant hearts, to awaken the consciousness of men to Thy sublime presence, and in this bare and sorrowful world awaken a little of Thy true Paradise? What happiness, what riches, what terrestrial powers can equal this wonderful gift!"



BIRGITTA

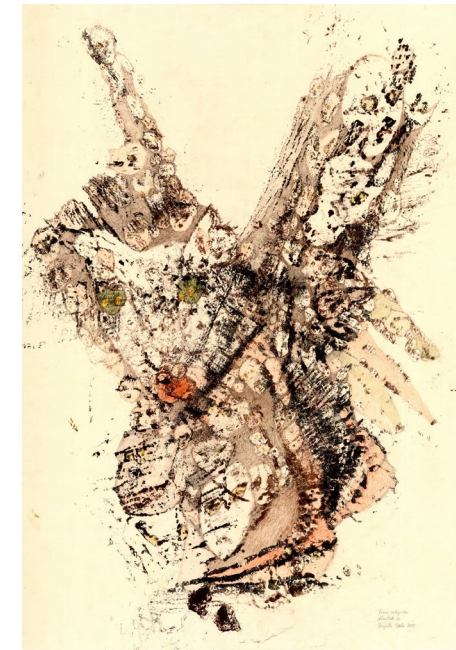
Aurovilian, from Germany

Beginning her career in 1985 as the youngest member of the Association of Professional Artists in Nuremberg, Germany, Birgitta received her BA from Würzburg College and her MA from the University of Modern Arts in Kassel. Between 1996 and 2000, she lectured at art colleges in India, Portugal and Ghana. Drawn to India, she settled in Auroville in 2005.

On the barks of trees, she sees a million, myriad microscopic creatures cramped together in the natural carvings of the wood, and her 'bark prints' bring these to life. It's an art she first honed on wood cuts from 1982 in Germany, and continued on live trees from 2004 in Auroville.

Each bark print takes her over a month, just to stabilise the bark, add shades of 'ecological oil pigments' or charcoal onto the tree and make their print onto paper. "I work alone in Auroville's forests for hours together, and the tree that I've used the most to print is the madhuca longifolia," says Birgitta.

"I wish to open people to the beauty of nature, which is a continuous theme in my artwork. My aim is to create a consciousness and perhaps some viewers will be able to gain access to the spiritual aspects of nature."



Recipient of numerous international awards, fellowships, and artist residencies, Birgitta's wood prints, bark prints and botanical prints are kept in many public and private collections.

Birgitta Volz, an artist and designer can be credited with nearly 100 solo exhibitions, more than 150 group exhibitions, and work in 18 different countries.





CLAIRE IONO

Aurovilian, from France

Claire was born in 1969, in Paris. She has been living in Auroville, for the last 10 years.

For Claire her art practice is one and of one piece with her decision to walk a spiritual path. Her paintings are a visual narrative that describe an inner journey of unfolding.

"They are a true expression of my own personal adventure to fulfil the profound spiritual longing that is at the core of my artistic research." The never-ending exploration of nature... all of nature, can be found in her work. she intuitively fluctuates between the abstract and the figurative, creating subtle worlds that evoke imaginary and symbolic landscapes, where nature is animated.

"In my paintings there are no boundaries between realms, instead they simply unfold into each other in a kind of continuum."

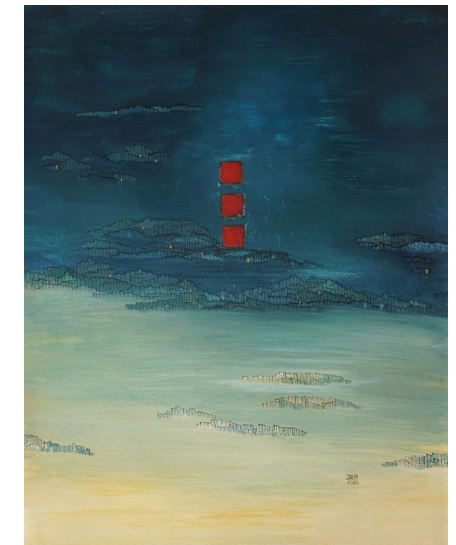
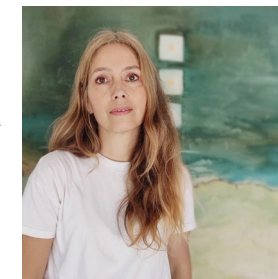
She uses tempera with wash technique as used in Indian traditional ancient arts and watercolours and ink as used in different asian ancient techniques. Her references are painters such as Paul Klee, VS Gaitonde and Zao Wou-Ki.

Claire was initially trained in France by a Bauhaus painter and further explored in the direction of traditional asian arts, which had a profound impact on her development as an artist.



Her art pieces find collector's home all around the world. She has held several solo shows and has participated to several group shows and international art fairs.

This last year, Claire was a finalist of the national competition Ora Mojarto and of the international exhibition, Art revolution Taipei in Taiwan; she has joined the artists catalogue of Kalakriti Art Gallery, one major gallery in India.





CRYSTAL

Aurovilian, from Germany

Crystal is a self taught artist who's recent work explores the many possibilities of pyrography combining it with mixed media.

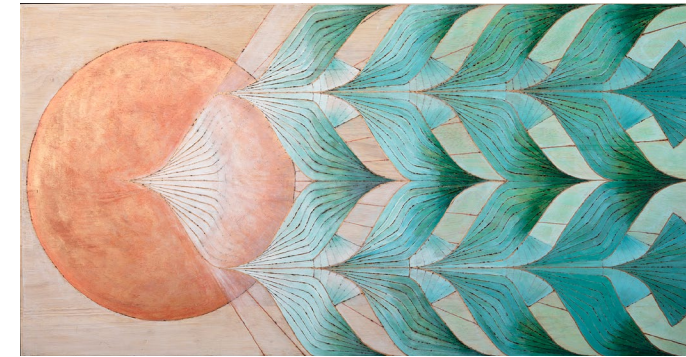
Her inspiration comes from her inner world and connects with the lines already present in the wood. First she engraves it and then applies different mediums such as ink, watercolor, pencil, gouache, etc...

" My palette contains highly saturated colors but I also love the use of the subdued nuances of bister." Bister is a water-based walnut ink, the natural pigments give a very natural look on the wood as they are made of the same substance and let the lines and curves in the wood shine through.

The vibrating colors of the earth, sun, nature and people are inviting her to use an abundance of colors and I like to celebrate it all with various shades of gold.

For many of her works these growing lines in the wood are the starting point of her painting. "I love the energy of flowing lines." In these lines, she sees images building up...

" I go inside the silence and find an inner focus and balance. From that place of harmony and contentment flows the inspiration and starts also the struggle to bring forward."



These images contain a lot of archetypes, symbols coming up from the unconscious and merge together in a personal story. Inner and outer world coming together. Sun, circles and trees are recurring images in her paintings.



"The sun and circles represent a deep urge for wholeness, perfection, timelessness and the trees aim for growth, belonging and being more rooted in my deep self. It feels like an outpouring of what happens inside my spiritual process during these special times.



With my art I want to bring a message of hope, a feeling of goodness, a ray of light to the being, a fresh look at the world, an intimacy and reconnection with the soul."





HELGARD

Aurovilian, from Germany

Born 1949 in Heilbronn (Germany), Helgard lives and works as an artist in Auroville.

Art has always been an expression of her soul.

She worked as a teacher and lecturer at college. During her work as a teacher she created large pieces of textile art together with her students.

At that time she was also putting more and more effort on the development of her drawing and modelling skills along with other artists in the large area of Tuebingen, Germany.

Through courses in painting at the international “European Arts academy Trier” under Manchini, Lasar, Petri, Stahl and especially through regular courses at the “Academy for Fine Arts” at Steffeln under Fritz Baumgartner she became empowered to develop her own personal style.

In 2015, Helgard spent some weeks in Germany working intensively at the Art-Academie Allgäu, to integrate new technical ways to express in her artwork. Her artistic roots figurative

Since 2000, she exclusively works as an artist doing painting, photography and sculptures. Her main focus as an artist is on the human being, expressing it in body-language, spirit and mind.



painting shows a developing towards abstract painting.

Since 1999 she has participated in many groups exhibitions and held various solo shows in India and abroad.





JYOTI

Aurovilian, from Japan

Jyoti is a Japanese artist residing in Auroville.

He studied traditional Japanese art as the foundation to his artistic career.

"In 1994 I became a professional wood sculptor through the apprenticeship in Tokyo. In 1999 I lived in London for 1 year to study Mahayana Buddhism and Western art in general. After that I came back to Japan and studied Buddhist image sculptures and traditional art in general at my birth place Kyoto until 2004."

He has used this strong traditional background to break barriers in his art and explore multiple techniques and mediums in his artwork such as; calligraphy, sculpture, water colours, ceramics, lacquer work etc.

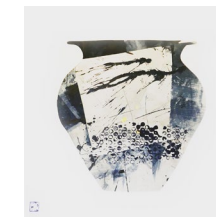
This research has lead him to believe that art can bridge and harmonise the dualities of existence. He seeks to create visual poetry dedicated to humanity. After some intensive art and religious studies in Japan, gradually his focus shifted to deeper spiritual awareness and insights.

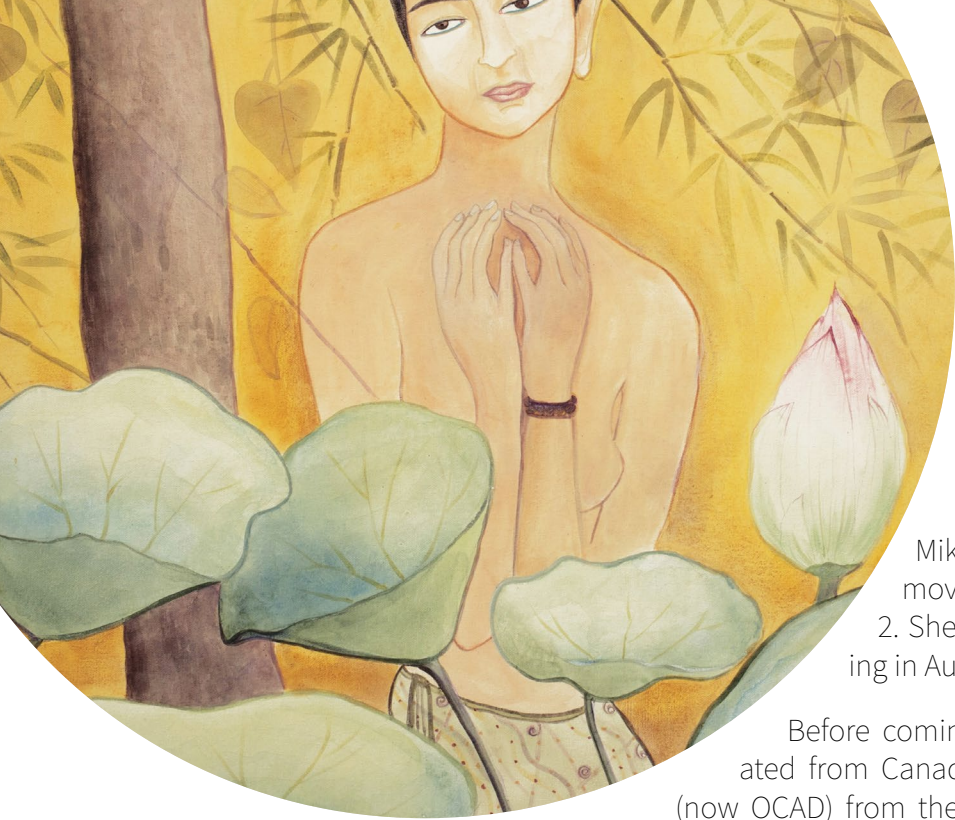
"I was born in an artist family in Kyoto, Japan. I started calligraphy study since age seven. Then started to learn figurative sculptures in a public art high school in Kyoto."



Then he decided to travel to Nepal, Tibet and India and visited spiritual masters in different traditions.

Since 2010 he is exhibiting his art in group shows in India and Asia and recently held a solo show where 4 years of his artistic research was displayed. His works are part of private collections.





MIKI

Aurovilian, from Alaska

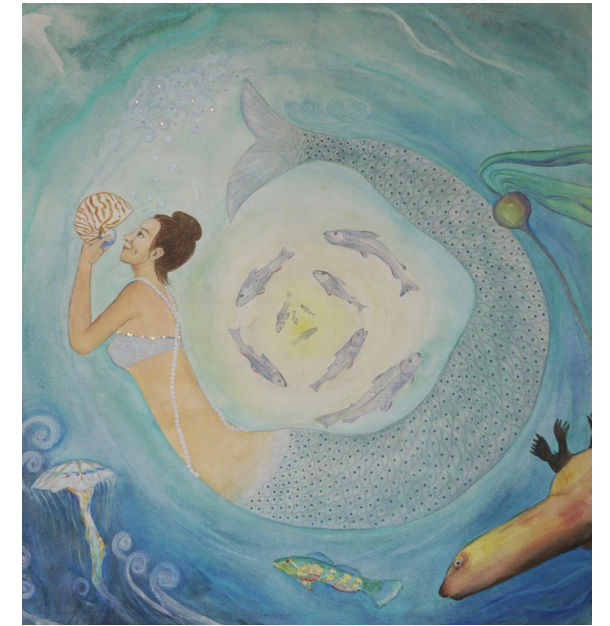
Miki is born in Alaska and moved to Seattle at the age of 2. She has been living and working in Auroville since 2000.

Before coming to Auroville, she graduated from Canada's Ontario College of Art (now OCAD) from the Experimental Studies department.

Upon her arrival to Auroville, she was invited to work at the Janaka Art Studio painting in the traditional South Indian style called Tanjore, as well as explorative painting in Tibetan, Renaissance and others. She is still an active member at the Studio. "It is interesting to note that the Renaissance had an influence on Indian Art, probably due to the influx of Europeans who were trading here; the traditional Tanjore art forms were adapted to suit European tastes, but, still including the local mythologies here."

Auroville has been a stimulus for further experimentation of evolutionary territories of the mind, body, and spirit particularly cross-cultural aspects.

Mythology, mystery and transformation are fundamental themes to Miki's art-making process.



"Everything imaginable is evolving into something else. Nothing is separate. Our thoughts are not our own, but, floating like viruses being caught here and there. We can be imprisoned by whirlpools and chaos, but, we can also travel to the Light. We can become weightless, we can disappear, we can shine and we can become silent like a stone."





Photo credits The Drone Zone, Auroville

THE SYMBOL DAWN

Sri Aurobindo – Savitri, Book II The Book of Beginnings,
Canto I The Symbol Dawn

*Dawn built her aura of magnificent hues
And buried its seed of grandeur in the
hours.
An instant visitor the godhead shone.
On life's thin border awhile the Vision stood
And bent over earth's pondering forehead
curve.
Interpreting a recondite beauty and bliss
In colour's hieroglyphs of mystic sense,
It wrote the lines of a significant myth
Telling of a greatness of spiritual dawns,
A brilliant code penned with the sky for
page.*



NATHALIE

Aurovilian, from France

Born in Paris, Nathalie moved to India at the age of 7 when her family came to Auroville in the early days as devotees of Sri Aurobindo and Mother.

Growing up in Auroville has brought up a profound sense of exploration, adventure and passion for learning. This is how she explored different art areas, Sculpture, illustration, photography and painting.

"Growing up in India has had a profound influence in my life, in painting, sculpture or photography, as my roots are both eastern and western. Beauty, refinement, adventure and a good sense of humour are, I believe, indispensable tools for survival."

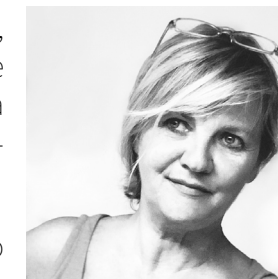
She is the Author and illustrator of two children books published in Auroville: MANGO TREE – 2018, JUST IMAGINE! – 2017 she also collaborated with another author by Illustrating The Little Wave, a book by Renu Neogy.

Nathalie has been accompanying children for many years through the "play of painting" a method which give them the space and freedom to express themselves through painting.

Nathalie likes to use mixed media in her paintings, in her last exhibition, she displayed a whole series where she used among other materials a handmade paper she made in collaboration with Auroville papers.



She lives with her partner of many years in Auroville where trees, mongoose, lizards and birdsong are welcomed friends in a mutually beneficial environment.



She has held several solo shows and has participated to several group shows. Nathalie's works are part of private collections all over the world and part of the exhibition hall in Auroville Visitors Center.



NELE

Aurovilian, from France

Born in Germany, Nele Martens is an artist and sculptor who travelled the world through her art before permanently settling in Auroville, India.

During her school years, she worked with sculptor, Florian Lechner in Neubern, Germany.

She then went to work with Italian sculptors Salvatore Cipolla and Marcello Fantoni in Florence, where she also received a diploma in Art studies from the Istituto D'Arte di Porta Romana.

From 1977 to 1993, she spent her time doing ceramic sculpture work and painting in her own studio in Tuscany and working in Auroville during her long visits.

Using different materials such as ceramic, canvas, plexiglass, wood and metal, Nele has worked on themes of Light, Movement and Transparency. These ideas led to her interest and further research into kinetic sculptures and light installations. Her art is not a mental construct but "an interwoven action of the ordered mind and intuitive force, leading to the right co-

Light, balance and transparency are the guiding principles. Her paintings are dominated by strong expressive brushstrokes.



lours and stroke and size. Everything then gets its own expressive meaning."

Her artworks have been featured in various exhibitions around the world, such as the Goethe Institute in Tokyo, the Gallery Irms Duschl in Germany and the Galleria Parti d'Arte in Italy. Her paintings are parts of many private collections and can be found in galleries in Germany, Italy, France, USA and India.





SHANTA

Aurovilian, from France

Born in 1944 in Nice, France, Shanta studied at the National School of Decorative arts of Nice.

She spent eleven years teaching arts in several secondary schools and colleges in Auroville. She also taught at the visual arts school.

"The painting chose me as a true friend to go through the path of life. I can answer at its fire and its exigence. I have a Gratitude without limit for this present of Nature. »

"The art of painting lives inside me but does not belong to me. I have an immense gratitude for the grace of this gift which has been accorded to me towards progress."

Throughout her artistic path, Shanta has not only taught but she has also exhibited in many solo and group shows in Europe and India.



Shanta was the lead designer of the 12 meditation rooms of the Matrimandir known as « The Petals ».



THE NATIONAL VALUE OF ART

Sri Aurobindo, quoted from the book Early cultural writings.

The first and lowest use of Art is the purely aesthetic, the second is the intellectual or educative, the third and highest the spiritual. By speaking of the aesthetic use as the lowest, we do not wish to imply that it is not of immense value to humanity, but simply to assign to it its comparative value in relation to the higher uses. The aesthetic is of immense importance and until it has done its work, mankind is not really fitted to make full use of Art on the higher planes of human development. Aristotle assigns a high value to tragedy because of its purifying force. He describes its effect as katharsis, a sacramental word of the Greek mysteries, which, in the secret discipline of the ancient Greek Tantrics, answered precisely to our cittasuddhi, the purification of the citta or mass of established ideas, feelings and actional habits in a man either by samyama, rejection, or by bhoga, satisfaction, or by both. Aristotle was speaking of the purification of feeling, passions and emotions in the heart through imaginative treatment in poetry but the truth the idea contains is of much wider application and constitutes the justification of the aesthetic side of art. It purifies by beauty. The beautiful and the good are held by many thinkers to be the same and, though the idea may be wrongly

stated, it is, when put from the right standpoint, not only a truth but the fundamental truth of existence. According to our own philosophy the whole world came out of ananda and returns into ananda, and the triple term in which ananda may be stated is Joy, Love, Beauty. To see divine beauty in the whole world, man, life, nature, to love that which we have seen and to have pure unalloyed bliss in that love and that beauty is the appointed road by which mankind as a race must climb to God. That is the reaching to vidya through avidya, to the One Pure and Divine through the manifold manifestation of Him, of which the Upanishad repeatedly speaks. But the bliss must be pure and unalloyed, unalloyed by self-regarding emotions, unalloyed by pain and evil. The sense of good and bad, beautiful and un-beautiful, which afflicts our understanding and our senses, must be replaced by akhanda rasa, undifferentiated and unabridged delight in the delightfulness of things, before the highest can be reached. On the way to this goal full use must be made of the lower and abridged sense of beauty which seeks to replace the less beautiful by the more, the lower by the higher, the mean by the noble.



Photo credits The Drone Zone, Auroville

SELECTED STUDENTS

JYOTI SINGH

Indore, MP

Born in Indore in 1992, Jyoti is pursuing a MFA in the Institute of Fine Arts of Indore.

In 2018 she was selected in the Kochi Muziris Biennale in the Students category. She already has participated in several art festivals in India.

"I like crowd around me. Whenever I am in the crowd or a part of the crowd, I feel special and get a strong feeling that I am not alone. I started my art looking at this crowd.



I like to draw the crowd, one can see the beauty of it in my paintings. Crowd is all around me, it sings something to my ears which feels like a melody to me. I am capturing some movements that are part of the crowd."



MILO

Aurovillian, from UK

Born in London in 2004 Milo came to Auroville with his family when he was 8 years old. He is studying in Last School.

He is interested in anatomy. He explores human bodies, characters and faces. "I enjoy drawing and painting the human body because it is clear, there is a right and a wrong and this fact is comforting. I have an intelligible direction to move in.

He is making portraits of people expressing different emotions to try to evoke that same emotion in the viewer. "I want to obviously bring emotions to my paintings and for me there's nothing more emotionally inducing

than the face. The eyes alone can tell a whole story. A slight raising of an eyebrow or creased forehead. The possibility for colours as well, a red nose to contrast yellow skin, dark blue bags under exhausted brown eyes; a story, an emotion. The complexity is fascinating and the rules are clear.

He used to focus on pencil drawings, strictly refraining himself from adventuring to colour. "Now that I am here, using colour, it's a whole other world to explore. It's fascinating but very demanding. There are a lot more things to worry about than just proportions and shadows, a whole other dimension of aesthetic to perfect."



XIN PENG

Aurovillian, from China

Xin Peng was born in 1998 in China. He has been studying art in Last School, Auroville for the past 7 years.

"I have always been a shy person, who likes to draw in the corner. At the age of 17, I had a life changing experience while I was cycling through Tibet, my perception of the world changed. Most of my paintings are meant to honor the quality of that moment, a moment of harmony, selflessness and being alive."



His paintings are inspired by his true life stories or by an idea he wants to challenge. He likes to paint in an imaginary and fantasy style.

"Travelling, adventuring, painting always comes together in my life, without one of them, there is no definition of art for me."



THANK YOU

Thank you to all those who contributed to make this artcamp a dream come true.

Thank you to the participating artists of this second edition.

Thank you to all the artists from all over India who applied to the call for artists.

Thank you for their support to:

Auroville Outreachmedia, Capability, Centre d'Art, Pavilion of Tibetan Culture, S.A.I.I.E.R, SDZ foundation, Visitors Centre.

Thank you to Om and Julie for their amazing photographs of the Dawn.

Thank you Kalsang and Namgyal for hosting the art camp for the second time in the Pavilion of Tibetan Culture with much care and love.

Thank you to the team of the Centre d'Art for welcoming the final exhibition.

Thank you to all the Aurovillians and friends who contribute and volunteer to manifest this second edition of the Auroville artcamp.

Thank you to the participating artists of the first edition who have been the pioneers of this amazing adventure.

Thank you to The Mother and Sri Aurobindo.

This catalogue is not for commercial use.

All copyrights and reproduction rights are reserved by the Auroville Art Camp. This catalog may not be reproduced by any process without the written permission of the Auroville Art Camp. Photos have a caption that mentions the author of the photos. Regarding the photos of the artists's artworks, Auroville Art Camp has given permission by the artists to diffuse it in this catalog.

WITH GRATITUDE

*"The nobility of a being is measured by its capacity of gratitude."
The Mother, April 1954*



Photo credits The Drone Zone, Auroville