A wide-angle photograph of a desert landscape. The foreground is dominated by soft, rolling sand dunes in shades of tan and beige. In the middle ground, a prominent, elongated sand dune with a flat top and rounded edges stretches across the frame. The background shows more distant dunes under a vast, bright blue sky filled with numerous white, fluffy clouds of varying sizes. The lighting is bright and natural, suggesting a clear day.

ARE WE
STABILIZING
YET?

Introduction

In the entire known universe, Earth is the only planet to support life. It has the perfect delicate balance of sufficient sunlight, a suitable atmosphere, and just the right ingredients which allowed for this miracle. What we call “life” can be traced back to about 3.8 billion years ago, when certain molecules combined to form intricate structures called organisms. Initially single-celled, these organisms would evolve remarkably and branch into diverse array of highly complex multicellular organisms dotting the planet. Over billions of years life would go through many cycles of extinction and re-emergence. Dominant species of organisms would get wiped out and newer ones would take their place.

Much more recently in this story, around 70,000 years ago, organisms from the species *Homo Sapiens* start to develop further elaborate structures called culture, and tools called technology. With these advantages they acquire a lopsided dominance over the planet's ecosystem. The advent of agriculture around 12,000 years ago, and the scientific revolution which just kicked of some 500 years ago, further accelerate this process, and rapidly propel *Homo Sapiens* from cave dwelling hunter-gatherers to a planet-spanning civilization.

However, the drastic prosperity of our species has had equally drastic repercussions for other forms of life in the planet. While we build more elaborate structures and make ungodly technological advances, we are poisoning our home. Background extinction rates are at an all time high, and the planet is fast becoming uninhabitable due to climate change, unable to bear the overbearing strain of human expansion and consumption.

What happens when we cross the line?

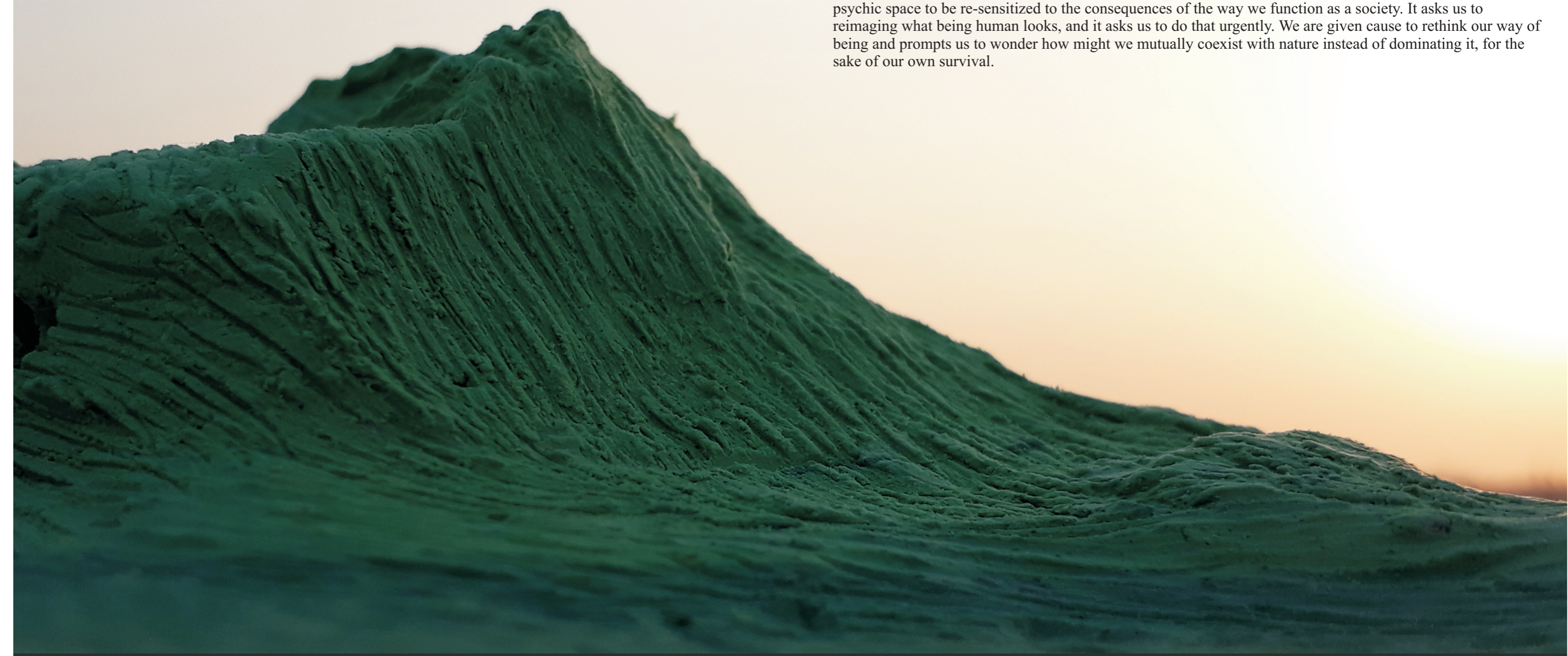
This work is a small initiative to critically investigate our role in the death of our planet and to contest it.

Abstract

The works presented here investigate the relationship between humans and nature. The environment - flora, fauna, and landscape - is present in many forms. There are images, shapes, and textures that are familiar to eye. Yet, here these familiar forms become unfamiliar because they are presented in surreal contexts. Landscapes become supper dishes, a tiger assumes the role of Atlas, a metropolitan view juxtaposed with an outsize carcass of a bird, a bottled up desert. They offer provocative, often disturbing insights, into the delicate balance of the planet's ecology and how we have wreaked havoc on it.

Experiencing these works allows for an introspection of the relationship we share with nature. It makes re-visible, all the damage has been made invisible in humanity's pursuit for progress. It brings into sharp focus our habits and vices, which our cultural and economic systems perpetuate. These images tell stories about how we consume pathologically. Often, this rampant consumption manifests itself in familiar desires—such as greed, gluttony, lust—which are used as lenses to offer insight into our tendency to dominate nature and exploit it ruthlessly without caring for sustainability. Many of the works further highlight this attitude through motifs of trapping, confinement, caging, and killing. We further see the toll of our violence. There are themes of deterioration and extinction which stem from our endless encroachment over the planet and its resources.

These various perspectives combine into a mythology about the unimaginable scale of the devastation we casually enact upon this planet on a regular basis. The jarring, surreal juxtapositions allow us to find the psychic space to be re-sensitized to the consequences of the way we function as a society. It asks us to reimaging what being human looks, and it asks us to do that urgently. We are given cause to rethink our way of being and prompts us to wonder how might we mutually coexist with nature instead of dominating it, for the sake of our own survival.





Subrata Ghosh born in the year of 1977 at West Bengal. Perused my fine arts bachelor's degree with specialization in modelling and sculpture from Govt. college of Art and Craft (Kolkata/ West Bengal/India) and is living and working at New Delhi. Over the years I have mastered myself in digital painting, sculpture and installation. I have a keen interest in the experiments with human perception and instincts I encourages people to touch and interact with the work, believing that human interaction keeps the work alive and breaks the barrier between viewer and the exhibits. I often paints subjects, my vision is mysterious, like the periodically image of fusion of animal and human body representing human blindness and current situation of the society and their desire.



Ankita Bhattacharyya

A Government Employee by Profession and a Nature Activist by passion. Organized several programs on Conservation of Nature. Photographing Nature is my Hobby. Roaming around the hills and forests and capturing raw nature through the lenses is like living a dream for me.

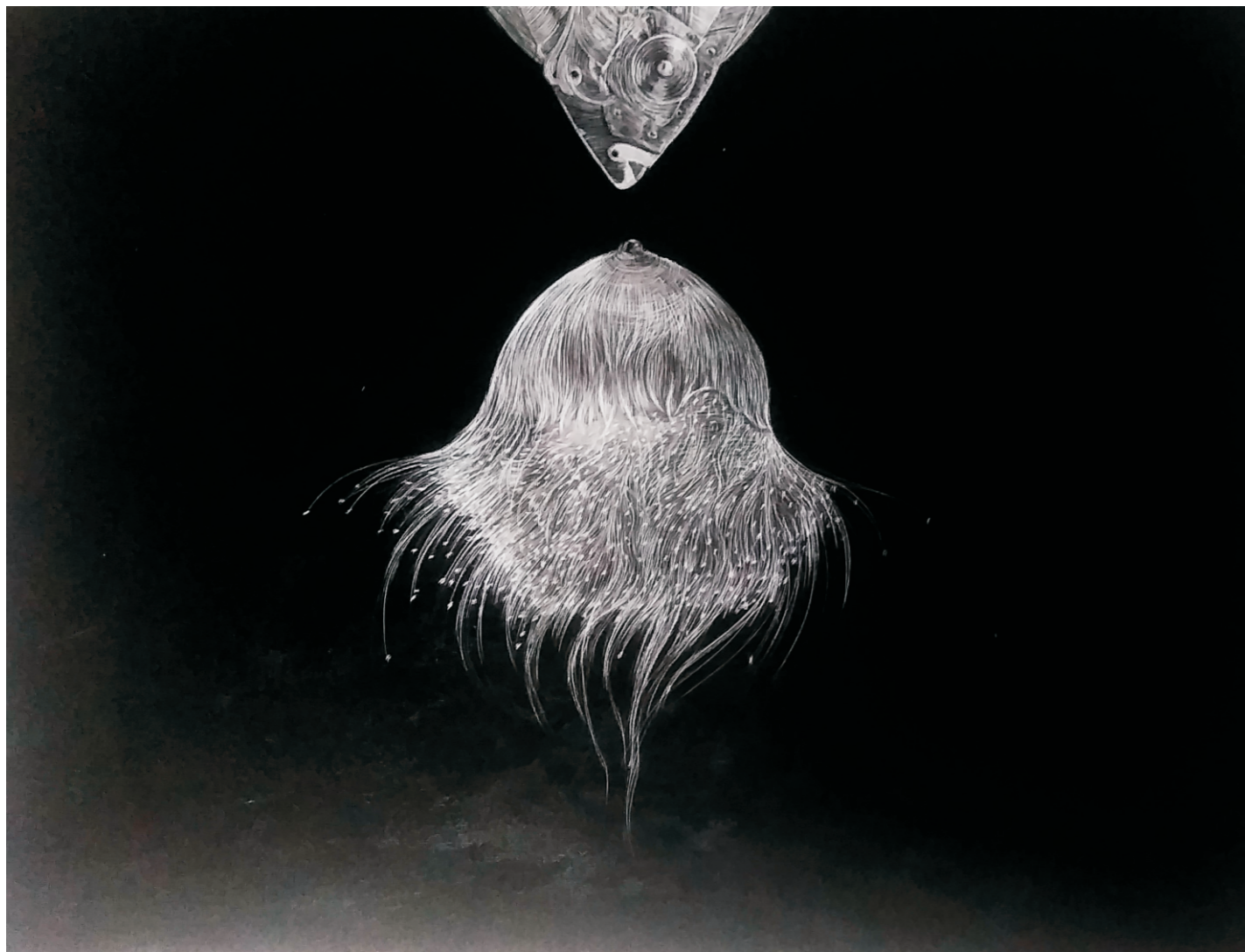
Education

Post-graduate having done my Masters in Geography.

Experience

From June 2012 to 2014, I worked as a teacher in Bharat Sevasram School in Ukhimath, Uttarakhand, India. The beauty of the snowcapped hills, its flora and fauna inspired me to take up the camera and start my journey as an amateur photographer. After returning I drafted my experienced in the Bengali Travel Magazine "Bhraman". I took special interest in the daily life of the people in the hills and tried to capture how the hills, the trees that grow there and the animals that thrive there have a special impact on their lifestyles.

From 2014 till date, I am employed with the government of West Bengal. During this phase, I have also been travelling around various corners of India conducting treks as well as covering projects as a freelance Wild-life Photographer. During this phase, I have gained experience of capturing images and producing photographs of wildlife in their habitats. I have also acquired immense knowledge of outdoor survival techniques, wildlife tracking methods, and management of environmental issues. Within this process, I have sharpened my skills on proper use of cameras and lenses in photography gaining expertise in image capturing, editing and printing procedures.



LUST - 24 inch x 24 inch - Print on canvas, acrylic paint and scratch

Lust is a strong expression of sexual desire. Lust can make us forget who we are. At its nadir the the object of desire, becomes simply that—an object, nothing more. It is free to be taken, by force if necessary.

Nature is often imagined as a feminine entity. A caregiver. Mother. It is delicate, of earthly flesh. Human civilization stands in stark contrast. With tools and technology it's a more domineering presence. Its hard steel stands in sharp contrast to the soft, earthly flesh of nature. This steel can dig deep into the flesh. Again and again. The very tools which allowed humanity to thrive now allows it to ravage its own mother.

Have we forgotten who we are?



WITNESS - 48inch x 60 inch - Print on canvas, acrylic paint and scratch

What do we bear witness to?

How do we see life? Is it a resource to be contained, trapped, manipulated? Is it something that exists to serve our ends? Life is not an object, it is a happening. Just like we are more than human, we are human *being*. The same is true for all life around us. As we try to control the world it wilts under our grip.

Do we witness with a conscience?



FEAR - 24 inch x 24 inch - Print on canvas, acrylic paint and scratch

We try to control because we are afraid.

Human technology and arrogance have developed at an equal pace. In the modern world we seek to enforce control over primal flows of nature by drawing borders, building dams, and designating "airspace." But air cannot be cut and water cannot be clutched. To try to control it is like smoothing waves with a paddle. This can only cause more and more disturbance. We think we are exerting control when all we are doing is interfering with the flow of nature. We end up sabotaging the delicate organic system which gives us life. It will inevitably wither away, so will we.

What if we gave up control?



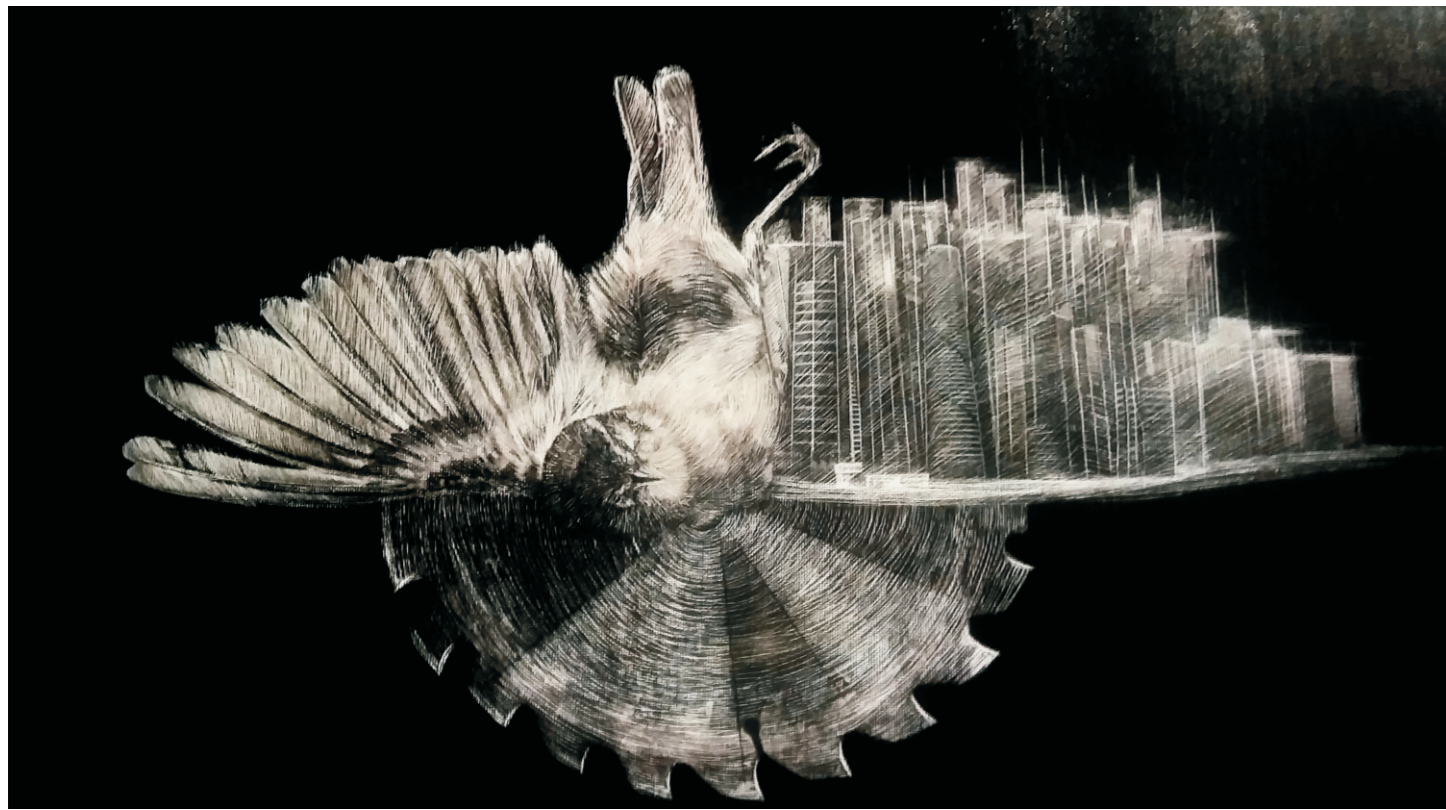
TENDER - 18 inch x 24 inch - Print on canvas, acrylic paint and scratch

Love separates an embrace from a choke.

Humanity has had to overcome a lot as it climbed to the apex of the planet's food chain. Despite our challenges, mother earth has been very tender with her embrace. However we have reciprocated that embrace with a death grip, as we squeeze the life out of our mother.

We encroach and consume pathologically. The things we leave in our wake are sterile and cold. Useful to us perhaps but devoid of any replenishing life. Under our chokehold the flesh of the planet slowly turns into a lifeless gangrene of concrete and metal.

Have we forgotten how to love?

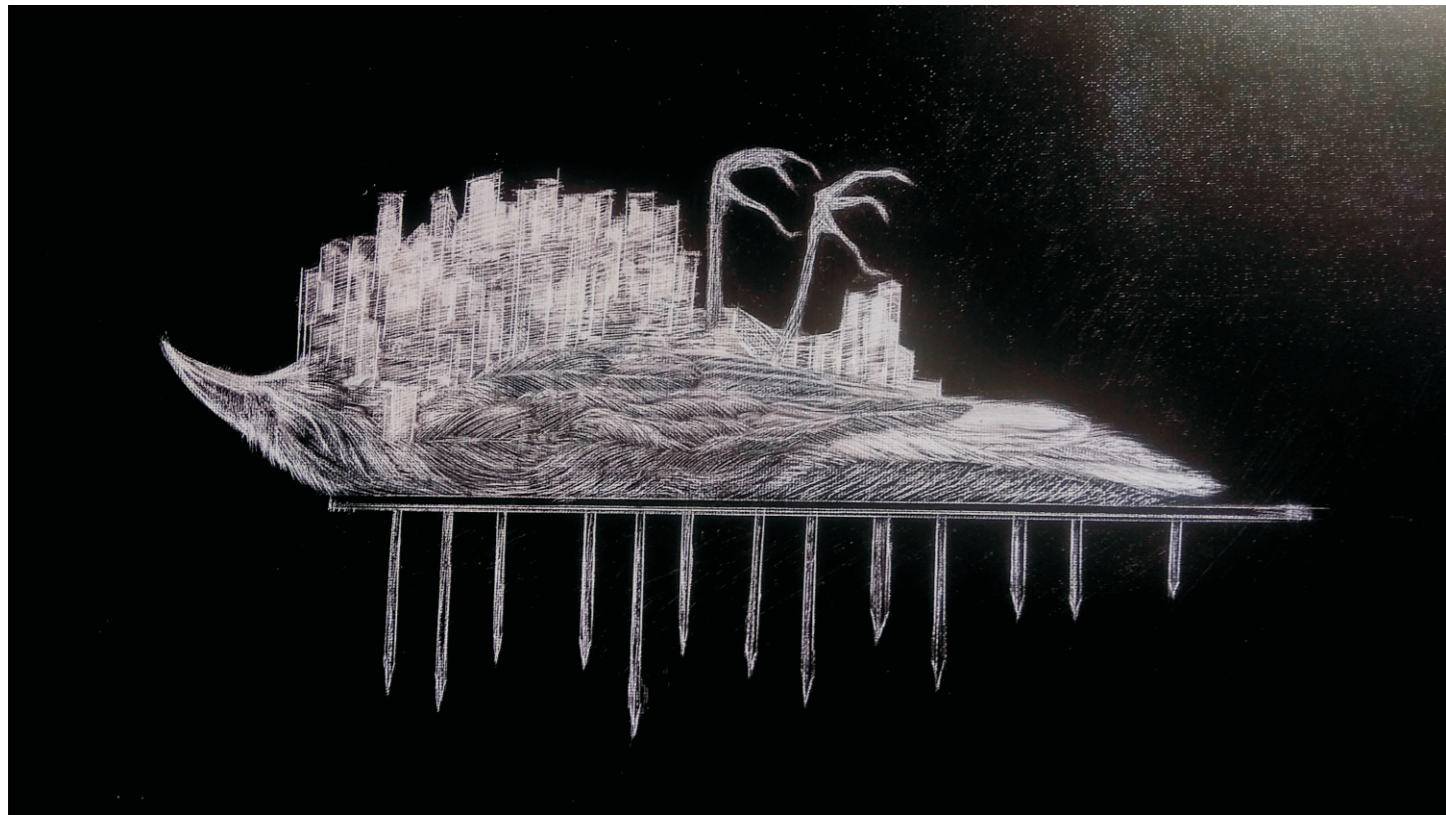


DREAMCATCHER - 18 inch x 24 inch - Print on canvas, acrylic paint and scratch

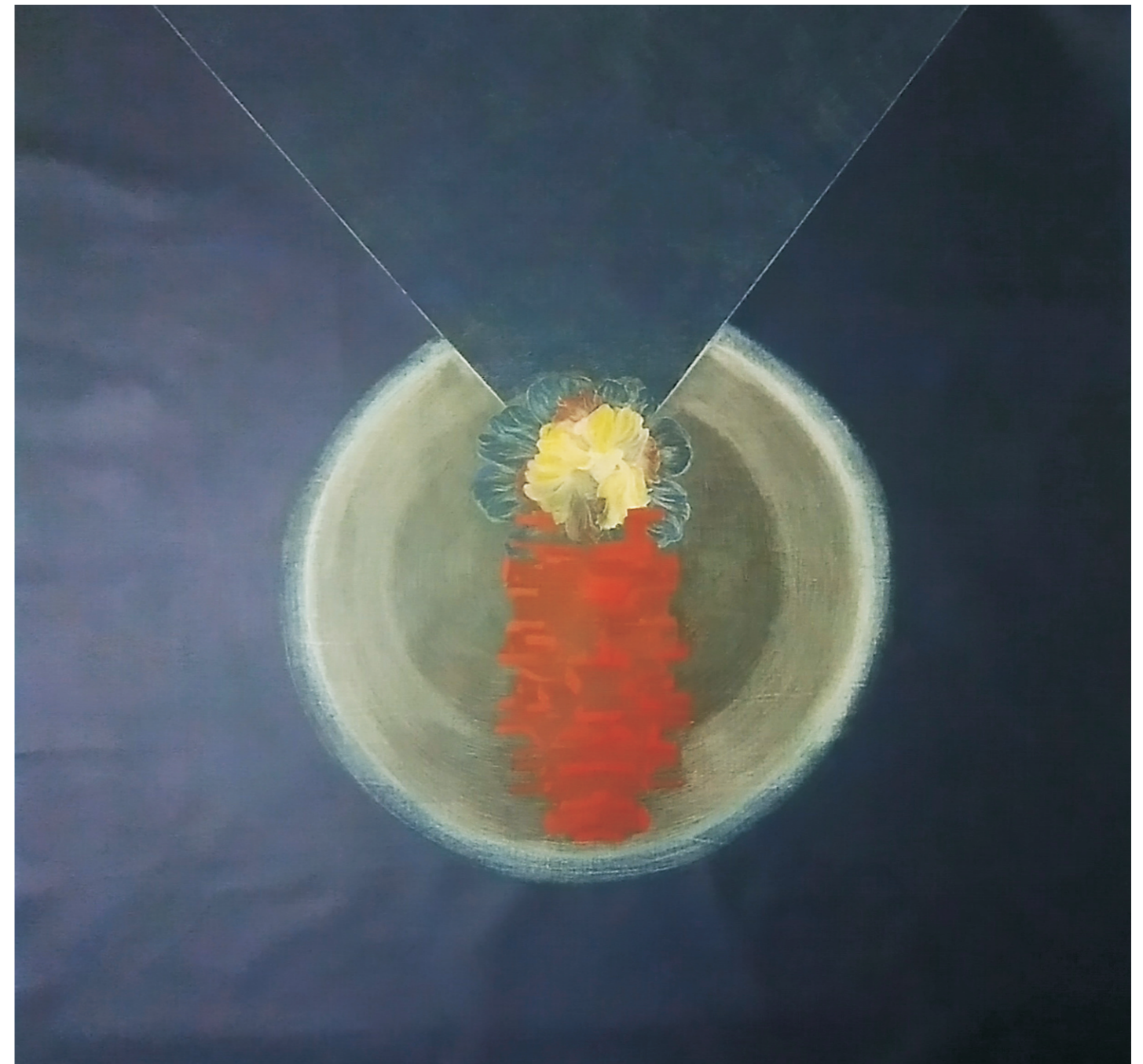
When was the last time you saw a sparrow in the city?

The humble bird has been a victim of man's growing indifference to nature. These small birds need small pockets and cavities to build their nests. Rampant deforestation, coupled with modern architecture's trend of tall, matchbox buildings have robbed these birds of nesting grounds. Furthermore, many communities used to maintain a relationship with the birds by putting out grain and water, but these have been mostly replaced by consumerist cosmopolitan cultures which have largely forgotten these traditions.

The sparrows' death is symbolic of our deteriorating connection with nature. We are forgetting that we are as much attached to nature as a tree. Even though we are not rooted in the soil, we are by no means self-sufficient. Rejecting that connection amounts to murder. Not only of the humble sparrow but of the human spirit which is nourished by its connection to nature.



DREAMCATCHER 2 - 18 inch x 24 inch - Print on canvas, acrylic paint and scratch



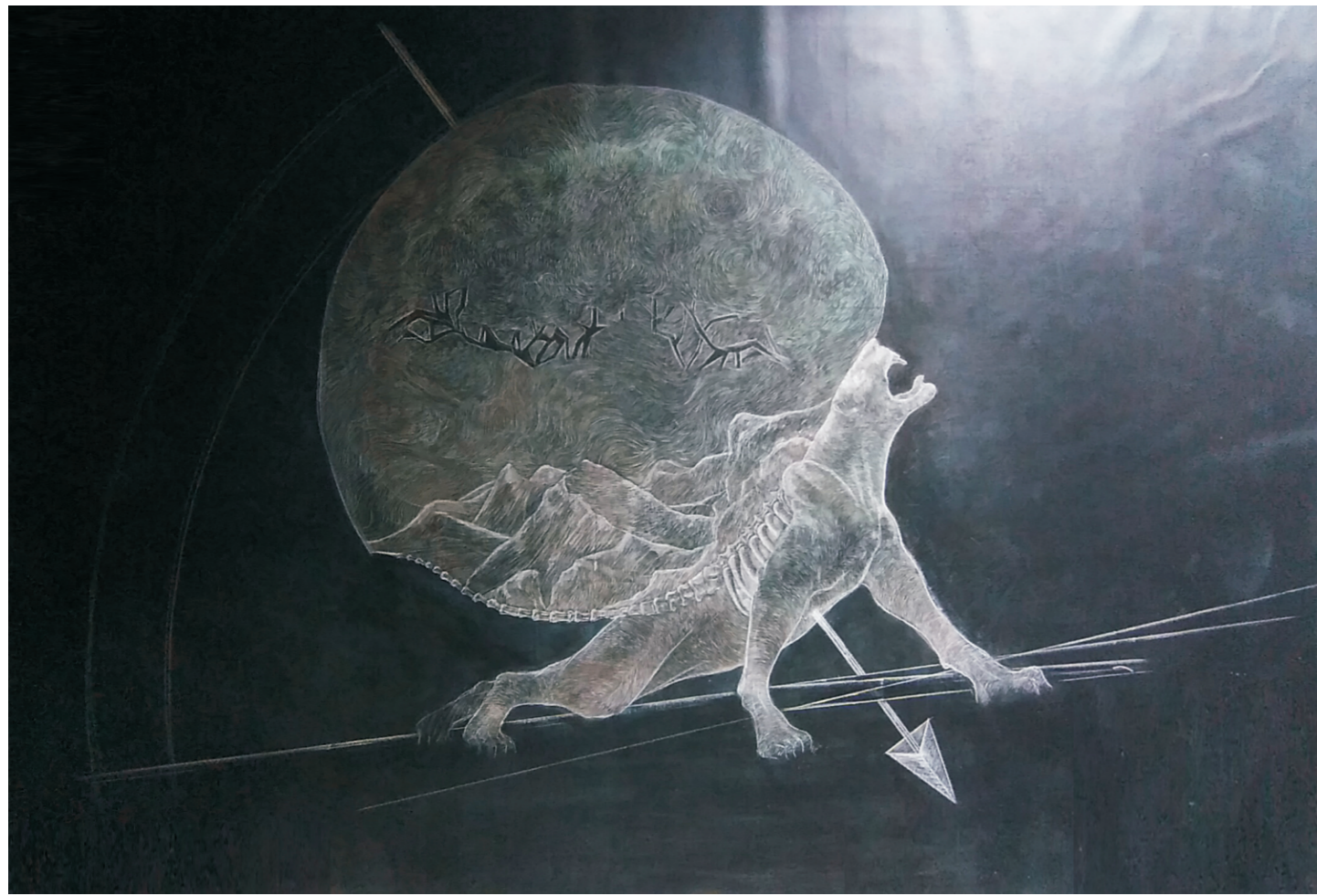
HOPE - 48 inch x 60 inch - Print on canvas, acrylic paint and scratch

Nature can bloom even from the cracks in concrete.

Humans spend a lot of effort to put up the appearance of civilisation. Bushes need to be regularly trimmed, surfaces need to be repaved, weeds need to be uprooted. But even in between this constant violence, the resilience of nature peeks out through the cracks. It reminds us of our artificial imposition on the landscape.

Nature has a powerful regenerative capacity, which eclipses any technological wonder we have made. Because nature is life itself. Its force exceeds any power we can wield. Denying it will only mean our demise. Mother Earth will be severely wounded, but she'll move on. We'll perish if we don't abandon our selfish pathology and let go. We are at the cusp of enlightenment or annihilation. Our choice.

Nature will return to us, if we make space.



FORGIVE - 72 inch x 60 inch - Print on canvas, acrylic paint and scratch

Forgive me mother for I have sinned.

Human activity has placed a profound stress on the ecosystem of the planet. The fact that we are still alive is a miracle. But this isn't due to divine providence but due to the extraordinary resilience of certain species to maintain vital ecological processes. They keep on bearing the increasing burden of our excesses as their own numbers shrink to levels of endangerment of extinction. Their backs will eventually give way.

Our window for redemption is short and it is shrinking rapidly by the day. Hope—if any—lies in an immediate acceptance of our responsibility. To embody regret, and make urgent amends.

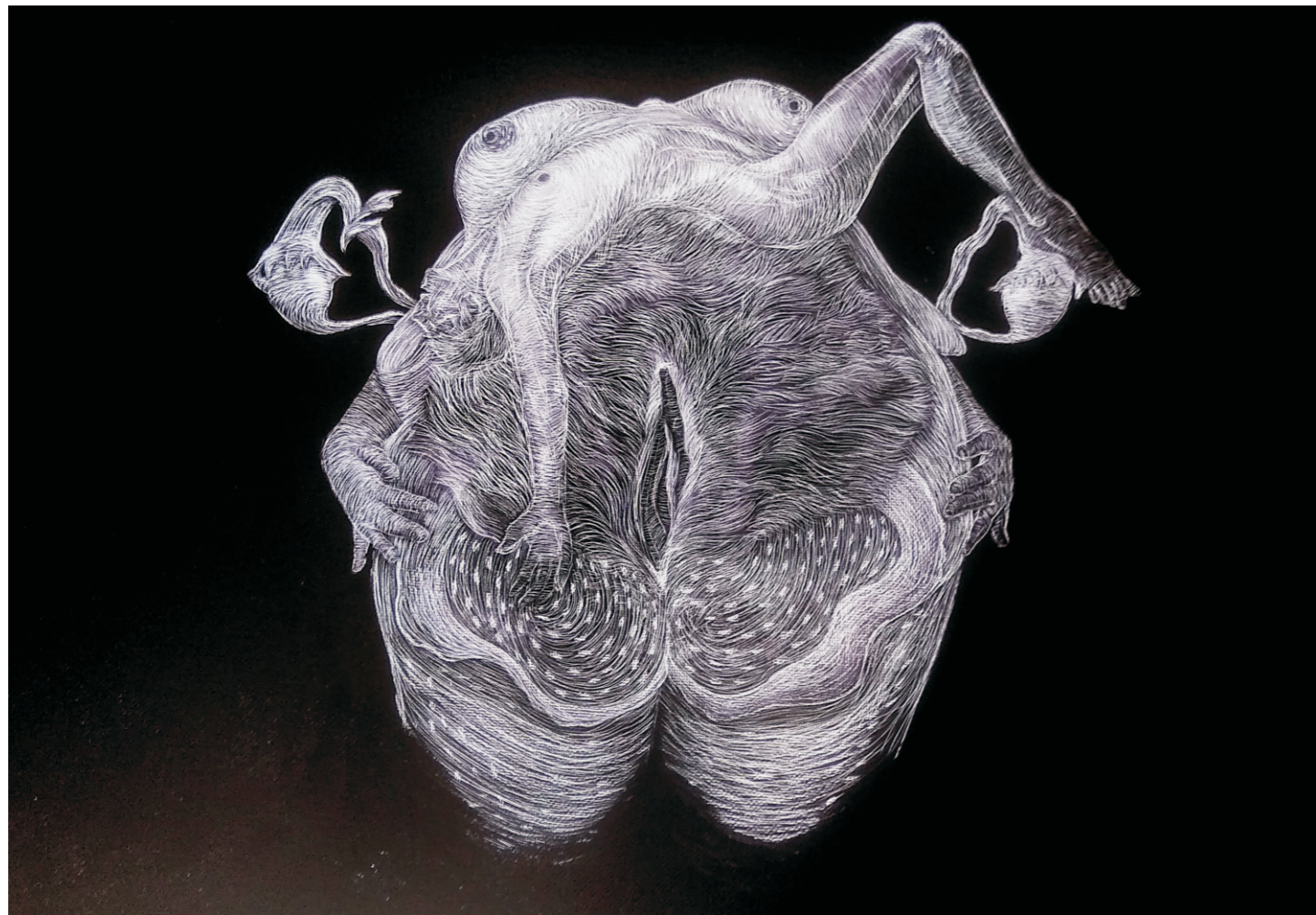
Help me to repent. Let me live faithfully for you.



DRUNOTI - 24 inch x 24 inch - Print on canvas, acrylic paint and scratch



WE ALL HAVE STORIES TO TELL - 18 inch x 24 inch - Print on canvas, acrylic paint and scratch



FULL MOON - 18 inch x 24 inch - Print on canvas, acrylic paint and scratch

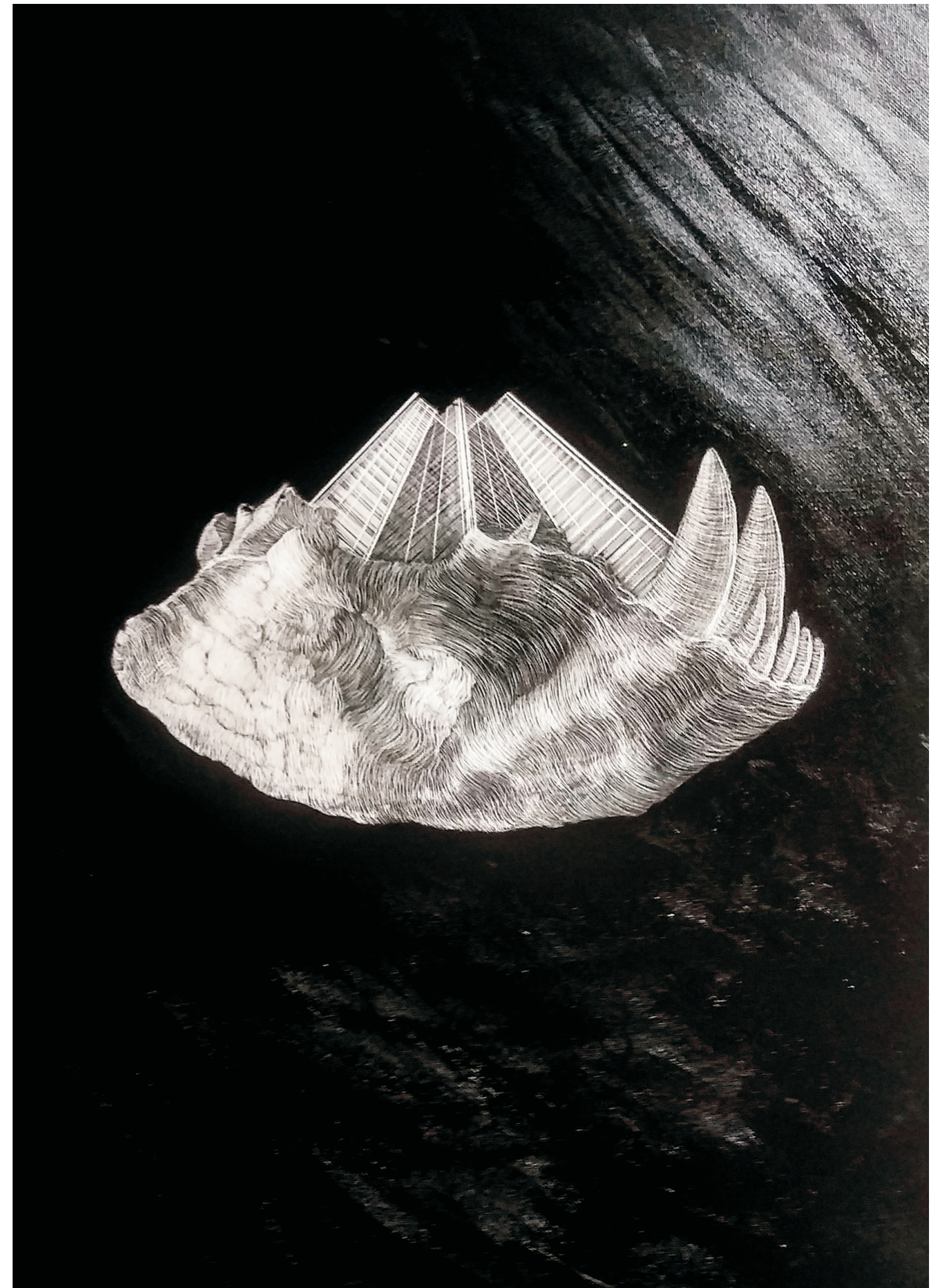
Our body is constructed of nine gates through which it expels. And The Knowledge is the way to get nourished, to nurture the Soul. The knowledge of one's true-self that increases the purity of the inner One's, spreads the bloom in the mind.

The "Soul" is the combination of the bodily and the mental state in which a person belongs in a time. When the flower blooms it spreads its essence everywhere. A dynamic soul also becomes sparkling and vibrant where the other wants to surrender.

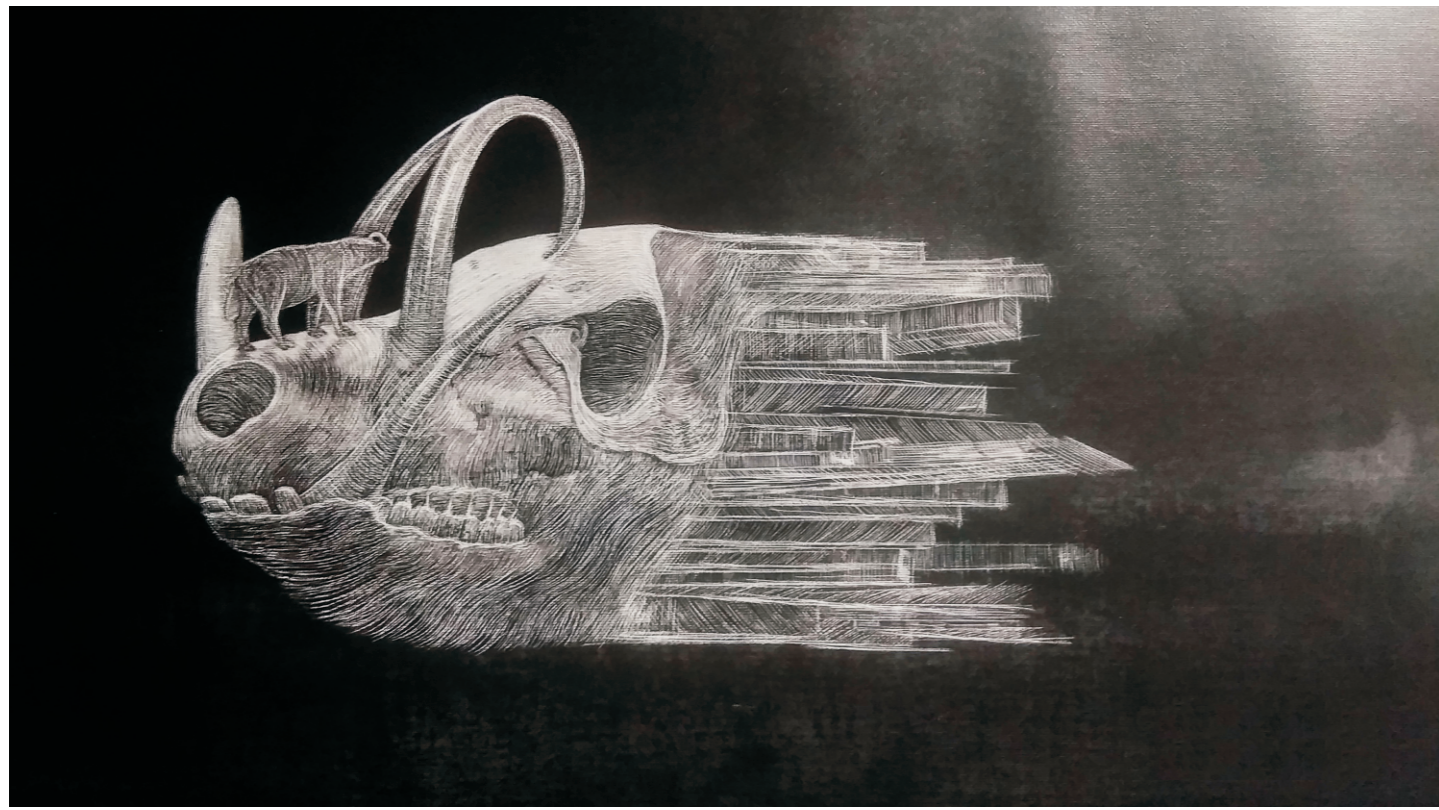
A free fall of a mind in a soul is surrender. The concede nature of a human is to love and to be loved. Where the mind accepts the divinity is surrender. It surrenders its mind body and soul in the ocean of languishing.

Mind is the conscious state of the soul. Where from the soul thinks speaks and nourishes.

The divinity of Soul started blooming from the darkened serenity of the inner body before birth and ends its path in a complete surrender to the Supreme. The realm spreads like the petals and blossoms. Knowledge makes the bridge in mind soul and body. Surrendering the Soul, the dependence makes the power for enlightenment of the immortality of the Spiritual World.



WHY - 18 inch x 24 inch - Print on canvas, acrylic paint and scratch



THE EYES OF TRUTH - 18 inch x 24 inch - Print on canvas, acrylic paint and scratch



AFTER DAYLIGHT - 48 inch x 60 inch - Print on canvas, acrylic paint and scratch



WE ARE NOT TOYES - 60 inch x 60 inch - Print on canvas, acrylic paint and scratch



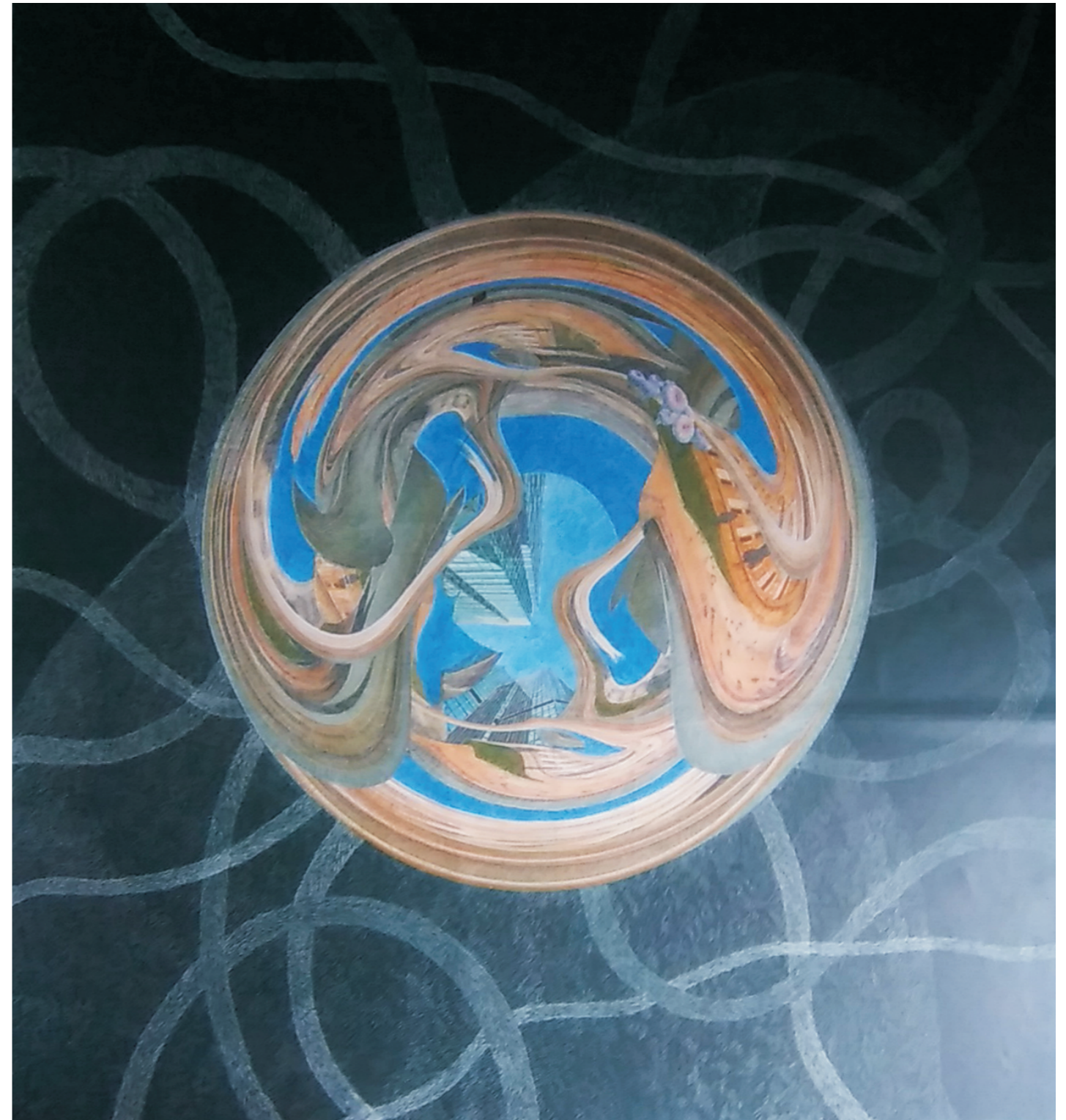
TURCULIS - 48 inch x 60 inch - Print on canvas, acrylic paint and scratch



FORGIVE - 72 inch x 60 inch - Print on canvas, acrylic paint and scratch



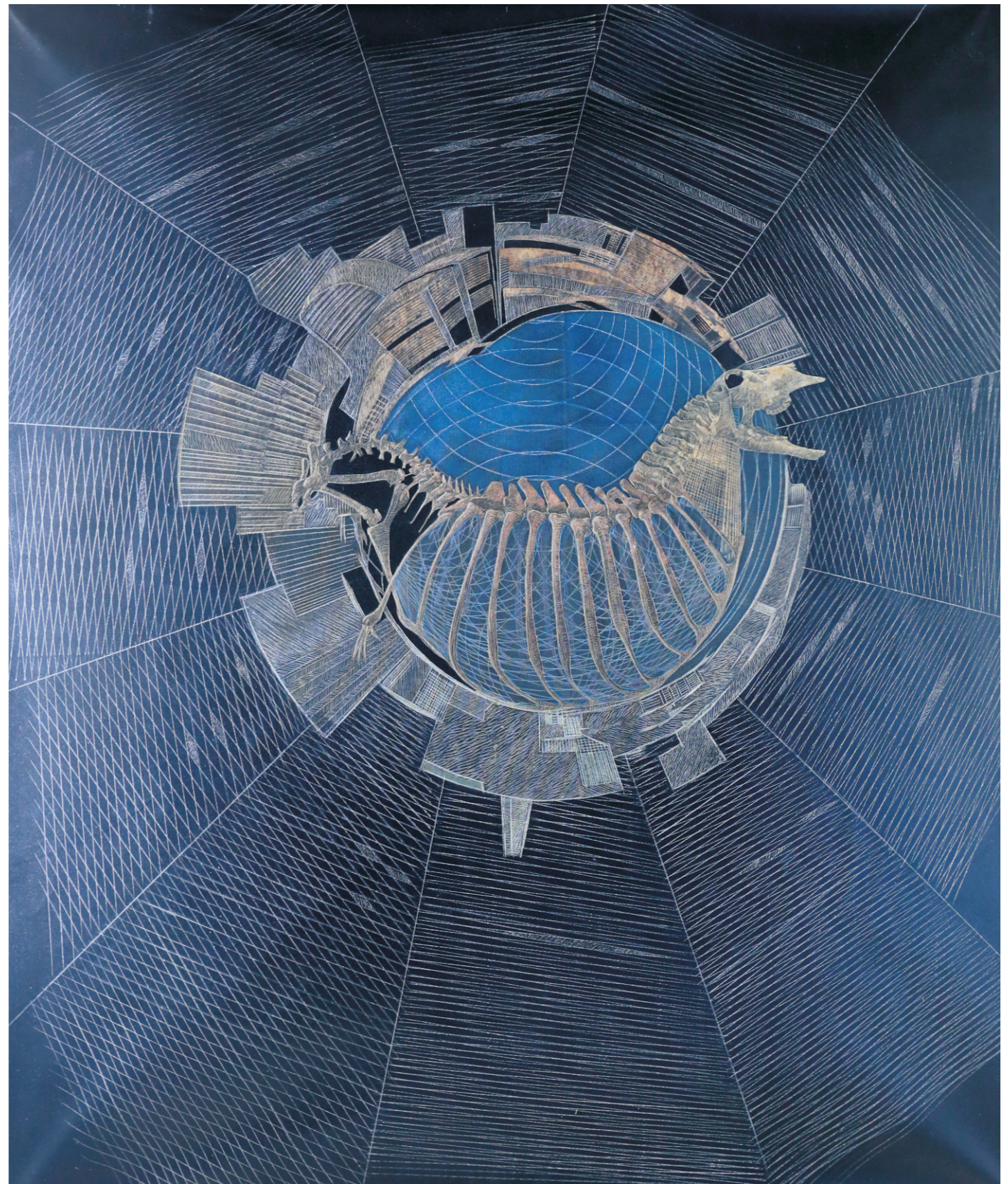
CARBON BASED LIFEFORMS 48 inch x 60 inch - Print on canvas, acrylic paint and scratch



A DREAM WITHIN A DREAM - 60 inch x 60 inch - Print on canvas, acrylic paint and scratch



FORGIVE - 60 inch x 60 inch - Print on canvas, acrylic paint and scratch



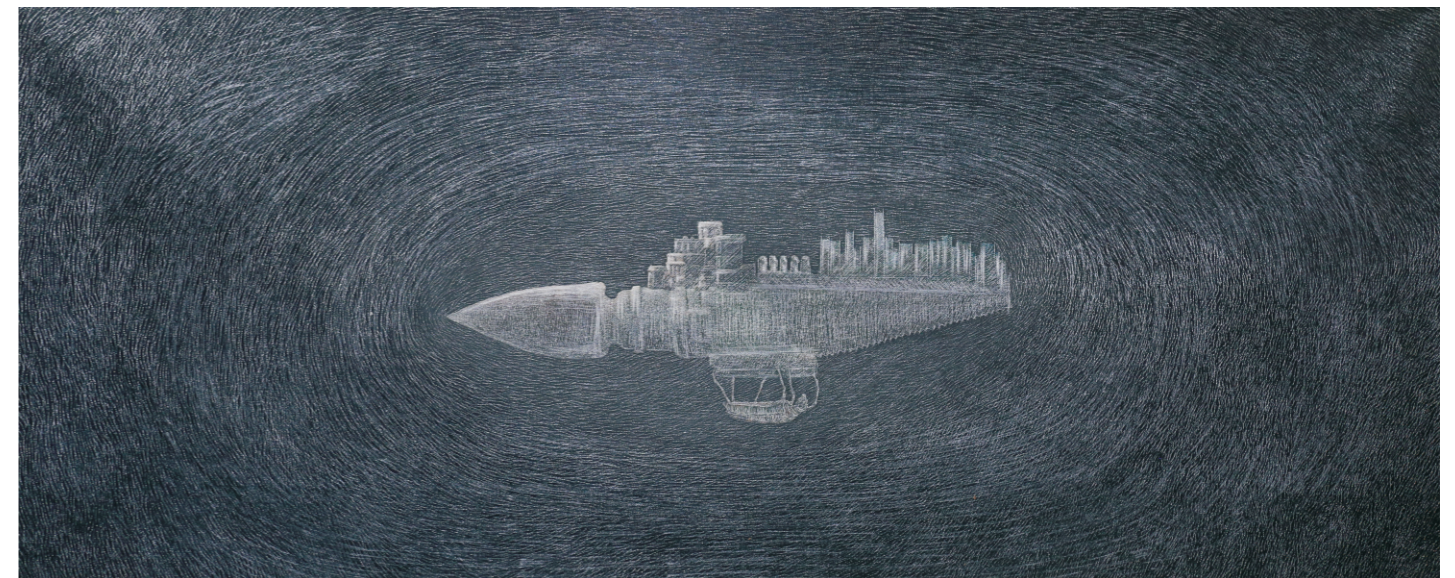
FORGIVE - 48 inch x 60 inch - Print on canvas, acrylic paint and scratch



LEGAL CRIME - 48 inch x 36 inch - Print on canvas, acrylic paint and scratch



CARBON BASED LIFEFORMS - 60 inch x 60 inch - Print on canvas, acrylic paint and scratch



CIVILIZATION - 12 inch x 48 inch - Print on canvas, acrylic paint and scratch



FUTURE GRAVEYARD - 60 inch x 36 inch - Print on canvas, acrylic paint and scratch



LEGAL CRIME - 36 inch x 24 inch - Print on canvas, acrylic paint and scratch



LEGAL CRIME - 60 inch x 36 inch - Print on canvas, acrylic paint and scratch



CARBON BASED LIFEFORMS - 72 inch x 60 inch - Print on canvas, acrylic paint and scratch



CARBON BASED LIFEFORM - 84 inch x 48 inch - Print on canvas, acrylic paint and scratch



DRY LAND

We build, we farm, we graze, we cut. We take and take until there is nothing left but dust.

Desertification is one of the most striking visual spectacles of natural exhaustion. The erosion of fertile land into a barren terrain happens when a delicate ecosystem is stressed beyond the point of no return. According to UNESCO over a third of the world's land surface is at a risk of desertification due to human activities and man made climate change. As human population keeps exploding while land to house and feed people wastes away; the world is set to face increasingly devastating cycles of violent conflict and displacement over shrinking leftovers.

When earth stops giving, life stops thriving.

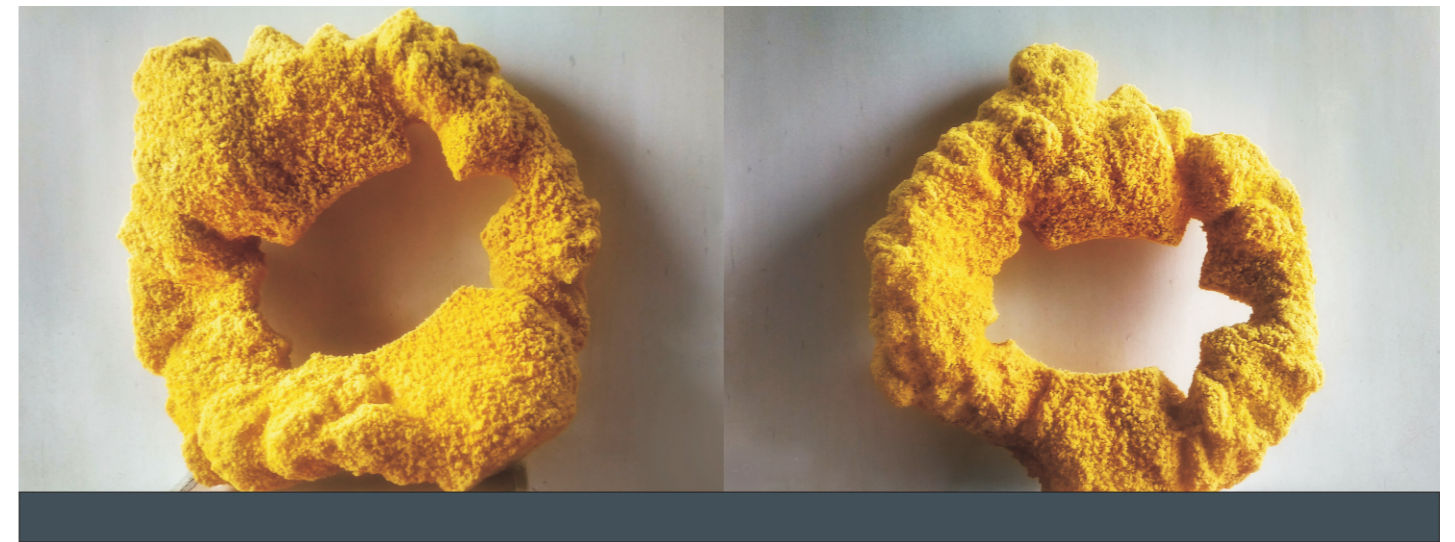


THE DEAD CAN DANCE

Time is absolute. Man is not.

The wheel churns without rest. Decay is inevitable. Death is final. Nothing surpasses it. Conflict and revolt against this eventuality only accelerates it. We think we are special—meant to lord over the planet. But we are bound to the wheel of time, just like all that is around us. Our arrogance hastens us and the world around us to an ugly death. Yet from the ashes of the old life can spring anew. Life is pure potential, always possible. All it takes is humility to see our insignificance against the inexorable passage of time. To embrace its flow and arise mutually with the world around us. To respect and nurture life.

Time will move on, with or without us. It is up to us how time will tell our story.



CAST

What is lost is still present as absence.

Sea turtles are a fascinating species. They form the backbone of the planet's ecology. These impressive creatures undertake epic trans-oceanic migrations for years but they never forget home. They are attuned to the earth's magnetic field and use that to find their way back to the beaches they hatched in. Generations have nested in the same beaches.

However today, due to rising sea levels and human encroachment, turtle nesting sites—some of which are millions of years old—are fast disappearing. Rising land and sea temperatures, and oceanic waste also threaten their survival. A species which has survived for over 200 million years has become endangered matter of few centuries.

Can we bear their absence?



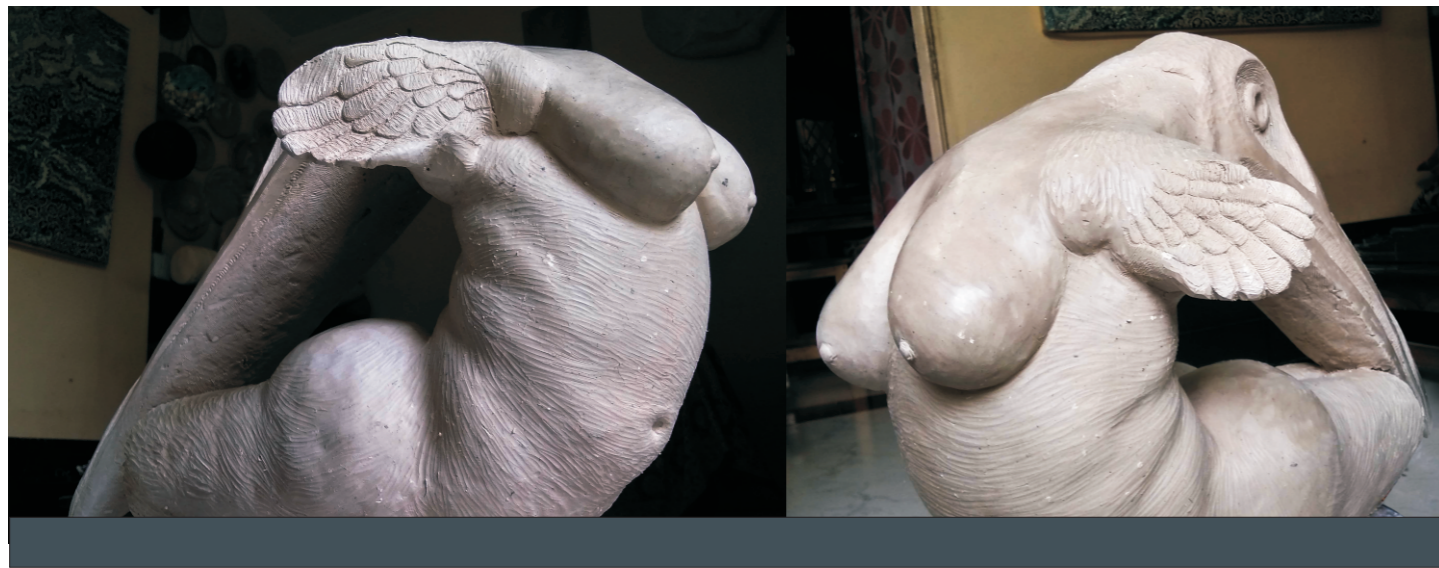
THE NUMB

We all grow to fit our cages.

Caging is control. It is a form of subjugation. As humans encroach more of planet we box in the spaces meant for other forms of life. As vast forests shrink, rivers grow poisonous, and oceans fill up with trash, life has fewer and fewer spaces to thrive in. What is left we enclose in zoos, parks, and farms. Our entitlement comes from our sense of superiority over nature. Yet we forget we are nature. So we end up caging ourselves too: when we draw borders, erect walls, and construct prisons.

Life cannot grow locked in a cage. But anything that isn't growing is stagnant. Life contorts upon itself suffocates when confined. The world closes in when that happens. Experience becomes limited. Dreams become smaller. The senses become dull. We become numb.

What happens when we reject cages?



DEEP VIBRATIONS

The Earth is so beautiful. It is said... Beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder. The beauty of Our Planet lies in the eyes of the beautiful persons. The one who can love, care, nurture and respect. The Earth provides everything that we needed. We should be blessed that we are here as a human, not as an Alien.

The Earth is our planet. From the very beginning of its formation, it changed itself from the Warm Age to Ice Age and now it is exactly suitable for all the flora fauna and animal kingdom. The lushly green land, The Mountain ranges over the horizon, the seas and oceans, The Jungles, Forests, and also the deserts are enough to make a person beautiful from inner side.

But we, as an ambassador of the Mankind doing nothing but littering rubbish and garbage the Earth. It is not sustainable for the Earth to grab all the garbage. It has started returning what we made with it. It is the time to save, nurture, and take proper and good care.

Continuous cutting trees and building skyscrapers making the scarcity of Oxygen, place to live other living organisms becoming less.

The planet gets warmer. Our motto is not only to save The Earth; it is to Save The Mankind too. If there is no Earth... There is no Man Animal and Plant. Only abolition and destruction will be noticed. It is our love. It is to be nurtured now.



HUMAN TURNED ALIEN

An environment is an amalgamation of multiple food chain. A food chain is created by multiple animal insects and plants which are directly involve in environment. The predator-prey relationship maintains the ecological balance. This balance gets interrupted by the interference of the humans.

The elephant, like other organisms in the environment plays a vital role in the ecosystem. In the grasslands of Savannah where the big trees are unreachable for the other animals, Elephants by their instinct, break the trees and small animals get fed.

But humans are always interfering . The elephant in this sculptor symbolise the declining number of world animal birds and degradation of the environment. If the environment is prevented, then unlike many other mammals the elephants are being prevented. A time is not too far when the next generation will learn the name of the animals by their images only like a Mammoth or a Dinosaur. When the interference of human will be less, this world will witness only Love Peace and Happiness.



QUESTION OF TIME

It was a time when we used to describe our planet as a dreamland. The man and environment used to stay together cordially. But time flies. And desire and lust of making machines, money and monuments for making the dream true, man making himself a prisoner. Imprisonment results as a punishment. How would be that day when miles to voyage gives a cup of water. Scarcity of food makes hungry. How would be that day where a queue of skeletons waiting for a piece of tomato or a piece of chicken? These days are not too far.

The ruler of the modern society is Science. But if the beauty lies in the objective truth, the ugliness is fundamental as nature. Science can make oxygen, but not sunlight. As there are wonderful places and there are wonder too. A flower is more beautiful when it is in the tree. In the age of scientific era, nature acts as a beholder. Some unspoken truth comes in reality . But the beauty of this Scientific Era is only skin deep. The source of the energy of science and the founder of science is The Nature. The home of a wanderer is in the grass. So it is prior to make the primitive environment more beautiful not by grabbing or grasping the resources but by nurture them, taking good care of them.

Nature is Supreme Universal Mother . Beautifying mother means beautification of one's own self. If the nature is imprisoned, the whole world would suffer and again the Mankind will witnessed the extirpation of the Nature Environment and its Dependents.



ABODE

We remake spaces exclusively for us.

This planet is home to a stunning array of species. The diversity of our landscape reflects the diverse life-supporting needs of various species of flora and fauna. Humans' technological prowess was a boon. It allowed us to find place in all sorts of diverse landscapes and become neighbours with life almost anywhere on the planet.

However as our prowess grew we began to covet our neighbour's home. More accurately we refuse to perceive them as homes in the first place as we cut and shape the land as we please. The rich texture of the world is slowly congealing into a planned homogeneity of human settlement and supply chain.

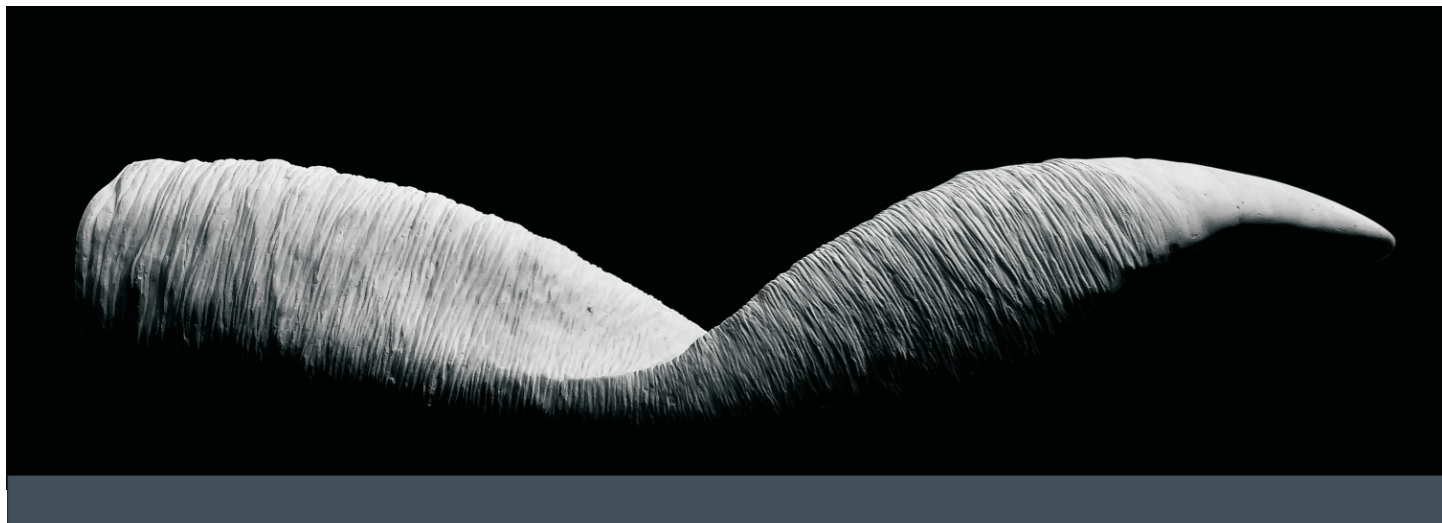
Our inability to share will be our downfall.



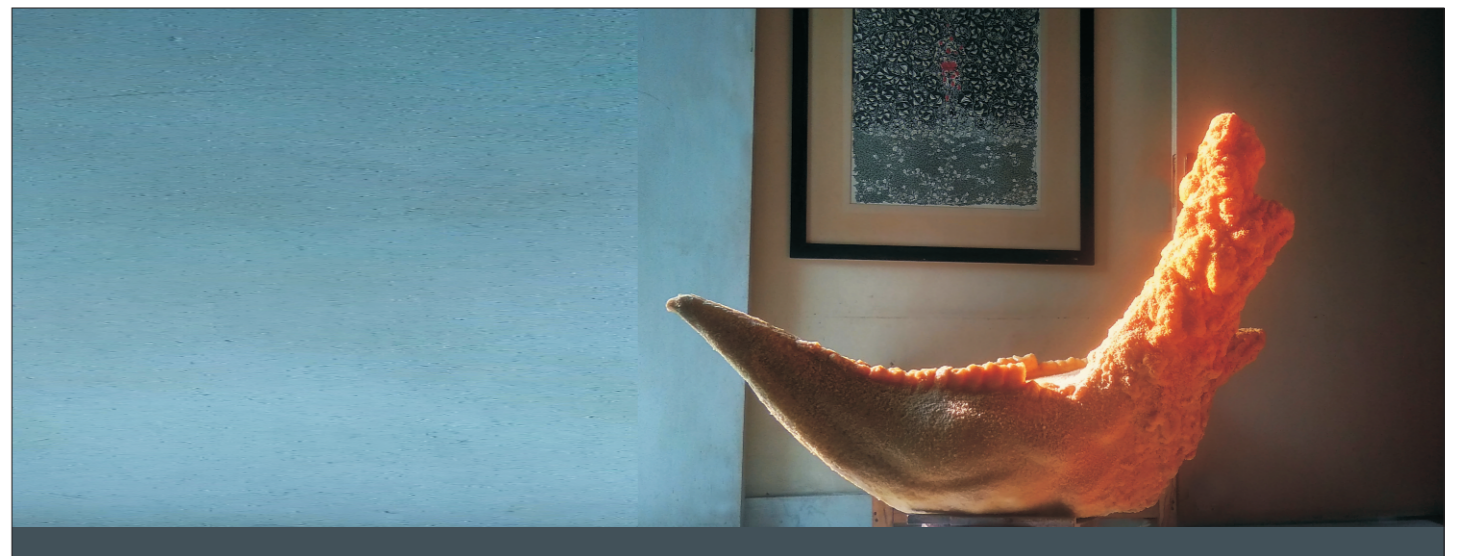
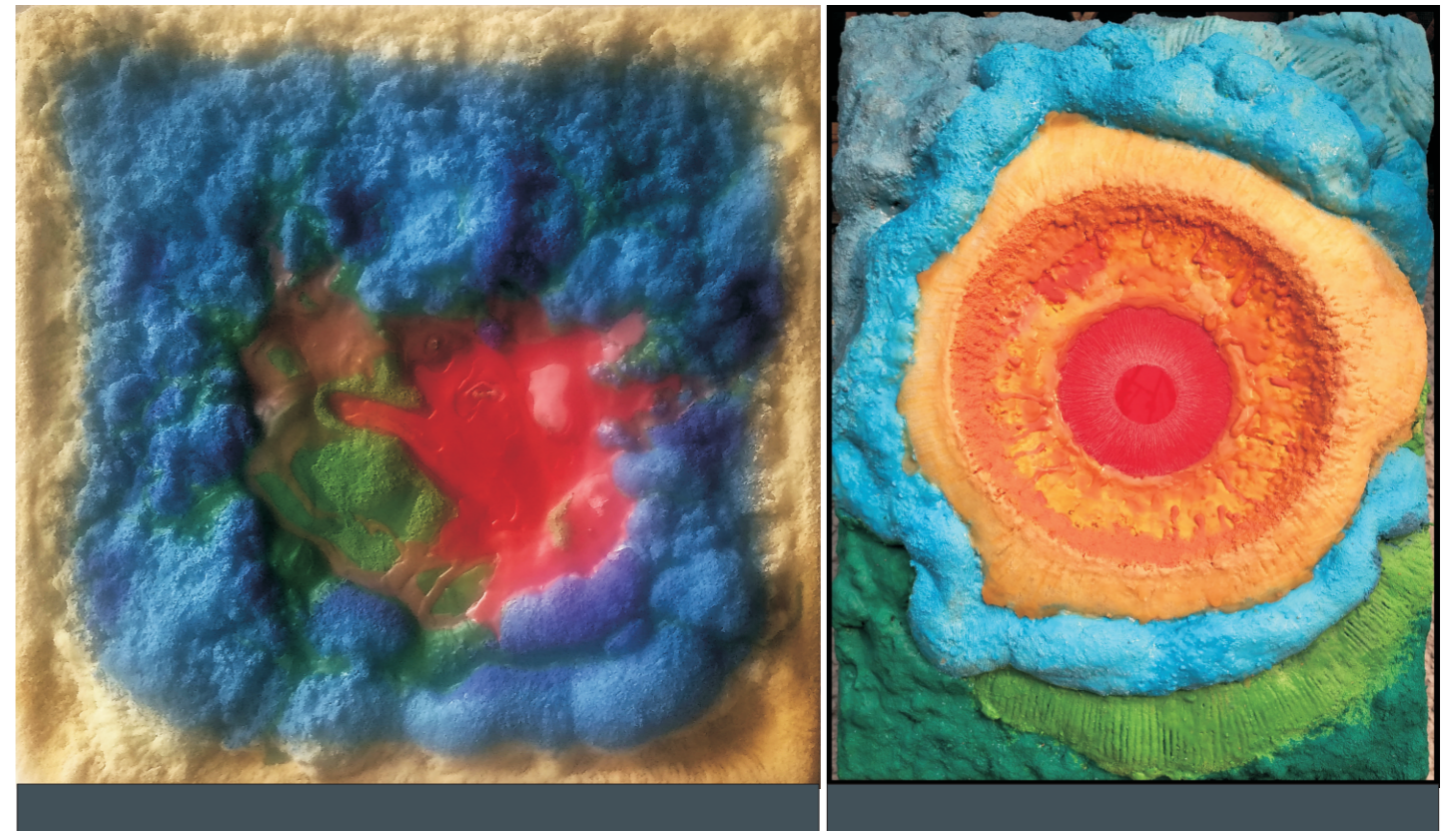
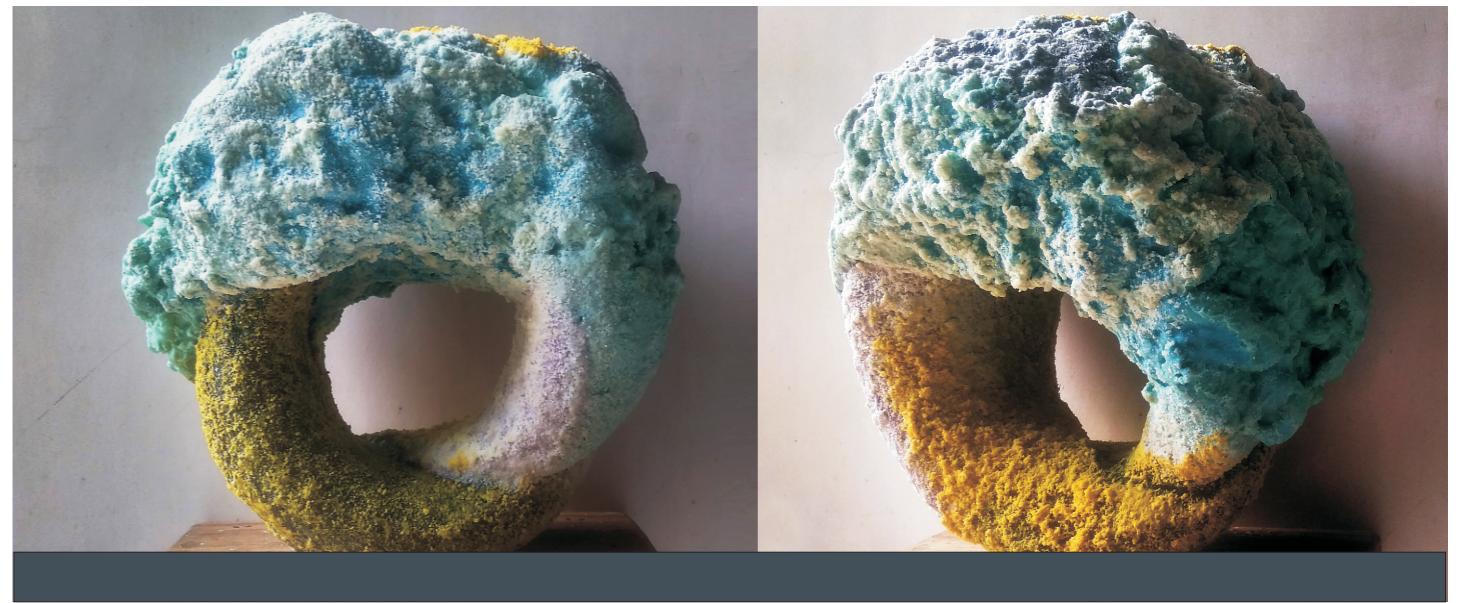
ABODE 2



ABODE 3



ABODE 4



HOME SEWWT HOME



LEGAL CRIME



SUPPER

Do we know what we eat?

Everything we consume comes from nature. Even though we understand that, the products of our consumption come assembled, packaged, and branded in ways which alienates us from this simple fact. We forget—or rather choose to forget—that all that we consume and “own” is from the world around us. We are possessed of loveless knowledge that seeks with blind hunger; and mindless rage eating food that will not fill it.

What if we really knew what we eat?