

# STRINGS AND STRANDS

*A story of passion flower  
and fragrances*

Exhibition of works by  
**CHANDANA HORE**



## Artist's Note

This exhibition is a manifestation of three cold and uncertain years of fear, hope, dream and fight. A lot of my previous works are also showcased to enhance my aspect of self and romantic connection with nature and my deeply melancholic past in Santiniketan, my bonding with my friends and parents. The paintings are done in thick layers of colours, structured as life's various journeys in labyrinth.

After having spent three harsh years of global pandemic in complete isolation, every small incident, memory, experience or vision like the act of making love, act of smelling or feeling a Passion flower, Hibiscus and Roses; visiting the road side flower shops in Kolkata, looking at the daily fruit sellers, the bread makers, and women sipping tea at the roadside tea stalls -- all of these - (be it visions, memories or experiences) come together and form my world. The colour is the panacea and the only potent war-tool against depression and grey death. For me, the flowers, leaves, the trees - the flora and fauna, are celebration of life, they are as if singing in the blues.

The sculptures displayed happened during previous years, perhaps from 2007 onwards. They are an attempt to solidify the natural phenomena of death, decay and rebirth into a visible form. The act of creation for me is a constant effort to relive and revoke the memories of the loved ones, in a marginal life, where the moss floats in, where neon lights don't exist, where there is intimacy, grief and primal bonding.

Mahua and Subhasish of Golf Green Art Gallery (Kolkata), later Saurabh Singhvi of Art Magnum (New Delhi) made this show possible. They dreamt with me. They asked me to share the broken and melancholy and rustic thoughts. Kanoria Centre was my work place in 1995. I have worked in the studios of CEPT campus. So it is very special to me to hold a show here in Ahmedabad after all these years. My sincere thanks and gratefulness to the curator Priya Adhyaru and the dignitaries Dr Sujata Parsai, director of L D Museum, Hiren Patel, renowned architect and Jagruti Engineer, art aficionado and art collector who inaugurated the show ....



Chandana Hore



Chandana Hore with Reba Hore  
(Picture courtesy Chandana Hore)



Mahua Adhikary



Subhasish Adhikary

**Golf Green Art Gallery** was established with the vision of promoting artists from the West Bengal region. Since then Golf Green Art Gallery has done a tremendous effort in gaining recognition for the artists from Bengal whose works were overlooked for ages and had no appreciation due to lack of sufficient viewers, potential collectors and sensitive curators. The Gallery has also made a statement of its existence by handling the finest of the old Bengal masters. The Gallery has taken a significant role in acquiring the very best of names and has finely curated many shows in Kolkata. More recently, it has taken a step forward outside Bengal associating itself with various other galleries and has drawn attention of collectors, artists and scholars.

The gallery has also started supporting new talent in the contemporary space thereby encouraging the emerging and outstanding artists. From the last decade, the gallery has continuously been the source of many major acquisitions for many institutions and museums. Due to sound and deep knowledge of the country's modern masters, the gallery has gained trust in the foreign shores and is ready to embark on an international voyage.

-Subhasish Adhikary



Saurabh Singhvi

**Art Magnum's** vision and mission is to showcase South Asian art in its austere authenticity and magnificence on a global platform. Since its inception in 1986, it has been nurturing both the emerging and noted artists to further the cause of championing and patronizing South Asian art. Its founder Lt Shri Prakash Chand Singhvi was a visionary whose passion and enthusiasm was the driving force behind the gallery. Presently, Art Magnum's enterprising director, Saurabh Singhvi, is skilfully taking his legacy forward.

The gallery has been proudly presenting different mediums of artistic expression ranging from the traditional to the modern, and the contemporary and the experimental. Housed at a contemporary space with ultramodern infrastructure located in the heart of South Delhi, the gallery attempts to give voice to the novel and noteworthy talents through a roster of shows that present the news makers of contemporary genre and also the old masters and marvels of Indian art from the pre and post-independence era.

Art Magnum has innovatively kept striving towards new paradigms reroute to its journey, and has achieved multiple milestones and mammoth goals. The firm has successfully organised elite art events at art capitals across the globe including at New Delhi, Dubai, Singapore, etc and has received critical and popular acclaim for the same. The collection of the gallery includes works of M F Husain, S H Raza, F N Souza, Somnath Hore, Suhas Roy, K G Subramanyan, Paresh Maity, T Vaikuntam amongst the others. Going forward, Art Magnum shall act as a catalyst for the talented young artists striving for creative excellence and shall keep inspiring the art aficionado by showcasing the contemporary and the classic path breakers of South Asian art.

- Saurabh Singhvi

# Curator's Note



Priya Adhyaru

## Strings and Strands – A Story of Passion Flower and Fragrances

*“Tumi ki jano tomar jhumko jaba gaache phul phutechhe?”*

*Do you know (that) your passion flower vine is blossoming unusually?*

.... Chandana overheard her mom Reba Hore softly murmuring to the passion flower woody vine in the garden of their quiet home next to serene Santiniketan.

“Mom was as if telling this to my father while she addressed the blooming vine that he had planted and had kept nurturing till he left for his heavenly abode,” whispered Chandana evoking nostalgia.

That soft murmur is deeply etched in her heart since then. That moment was full. It reminded her of her mother's voice, her eyes, her yearning, her tears, that gleam of bliss in her eyes, those soft sunrays piercing through her tears. That moment contained sun rays warming up the ruffling green leaves and fragrances of purple, scarlet, red blossoms of their garden. That moment had colours that Chandana saw in her mother's abstracts, and in her mother's strong character. That moment of total recall reminded her of her mother's steadfast support despite vicissitudes of her father's life, her father's simplicity, his etchings, water colours, figuratives, bronzes, his empathy, his steadfast choice to side with those who suffer, his illness, his quiet retirement, his daily cycle trips to the local market to hunt new species, flowerings and fragrances for their garden. That one simple moment has remained sacred and has become eternal for Chandana. It is full to the brim with epic emotions. That one moment is the entire strand. It is the story of passion flower which is indeed worth telling. And Chandana's paintings and sculptures narrate that story. Each work is inescapably and vividly yet invisibly stringed with another one in her metaphorically charged vocabulary. That one

moment of soul to soul exchange that her mom started with the passion flower vine has become transcendental for Chandana, a tricenarian then.

Born in 1964, Chandana was a blessed child who grew up in Santiniketan seeing both her parents, Somnath Da and Reba Di, the legendary artists of the country's pre-modern period, work. She quietly observed Somnath da tirelessly create that iconic Durga mural outside the wall of graphic department of Kala Bhavan, Santiniketan when she was barely a tween. She organically sipped in and absorbed much more from both the unpretentious and pious souls to become the simple person and the reclusive artist she is today. Chandana's works may appear spontaneous and simple abstracts. However, her works are complex testimonials containing multiple layers of her insights and inklings. Her works record her meditational and spiritual broodings. Her grief, her melancholy, her nostalgia, her joys, her memories, her festivals, her spirit, her parental love, her devotion, her isolation, her fear, her fight and her will to overcome -- everything that has ably elevated Chandana to a subliminal existence is in her works.

Her works are a product of liberation she experiences when she creates cascades of colours and complex labyrinth of motifs, metaphors and patterns on her canvases.

The amalgamation of contrasting and complementing shades creates compelling yet calming compositions. Large splotches of bright yellows, ochers, oranges, reds, vivid blues and greens explode on her canvases.

On one hand, Chandana's works have thematic semblance to that of Somnath's as her works also are an attempt to find solace in nature and are also often inspired by the sacred bond between the mother and child. While on the other hand, she has organically inherited the textural richness of Reba's techniques and compositional balance which is evident in her soul stirring creations.

To sum up the story of passion flower, Chandana's works are stuffed with the substances that dreams are made of ... Everything that is intangible including --passion, fragrances, memories, love and pain; hope, fear and despair -- becomes tangible in her canvases and sculptures. “My sculptures are also inspired by ‘the-passion-flower-moment’ of my life. They look like dried leaves or a fallen chip of a bark of a tree,” explains Chandana.

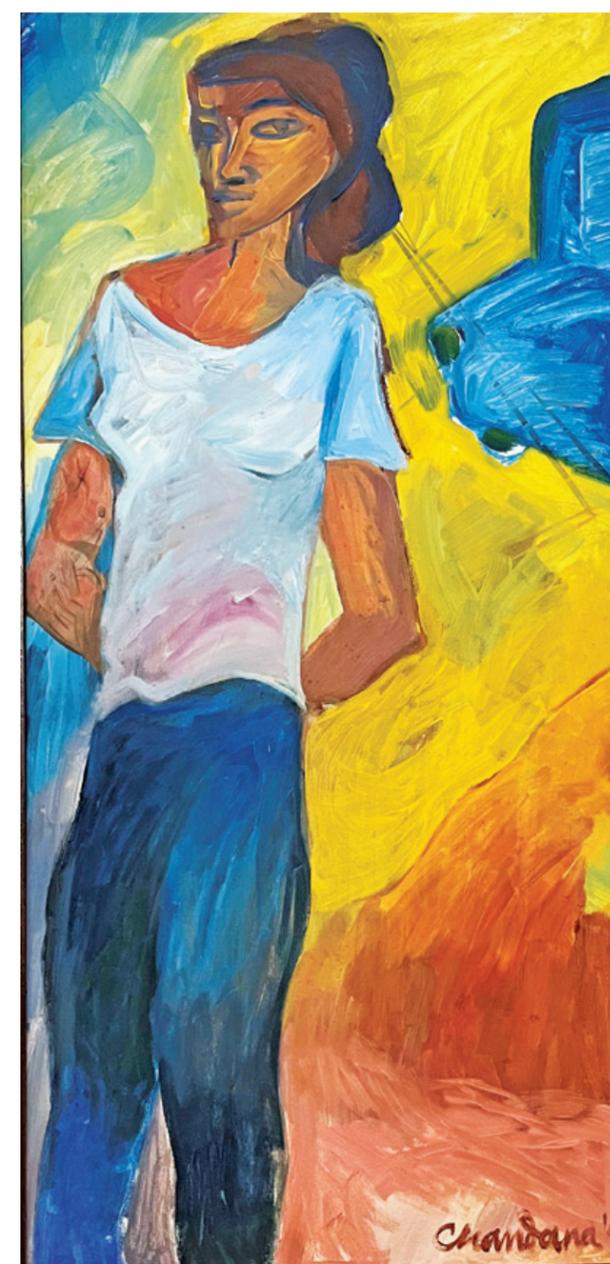
Her vibrant works are themed around one strand and are connected by invisible strings and similarly are the kites flying across the sky tied to their invisible strings; Hence we chose the occasion of Uttrayan festival to showcase her work for the first time in Ahmedabad. Ahmedabd is special to Chandana. Ahmedabad for her is memories of happiness, learning novel things at CEPT studios in early 1990s and making new associations. “Ahmedabd is special to me and hence I chose to exhibit at Ahmedabd when the city is in its special festive frenzies,” reveals Chandana.

**- Priya Adhyaru**

Author and Art Curator



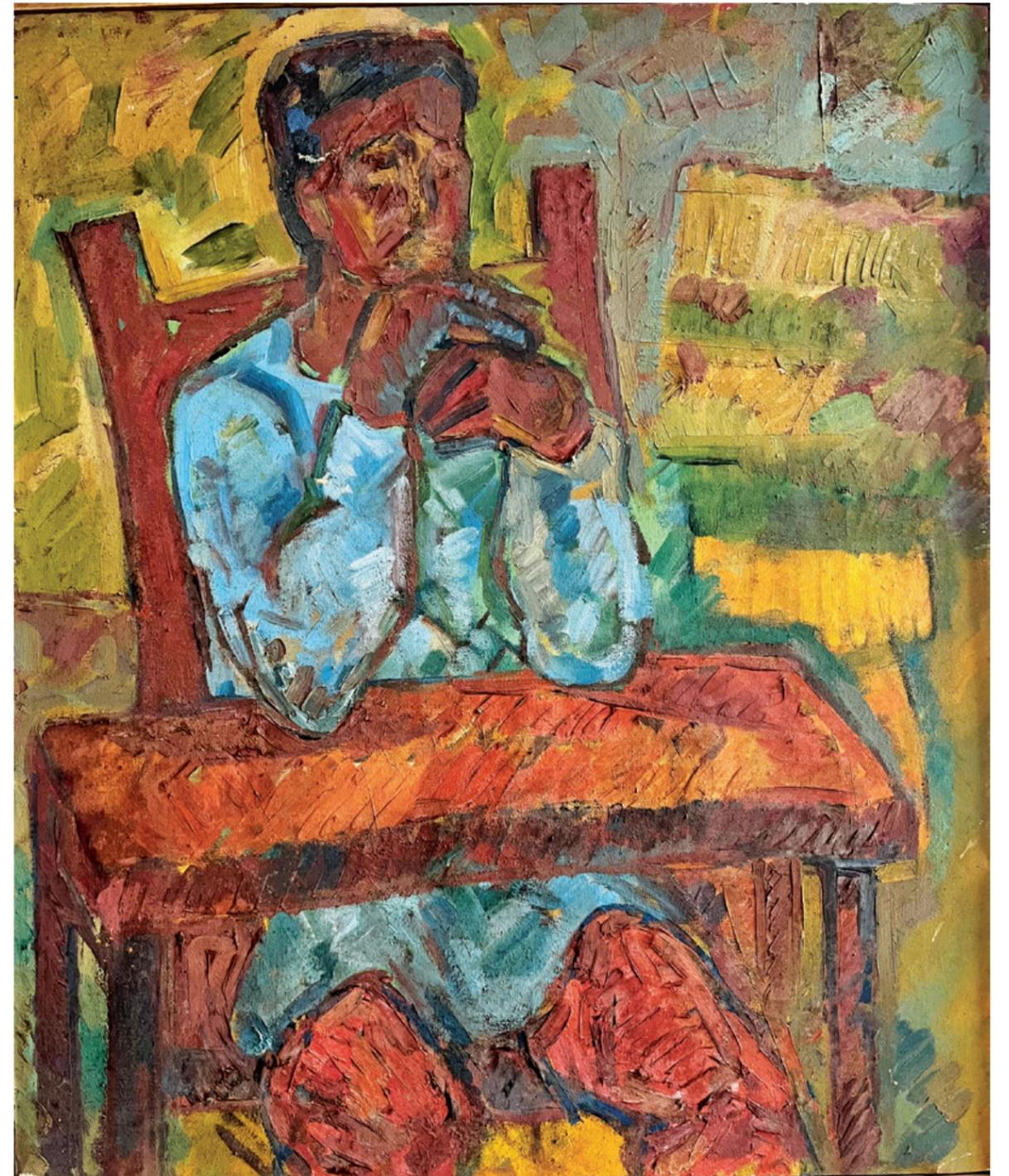
**CHANDANA HORE**  
1st October  
Oil on canvas  
24 x 36 inches  
2006



**CHANDANA HORE**  
Morning in Bombay  
Oil on canvas  
34 x 17 inches  
2005

CHANDANA HORE

Bapi  
Oil on Canvas  
32 x 54 inches  
1987



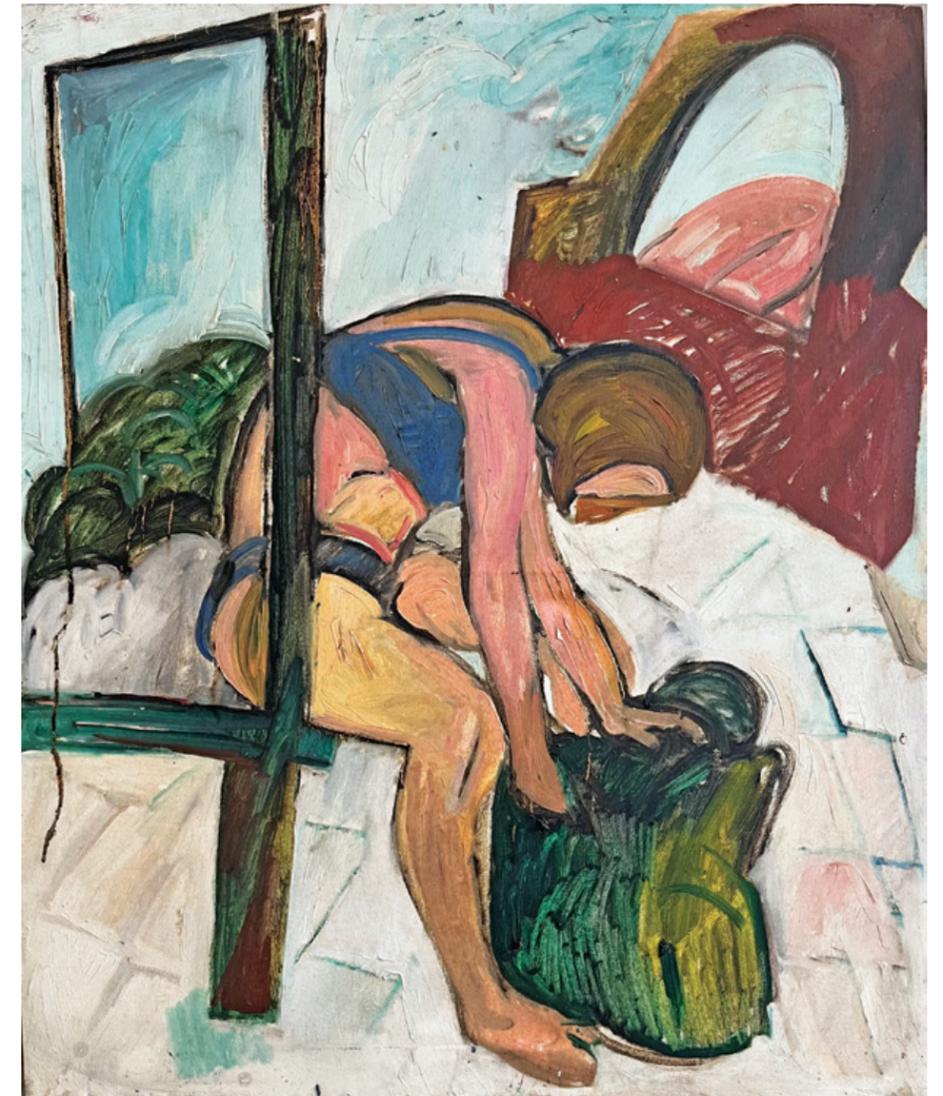
CHANDANA HORE

Bar  
Oil on Canvas  
36 x 30 inches  
1987



**CHANDANA HORE**  
Captured  
Oil on Canvas  
36 x 30 inches  
1996

**CHANDANA HORE**  
Colaba Guest House  
Oil on Canvas  
36 x 30 inches  
2003



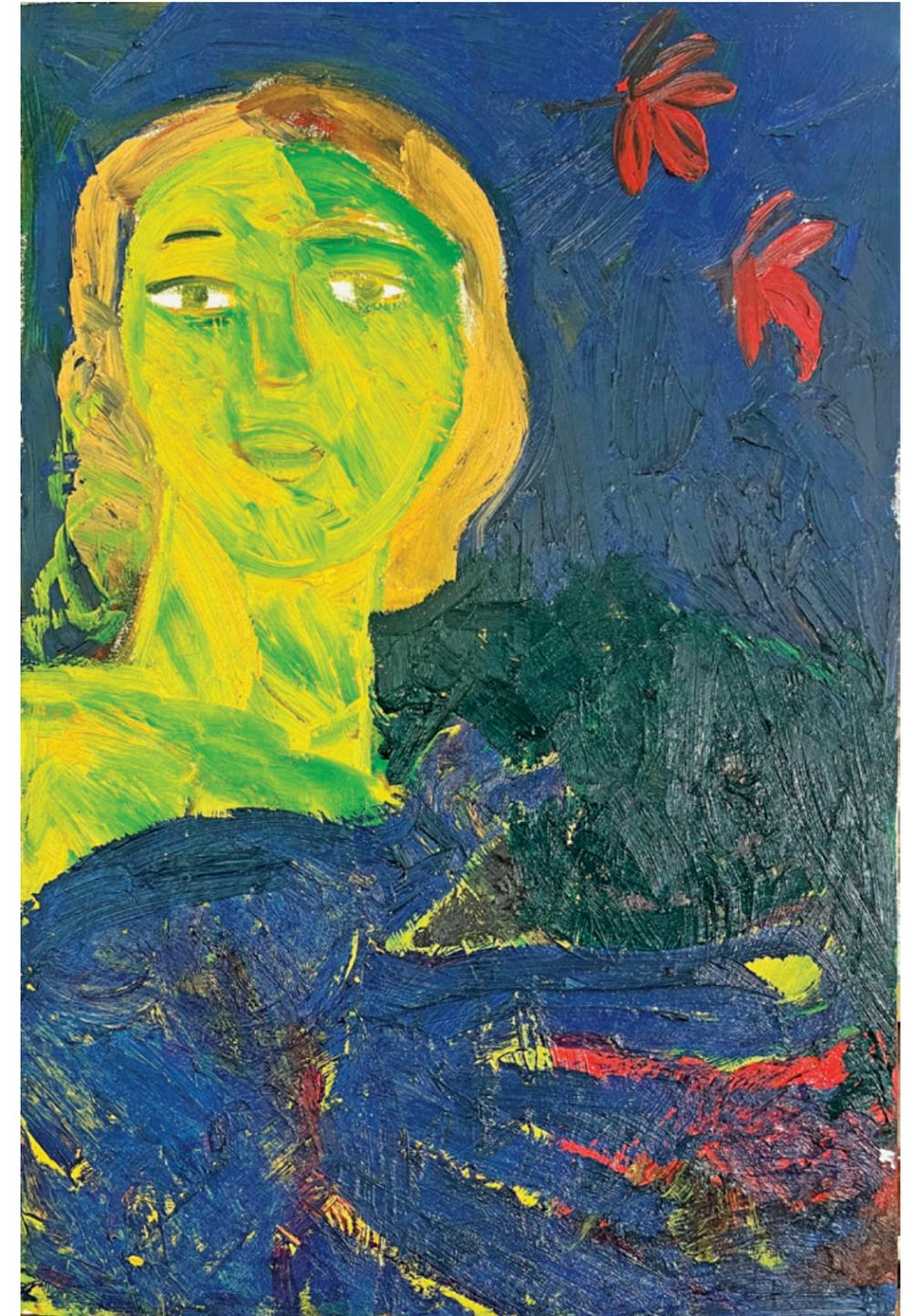


**CHANDANA HORE**  
Composition  
Oil on Canvas  
36 x 48 inches  
2022



**CHANDANA HORE**  
Composition  
Oil on canvas  
24 x 36 inches  
2007

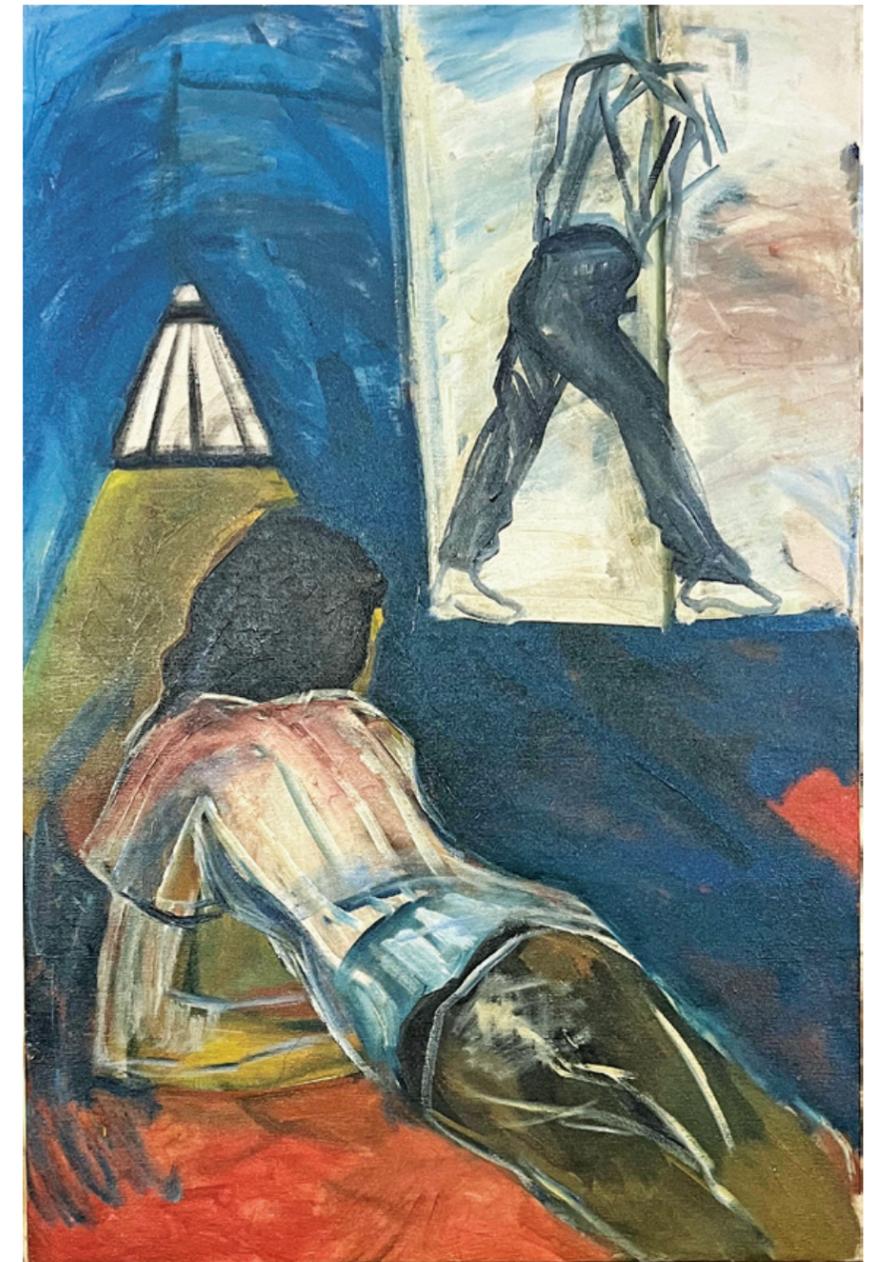
**CHANDANA HORE**  
Composition  
Oil on canvas  
36 x 24 inches  
2007





**CHANDANA HORE**  
Drowning  
Oil on Canvas  
48 x 40 inches  
2007

**CHANDANA HORE**  
From my Doorway  
Oil on Canvas  
36 x 24 inches  
1995





CHANDANA HORE  
Friends  
Oil on Canvas  
36 x 48 inches  
2022



**CHANDANA HORE**  
Garden  
Oil on canvas  
30 x 40 inches  
2007



**CHANDANA HORE**  
Girl with Toy  
Oil on canvas  
24 x 30 inches  
2020



**CHANDANA HORE**

Home  
Oil on Canvas  
36 x 48 inches  
2022

**CHANDANA HORE**  
Intimacy  
Oil on Canvas  
48 x 54 inches  
2011



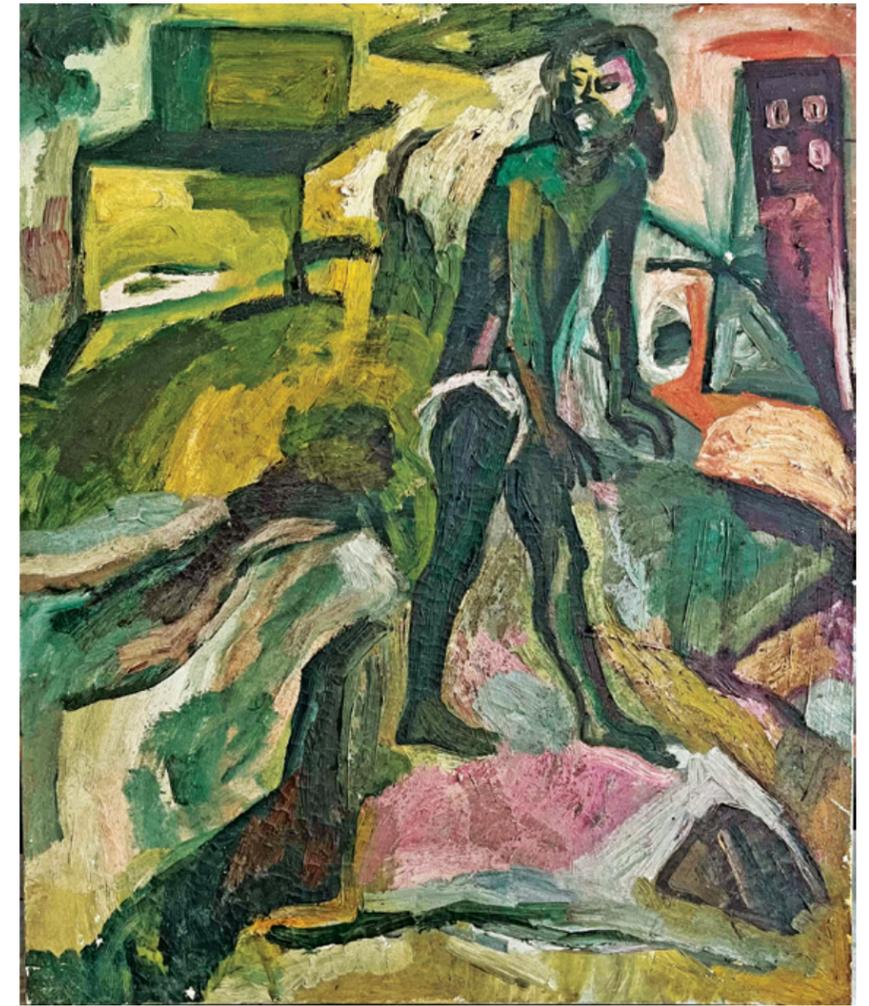
**CHANDANA HORE**  
Maa  
Oil on canvas  
24 x 36 inches  
2009

CHANDANA HORE  
Morning  
Oil on Canvas  
36 x 48 inches  
2022





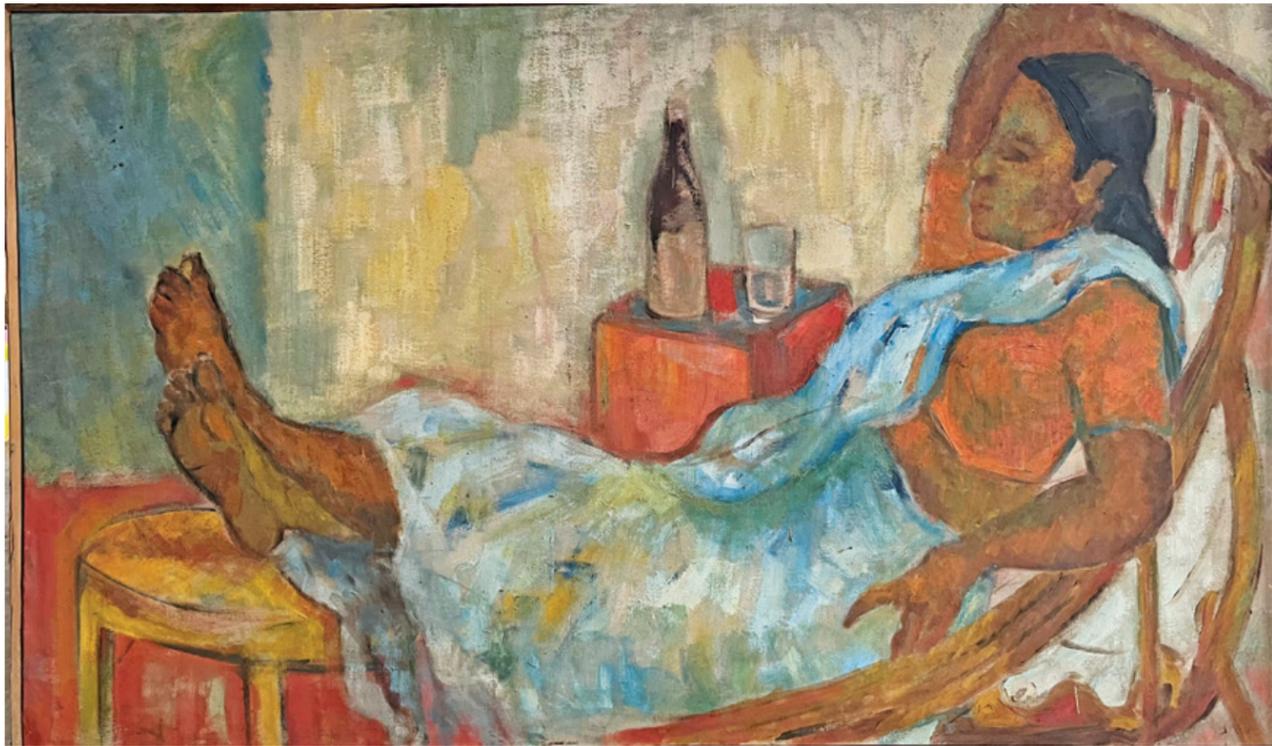
**CHANDANA HORE**  
Mother & Child  
Oil on canvas  
36 x 24 inches  
2007



**CHANDANA HORE**  
Mad man  
Oil on Canvas  
36 x 30 inches  
1997

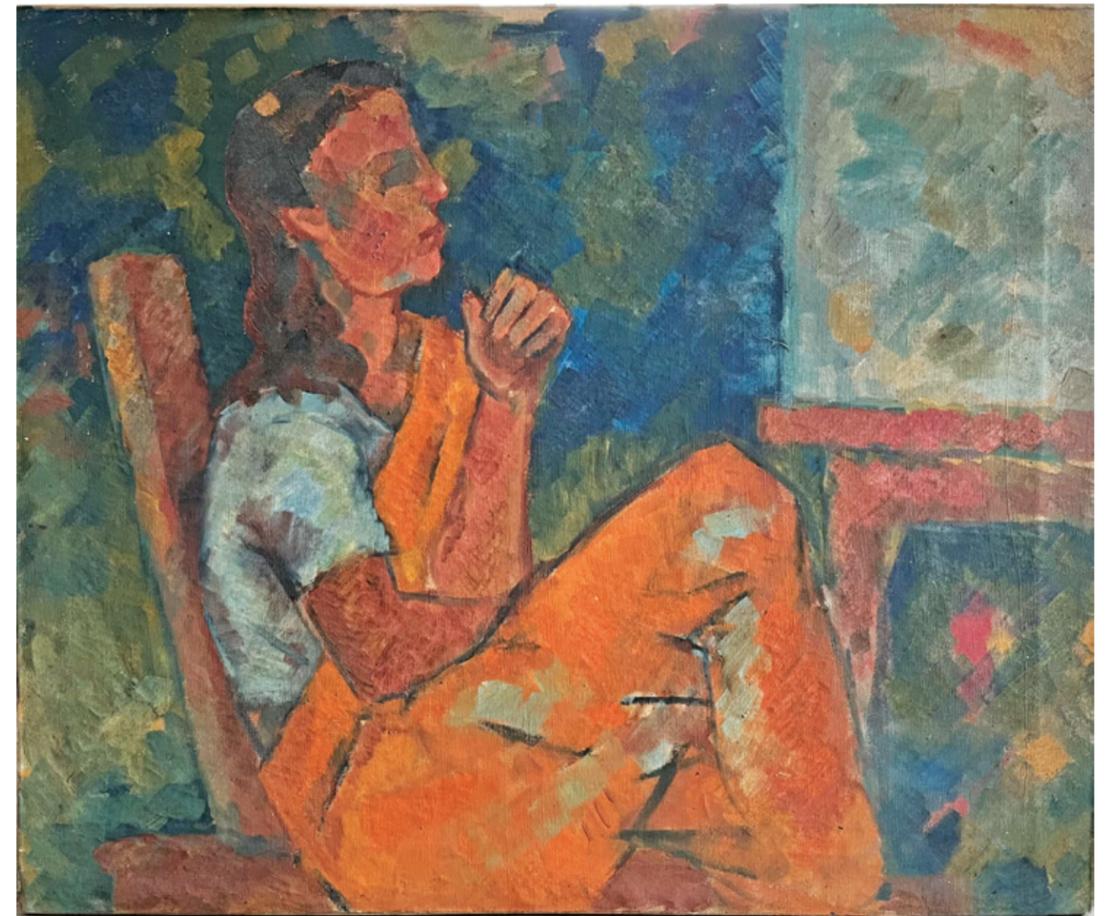


**CHANDANA HORE**  
Mother & Child II  
Oil on Canvas  
36 x 48 inches  
2022



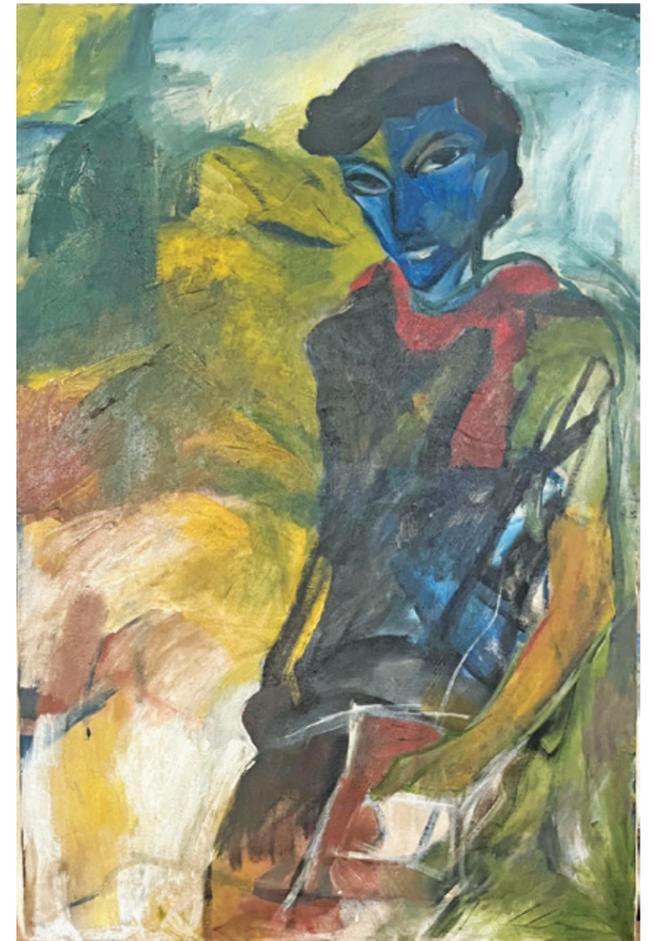
**CHANDANA HORE**  
Mother at Home  
Oil on Canvas  
32 x 54 inches  
1987

**CHANDANA HORE**  
Mother in Studio  
oil on canvas  
30 x 36 inches  
1987



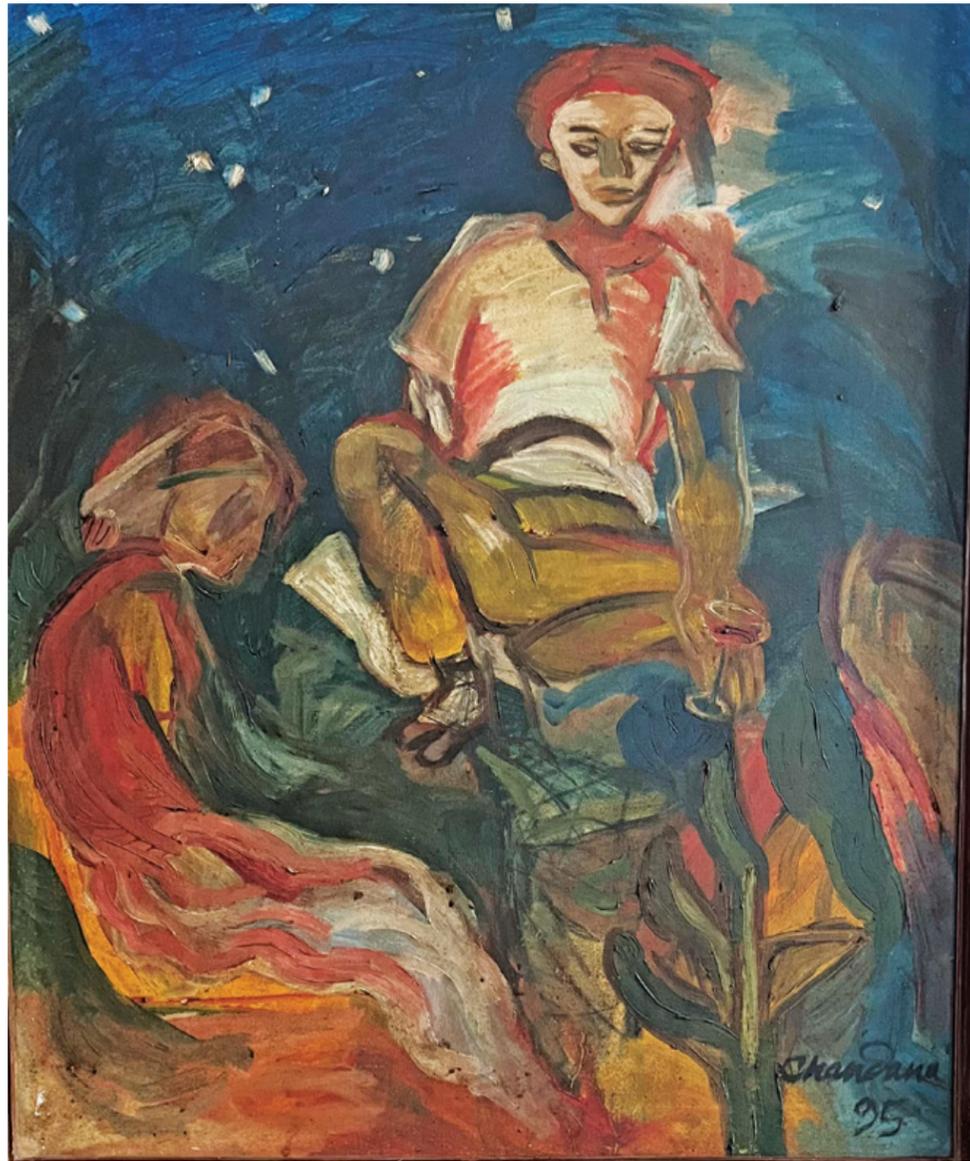
**CHANDANA HORE**

Mother  
Oil on Canvas  
36 x 48 inches  
2022

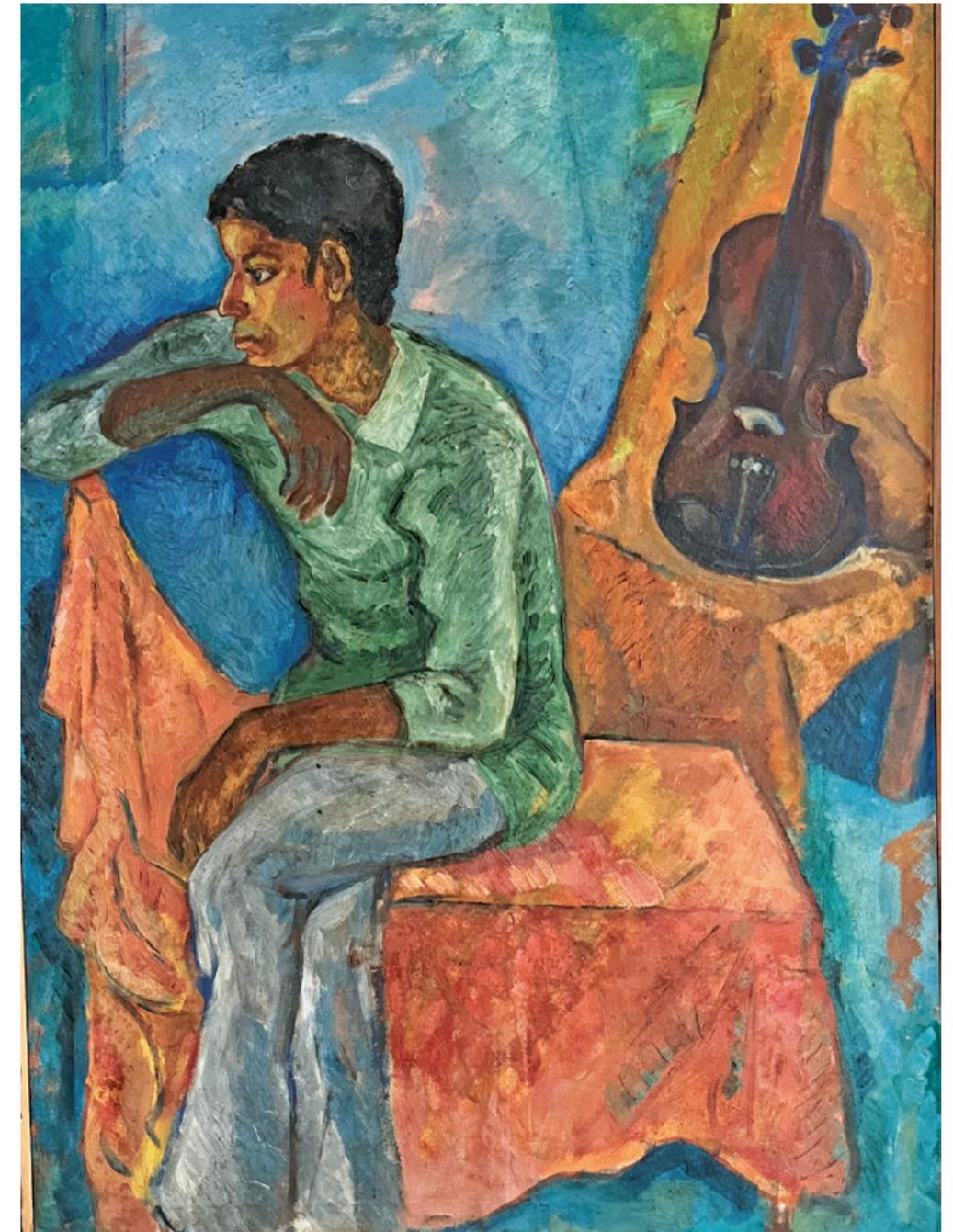


**CHANDANA HORE**

Rangan  
Oil on Canvas  
36 x 24 inches  
1995



**CHANDANA HORE**  
Rahul Da  
Oil on Canvas  
36 x 36 inches  
1996



**CHANDANA HORE**  
Sanjay Mallik  
Oil on Canvas  
48 x 36 inches  
1983

**CHANDANA HORE**

Sickness at home  
Oil on Canvas  
44 x 36 inches  
1990



**CHANDANA HORE**

Sreepally Evening  
Oil on Canvas  
36 x 30 inches  
1987



**CHANDANA HORE**  
Melan Choly  
Oil on Canvas  
55 x 33 inches

**CHANDANA HORE**  
Under the tree  
Oil on Canvas  
42 x 42  
inches 2007





**CHANDANA HORE**  
The bread seller  
Oil on Canvas  
36 x 48 inches  
2022



**CHANDANA HORE**  
Belly  
Bronze  
5 x 8 inches  
2022



**CHANDANA HORE**  
Dark Magnolia  
Bronze  
9.5 x 5.5 x 4 inches  
2009



**CHANDANA HORE**  
Change of life  
Bronze  
11 x 4 x 3 inches  
2009



**CHANDANA HORE**  
Face II  
Bronze  
12 x 6.5 inches  
2021

**CHANDANA HORE**  
Face  
Bronze  
12 x 10 inches  
2020



**CHANDANA HORE**  
Inscription  
Bronze  
12 x 10.5 inches  
2020



**CHANDANA HORE**  
Floral Stories  
Bronze  
11 x 6 inches  
2022



**CHANDANA HORE**  
Floral Stories II  
Bronze  
11 x 5 inches  
2022



**CHANDANA HORE**  
March Melody  
Bronze  
9 x 4 x 1 inches  
2009



**CHANDANA HORE**  
March Melody II  
Bronze  
12 x 5 inches  
2010



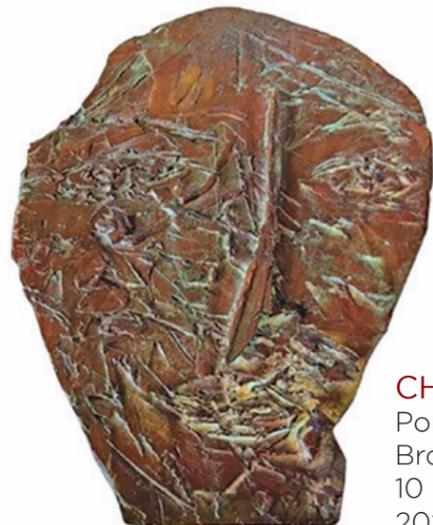
**CHANDANA HORE**  
Mother  
Bronze  
12 x 7.5 inches  
2011



**CHANDANA HORE**  
Nail Trails  
Bronze  
9.5 x 9 inches  
2009



**CHANDANA HORE**  
Passion Flower  
Bronze  
16 x 7 x 3 inches  
2021



**CHANDANA HORE**  
Portrait - II  
Bronze  
10 x 8 inches  
2022



**CHANDANA HORE**  
Portrait IV  
Bronze  
11.5 x 6 inches  
2011



**CHANDANA HORE**  
Portrait I  
Bronze  
9.5 x 5 inches  
2022



**CHANDANA HORE**  
Portrait-III  
Bronze  
16 x 12 x 1 inches  
2021



**CHANDANA HORE**  
Postmortem  
Bronze  
15.5 x 13 inches  
2009



**CHANDANA HORE**  
Skin  
Bronze  
12 x 5.5 inches  
2022



**CHANDANA HORE**  
Skin II  
Bronze  
12 x 5 inches  
2022



**CHANDANA HORE**  
Spring II  
Bronze  
12 x 7 inches



**CHANDANA HORE**  
Spring  
Bronze  
12 x 7 inches  
2022



**CHANDANA HORE**  
The Scar  
Bronze  
12 x 12.5 x 3 inches



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