

ART DUBAI
1-3.3.2024

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
 A.R.M.
HOLDING

EMAMI ART

DEBASHISH PAUL



BAWWABA, BOOTH W-6

Curated by **Emiliano Valdés**

Preview: 28 – 29 February 2024

Dates: 1 – 3 March 2024

Venue: Madinat Jumeirah, Arena Hall
Dubai – United Arab Emirates

  www.emamiart.com | +91 6292 237 612

Pages 4 – 7

Photographs and video works

At Art Dubai 2024 Bawwaba section, Emami Art will be showing cross-disciplinary artist **Debashish Paul's** drawings, performance photographs, video, and two costume pieces from a recent performance. Paul's unique multi-expressionist practice is devised through dialogues with the self, society and nature. In his performance, Paul explores the possibilities for repair, reconciliation, and consolation with a deep sense of identity and spirituality.

Pages 8 – 10

Performance costume and headpiece

Although there is no stark resemblance to traditional forms, his performances draw from mythology and ritualistic elements to create a safe space for himself. Paul's site-specific performances and videos, where landscapes and rivers are integral to the narrative, express complex emotions and symbolic connections. However, the landscape is a site of enlightenment and healing in his works. The body and landscape in his videos blend in, resonating with each other. Water bodies, especially rivers, reflect the fluidity of his inner self and the body, which is sedimented with memories and time. Drawings, independently or as part of his sculptural dresses, are essential to his practice. They are made from paper pasted on fabric with drawings that carry visual lexicons of his memories, self, stories and imaginations of body and intimate things. Site-specific photography is an extended part of his practice, where he appears in sculptural dresses, signifying certain connections and elements relating to the place and theme of his performance.

Pages 11 – 42

Works on paper

Varanasi, where Paul has lived for the last few years, is one of Hinduism's most important holy sites; the city's culture, spiritual tradition and familial connection with spirituality significantly shaped his performance style and philosophy. Paul's search is primarily driven by the relations he develops with his surroundings, places, people, objects and nature, emphasising the spiritual over the physical. His works reflect a strong emancipation of self, gender and sexuality. The social, sexual and emotional behaviour of a body in a space is codified through generational conditioning and discipline; they are overloaded with the axioms of community and culture. Paul transcends his body beyond the barriers and creates a hypnotic, inclusive and non-alienating space. Often attributed to ritual and shamanic characteristics, his performance has a quality for enlightening the space, transforming his body as an agent with powers of healing and consolation, bringing the people and space together. Thinking through the body with a conscious and internalised understanding becomes an act of healing and affirmation of self, breaking the barriers and burdens constructed through the logic of binaries and exclusions.



Debashish Paul, a multidisciplinary artist born in 1994 in the Nadia district of West Bengal, explores the problems of queer identity in a society dominated by heterosexual norms. Paul graduated with a B.F.A. in Sculpture from The Indian College of Art and Draftsmanship Kolkata, and an M.F.A. in Sculpture from Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi in 2019 and 2021 respectively. Paul has many national and international shows and performances including ‘The Magic of the Silver Swan’ curated by Kinnari Sariya, Bowes Museum, Bernard Castle, UK, 2023-24; Prince Claus Fund Biennial Symposium in Sri Lanka, 5 Dec 2023; Performance program with HH Art Space, supported by Pro Helvetia’s “To-gather” International Collaboration, 2023; Cité internationale des arts, Institut français Paris Residency supported by Prameya Art Foundation, and the French Institute in India in 2023; Kochi-Muziris Biennale Performance Residency in collaboration with HH Art Space and Nikhil Chopra, 2022-2023; The Students’ Biennale at Kochi Biennale, 2021; ‘Of Liminal Beings and Other Spaces’ at Emami Art, Kolkata in 2021; ‘Beyond Binaries: Sensing Art through Queer Lensing’ at KCC, Kolkata in 2021; and ‘Emami Art Open Call Exhibition’ at Emami Art, Kolkata in 2020. His works have been shown by Emami Art at India Art Fair 2023 in New Delhi where he was also the India Art Fair Artist in Residence. His other shows include Art Dusseldorf, Dusseldorf, Germany in 2023 and an upcoming Solo presentation by Emami Art at Bawwaba section, Art Dubai 2024 curated by Emiliano Valdez.

Paul has several awards to his credit including The Inlaks Fine Art Awards and Residency at 1 Shanthi Road Studio/Gallery, Bengaluru in 2022. He has participated in the Kala Sakshi Workshop in 2021. Paul was awarded the Kalanad Scholarship 2022-23 by the Prafulla Dahanukar Art Foundation; the Seed Award by the Prince Claus Fund in 2022; the Inlaks Fine Art Award by Inlaks Shivdasani Foundation in 2022; the Allegro 1st prize by Contemporary LYNX, London in 2021; and the Indian Artist Relief Fund 2021 by Museum of Art and Photography in partnership with 1 Shanthi Road Studio/Gallery.

Debashish Paul lives and works between Varanasi, in Uttar Pradesh and Nadia district in West Bengal, India.

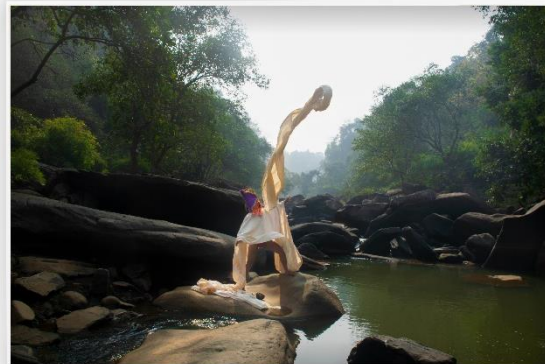
Debashish Paul (b.1994)
The Song for Peace
Performance Video
Single-channel colour video with sound
Duration: 3 min 38 sec
2023, Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh
Video edition - 1/5 + 1 AP
Video Courtesy - Anil Kushwaha

[VIDEO EXCERPT](#)

AB2543

USD 780 | INR 60,000 + taxes and logistics





Debashish Paul (b.1994)

The Song for Peace I, II, III (top row), *IV, V, VI* (bottom row)

Archival print on Ilford textured cotton rag (310 gsm)

16 x 24 in. (61 x 40.6 cm.) each

2023, Mirzapur, UP

Singed in English (on the reverse)

Edition 1/5 each

AB2534 – AB2539

USD 650 | INR 50,000 + taxes and logistics each

Debashish Paul (b.1994)

My Body Becomes You

Performance video

Single-channel colour video with sound

Duration: 6 min 2 sec

2023, Paris

Video edition - 1/5 + 1 AP

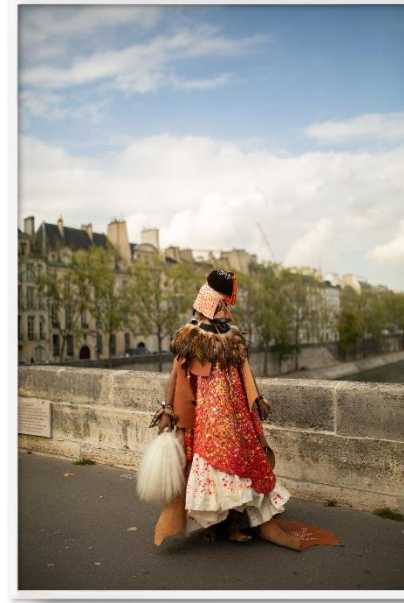
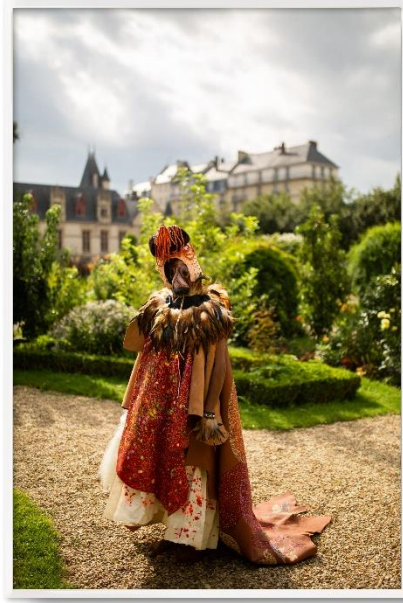
[VIDEO EXCERPT](#)

AB2542

USD 1170 | INR 90,000 + taxes and logistics



Video still



Debashish Paul (b.1994)

My Body Becomes You I, II, III, IV, V (left to right)

Archival print on Ilford textured cotton rag (310 gsm)

24 x 16 in. (61 x 40.6 cm.) each

2023, Paris

Signed in English (on the reverse)

Edition 1/5 each

AB2529 – Ab2533

USD 650 | INR 50,000 + taxes and logistics each



Debashish Paul (b.1994)

Untitled (My Body Becomes You series)

Acrylic, charcoal, plastic beads and metal bells on leather

95.5 x 98 in. (242.5 x 249 cm.) approx.

2023, Paris

Unsigned

AB2526

USD 7800 | INR 6,00,000 + taxes and logistics



Detail of *Untitled (My Body Becomes You series)*



Debashish Paul (b.1994)
My Body Becomes You (Headpiece)
Lokta handmade paper, found leather mask,
beads, threads, bird feathers and fur hat
Dimension variable
2023, Paris
Singed in English (inside the edge of the neck)
AB2528

USD 975 | INR 75,000 + taxes and logistics



Debashish Paul (b.1994)

Untitled

Acrylic, dry pastel and charcoal on paper

15 x 24.5 in. (38 x 62.2 cm.) overall

11.8 x 8 in. (30 x 20.7 cm.) each

Triptych

2024, Varanasi

Signed in English (on the reverse)

AB2521

USD 1950 | INR 1,50,000 + taxes and logistics





Detail of *Untitled*



Debashish Paul (b.1994)

Untitled

Acrylic, dry pastel and charcoal on paper

17.5 x 24.5 in. (44.4 x 62.2) overall size

11.8 x 8 in. (30 x 20.7 cm.) each

Triptych

2024, Varanasi

Signed in English (on the reverse)

AB2522

USD 1950 | INR 1,50,000 + taxes and logistics

Debashish Paul (b.1994)

Untitled

Acrylic, dry pastel and charcoal on paper

60.5 x 39 in. (153.6 x 99.5cm.) overall

A - 31 x 19.6 in. (78.7 x 50 cm.)

B - 31 x 19.5 in. (78.7 x 49.5 cm.)

C - 29.5 x 19.5 (75 x 49.5 cm.)

d - 29.5 in x 19.6 in. (75 x 50 cm.)

Quadriptych

2024, Varanasi

Signed in English (on the reverse)

AB2523

USD 6500 | INR 5,00,000 + taxes and logistics



Debashish Paul (b.1994)

Untitled (My Body Becomes You series)

Acrylic, dry pastel and charcoal on paper

48 x 24.8 in. (122 x 63 cm.) overall

A - 11.6 x 8.2 in. (29.5 x 21 cm.)

B - 8.2 x 11.6 in. (21 x 29.5 cm.)

C - 11.6 x 8.2 in. (29.5 x 21 cm.)

D - 11.6 x 16.5 in. (29.5 x 42 cm.)

E - 8.2 x 11.6 in. (21 x 29.5 cm.)

F - 8.2 x 11.6 in. (21 x 29.5 cm.)

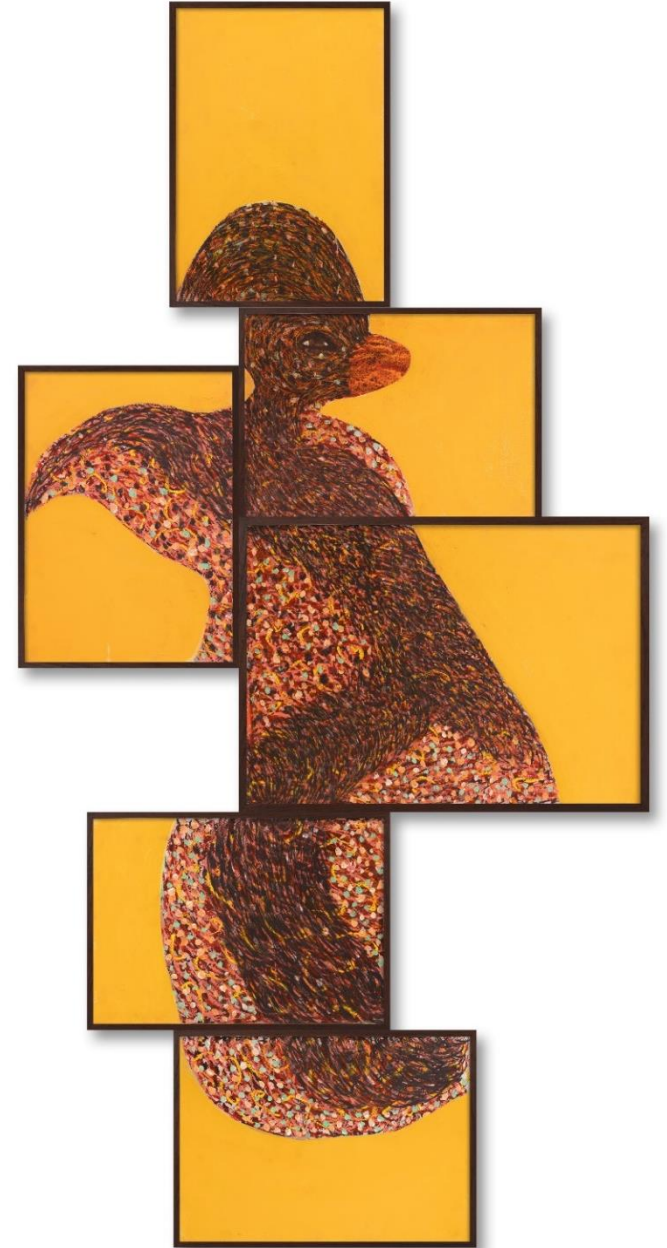
Work consists of 6 units

2023, Paris

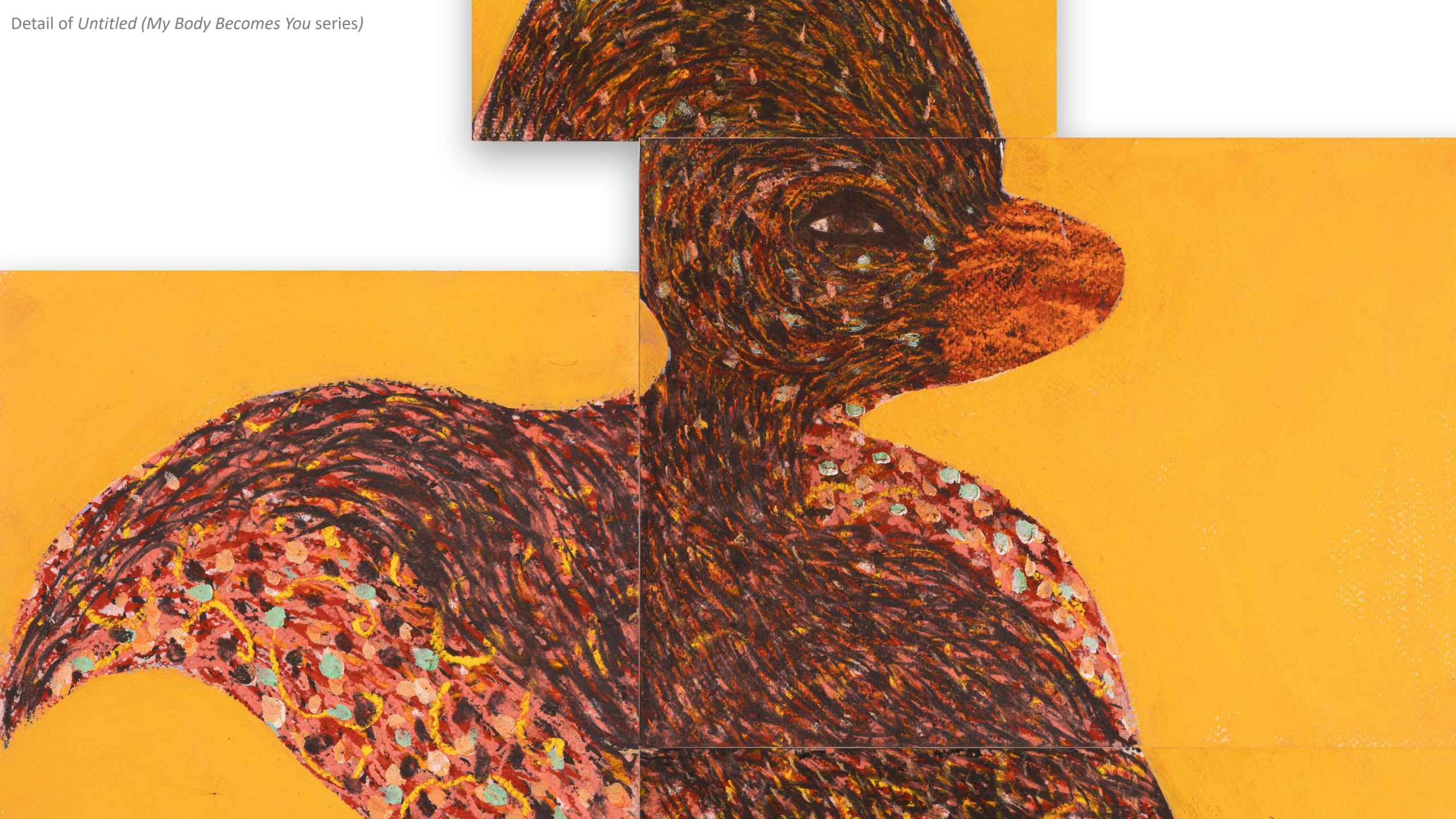
Signed in English (on the reverse)

AB2524

USD 4550 | INR 3,50,000 + taxes and logistics



Detail of *Untitled (My Body Becomes You series)*



Debashish Paul (b.1994)

Untitled

Acrylic ink, acrylic on paper

43.7 x 33 in. (111 x 83.8 cm.) overall

11.8 x 8.2 in. (30 x 21 cm.) each

Work consists of 9 works

2024, Kolkata

Signed in English (on the reverse)

AB2541

USD 5200 | INR 4,00,000 + taxes and logistics





Detail of *Untitled*

Debashish Paul (b.1994)

Untitled

Acrylic, dry pastel and charcoal on paper

47.2 x 50.7 in. (120 x 129 cm.) overall

A - 19.8 x 31 in. (50.3 x 78.7 cm.)

B - 23.2 x 20 in. (59 x 51.2 cm.)

C - 35.8 x 20 in. (91 x 50.8 cm.)

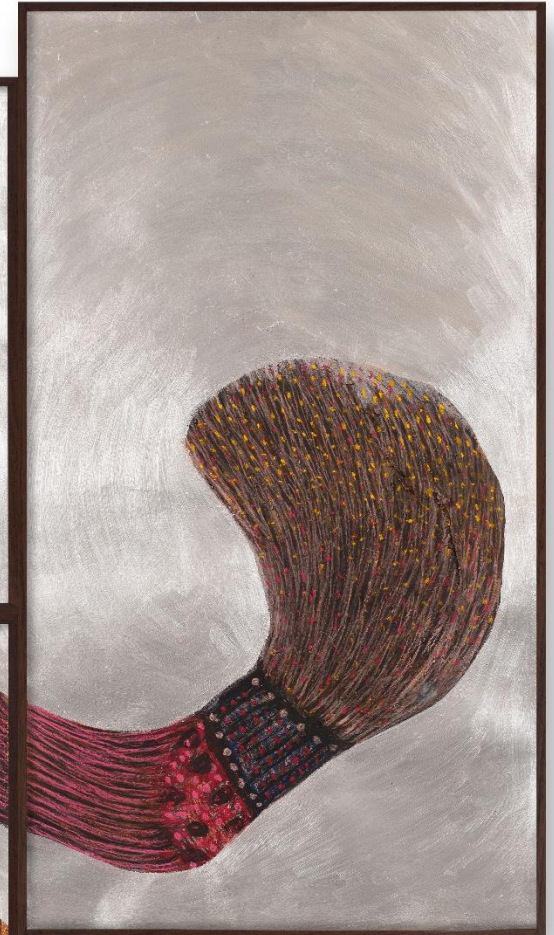
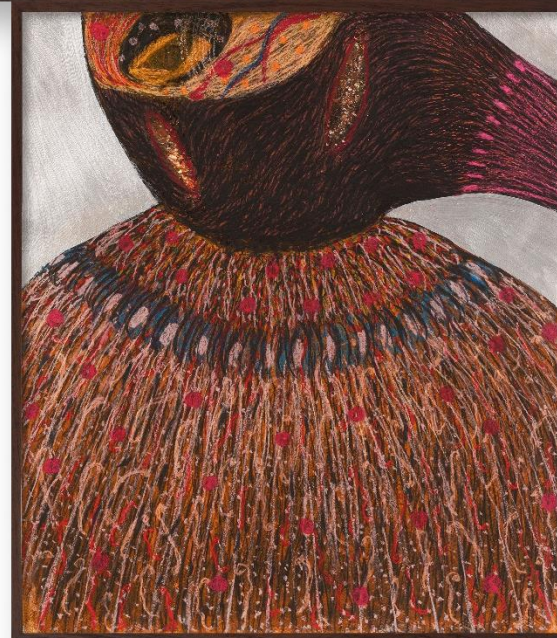
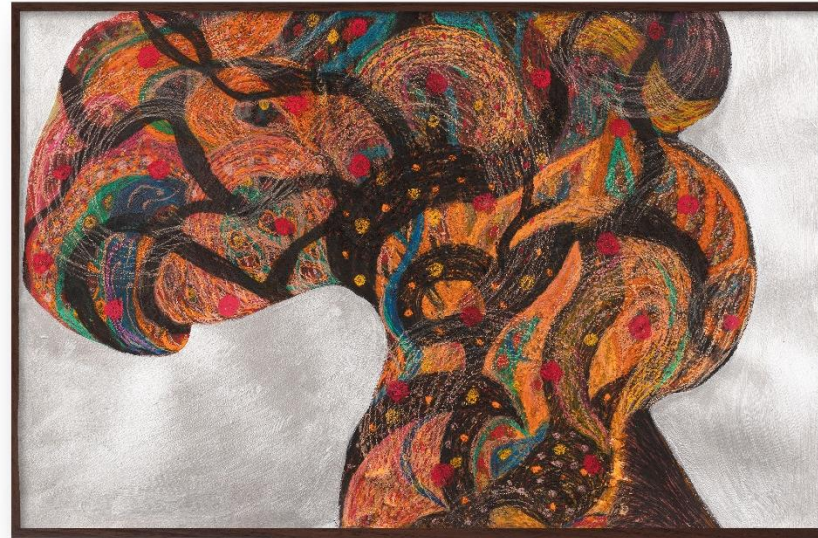
Triptych

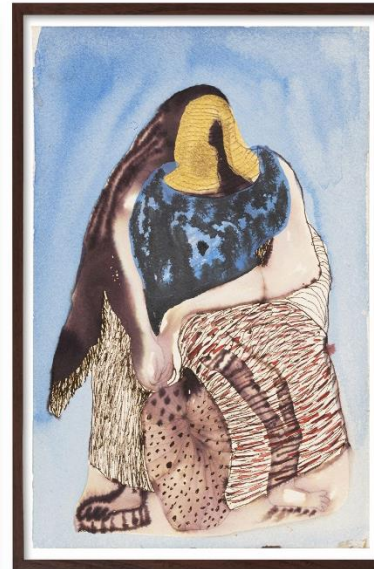
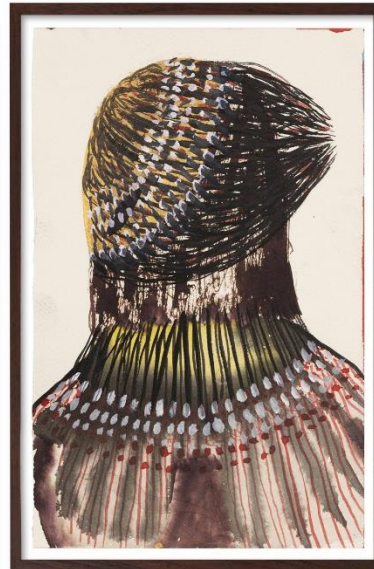
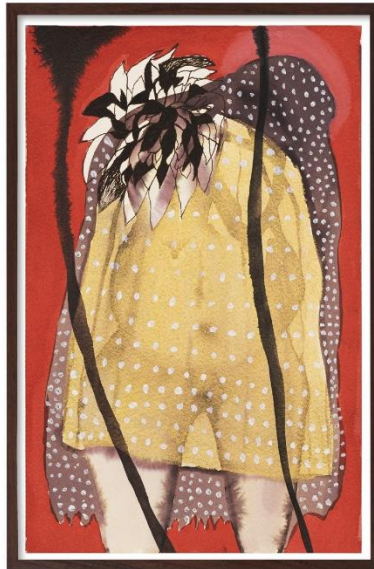
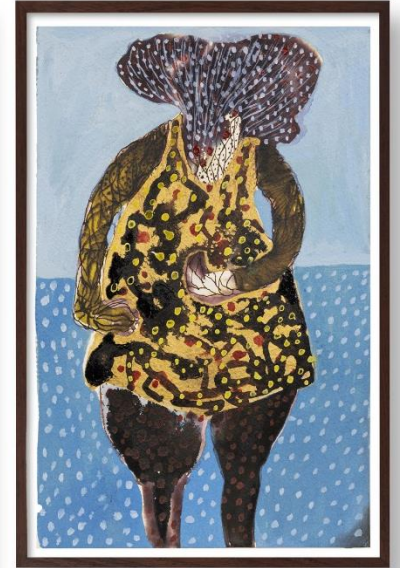
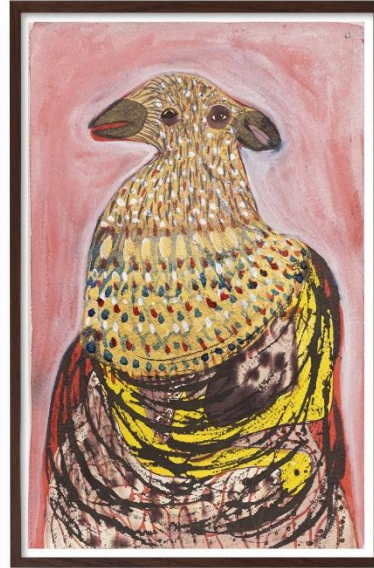
2024, Varanasi and Kolkata

Signed in English (on the reverse)

AB2480

USD 6500 | INR 5,00,000 + taxes and logistics





Debashish Paul (b.1994)

Untitled

Acrylic and ink on paper

Overall size variable

8.3 x 5.3 in. (21 x 13.5 cm.) approx. each

Suite of 8 works

2024, Kolkata

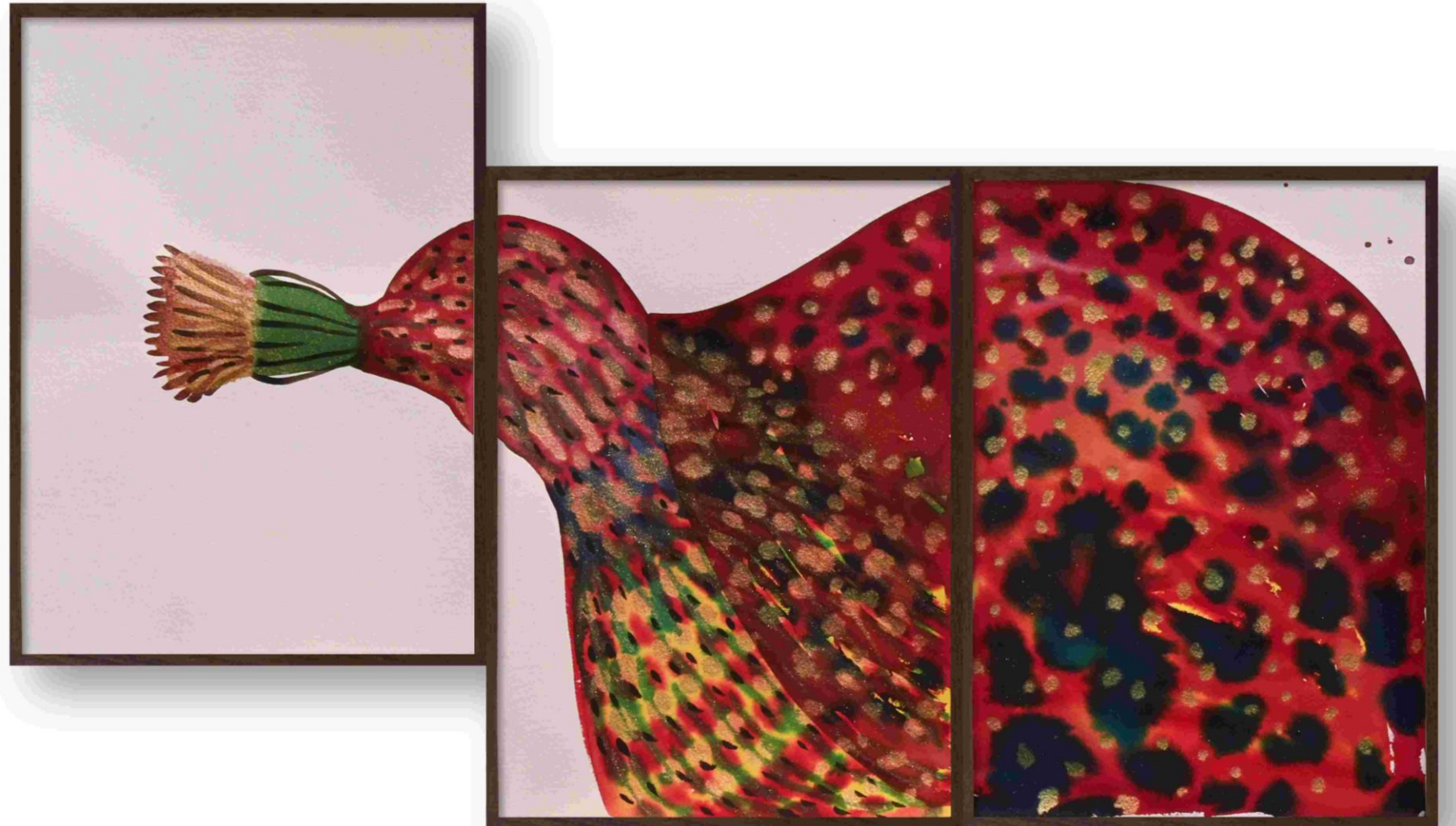
Signed in English (on the reverse)

AB2527

USD 2600 | NR 2,00,000 + taxes and logistics

Detail of Untitled





Debashish Paul (b.1994)

Untitled

Photo ink and acrylic ink on paper

14.5 x 24.5 in. (37 x 62.2 cm.) overall

11.8 x 8.2 in. (30 x 21 cm.) each

Triptych

2024, Kolkata

Signed in English (on the reverse)

AB2632

USD 1950 | INR 1,50,000 + taxes and logistics

Debashish Paul (b.1994)

Untitled

Photo ink and acrylic ink on paper

11.8 x 16.5 in. (30 x 42 cm.) overall

11.8 x 8.2 in. (30 x 21 cm.) each

Diptych

2024, Kolkata

Signed in English (on the reverse)

AB2633

USD 975 | INR 75,000 + taxes and logistics



Debashish Paul (b.1994)

Untitled

Photo ink and acrylic ink on paper

11.8 x 16.5 in. (30 x 42 cm.) overall

11.8 x 8.2 in. (30 x 21 cm.) each

Diptych

2024, Kolkata

Signed in English (on the reverse)

AB2633

USD 975 | INR 75,000 + taxes and logistics



Debashish Paul (b.1994)

Untitled

Photo ink and acrylic ink on paper

8.2 x 12 in. (21 x 30 cm.) overall

8.2 x 6 in. (21 x 15 cm.) each

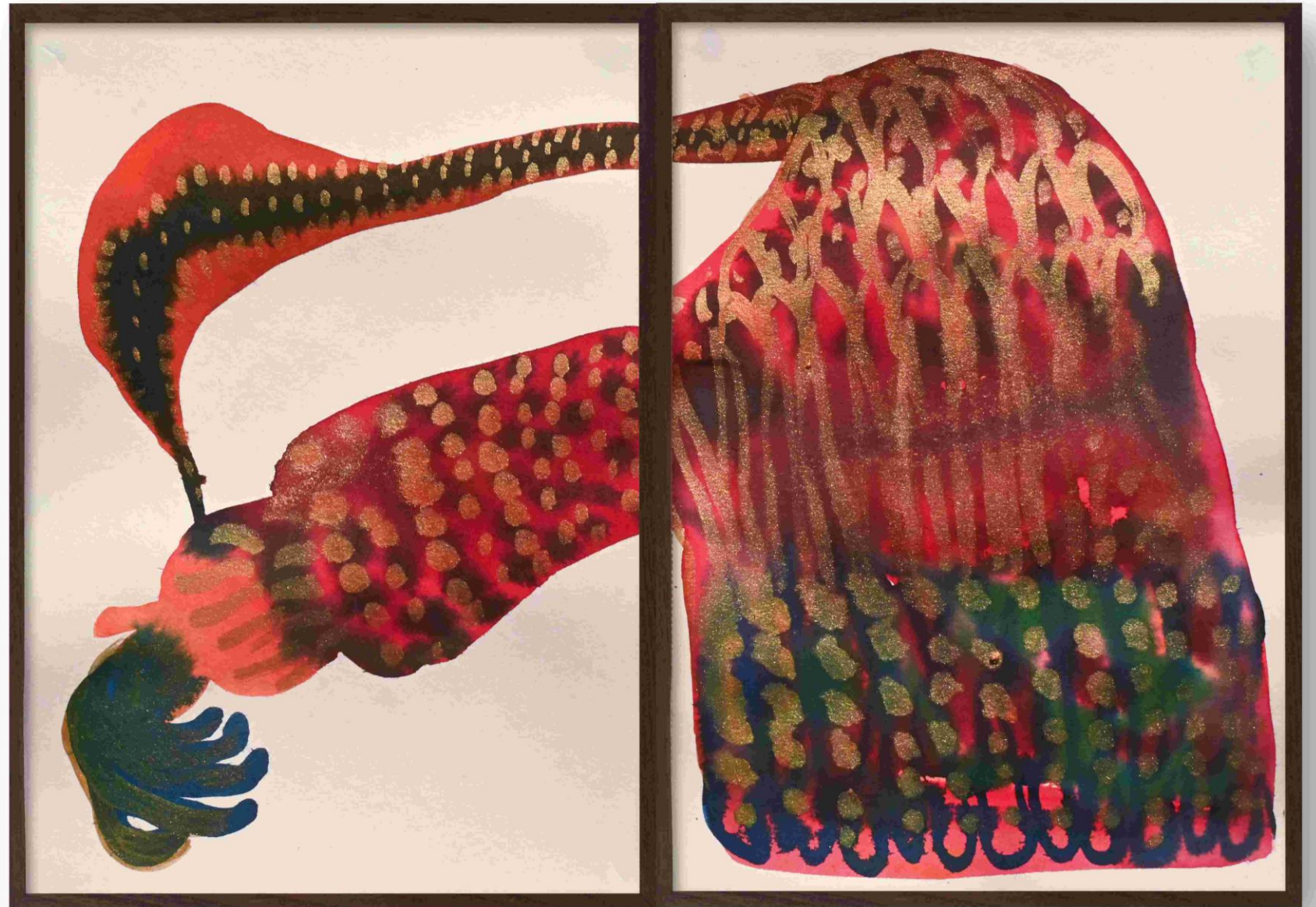
Dptych

2024, Kolkata

Signed in English (on the reverse)

AB2635

USD 520 | INR 40,000 + taxes and logistics



Debashish Paul (b.1994)

Untitled

Photo ink and acrylic ink on paper

8.2 x 12 in. (21 x 30 cm.) overall

8.2 x 6 in. (21 x 15 cm.) each

Diptych

2024, Kolkata

Signed in English (on the reverse)

AB2636

USD 520 | INR 40,000 + taxes and logistics



Debashish Paul (b.1994)

Untitled

Dry pastel, charcoal and watercolour on Lokta handmade paper

56 x 21 in. (142.2 x 53.3 cm.)

2023, Varanasi

Signed in English (on the reverse)

AB1409

USD 5200 | INR 4,00,000 + taxes and logistics





Detail of *Untitled*

Debashish Paul (b.1994)

Untitled

Dry pastel and charcoal on Lokta handmade paper

56 x 21.2 in. (142 x 54 cm.)

2023, Varanasi

Signed in English (on the reverse)

AB1438

USD 5200 | INR 4,00,000 + taxes and logistics



Debashish Paul (b.1994)

Untitled

Dry pastel, charcoal and watercolour on Lokta handmade paper

56 x 21 in. (142.2 x 53.3 cm.)

2023, Varanasi

Signed in English (on the reverse)

AB1410

USD 5200 | INR 4,00,000 + taxes and logistics





Detail of *Untitled*

Debashish Paul (b.1994)

Untitled

Watercolour on paper

23.2 x 8.3 in. (59 x 21 cm.) overall

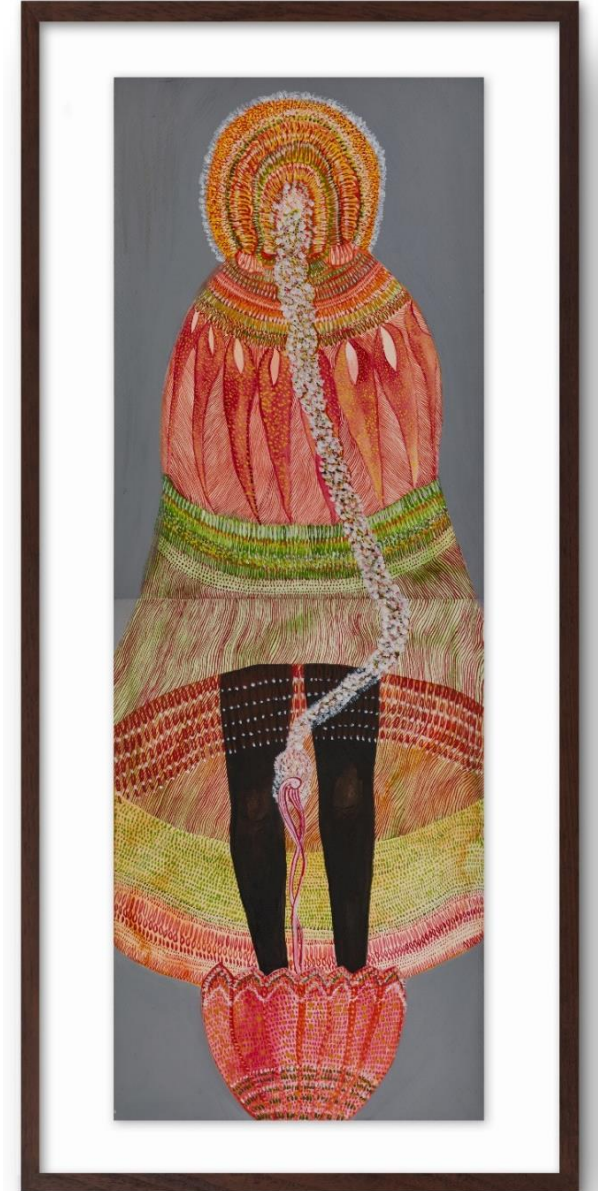
11.6 x 8.3 in. (29.5 x 21 cm.) each, two papers attached

2022, Nadia, West Bengal

Signed in Bengali (on the reverse)

C7141

USD 975 | INR 75,000 + taxes and logistics



Detail of *Untitled*



Debashish Paul (b.1994)

Untitled

Watercolour on paper

23.4 x 8.3 in. (59.4 x 21 cm.) overall

11.7 x 8.3 in. (29.7 x 21 cm.) each, two papers attached

2021, Nadia, West Bengal

Signed in Bengali (on the reverse)

C7140

USD 975 | INR 75,000 + taxes and logistics





Detail of *Untitled*

Debashish Paul (b.1994)

Untitled

Watercolour and Chinese ink on handmade paper

11.4 x 7.4 in. (29 x 19 cm.)

2021, Varanasi

Signed in Bengali (on the reverse)

C6599

USD 520 | INR 40,000 + taxes and logistics



Debashish Paul (b.1994)

Untitled

Watercolour and Chinese ink on handmade paper

11.4 x 7.4 in. (29 x 19 cm.)

2021, Varanasi

Signed in Bengali (on the reverse)

C6600

USD 520 | INR 40,000 + taxes and logistics



Debashish Paul (b.1994)

Two in One Body

Watercolour and charcoal on handmade paper

24.4 x 12.2 in. (62 x 31 cm.) overall

8 x 12.2 in. (20.5 x 31 cm.) each, three papers attached

2021, Varanasi

Signed in Bengali (on the reverse)

C6598

USD 1300 | INR 1,00,000 + taxes and logistics





Detail of *Two in One Body*

Debashish Paul (b.1994)

Untitled

Watercolour and charcoal on handmade paper

24.5 x 8 in. (62.2 x 20.5 cm.) overall

12.2 x 8 in. (31 x 20.5 cm.) each, two papers attached

2021, Varanasi

Signed in Bengali (on the reverse)

C6595

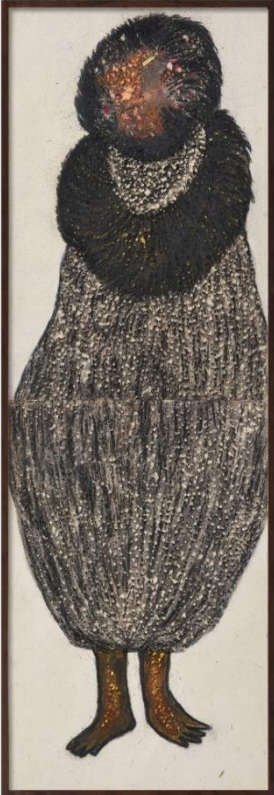
USD 975 | INR 75,000 + taxes and logistics



Debashish Paul (b.1994)
The Mind is Full of Desire
Watercolour, charcoal and dry pastel on handmade paper
24.5 x 16.3 in. (62.2 x 41.5 cm.) overall
12.2 x 8 in. (31 x 20.5 cm.) each, four papers attached
2021, Varanasi
Signed in Bengali (on the reverse)
C6592

USD 1560 | INR 1,20,000 + taxes and logistics





Installation view

EMAMI ART

KOLKATA, INDIA

Emami Art, Kolkata, is a leading contemporary art gallery and space for cultural production. Based in Kolkata, India, the gallery focuses on a future-forward, complex, multi-dimensional approach. It is steadfast in advocating for emerging, mid-career and established artists and engaging with contemporary and historical material. The gallery also aims to create dynamic, wide-ranging registers of exhibition-making and viewing.

Deeply committed to promoting a regional, national and international agenda through innovative and alternative programming, emphasis on community and socially relevant engagements, institutional partnerships and more via a multi-year vision for the future, Emami Art is resolute to be a catalyst of change, research, innovation and inclusivity.

Artists represented by Emami Art:

- Ali Akbar PN
- Anjan Modak
- Arindam Chatterjee
- Arpita Akhanda
- Arunima Choudhury
- Bholanath Rudra
- Debashish Paul
- Ghana Shyam Latua
- Janhavi Khemka
- Prasanta Sahu
- Santanu Debnath
- Shilpi Sharma
- Sibaprasad Karchaudhuri
- Soma Das
- Suman Dey
- Ujjal Dey

To know more about the artist, please click below:

<https://www.emamiart.com/artists/>

