



EMAMI ART

DAWN TO  
DUSK:  
A SILENT  
SYMPHONY

UJJAL DEY

## OVERVIEW

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Ujjal Dey's solo exhibition, ***Dawn to Dusk: A Silent Symphony***, explores his artistic interventions into the intricate intersections of matriarchal labour in vernacular, quotidian culinary spaces. Dey is a contemporary textile-based artist born in a Bengali family living in Ranchi, Bihar and is currently based in Santiniketan, India. Dey's approach to textile art is informed by extensive research on textile histories of India, a nuanced examination of pre-industrial age traditional dyes, socio-ecological considerations, and keen observations of everyday knowledge.

The exhibition will feature artworks, ranging from smaller textile panels to substantial hanging pieces which remind one of the hand-painted, printed and dyed calicoes, alongside referential mould-as-block swatches by the artist. For context, on display will be some everyday implements and culinary moulds that Dey uses most eloquently as blocks to underscore his conceptual framework. Complementing the exhibit, a method film will also be displayed. The film, with re-interrogated audio, blurs the boundaries between Dey's contemporary observations and childhood memories of mundane impressions.

His utilization of culinary tools – primarily wielded by women, as both symbolic motifs and technical mediums designate an intense vigour, while his expressionist approach to pigment extraction from the South-Asian bionetwork adds an element of ecological consciousness to his practice. Through this distinctive outlook, Dey is set to uncover the silent symphony of ritualistic women-led presence in the confines of bustling Indian hyper-local kitchens, inviting viewers to savour the nuances of everyday life transformed into narrative textiles.

## Bio

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Born in 1992 in Ranchi, India, Ujjal Dey is a contemporary textile artist pursuing a doctorate from Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan. He has a B.F.A. and an M.F.A. in textile and design from Kala Bhavana, Santiniketan, graduating in 2015 and 2017 respectively.

Dey's recent solo show was held at the Cromwell Place, London, UK in 2023. His works have been displayed at various exhibitions in India and internationally including Transforming Traditions at the InKo Centre, Chennai 2024; 'Fragments of Our Time' curated by Uthra Rajgopal at the British Textile Biennial, UK in 2023; 'International Fiber Arts of Time' at Nandan Gallery, Kala Bhavana, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, 2022; 'GOONJ: An Abstract Continuum' curated by Jesal Thacker at Coomaraswamy Hall, CSMVS, Mumbai in 2022; '100 YUVA SAMBHAVA' by Raza Foundation, a show of 100 young artists of India curated by Akhilesh and Manish Pushkale in 2022; 'Retinoblastoma: An Artistic Expression', an online exhibition at L.V Prasad Eye Institute in 2021; 'DEPARTURE' conceptualized by Prasanta Sahu at Ganges Art Gallery, Kolkata, 2020; Young Santiniketan Artist Exhibition at SSVAD, Santiniketan, 2019; the Annual Exhibition at Birla Academy of Art and Culture, Kolkata in 2018 and 'The Shape of Things' curated by Ushmita Sahu at Ganges Art Gallery, Kolkata, 2017; among many others Dey's works have also been shown at Art Dusseldorf 2023 and India Art Fair 2023, 2024 at New Delhi by Emami Art. He has also participated the International Art Workshop at Kala Bhavana, Visva-Bharati in 2022; In-Field Studio, a collaborative art, architecture and performance workshop at Kheledanga village, Amar Kutir, Santiniketan, 2017; Malaysian Batik workshop at Tagoreland Batik village, Phuldanga, Santiniketan and Patkar Painting workshop at Kala Bhavana, Visva-Bharati, 2016 and 'Tana – Bana', a workshop on natural fabrics and handlooms in India at Sambhaavnaa Institute, Palampur, Himachal Pradesh in 2015.

He was awarded the Certificate of Appreciation for Textile at the Young Santiniketan Artists' Exhibition, Santiniketan Society of Visual Art and Design in 2019, and is the recipient of the Junior Fellowship (2018-2019) and the National Scholarship (2016) by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

Ujjal Dey lives and works in Santiniketan, West Bengal.





Ujjal Dey (b.1992)

*Mother and Child I* (Mother and Child series)

Myrobalan, kalamkari ink, wax-resistant, turmeric, neem,  
onion skin, marigold and aluminium on khadi cotton cloth  
28 x 19.5 in. (71.12 x 49.53 cm.)

2024, Santiniketan

AB2885







Detail Of *Mother and Child I* (Mother and Child series)



Ujjal Dey (b.1992)

*Mother and Child II* (Mother and Child series)

Myrobalan, kalamkari ink, wax and rice resist, turmeric, neem,

Triphala (haritaki, amla, bahera) on khadi cotton cloth

27.8 x 19.5 in. (70.61 x 49.53 cm.)

2024, Santiniketan

AB2886







Detail Of *Mother and Child II* (Mother and Child series)



Ujjal Dey (b.1992)

*Mother and Child III* (Mother and Child series)

Myrobalan, kalamkari ink, wax and clay (khorī maati) resist, Triphala (haritaki, amla, bahera) on khadi cotton cloth

27.5 x 19.5 in. (69.85 x 49.53 cm.)

2024, Santiniketan

AB2887







Detail Of *Mother and Child III* (Mother and Child series)



Ujjal Dey (b.1992)

*Mother and Child IV* (Mother and Child series)  
Myrobalan, kalamkari ink, wax and clay (khorī maati) resist,  
Triphala (haritaki, amla, bahera), alum on khadi cotton cloth  
27.8 x 19.5 in. (70.61 x 49.53 cm.)  
2024, Santiniketan

AB2888







Detail Of *Mother and Child IV* (Mother and Child series)



Ujjal Dey (b.1992)

*Mother and Child V* (Mother and Child series)

Myrobalan, kalamkari ink, wax and lime resist, turmeric, neem,  
onion skin, marigold, and alum on khadi cotton cloth

27.95 x 20.07 in. (71 x 51 cm.)

2024, Santiniketan

AB2889







Detail Of *Mother and Child V* (Mother and Child series)



Ujjal Dey (b.1992)

*Mother and Child VI* (Mother and Child series)

Myrobalan, kalamkari ink, wax and lime resist, turmeric, neem, onion skin, marigold, and alum on khadi cotton cloth

27.6 x 19.5 in. (70.10 x 49.53 cm.)

2024, Santiniketan

AB2890







*Detail Of Mother and Child VI (Mother and Child series)*





Instalation view of *Mother and Child* series





Ujjal Dey (b.1992)

*Material Memory I* (Material Memory series)

Myrobalan, kalamkari ink, wax, lime resist, alum, and indigo on khadi cotton cloth

49.21 x 35.03 in. (125 x 89 cm.)

2024, Santiniketan

AB2892





Detail Of Material Memory I (Material Memory series)





Ujjal Dey (b.1992)

*Material Memory II* (Material Memory series)

Myrobalan, kalamkari ink, wax, resist on khadi cotton cloth

44.48 x 35.03 in. (113 x 89 cm.)

2024, Santiniketan

AB2893





Detail Of Material Memory II (Material Memory series)



Ujjal Dey (b.1992)

*Offering to Surya II* (Offering to Surya series)

Myrobalan, kalamkari ink, lime resist, alum, turmeric, and madder on cotton cloth

91.3 x 47.24 in. (232 x 120 cm.)

2024, Santiniketan

AB2894





*Detail Of Offering to Surya II (Offering to Surya series)*





Ujjal Dey (b.1992)

*Offering to Surya III* (Offering to Surya series)

Myrobalan, kalamkari ink, wax and lime resist, alum, madder and catechu on cotton cloth

82.67 x 46.06 in. (210 x 117 cm.)

2024, Santiniketan

AB2895







*Detail Of Offering to Surya III (Offering to Surya series)*



Ujjal Dey (b.1992)

*Offering to Surya I* (Offering to Surya series)

Myrobalan, kalamkari ink, wax and lime resist, alum, madder and catechu on cotton cloth

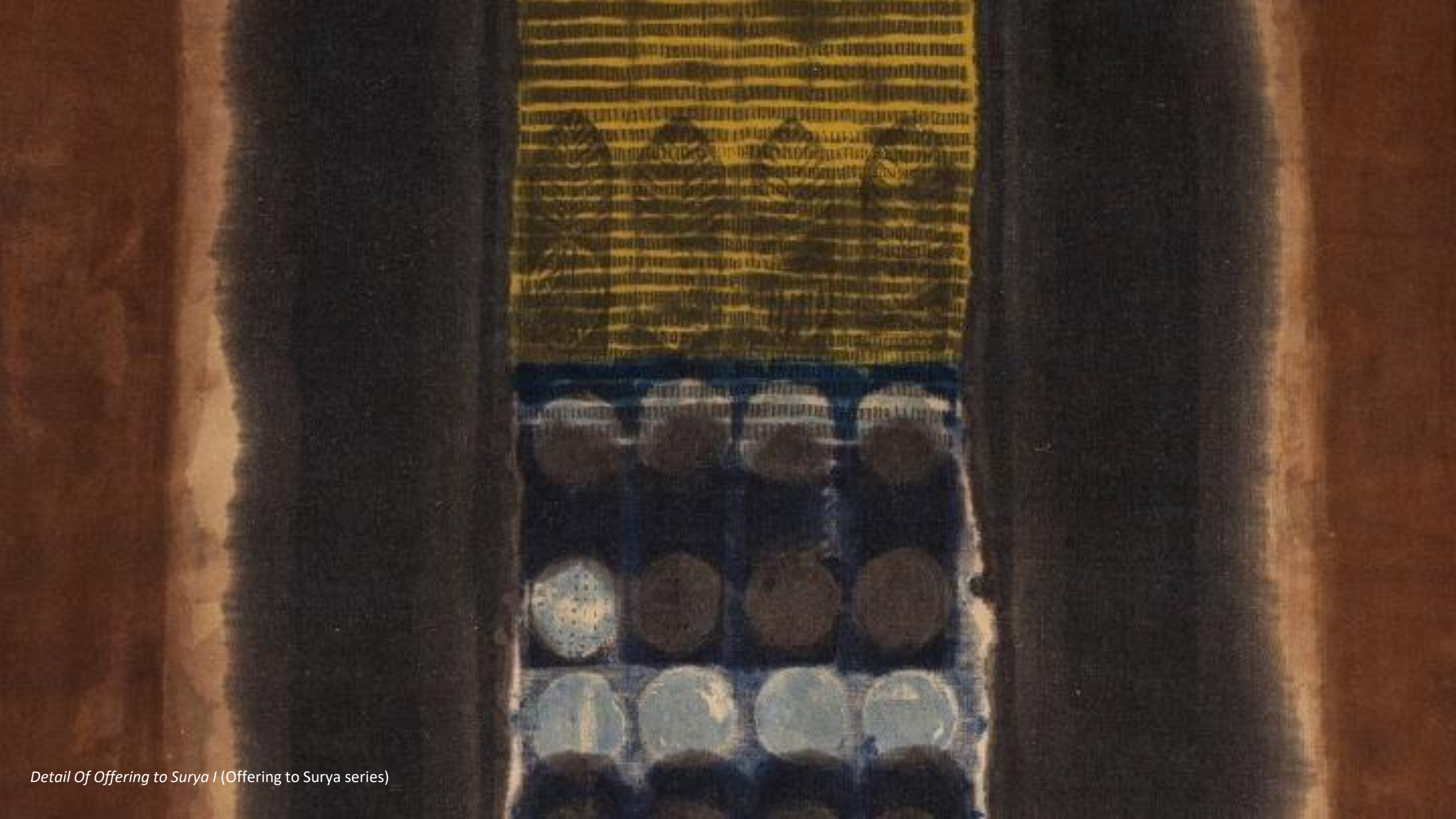
85.43 x 47.63 in. (217 x 121 cm.)

2024, Santiniketan

AB2896







*Detail Of Offering to Surya I (Offering to Surya series)*



UJJAL DEY (b.1992)

*Medoli-2*  
Myrobalan, kalamkari ink, mud resist hand painted  
with indigo, madder on mill cotton cloth  
72.8 x 57 in. (185 x 145 cm.)  
2022, Santiniketan

AB1218





UJJAL DEY (b.1992)

*Medoli-1*

Myrobalan, mud resist hand paint with indigo, madder  
and turmeric on mill cotton cloth

75 x 56.5 in. (194.6 x 143.5 cm.)

2022, Santiniketan

AB1217





UJJAL DEY (b.1992)

*Lepa - 4*

Kalamkari ink, mud resist, catechu, myrobalan, natural dyed with indigo on acid-free paper

16.5 x 11.6 in. (42 x 29.5 cm.) each

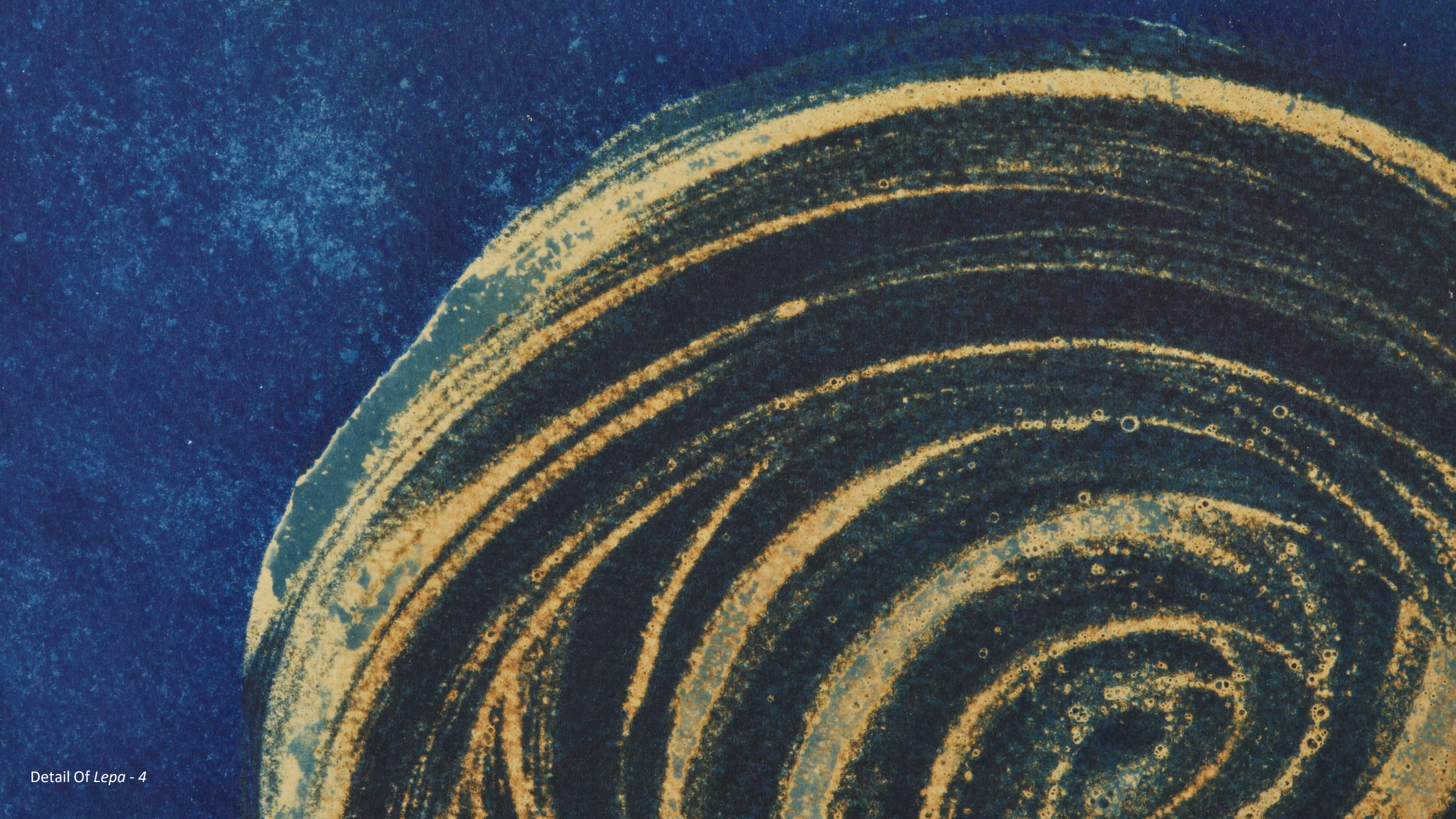
Suite of 12 works

2020, Santiniketan

AB680







Detail Of *Lepa* - 4





UJJAL DEY (b.1992)

*Daag: Where Past Meets Present*

Kalamkari ink on handmade paper dyed in myrobalan

10.5 x 7 in. (27 x 18 cm.) each

Quadriptych

2020, Santiniketan

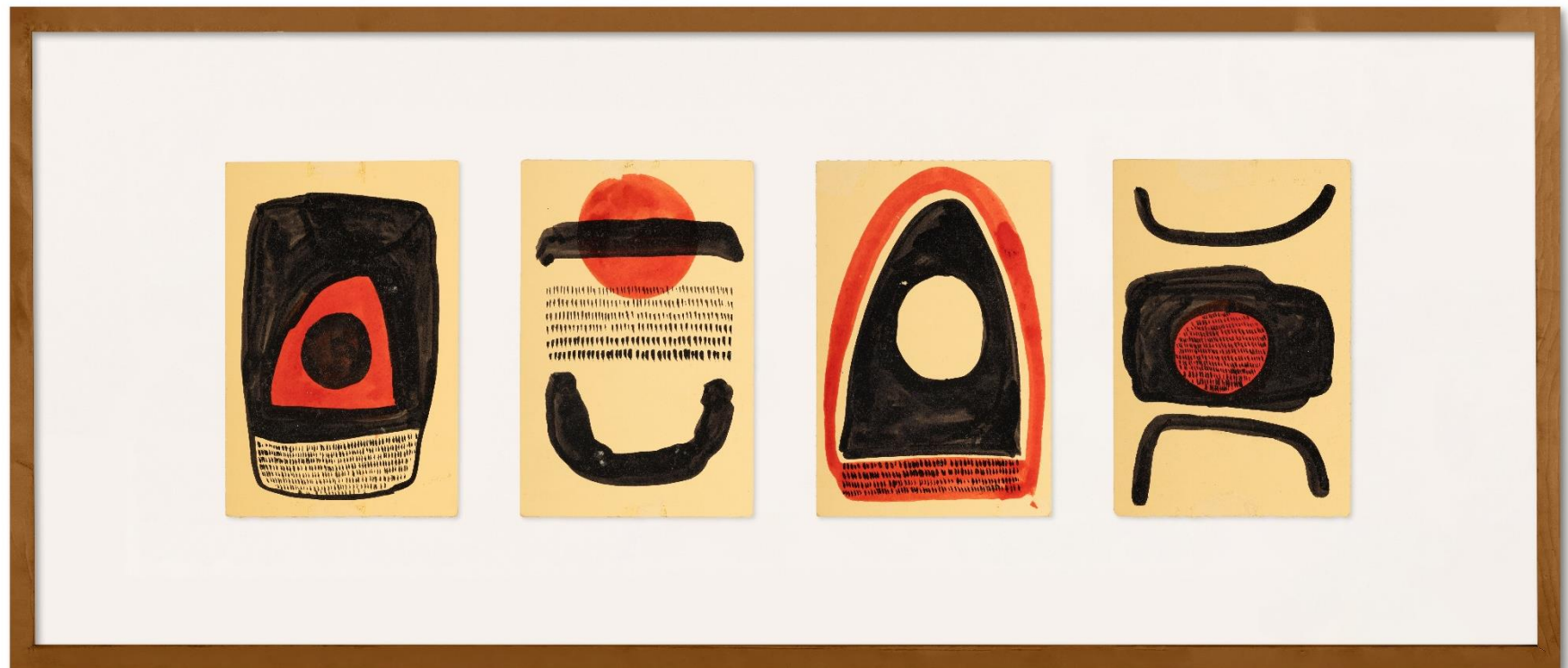
AB677



Ujjal Dey (b.1992)

*Dawn to Dusk (Postcard drawings)*  
Waterproof coloured ink on postcards  
5.7 x 3.8 in. (14.6 x 9.6 cm.) each  
Suite of 4 works  
2023, Santiniketan

AB2897







Detail Of *Dawn to Dusk* (Postcard drawings)



Ujjal Dey (b.1992)

*Dawn to Dusk I* (Dawn to Dusk series)  
Kalamkari ink, mordant and resist painted, indigo, catechu,  
and madder on myrobalan-dyed cotton cloth, mounted on  
myrobalan-dyed canvas

22.91 x 16.73 in. (58.2 x 42.5 cm.) each approx.

Suite of 2 works  
2024, Santiniketan

AB2838







Detail Of *Dawn to Dusk I* (Dawn to Dusk series)



Ujjal Dey (b.1992)

*Dawn to Dusk II* (Dawn to Dusk series)

Kalamkari ink, mordant and resist painted, indigo, catechu, and madder on myrobalan-dyed cotton cloth, mounted on myrobalan-dyed canvas

22.91 x 16.92 in. (58.2 x 43 cm.) each approx.

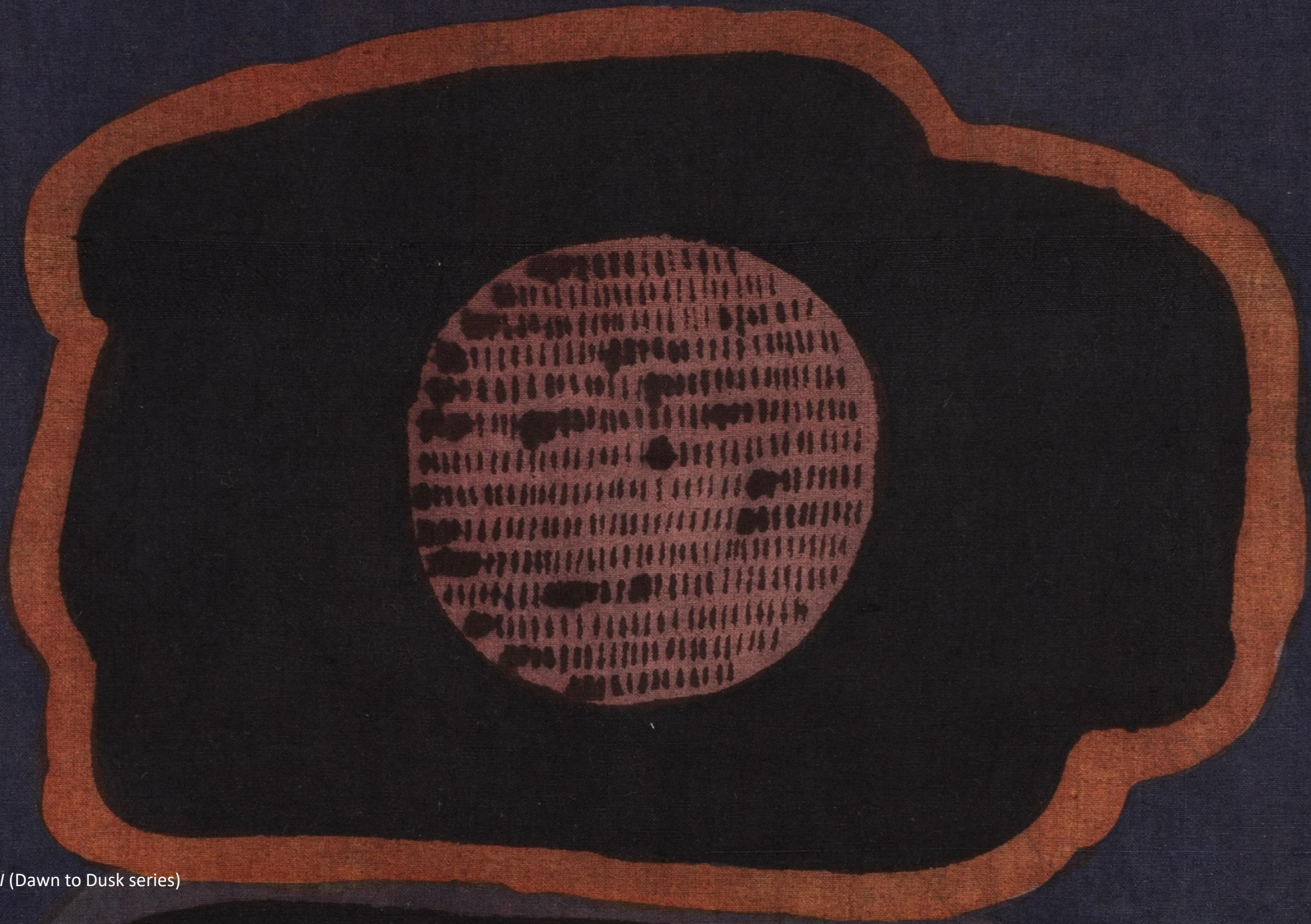
Suite of 2 works

2024, Santiniketan

AB2839







Detail Of *Dawn to Dusk II* (Dawn to Dusk series)





UJJAL DEY (b.1992)

*Daag: where past meets present*  
Kalamkari ink on cotton cloth dyed in myrobalan  
80 x 32.5 in. (201.5 x 81cm.) each  
Suite of 4 works  
2021, Ranchi

AB1220



# 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.

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- Prasanta Sahu
- Santanu Debnath
- Shilpi Sharma
- Sibaprasad Karchaudhuri
- Soma Das
- Suman Dey
- Ujjal Dey

To know more about the artist, please click below:

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