What My Mother Didn't Teach Me...
& Some Things She Did!

A Solo show by Viraj Khanna
Curated by Sanjana Shah

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TAO
The way to Art

What My Mother Didn't Teach Me...
& Some Things She Did!

When I first interacted with Viraj's work I was completely taken in by how evocative each piece was. The shapes, forms and colors stood out, starkly at first, but then coming together in an incredibly aesthetic form. However, aesthetics are far from the mind of this young, upcoming artist. Khanna in fact tries to break free from the aesthetic legacy handed down to him by his mother as he carves his own niche of exploration. Ironically, much of this exploration is also derived from the same legacy as he makes a sartorial commentary through his art on the ideas of beauty, fashion, appearances and society.

In his words, "humans are social animals, and the society we live in shapes the way we speak, behave, and interact with our surroundings. It also has a direct influence on our priorities, morals, ethics, values, etc. We aren't born knowing what is right and what is wrong. We look at our surroundings, or behave according to the way we are told or taught. This adaptation to societal norms in order to fit in makes us 'put on a face'. It makes us behave in a certain way, almost masking our true nature. My sculptures and paintings with their exaggerated features and multiple faces, depicts this behavioral adaptation due to the influences of society. There is a constant battle between our raw, natural form versus our conditioned form."

The mediums and processes explored by him show the level of experiment that is characteristic of the myriad thematic layers he is dappling with. With the primary base being a paper collage, Khanna builds up the narrative using different elements from various magazines, encyclopedias, and other books to give it a shape. These pictorial elements could be anything ranging from different trees, to parts of peoples bodies, to different accessories/shapes. This mix and match leads to a final piece that is as much a journey for the artist as it is for the artwork! It is fluid and organic, removing all forms of restriction in the creation process. He states, *"Eventually the artwork is a reflection of my life and its influences because I have to consciously make the decision of what works in the experiment and what does not. It has to agree with my sense of balance, color and taste".*

The end result is a glorious deconstruction and reconstruction of identities and ideologies. The artist pays homage to legacy while also beginning to create his own individualistic one.

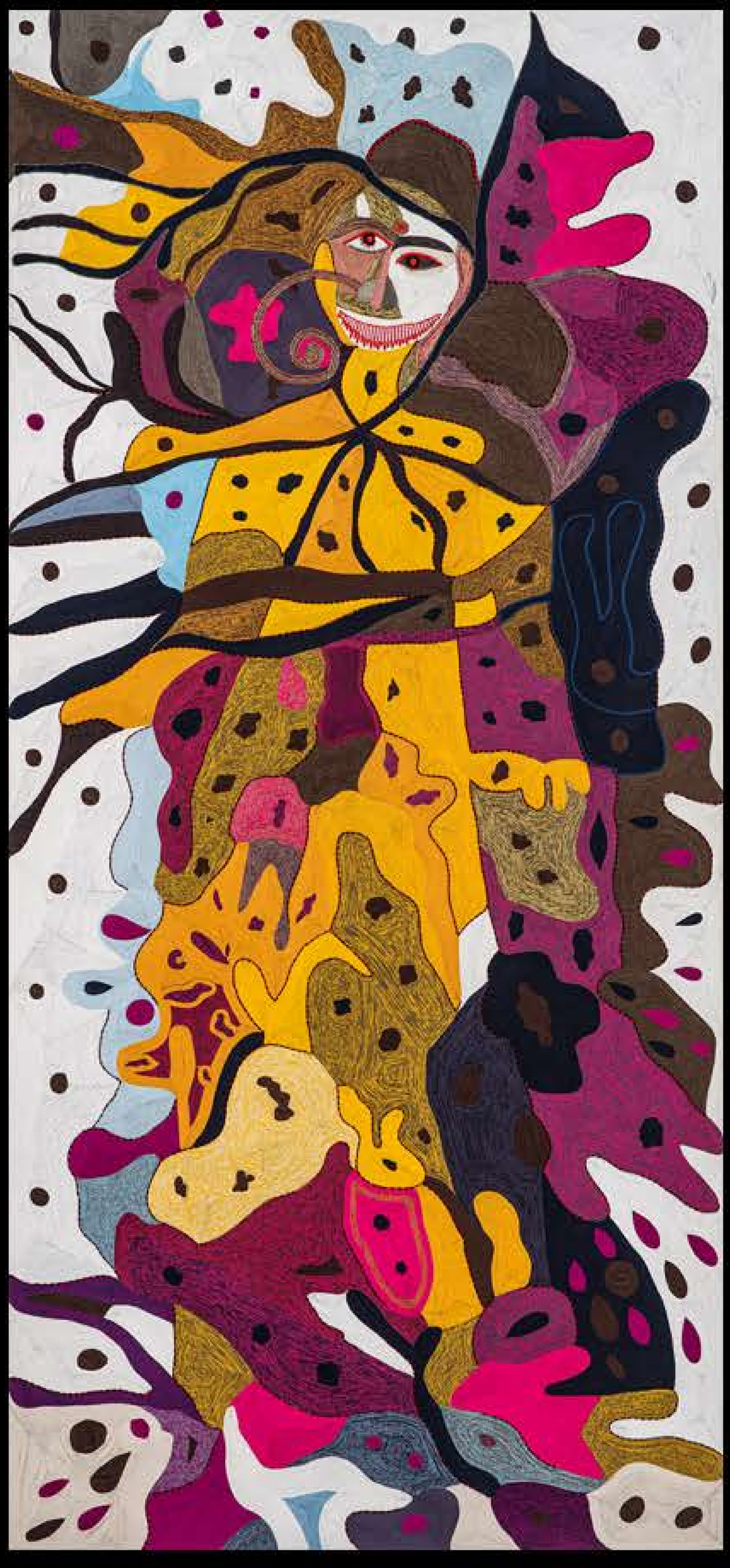
Sanjana Shah
Creative Director
Tao Art Gallery

UNTITLED, 2021
Hand embroidery on cotton
29 x 30 inches
INR 150,000 + 12% GST

UNTITLED, 2021
Hand embroidery on cotton
29 x 30 inches
INR 150,000 + 12% GST

UNTITLED, 2021
Hand embroidery on cotton
29 x 30 inches
INR 150,000 + 12% GST

UNTITLED, 2021
Hand embroidery on cotton
77 x 33 inches
INR 600,000 + 12% GST



UNTITLED, 2021
Hand embroidery on cotton
75 x 35 inches
INR 600,000 + 12% GST

UNTITLED, 2021
Hand embroidery on cotton
75 x 35 inches
INR 600,000 + 12% GST

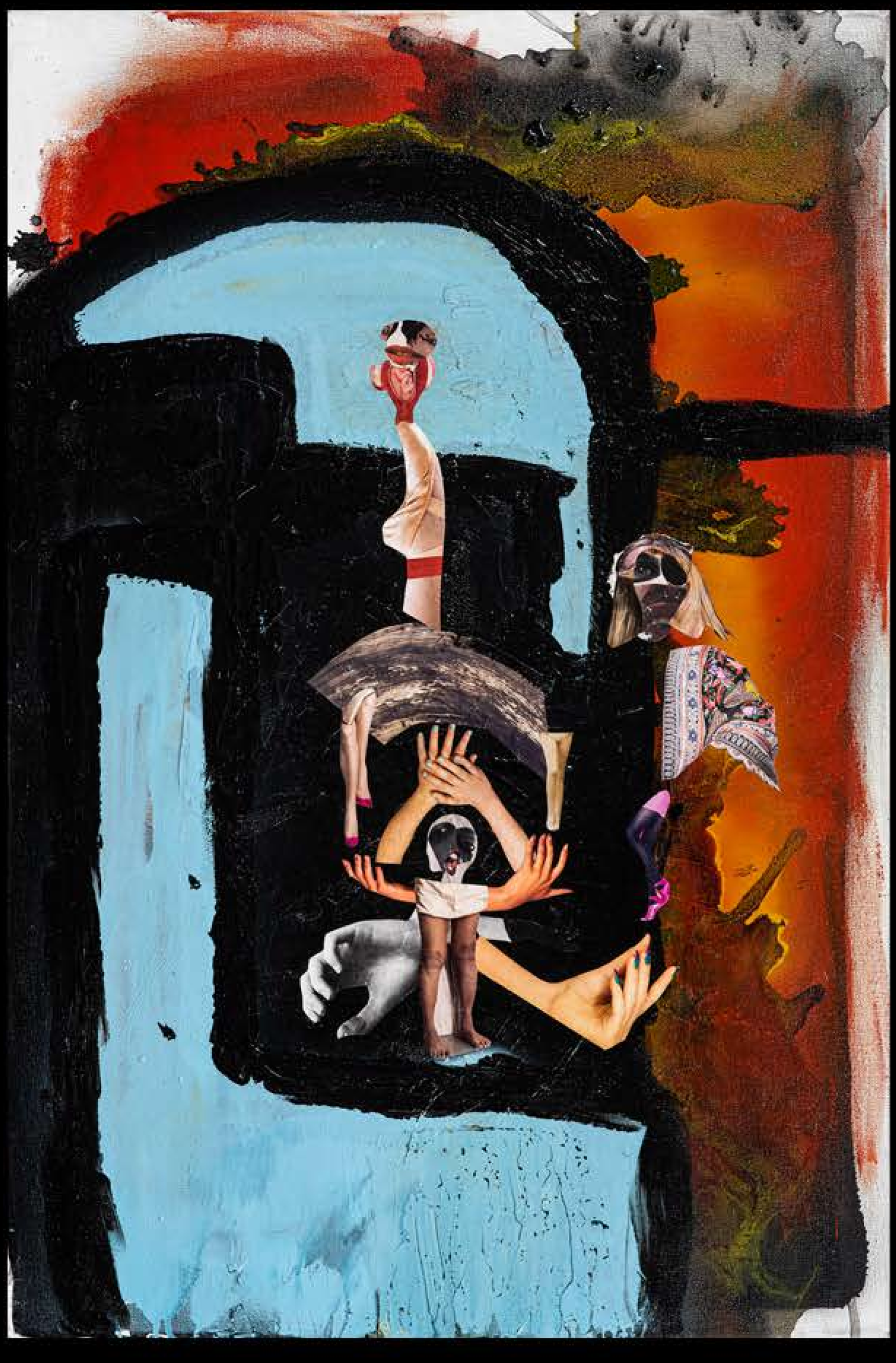
UNTITLED, 2021
Hand embroidery on cotton
75 x 35 inches
INR 600,000 + 12% GST

UNTITLED, 2021
Hand embroidery on cotton
67 x 33 inches
INR 600,000 + 12% GST

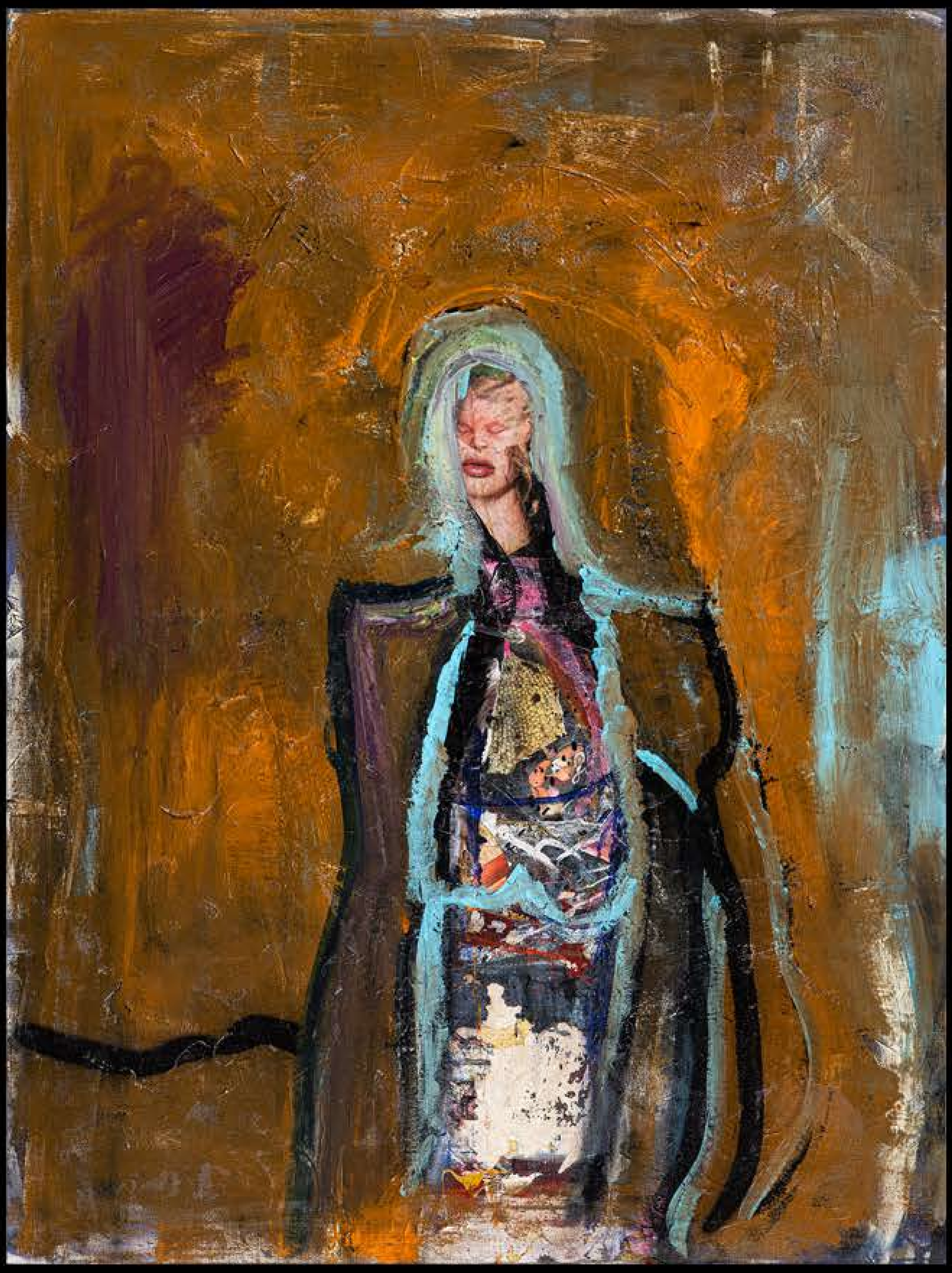
UNTITLED, 2021
Hand embroidery on cotton
82 x 32 inches
INR 600,000 + 12% GST

UNTITLED, 2021
Hand embroidery on cotton
82 x 32 inches
INR 600,000 + 12% GST

UNTITLED, 2021
Hand embroidery on cotton
76 x 32 inches
INR 600,000 + 12% GST

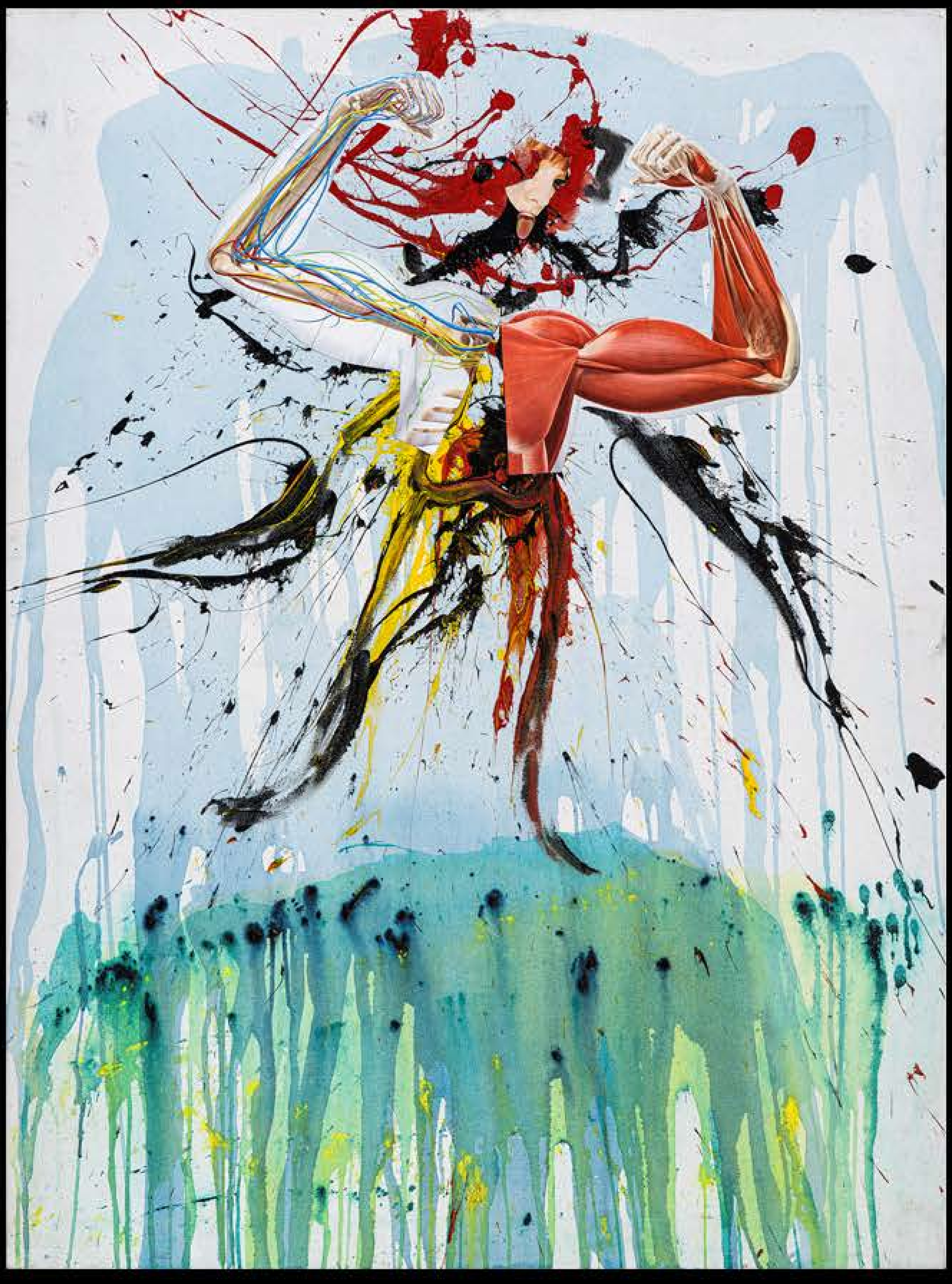


UNTITLED, 2021
Mixed media on canvas
36 x 24 inches
INR 150,000 + 12% GST



UNTITLED, 2021
Mixed media on canvas
48 x 36 inches
INR 150,000 + 12% GST

UNTITLED, 2021
Mixed media on canvas
36 x 24 inches
INR 150,000 + 12% GST



UNTITLED, 2021
Mixed media on canvas
40 x 30 inches
INR 150,000 + 12% GST

UNTITLED, 2021
Mixed media on canvas
36 x 24 inches
INR 150,000 + 12% GST

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Mixed media on canvas
36 x 24 inches
INR 150,000 + 12% GST

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36 x 24 inches
INR 150,000 + 12% GST

UNTITLED, 2021
Mixed media on canvas
36 x 24 inches
INR 150,000 + 12% GST

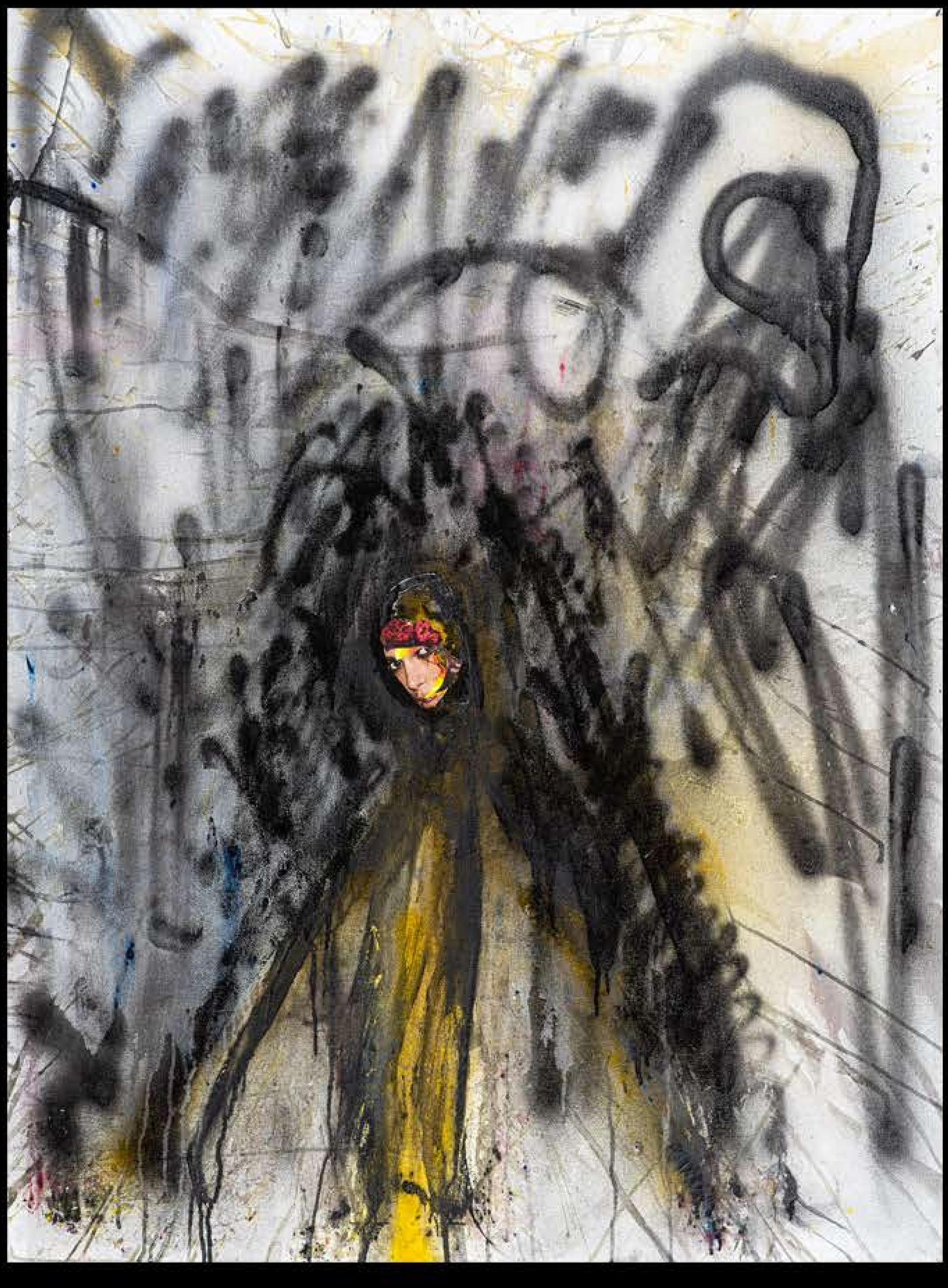
UNTITLED, 2021
Mixed media on canvas
40 x 30 inches
INR 150,000 + 12% GST

UNTITLED, 2021
Mixed media on canvas
42 x 36 inches
INR 150,000 + 12% GST

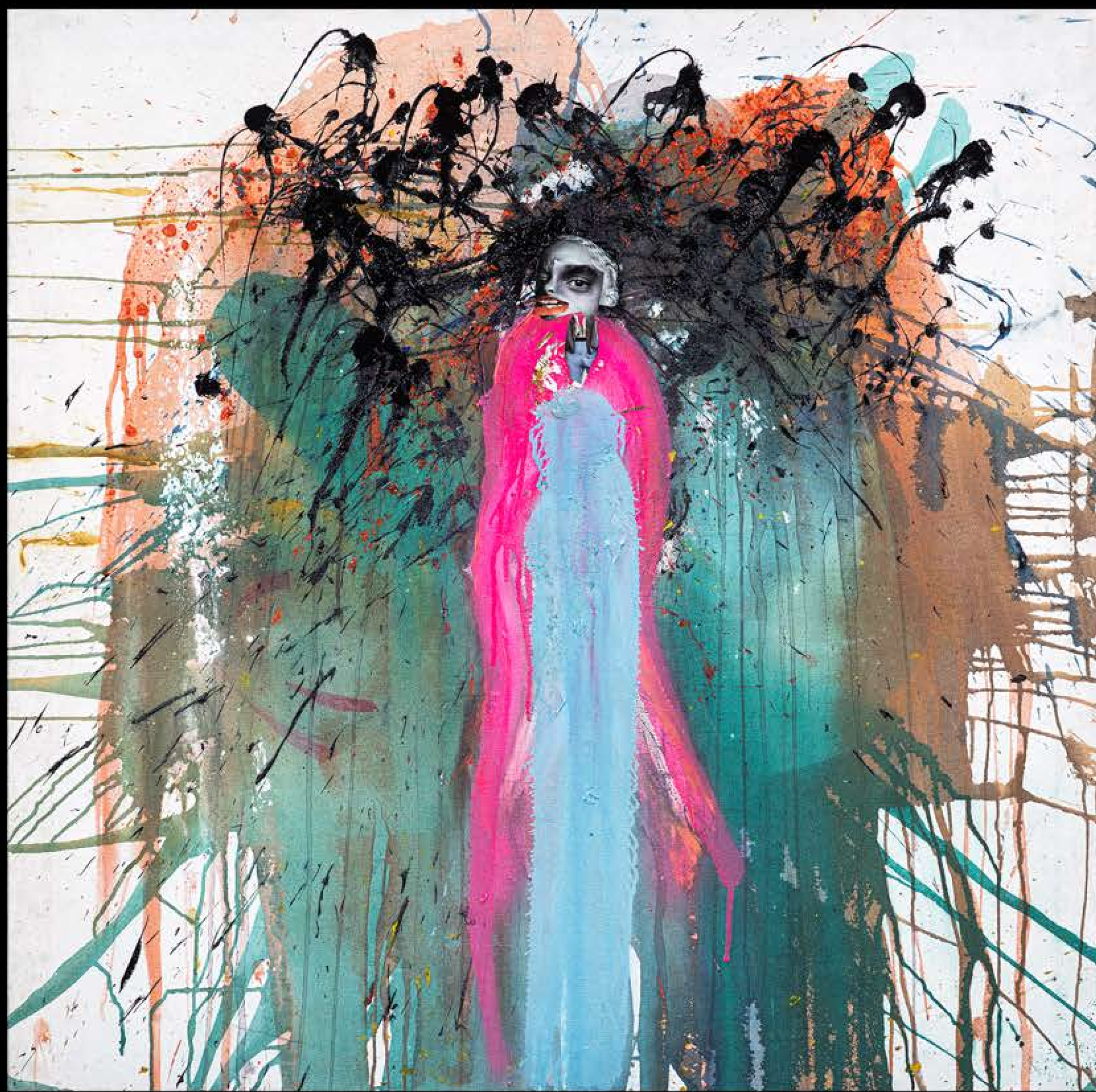
UNTITLED, 2021
Mixed media on canvas
42 x 42 inches
INR 150,000 + 12% GST

UNTITLED, 2021
Mixed media on canvas
47 x 47 inches
INR 150,000 + 12% GST

UNTITLED, 2021
Mixed media on canvas
44 x 36 inches
INR 150,000 + 12% GST



UNTITLED, 2021
Mixed media on canvas
48 x 36 inches
INR 150,000 + 12% GST

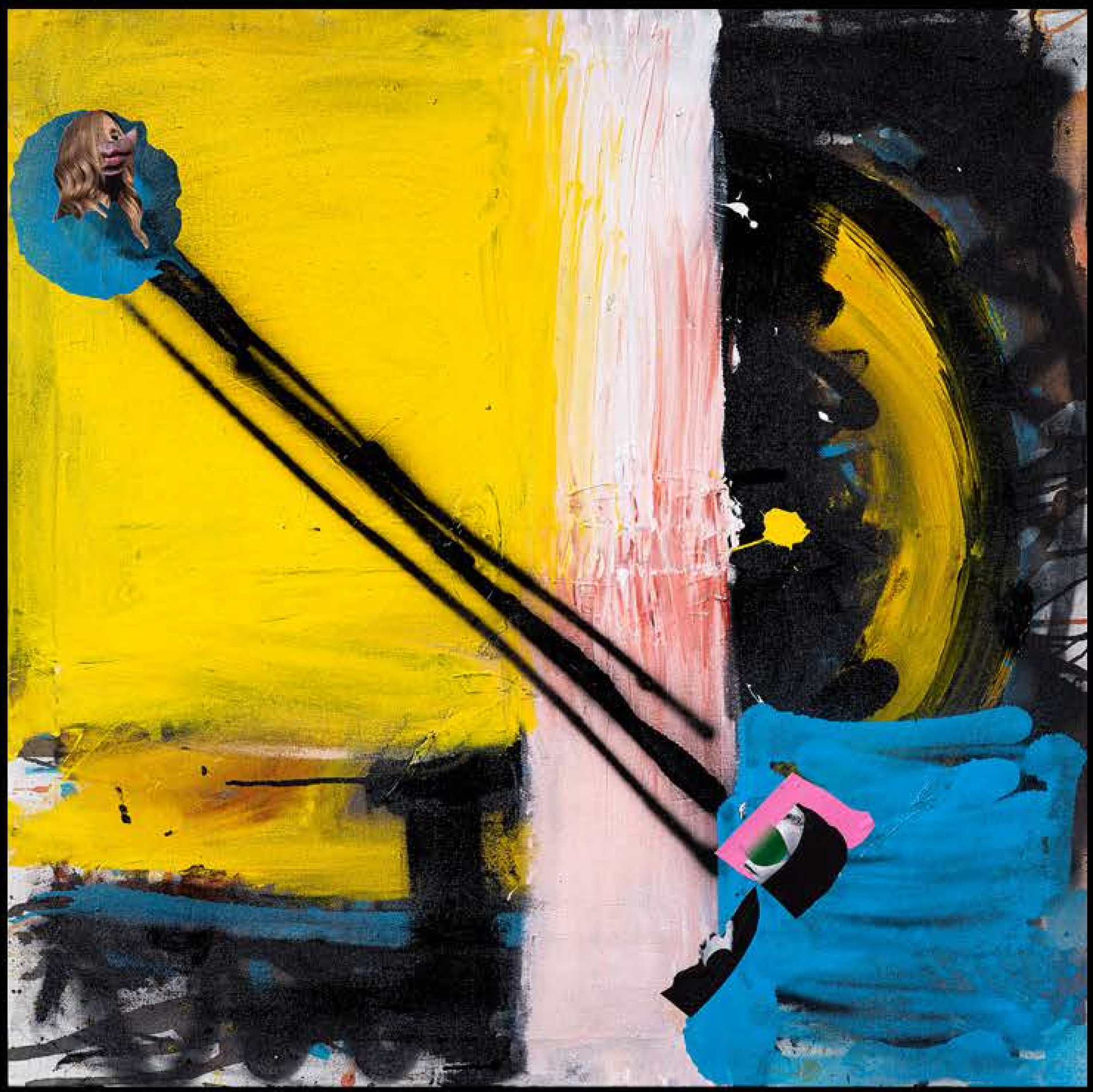


UNTITLED, 2021
Mixed media on canvas
42 x 32 inches
INR 150,000 + 12% GST

UNTITLED, 2021
Mixed media on canvas
47 x 47 inches
INR 150,000 + 12% GST

UNTITLED, 2021
Mixed media on canvas
36 x 36 inches
INR 150,000 + 12% GST

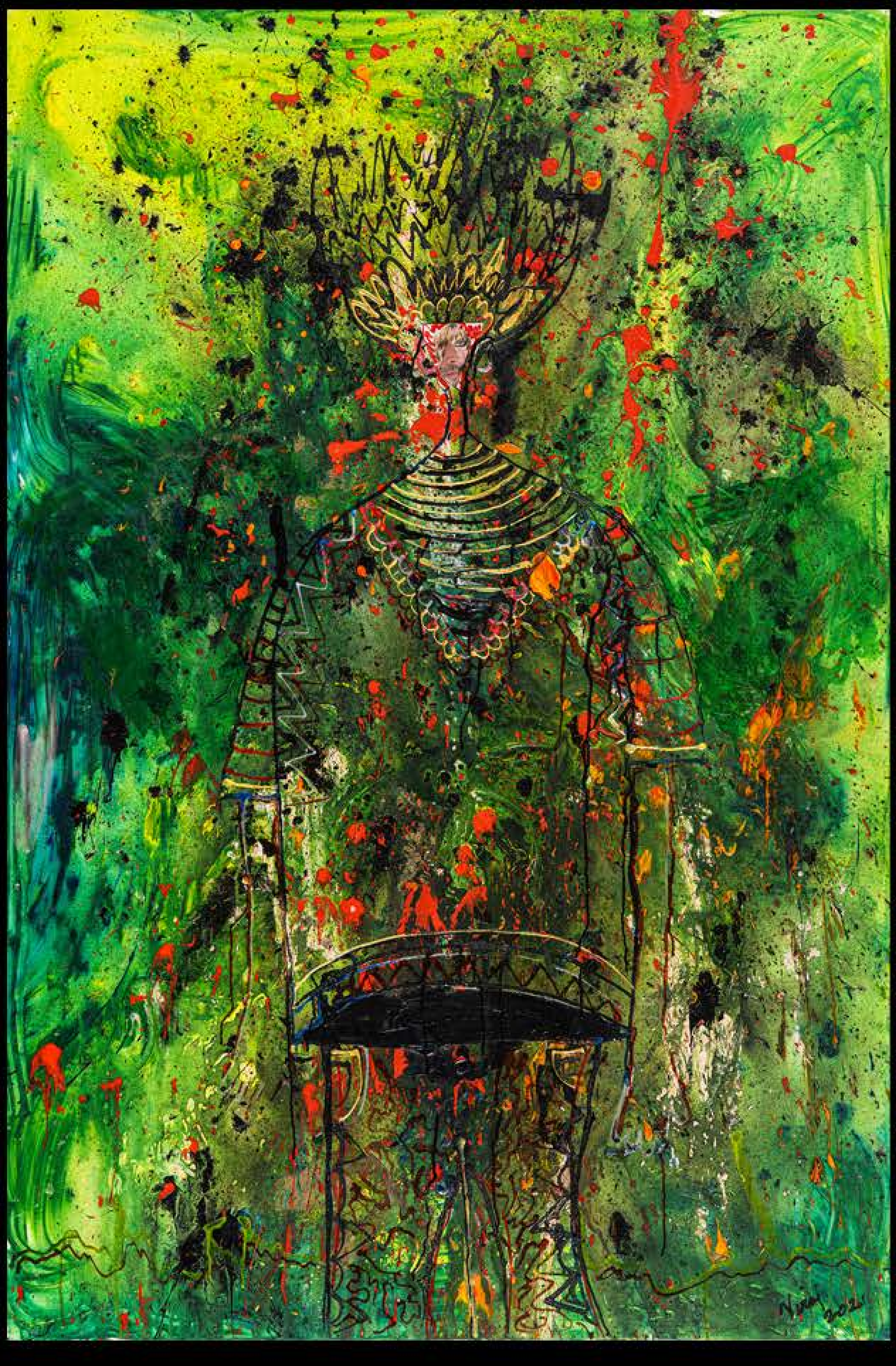
UNTITLED, 2021
Mixed media on canvas
36 x 36 inches
INR 150,000 + 12% GST



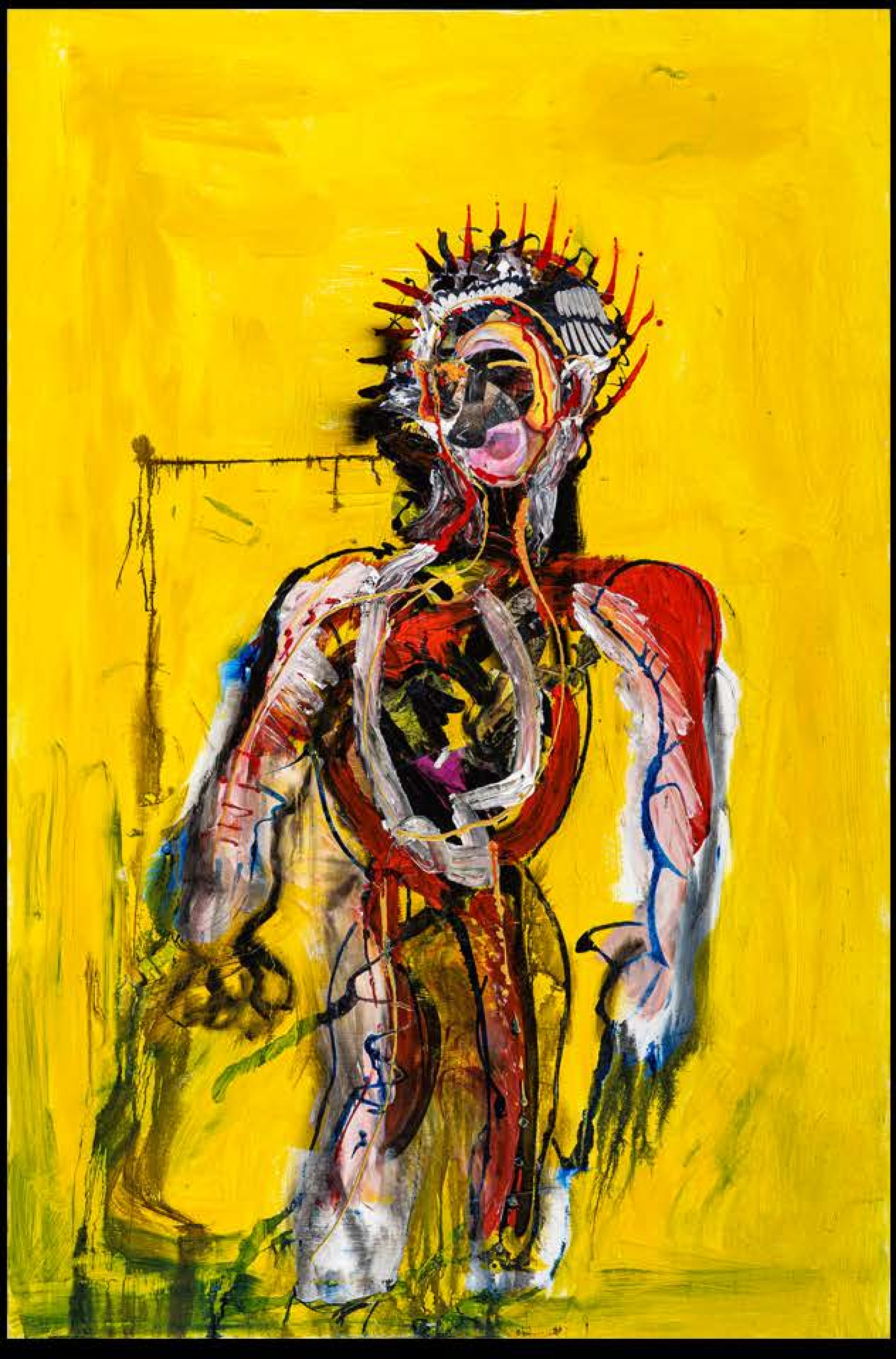
UNTITLED, 2021
Mixed media on canvas
36 x 36 inches
INR 150,000 + 12% GST

UNTITLED, 2021
Mixed media on canvas
47 x 36 inches
INR 150,000 + 12% GST

UNTITLED, 2021
Mixed media on canvas
72 x 48 inches
INR 300,000 + 12% GST



UNTITLED, 2021
Mixed media on canvas
72 x 48 inches
INR 300,000 + 12% GST



UNTITLED, 2021
Mixed media on canvas
72 x 48 inches
INR 300,000 + 12% GST

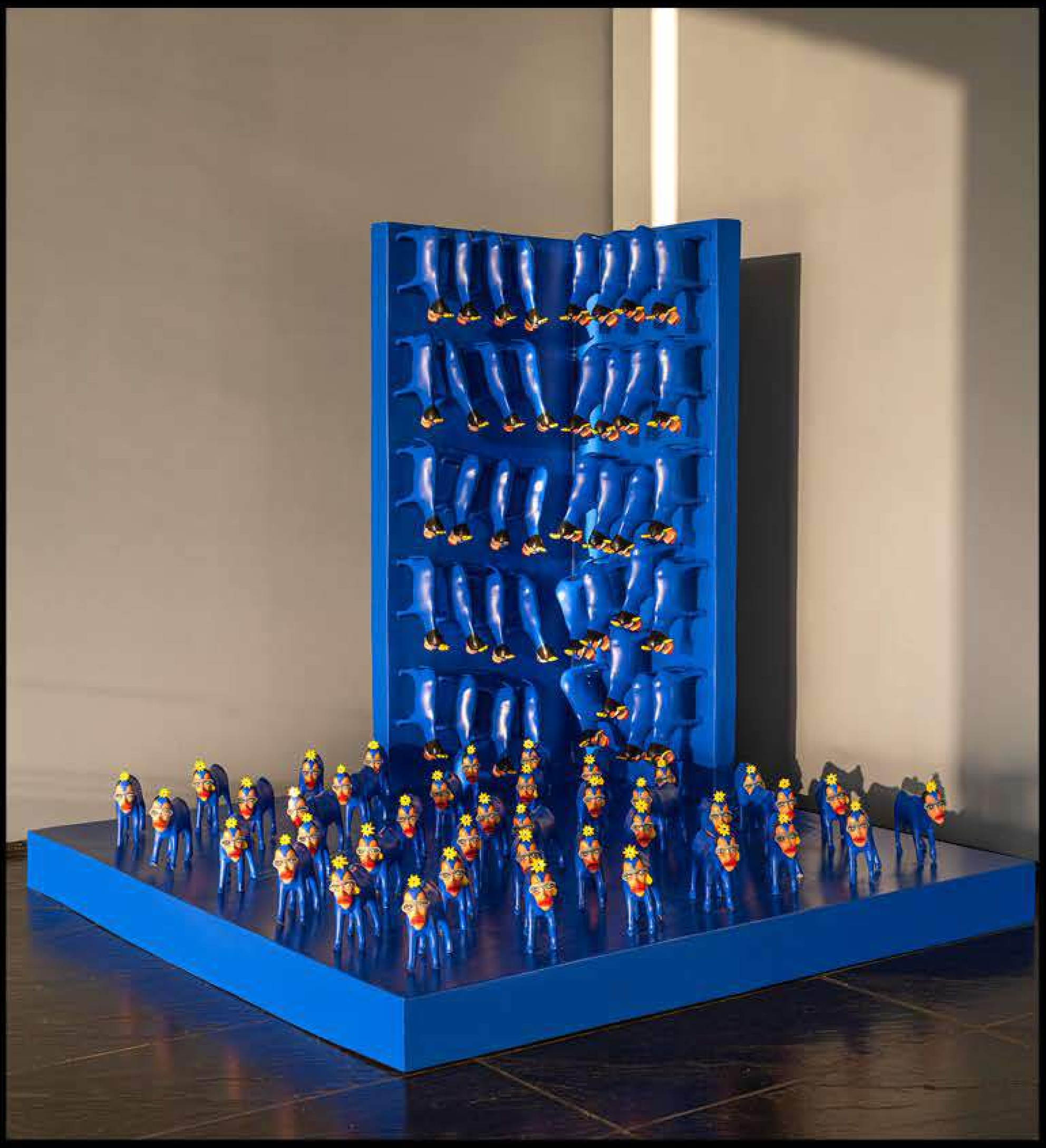
UNTITLED, 2021
Mixed media on canvas
73 x 49 inches
INR 300,000 + 12% GST

UNTITLED, 2021
Mixed media on canvas
72 x 48 inches
INR 300,000 + 12% GST

UNTITLED, 2021
Automotive paint and acrylic on fibreglass
85 x 48 x 24 inches
INR 500,000 + 12% GST

UNTITLED, 2021
Acrylic on fibreglass
50 x 40 x 7 inches
INR 400,000 + 12% GST

UNTITLED, 2021
Automotive paint and acrylic on fibreglass
55 x 48 x 48 inches
INR 500,000 + 12% GST



UNTITLED, 2021
Automotive paint and acrylic on fibreglass
46 x 47 x 48 inches
INR 500,000 + 12% GST

UNTITLED, 2021
Acrylic on fibreglass
45 x 27 x 22 inches
INR 350,000 + 12% GST

UNTITLED, 2021
Automotive paint on fibreglass
54 x 25 x 32 inches
INR 500,000 + 12% GST

UNTITLED, 2021
Acrylic on fibreglass
66 x 26 x 28 inches
INR 500,000 + 12% GST

UNTITLED, 2021
Acrylic on fibreglass
42 x 47 x 54 in
INR 500,000 + 12% GST

UNTITLED, 2021
Automotive paint and acrylic on fibreglass
74 x 32 x 19 inches
INR 500,000 + 12% GST

UNTITLED, 2021
Automotive paint on fibreglass
45 x 72 x 32 inches
INR 500,000 + 12% GST

UNTITLED, 2021
Automotive paint on fibreglass
53 x 100 x 32 inches
INR 500,000 + 12% GST

UNTITLED, 2021
Automotive paint on fibreglass
43 x 21 x 14 inches
INR 450,000 + 12% GST

UNTITLED, 2021
Acrylic on fibreglass
75 x 30 x 24 inches
INR 500,000 + 12% GST

Someone has arrived waaay too early for the fashion show on the metaverse!
Seating shouldn't be an issue for her anymore
NFT
(Contact us for more details)

The slothy bear is casually living a high life ONLY on the blockchain.
Go find him there before he tires out!!
NFT
(Contact us for more details)

Looks like the meditation guru wants to be heard more on the blockchain.
Is no one around on the platform to learn from him?
NFT
(Contact us for more details)

Viraj Khanna

Growing up surrounded by art, especially textiles and embroidery has helped Khanna develop a certain aesthetic when it comes to the way he sees and creates things. Embroidery work and textile involves putting different materials, fabrics and other elements together to express certain feelings, perceptions or visions. Transmuting to paintings, sculptures and collages has been somewhat a liberating space where similar concepts and philosophies can be expressed in a totally different architecture.

Khanna always believes that creativity is not inborn, it's something you work on and get better the more you try. So he has never been intimidated by working with new materials and spaces. He started out with collage work- pieces of magazines, articles, encyclopedias and things around to create objects or images of meaning. Gradually Viraj moved onto more sculptural forms with the base idea emerging from the original collage work.

The work depicts a discontinuity in the flow of things, of how imperfection runs deep in the core of everyday lives. The human condition is always striving towards 'perfection' per se, and we pointlessly spend our time trying to build a life where we seem invulnerable.

Tao

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