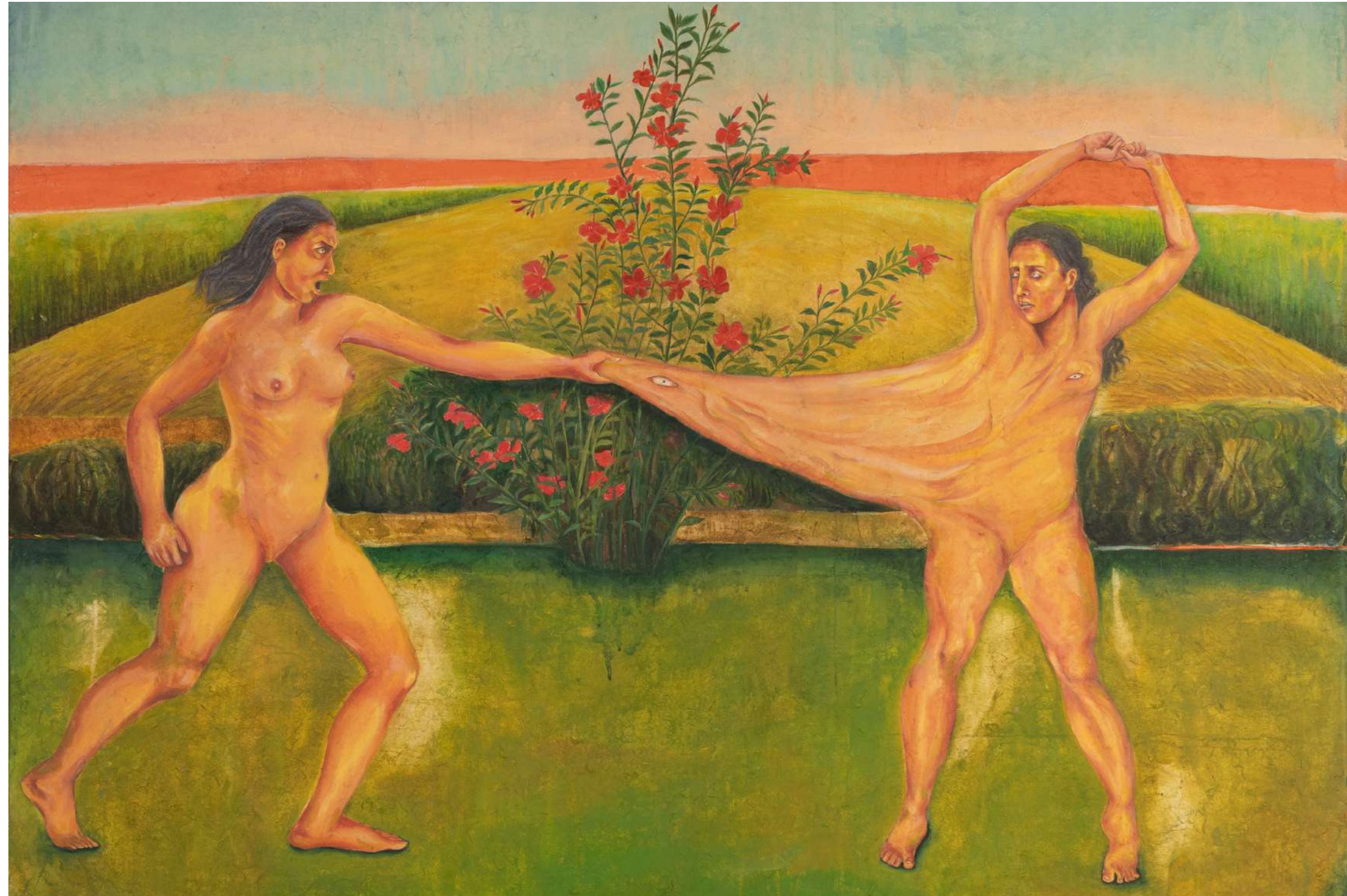


Mitali Das

Portfolio



Mitali Das's practice is concerned with the interiority of the artistic self, examining the relationship between woman and nature as a framework for articulating feminine subjectivity. Working primarily in watercolour and gouache on paper, Das adopts a medium that facilitates intimate engagement, allowing her to develop a nuanced visual language attentive to introspection and subconscious experience.

Her compositions are populated by natural motifs—flowers, plants, insects, and wild animals—which together construct imaginary, dream-like spaces that resist fixed narratives and expectations. Within these environments, the recurring female figure operates as both subject and proxy, often functioning as an extension of the artist's own self. This figure navigates a psychological landscape shaped by memory, desire, and imagination. For Das, painting operates as a generative, and often transgressive act, enabling the production of a private, self-determined space. It is a site where feminine agency is asserted, and where emotional and imaginative states unfold beyond the constraints of social regulation and normative structures.





Das's practice is distinguished by her use of naturalism to construct imagined, fable-like narrative spaces. Within these worlds, fantastical relationships unfold between figures—at times violent and at times humorous—drawing our attention to the interplay of desire and power within the unconscious, where distinctions between the human and the bestial become blurred.

While her work embraces freedom of expression, it is grounded in research and close observation. Das draws upon a wide range of visual traditions—classical, modern, and contemporary—synthesising these influences into a highly personal narrative style.



In this surreal, symbolic painting, the female form merges with a fiery, imaginary landscape—her body resting on molten earth, one leg raised holding a sparkler or rocket-like flame. This gesture suggests both control and danger, passion and creation. A volcano-like mountain behind her mirrors her intensity, blurring the lines between woman, nature, and elemental power. The work reimagines the feminine not just as physical form, but as a force of eruption, transformation, and mysticism.

Volcano
Watercolour and gouache on
handmade paper pasted on canvas
10 1/8 x 10 1/4 x 3/4 in.
2025, Kolkata

In *Tigress*, a dark-skinned woman sits inside a surreal mouth-landscape, playfully tugging the tail of a tiger drawn from Mughal miniature traditions. The vibrant surroundings reflect an emotional, erotic, and primal intimacy between body and nature. This work explores the untamed sensuality within, where desire and wilderness meet in a dreamlike rhythm.

Tigress
Watercolour and gouache on
handmade paper pasted on canvas
10 x 10 1/8 x 3/4 in.
2025, Kolkata





Detail
Tigress
Watercolour and gouache on
handmade paper pasted on canvas
10 x 10 1/8 x 3/4 in.
2025, Kolkata

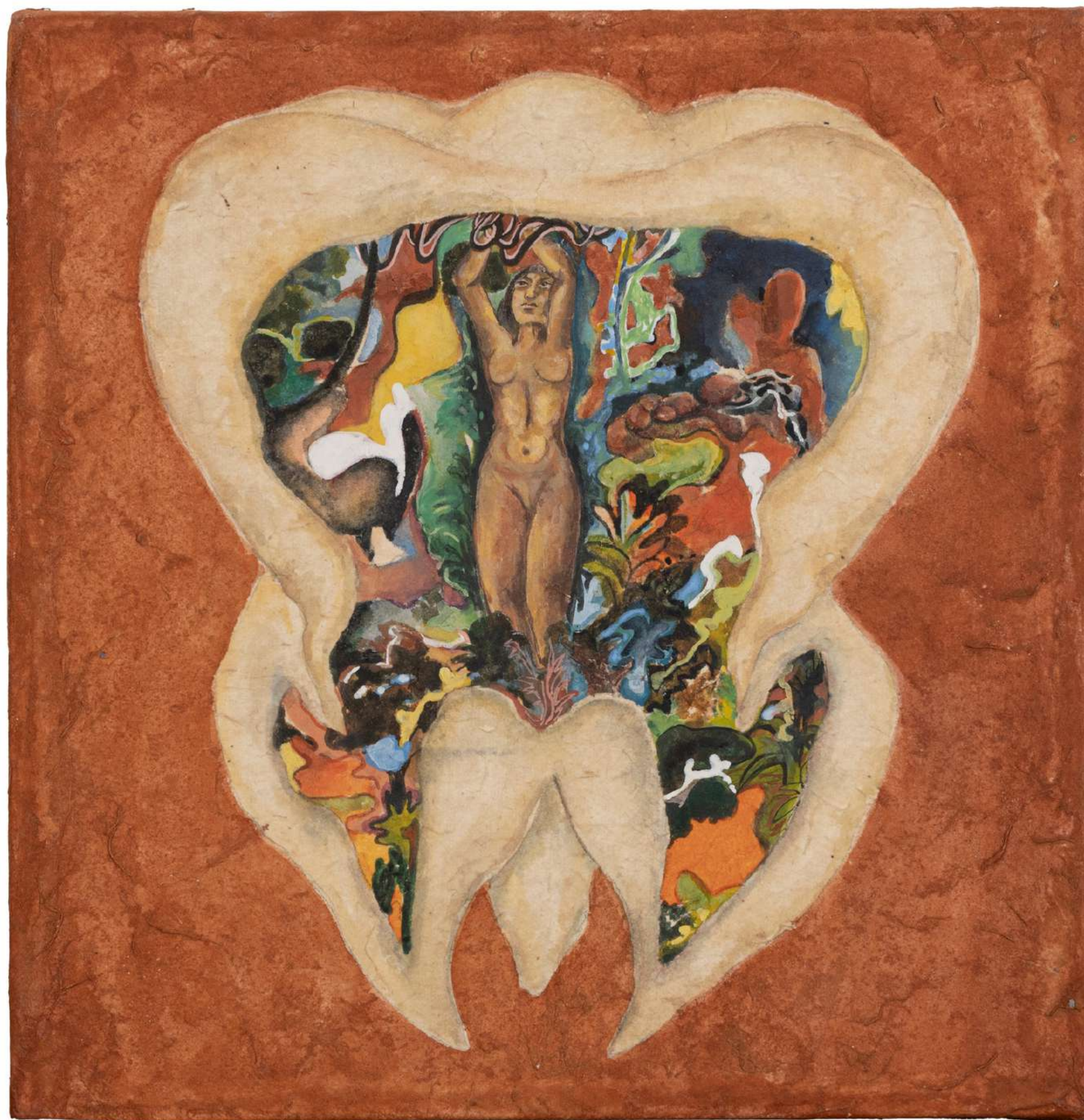


In *Rhythm of the Earth*, five women dance in a circle, their movements in harmony with nature's pulse. The scene unfolds within a surreal frame—a mouth with teeth and tongue—suggesting the dance is viewed from inside the body. Inspired by Henri Matisse's *Dance*, she reinterprets the circle of joy as both personal and bodily. The dancers blend into the organic landscape, embodying unity, vitality, and celebration. This painting explores the deep connection between the feminine spirit and the earth, moving together in an eternal, vibrant, and life-affirming cycle.

Rhythm of the Earth
Watercolour and gouache on
handmade paper pasted on canvas
10 x 10 x 7/8 in.
2025, Kolkata



Detail
Rhythm of the Earth
Watercolour and gouache on
handmade paper pasted on canvas
10 x 10 x 7/8 in.
2025, Kolkata



Inspired by Paul Gauguin's *Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going?* this painting reimagines Eve within a decaying landscape enclosed by a human tooth. Eden becomes a metaphor for ecological loss, while the tooth symbolizes bodily erosion and personal decay. As the artist grapples with the physical loss of her own teeth, she reflects on the body's vulnerability mirroring environmental degradation. The recurring lush, primitive landscape evokes a yearning for origins, fertility, and a world before damage—where body, memory, and myth converge in pain and transformation.

This is Where I Come from
Watercolour and gouache on
handmade paper pasted on canvas
10 1/4 x 10 1/8 x 7/8 in.
2025, Kolkata

The artwork *Flood* explores themes of vulnerability and transformation, depicting the human body as a dynamic landscape intertwined with nature and life cycles. The surreal imagery of floating figures, animals, and plants suggests a narrative of renewal amidst destruction, blending ecological and emotional metaphors.

Flood
Watercolour and gouache on
handmade paper pasted on canvas
36 x 42 in.
2024, Kolkata





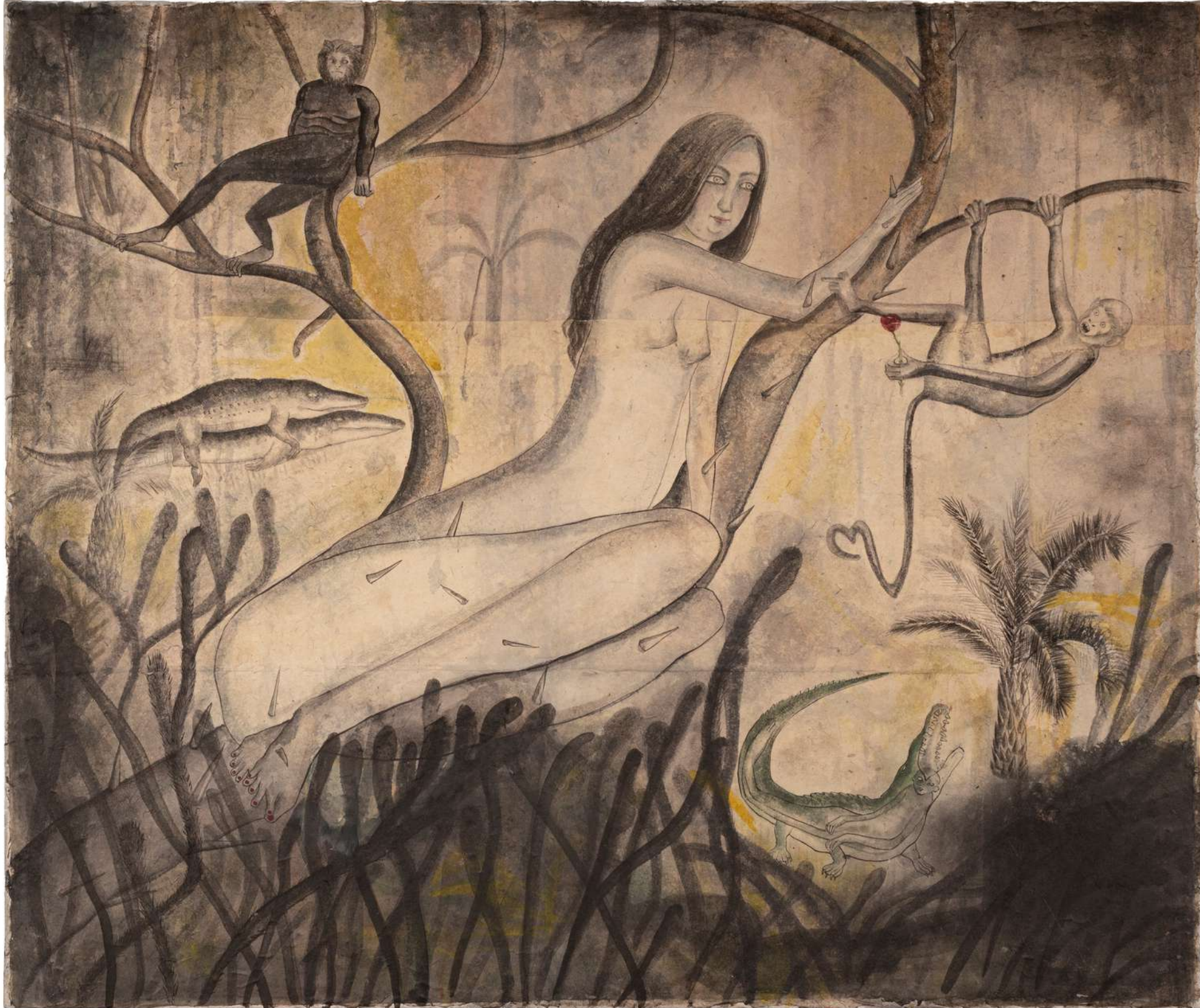
Detail
Flood
Watercolour and gouache on
handmade paper pasted on canvas
36 x 42 in.
2024, Kolkata



Installation view
Nothing Twice
Emami Art, Kolkata
2026



Installation view
Nothing Twice
Emami Art, Kolkata
2026



A woman entangled in societal challenges, symbolized by the monkey and crocodile as metaphors for social fears and issues. The composition reflects her resilience and confrontation with the complexities of her environment, blending vulnerability with strength.

Queen
Watercolour and gouache on
handmade paper pasted on canvas
30 x 36 in.
2025, Kolkata



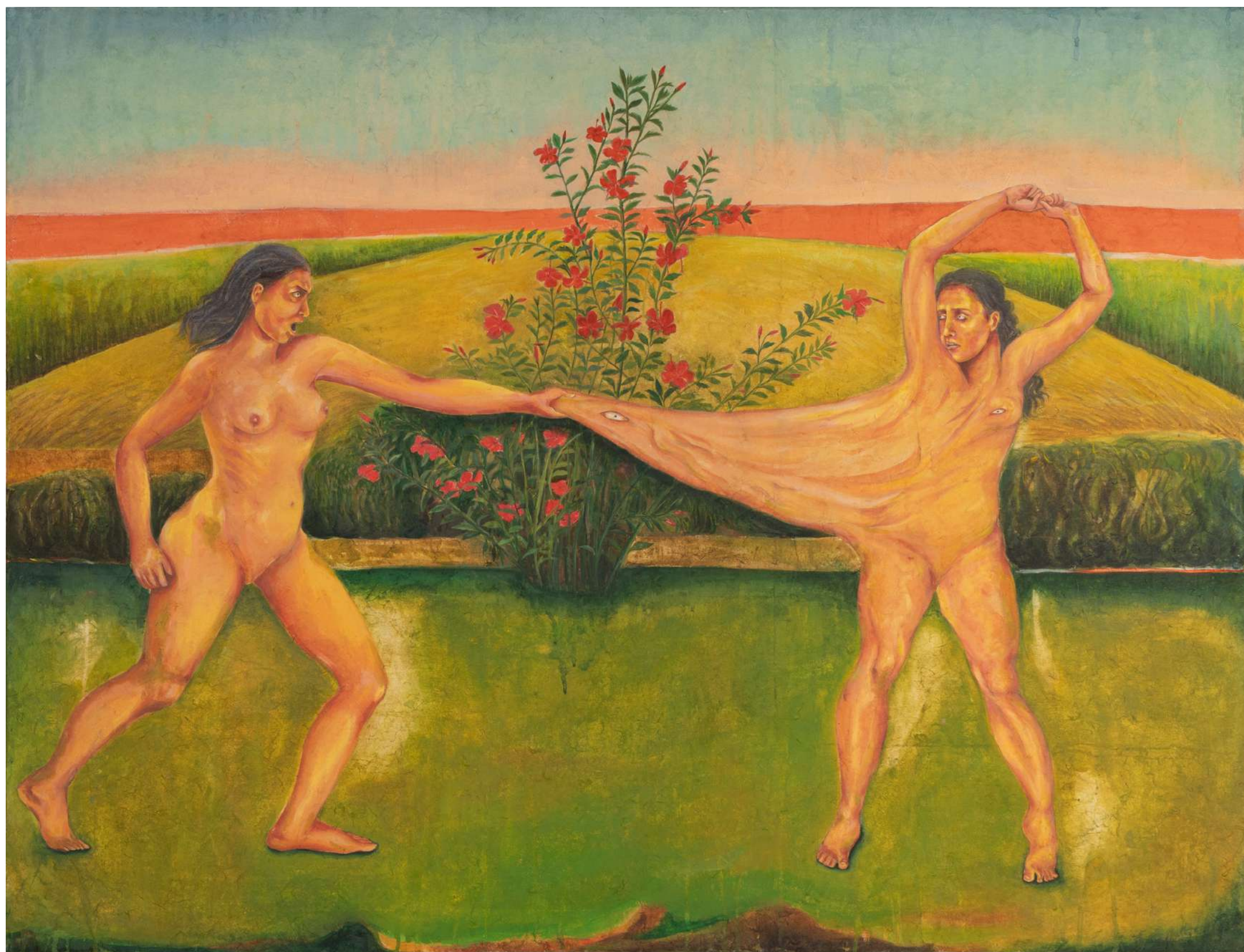
Detail
Queen
Watercolour and gouache on
handmade paper pasted on canvas
30 x 36 in.
2025, Kolkata



Installation view
Nothing Twice
 Emami Art, Kolkata
 2026

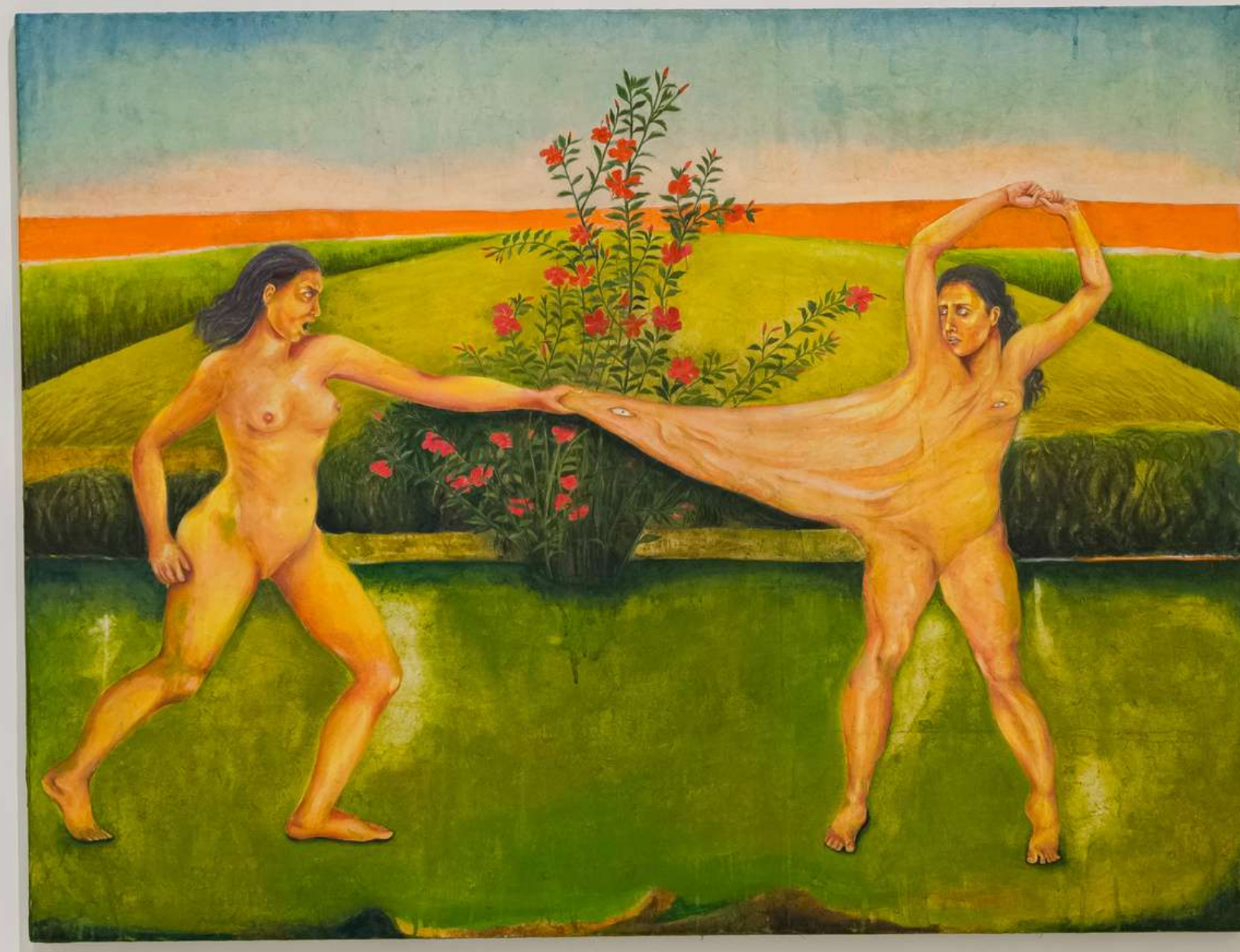


Installation view
Nothing Twice
Emami Art, Kolkata
2026

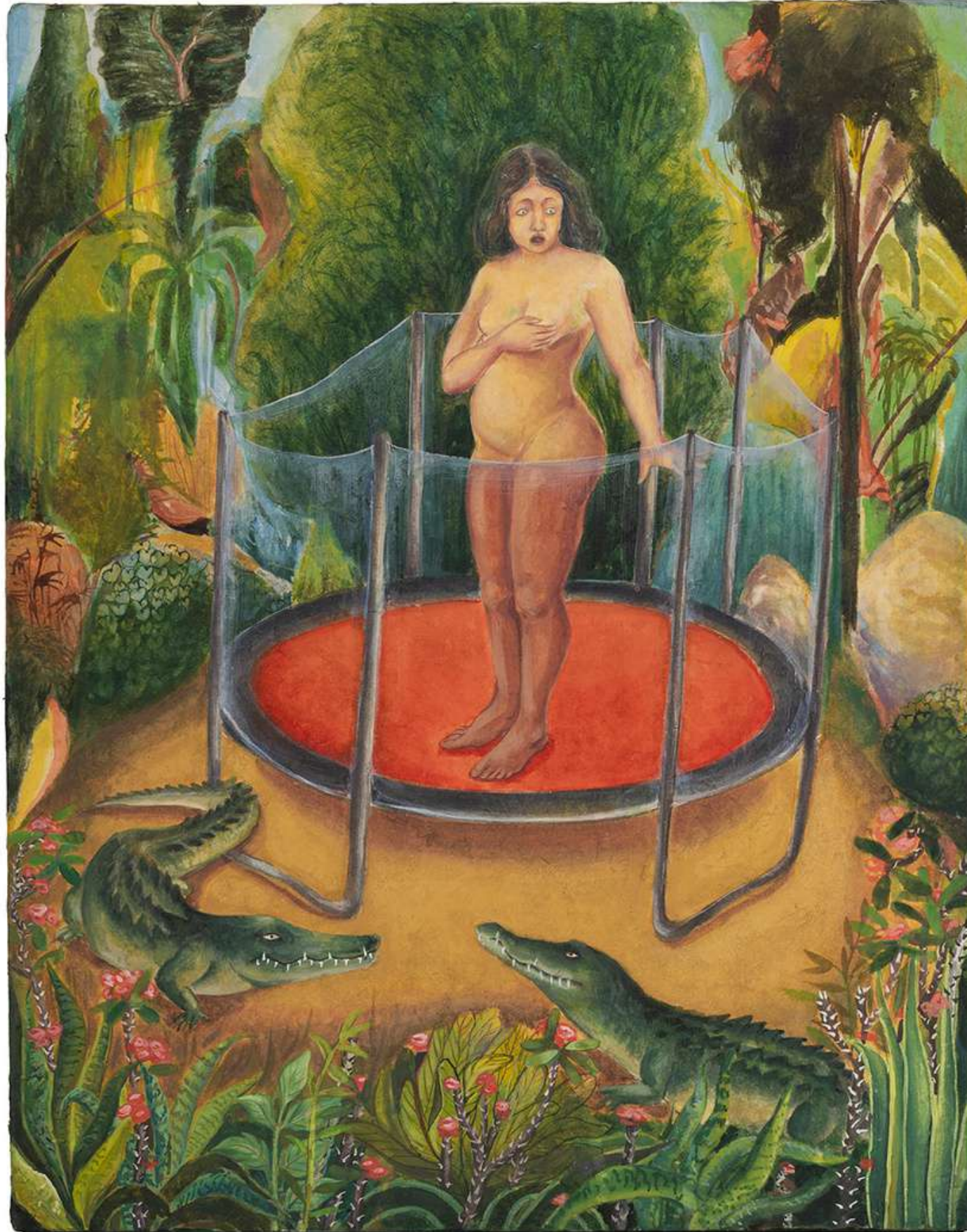


In this surreal, symbolic painting, one woman stretches the skin of another. It reflects struggle, desire, and the fragile intimacy of shared existence. The work reimagines the feminine not just as physical form, but as a force of eruption, transformation, and mysticism.

The Long Stretch
Watercolour and gouache on
Lokta paper pasted on canvas
36 x 47 7/8 x 1 in.
2025, Kolkata



Installation view
IMAGINARIUM 5.0
 Emami Art, Kolkata
 2025



In *Balancing*, a woman poised on a fragile ring confronts the lurking presence of crocodiles below. Lush greenery surrounds her. The scene is a metaphor for navigating joy and playfulness while surrounded by the constant threat of social trauma.

Balancing
Watercolour and gouache on
Lokta paper pasted on canvas
18 x 14 x 3/4 in.
2025, Kolkata



Detail
Balancing
Watercolour and gouache on
Lokta paper pasted on canvas
18 x 14 x 3/4 in.
2025, Kolkata

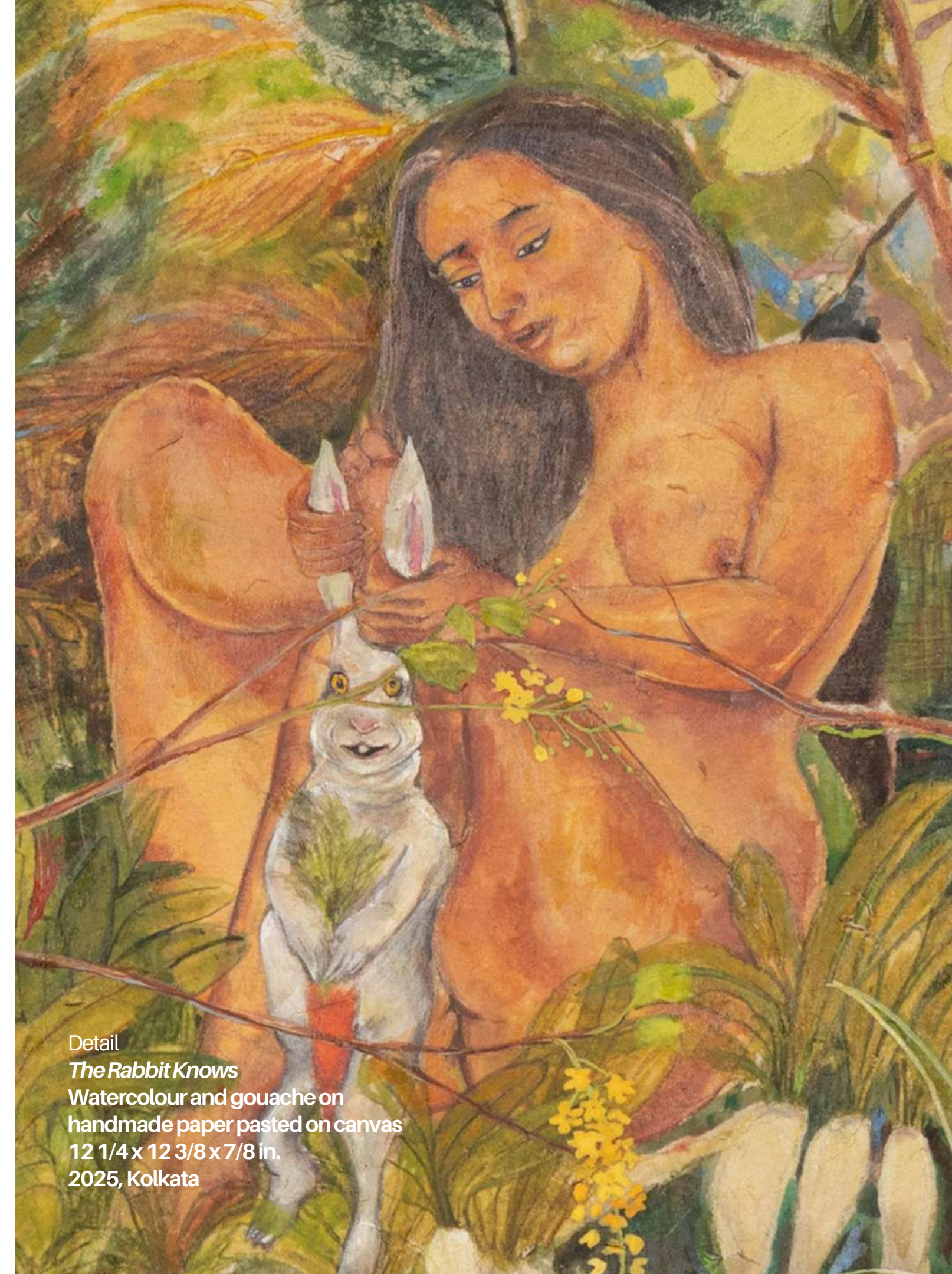
This unsettling yet vibrant scene explores the fragile links between desire, nature, and bodily existence. It feels like a moment caught between temptation, danger, and wild, unconscious transformation.



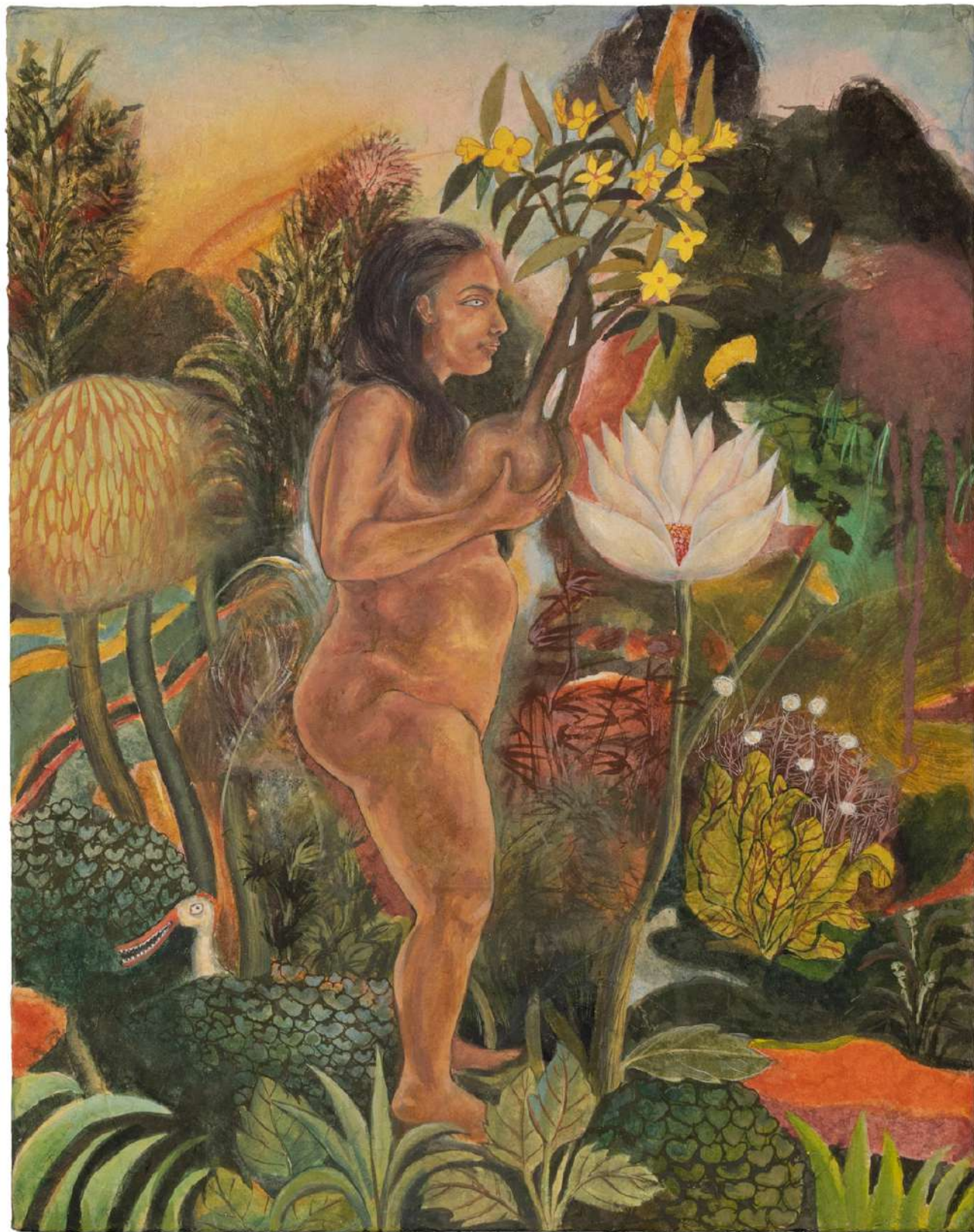
Hypnotic Rhythm
Watercolour and gouache on
handmade paper pasted on canvas
16 x 16 x 7/8 in.
2025, Kolkata



In a dense, pulsating forest, a woman sits, gently gripping a rabbit by its ears. Her gaze is calm, almost affectionate, yet the rabbit's stiff body and forced smile evoke discomfort. The painting teeters between intimacy and dominance, seduction and survival—inviting the viewer into a psychological wilderness.



Detail
The Rabbit Knows
 Watercolour and gouache on
 handmade paper pasted on canvas
 12 1/4 x 12 3/8 x 7/8 in.
 2025, Kolkata



In a dreamlike, symbolic landscape, a dark-skinned woman's breast blossoms into a flowering tree, embodying the cycle of life, fertility, and transformation. Inspired by Post-Impressionist artists, the painting uses vibrant color and expressive form to transcend realism, blending the human body with nature's boundless energy. It reflects inner strength, beauty beyond conventions, and the sacred connection between woman and earth.

Rise Up
Watercolour and gouache on
handmade paper pasted on canvas
18 1/8 x 14 1/8 x 7/8 in.
2025, Kolkata



Installation view
IMAGINARIUM 5.0
Emami Art, Kolkata
2025



The Other Self speaks of a fluid self, uninhibited expression, and the quiet struggle between containment and freedom.

The Other Self
Watercolour and gouache on Lokta
paper pasted on plywood
36 1/4 x 24 1/4 in.
2026, Kolkata

A surreal ecosystem of entwined feminine forms rises like roots from the earth, symbolizing cycles of growth, sensuality, and transformation. At the crest, a vine-like body blooms into a solitary lotus, suggesting resilience and spiritual rebirth.



Rooted Reveries
Watercolour and gouache on
handmade paper pasted on canvas
9 3/4 x 9 3/4 x 5/8 in.
2025, Kolkata



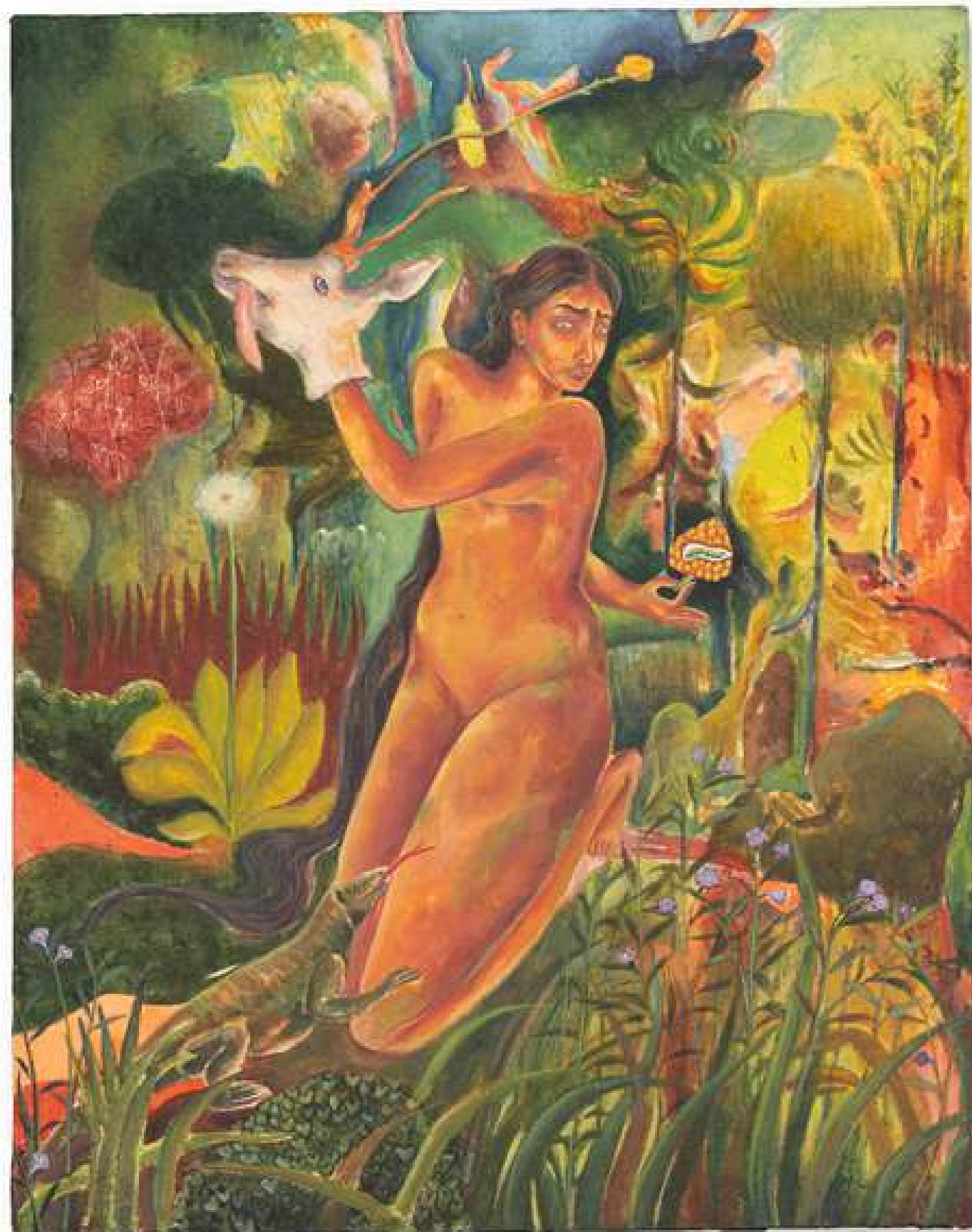
A woman sits adorned in yellow, embodying the sacred glow of the “gaaye holud” ritual – a ceremony on the morning of a Bengali wedding where a paste of turmeric (‘holud’ in Bengali), sandalwood, and other ingredients is applied to the couple to symbolise purity, auspiciousness, and good luck for their new married life. The painting celebrates beauty, tradition, and resilience, reimagining ritual radiance through a contemporary lens.

The Radiance of Turmeric
Watercolour and gouache on Lokta
paper pasted on canvas
30 x 36 x 1 in.
2025, Kolkata

Expulsion in the Digital Age is inspired by Italian Early Renaissance artist Masaccio's *Expulsion of Adam and Eve*. Departing from Adam who holds his face in shame and Eve wailing in despair in the original fresco, Mitali Das's Adam and Eve are completely engrossed in glowing screens as they navigate a modern Eden. The work reflects how exile today is marked not by angels with swords, but by the isolating pull of technology.

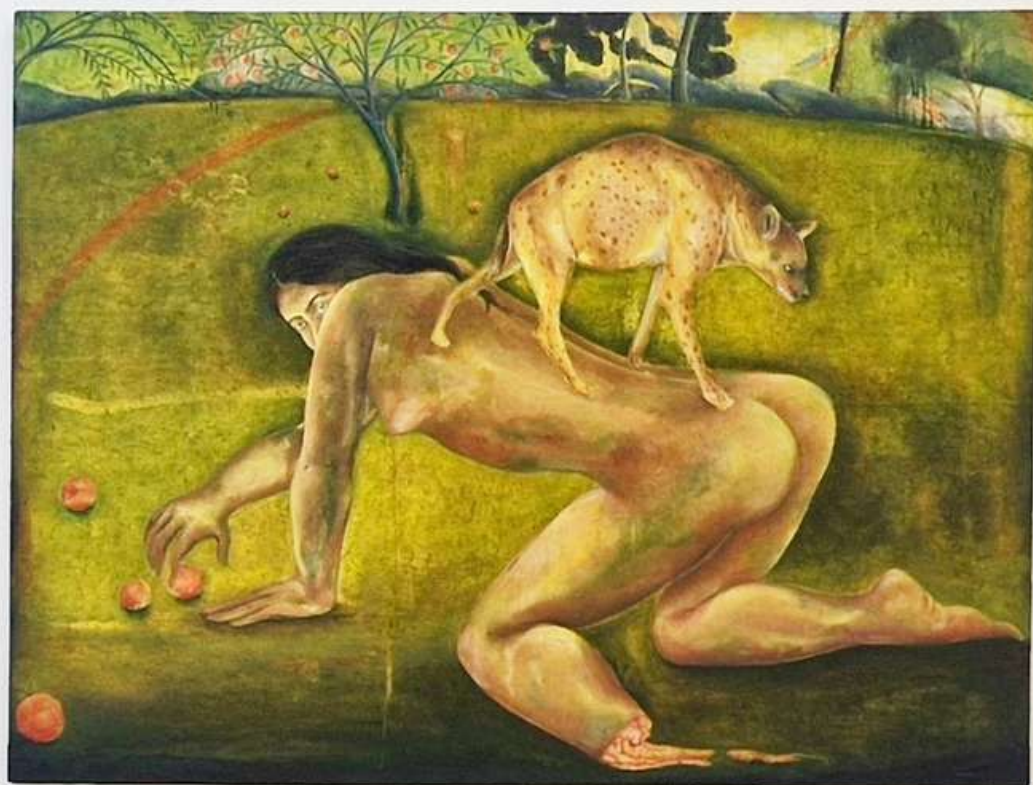
Expulsion in the Digital Age
Watercolour and gouache on Lokta
paper pasted on canvas
18 x 14 x 3/4 in.
2025, Kolkata





Quantum by Mitali Das is about small, unseen forces inside a woman—her memories, her fears, her desires—that quietly transform her world. These inner shifts are tiny but powerful, creating new life, new forms, and new truths. The blooming horn and the hidden custard apple represent the invisible moments of change that shape who we become.

Quantum
Watercolour and gouache on Lokta
paper pasted on canvas
18 1/8 x 14 1/8 x 1 in.
2025, Kolkata



Installation view

The Search for Histories

Presented by Nippon Gallery, Mumbai

Gallery Charubasona, Kolkata

2025

In this painting, the woman's body becomes a terrain where danger and desire meet, while the hyena embodies the harshness she is forced to carry through life. Her wound and her curious gaze reveal how fragility and resilience coexist—how survival continues to bloom in precarious balance.

Edenfall
Watercolour and gouache on Lokta
paper pasted on canvas
36 x 47 7/8 x 1 in.
2025, Kolkata





In *Princess*, Mitali Das portrays a fragile, doll-like body reclining in quiet defiance, caught between innocence and unease.



Detail
Princess
 Watercolour and gouache on Lokta
 paper pasted on canvas
 2024, Kolkata

This painting captures the intricate folds and texture of a dark-skinned feminine body, challenging traditional notions of perfection by embracing the natural imperfections of the human body. Through its raw and intimate portrayal, the painting encourages viewers to confront societal biases surrounding skin tone and body image. It serves as a poignant exploration of identity, vulnerability, and acceptance.

Fold
Watercolour on Lokta paper
pasted on canvas
2024, Kolkata

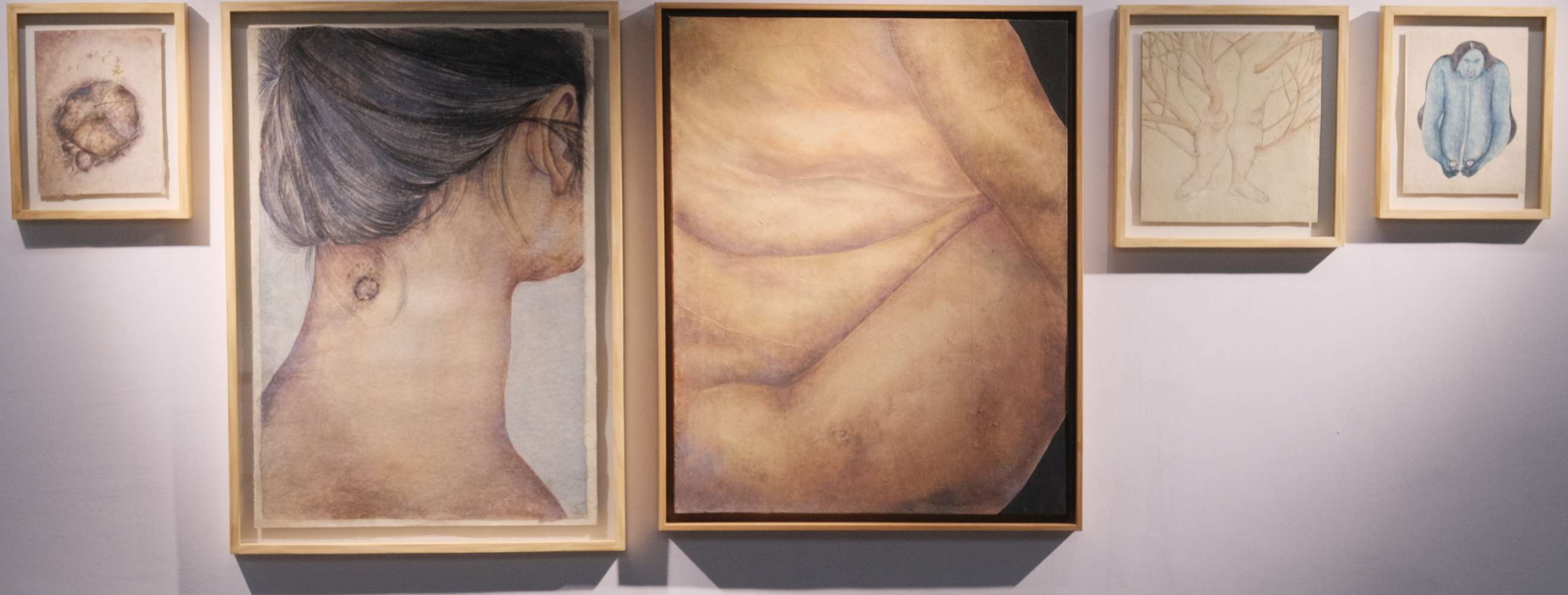




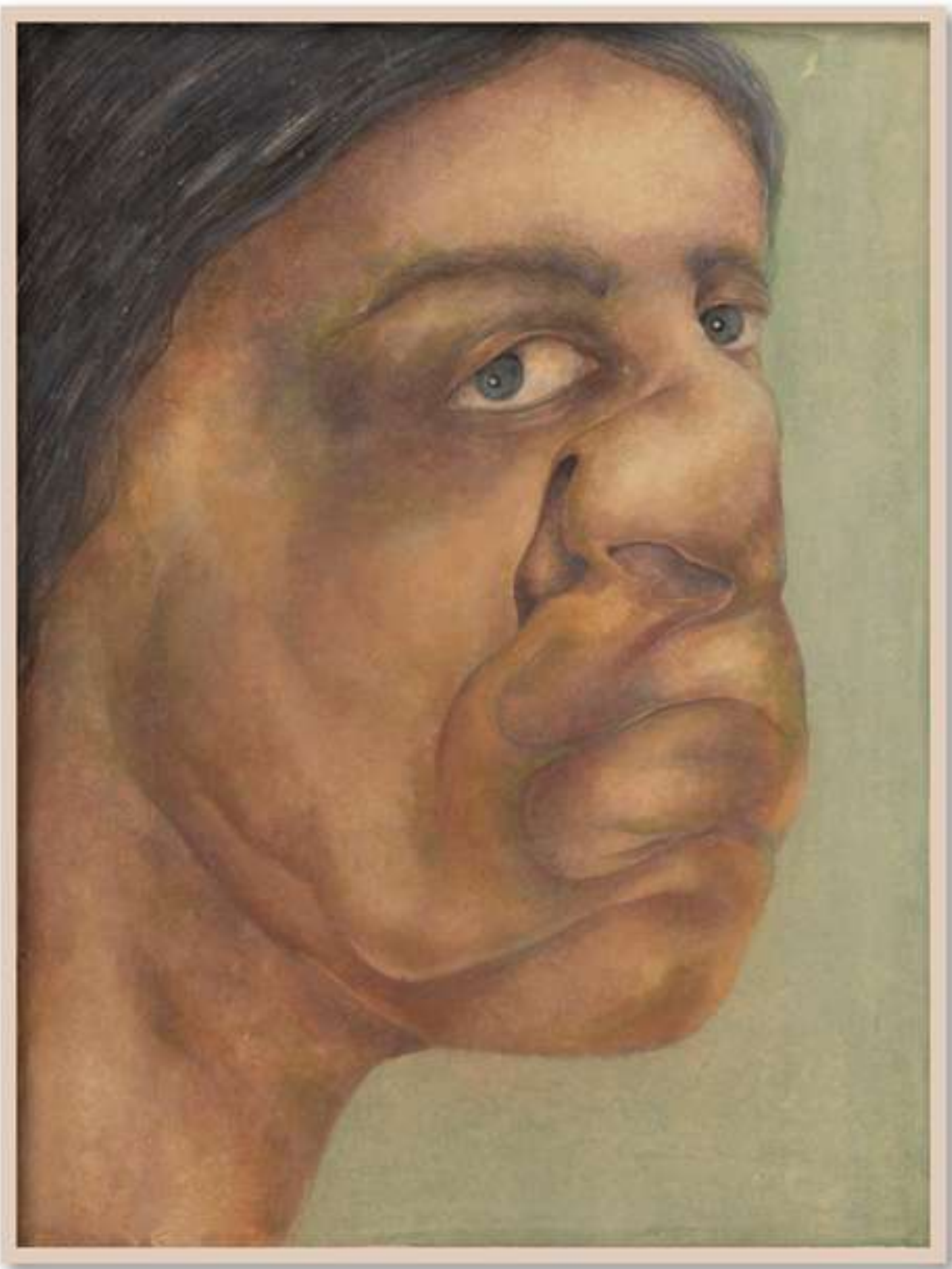
In *Rebirth*, a small plant emerges from a wart on a woman's neck, symbolizing growth from imperfection. It redefines beauty, celebrating transformation in unexpected places.



Rebirth
Watercolour on Lokta paper pasted
on handmade paper
2024, Kolkata



Installation view
Slow Rot
Method Delhi, New Delhi
2026



Mirror, mirror, on the wall, who's the fairest of them all? A girl confronts the mirror and her gaze hits her back in the face. She stares past her self and into the world with an elephantine face.

Elephantine
Watercolour on Lokta paper pasted
on handmade paper
2024, Kolkata

This watercolor drawing explores the merging of human anatomy with natural elements, symbolising the interplay between transformation, growth, and the fragility of existence. The intertwining of legs and tree branches evokes themes of connection, resilience, and the evolving human form.

Branches will Grow Fruit
Watercolour on Lokta paper pasted
on handmade paper
2024, Kolkata





Celestial Fusion portrays the feminine forms as fluid and cosmic entities, symbolising the interconnectedness of the body and the universe.

Celestial Fusion
Watercolour on Lokta paper pasted
on handmade paper
2024, Kolkata



Installation view
Slow Rot
Method Delhi, New Delhi
2026



Mitali Das is a visual artist born in 1995 in Nadia, West Bengal. She graduated with a BFA and an MFA in Painting from the Indian College of Arts and Draftsmanship, Kolkata (2017) and Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata (2019) respectively.

Her works have been part of *Goosebumps - 31 লোমহর্ষক রों ग टे* : *Solo by Mitali Das*, Nippon Art Gallery, Mumbai (2020), and group exhibitions including *Slow Rot*, Method Delhi, New Delhi (2026); *Nothing Twice* curated by Ushmita Sahu, Emami Art, Kolkata (2026); *The Search for Histories: A Collective Group Exhibition* presented by Nippon Gallery at Gallery Charubasona, Kolkata (2025); *IMAGINARIUM 5.0*, Emami Art, Kolkata (2025); *Fresh Produce 2.0* curated by Anica Mann, Method Delhi, New Delhi (2025); *The Music Makers*, APRE Art House, Mumbai (2025); *Abir First Take 2024*, Abir India, Hutheesing Visual Art Centre, Ahmedabad; *Miniature Postage Stamp Masterpieces*, Nippon Gallery, Mumbai (2023-24); Annual Exhibition, Rajya Charukala Parshad, Kolkata (2023, 2022); 2nd All India Online Art Exhibition, Art Family, Kolkata (2022); Annual Exhibition, Academy of State Fine Arts, Kolkata (2019, 2017); and Annual Exhibition, Birla Art & Culture, Kolkata (2017).

Das has participated in multiple residencies including Bachhawat Foundation Artist Residency, Aakriti Art Gallery, Kolkata (2025); Dotwalk Ajitara Art Residency, Gallery Dotwalk, New Delhi (2024); and Mumbai Artists in Residence (MAIR); APRE Art House, Mumbai (2024).

She received an Award of Merit at the Rajya Charukala Parshad Annual Exhibition in 2023 and is currently based in Kolkata.

EMAMI ART

Emami Art is a prominent contemporary art gallery and cultural production space located on the ground floor of the Kolkata Centre for Creativity's Green Building. Established in 2017, it adopts a forward-looking, multi-dimensional approach that reflects South Asia's history, socio-cultural, and geo-political narratives. Emami Art operates within an inclusive framework where profitability supports sustainable resource regeneration and public service.

Committed to promoting a regional, national, and international agenda, Emami Art emphasizes community engagement, socially relevant initiatives, and institutional partnerships. With a multi-year vision for the future, it continues to be a catalyst for change, research, innovation, and inclusivity.

