

'CONTRADICTIONS'

BY RAQESH VASHISTH

A stylized, handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read 'Raqesh Vashisth', located in the bottom right corner of the page.

I must confess that I was skeptical in meeting Raqesh as I believed it to be yet another case of a glamour industry person taking to painting almost as a fashion statement. Well, I was in for a pleasant surprise when I met him and saw the significant body of work he had created. His passion was genuine and that reflected in his paintings. What was remarkable was a rare ability not to get trapped into any particular style or subject.

The range of his paintings is quite impressive—from a series on horses which brings out all the tenderness in the relationship between man and the animal, the series on partition which reminded me of Kushwant Singh's landmark book 'A Train to Pakistan', his take on the film 'Fedora' which so chillingly brings out the insecurities of film stars beneath the sheen of glamour and the list goes on...

I sincerely hope that he continues on this path with all his energy and passion and keep surprising us with bold new works.

Milind Sathe
Art Promoter & Curator



‘The dark alleys of struggles and the light of hope’

Deep in the labyrinth of our soul consciousness, we carry with us the magic and purpose of innocence each child carries.

Raqesh Vashisth, a wanderer in the world of art, you can call him an actor who paints the canvas with the magic of storytelling and versatility of characterization. His art bring forth the diversity and uniqueness of his cinematic journey.

Yet, he is not ready to settle down to calling himself an artist. For, if you were to watch him closely he carries that curious child perched gloriously on his shoulders, steering ahead exploring the wondrous elements of his imagination.

His journey, as he recounts cannot be summarized into something as corporeal as the word ‘ART’. He believes in the metaphysical design of the universe. He creates faith by colors brushed on canvas.

His paintings reflect his early years of self-teaching and accidental learnings. His work is much more than figures or brush strokes. They are the affirmation of all his contradictions.

They possess pieces of him, his angst, his happiness, and his passion in equal measures as his demons, the dark alleys of his struggles and the light of his hope.

‘CONTRADICTIONS’

My dreams understand the whisper of my horse's ears



Companion
Acrylic on canvas
60 x 48 inches

Infinite gallop of a finite chase



Adrenaline
Acrylic on canvas
60 x 48 inches

What do I do with the waves, when there is a whirlpool inside me



Water Shy
Acrylic on canvas
60 x 36 inches

True love sometimes needs only a moment of Eternity



Valentine
Acrylic on canvas
60 x 36 inches

Some veils were meant to fly, some feet were
meant to run, some vows were meant to be broken



Vow

Acrylic on canvas

60 x 36 inches

I am your shadow, you are my magnificence



Prestige

Acrylic on canvas

84 x 36 inches

When you stare
into the abyss,
the abyss stares
back at you



Dreamer
Acrylic on canvas
48 x 60 inches

The purity of silence. The strength in the calm.



Porcelain

Acrylic on canvas

60 x 48 inches

Lord riding
in a garb



Ashwa Ganesh
Acrylic on canvas
48 x 36 inches

The artist's residence



Eureka

Acrylic on canvas

56.4 x 44.4 inches

The rockstar who defies time



Who's That Girl?

Acrylic on canvas

60 x 36 inches

The glory of a flight is reserved for those who dare to jump



The August Dream

Acrylic on canvas

72 x 48 inches

Moments spent in creating memories hold time as witness in the sky



Constellation
Acrylic on canvas
72 x 48 inches

Let the moment that pass by be proof of the path I will take



Passage

Acrylic on canvas

48 x 36 inches

Upon the burden of hardships and anguish, lies the wheel of courage and solace



1947 - I

Acrylic on canvas

39.6 x 26.4 inches

Let the burning flames extinguish the cold nightmares and fill us with warmth of hope



1947- II

Acrylic on canvas

48 x 36 inches

A journey for the future of a new history



1947 - III

Acrylic on canvas

48 x 36 inches

In the name of
God, in the hands
of mankind



1947 -
Heaven's Basement
Acrylic on canvas
36 x 48 inches

The echo of my belief stirs the air that flutters your wings



1947 - Wings Of Hope

Acrylic on canvas

48 x 36 inches

Let my child make me a mother now,
let me nurture and rejoice my true being now,
let me walk without fear now



1947 - Freedom
Acrylic on canvas
72 x 48 inches

My truth is my hope, and that is enough for my soul



1947 - Hope
Acrylic on canvas
48 x 36 inches

My eyes seek the hope my soul speaks of



1947 - Hope

Acrylic on canvas

48 x 36 inches

An ode to my mother



Mother And Daughter

Acrylic on canvas

36 x 48 inches

The city in my head



Cold
Acrylic on canvas
36 x 60 inches

Paradox of
humanity
lies in its
coexistence



The Other Half
Acrylic on canvas
36 x 48 inches

Those eyes are not mine, they belong to the truth in the frozen moments



The Acrylic Mirror
Acrylic on canvas
36 x 48 inches

The beginning of consciousness



Conflict

Acrylic on canvas

48 x 36 inches

In search of her youth



Fedora
Acrylic on canvas
36 x 60 inches

Let the beauty
inside you bring
vibrance to those
color-blind



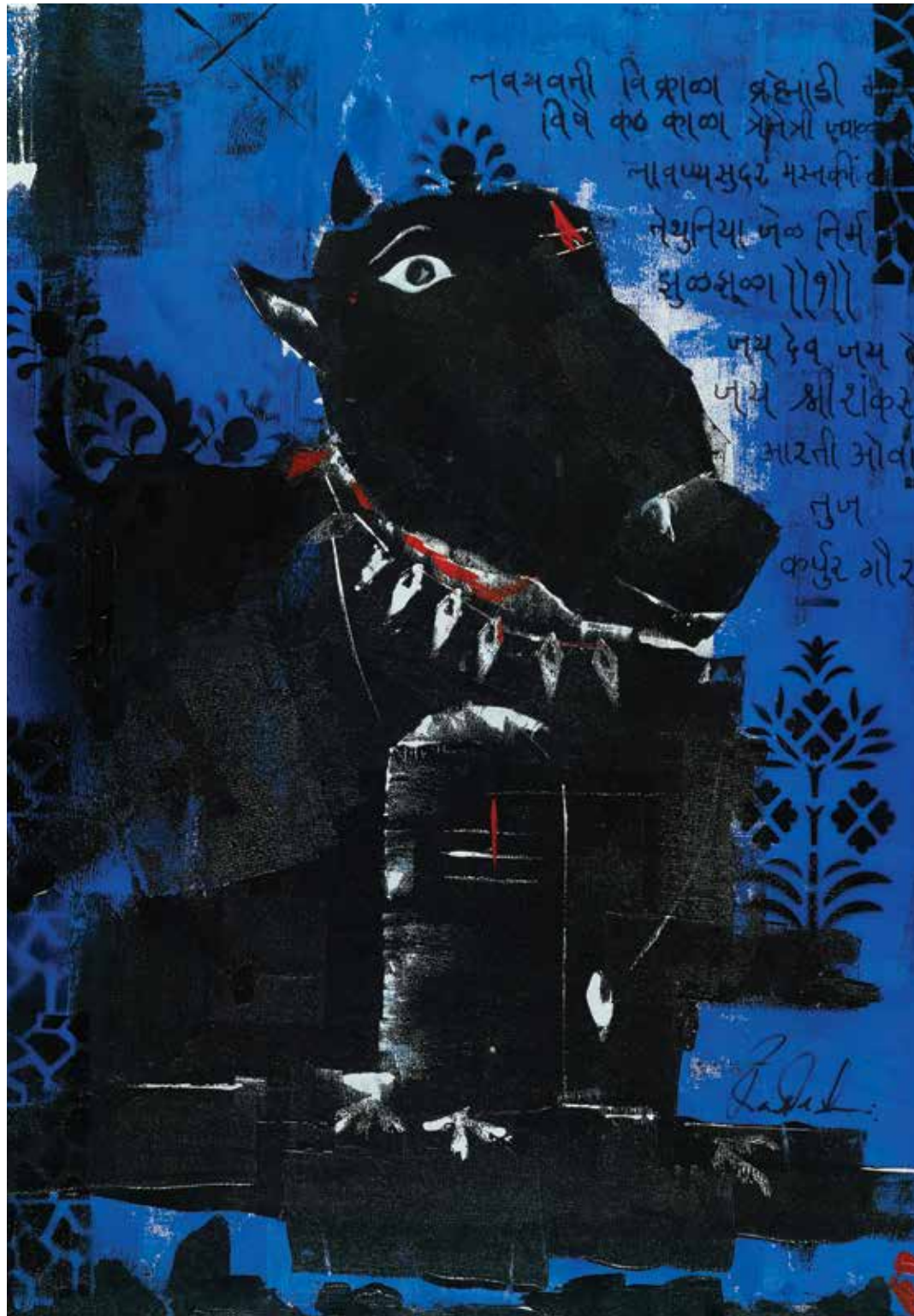
April Leaves
Acrylic on canvas
36 x 48 inches

She holds within
her piercing gaze
mysteries of her
undiminished spirit



Sylvia - The Rag-picker
Acrylic on canvas
31.2 x 36 inches

The ears of the world
looking at the lord



Shiv Nandi
Acrylic on canvas
32.4 x 42 inches

The powerful
and the beautiful



Shiv-Krishna
Acrylic on canvas
28.8 x 51.6 inches

Raqesh is a great artist. His talent can be seen in various forms of art which he has performed in. He is a wonderful theatre, TV and film artist but what surprised me the most was that he is an equally good painter. His paintings are well defined and are full of expression. The 'Horse' series is too good. I wish him all the best for future. God bless!

Mrs. Sangeeta Arun Jaitley

Evocative art which makes you pause and wonder... I, especially love the partition series that has been captured so beautifully... Spell bound !

Huma Qureshi
Actress

The toughest thing in the world is to reveal yourself, to express what you want to. As an artist, Raqesh explores his inner self—he dares to be himself and show it. As an actor—playing characters everyday, becoming someone else and living that character for months—he is rich in experience from seeing life from others perspective. This is what shines through in his art - it is versatile and refreshing!

Roheena Nagpal
Interior Designer and Business Architect - Atelier

Raqesh's works are striking! Full of energy and movement, capturing in one moment the dichotomy of silence and spaces, the gaps between the imagined and the imagining. In stark charcoal lines he maps a landscape of totems and talismans juxtaposed with the essential loneliness of the human condition.

Ahsan Ansari

Director - Clay Architecture and Interiors

A strong compulsiveness to engage with their own pathos or struggle is what makes the human expression on the pivotal characters stuck in a symbolic maze of their past, present and unforeseen so much more poignant. Raqesh's deft, bold and unapologetic brushstrokes tell more than a story.

The 'Horse' series, one of my personal favourites gracefully captures the agility of form and speed almost likening it to the unhindered spirit breaking free from the shackles of limitation.

Tejal Mathur

Interior Designer

Raqesh's work reflects his evolution as an artist and human being. They are a poignant yet candid insight into the world of 'Contradictions' that we live in today. I wish him all the best in this endeavour.

Nikhil chaturvedi

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