



Arrivals & Departures

Vasudevan Akkitham

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The works by Vasudevan Akkitham in this show were done from 2018 to 2023. They are products of a consistent and disciplined practice of an artist deeply engaged with the world of art as viewer, as witness, as pedagogue and practitioner. The works are limited to his preferred media -- oil on canvas, and more recently, water color on paper. The titles of the paintings are pithy, unburdened, always unambiguous: "Home"; "Reverie" "Voyage", "Harbor", "Departure". Sometimes the titles are two-worded: "The Wall"; "The Dream"; "The Room"; "City Square"; "Chained City". The pictorial symbols that recur in the paintings are likewise elemental, almost archetypal: home, boy, ladder, boat, sky, fire, elephant, ship, girl, cot, deer, table, tree. The paintings are visually compelling, captivating -- in keeping with the artist's sustained journey of plumbing the surface, of exploring paint not just as material and currency, but as something far more personal and meaningful.

Akkitham is a painter's painter, his concerns have always been private and painterly: the relations between figure and ground, between figuration and abstraction; the challenge of color and his changing demands of it; the quest for harmony, stability and order amidst threats of dissipation, intemperance and turbulence -- these are the kinds of encounters, pleasures obsessions and anxieties that have preoccupied him as an artist. They have drawn him, again and again, to the classical traditions of the great masters, who have wrestled with these issues in their works and lives. In the past few years, from the solace of his home, and in the solitude of his studio, freed from the demands of pedagogy (and perhaps its concomitant, unstated tyrannies of expectation and conformity), Vasu has yielded fully to the seductions of the canvas to attend to these pictorial matters -- this time, on his own terms, at his own pace.

Kirtana Thangavelu



Awaiting | Oil on canvas | 72 x 78 inches | 2022



Rice Tusker | Oil on canvas | 72 x 84 inches | 2023



Summer Thoughts | Oil on canvas | 72 x 84 inches | 2023



Departure | Oil on canvas | 72 x 72 inches | 2021



Evocations | Oil on canvas | 72 x 78 inches | 2022



Harbour | Oil on canvas | 72 x 72 inches | 2023



Still Life | Oil on canvas | 36 x 48 inches | 2022



Voyage | Oil on canvas | 20 x 24 inches | 2023



City Square | Oil on canvas | 18 x 24 inches | 2020



Passage to Night | Oil on canvas | 20 x 24 inches | 2021



Revere | Oil on canvas | 14 x 18 inches | 2020



Home | Oil on canvas | 12 x 18 inches | 2018-2021



End of The Day | Oil on canvas | 12 x 17 inches | 2018-2021



Terrace 1 | Oil on canvas | 12 x 18 inches | 2021



Flight | Oil on canvas | 12 x 16 inches | 2018



Chained City | Oil on canvas | 12 x 12 inches | 2019



Portico | Oil on canvas | 12 x 12 inches | 2018



Untitled | Oil on canvas | 12 x 12 inches | 2018



The Room | Oil on canvas | 20 x 24 inches | 2020



Vigilant | Oil on canvas | 12 x 12 inches | 2023



Reverie | Oil on canvas | 18 x 12 inches | 2023



Enclosed | Oil on canvas | 12 x 16 inches | 2023



... Counting days - 4 | Watercolour on paper | 10 x 8 inches (each) | 2023



Night Island | Watercolour on paper | 12 x 16 inches | 2020



Passage of the Elephant | Watercolour on paper | 9.5 x 12 inches | 2020



Passage of the Elephant | Watercolour on paper | 9.5 x 12 inches | 2020



Untitled | Watercolour on paper | 12 x 16 inches | 2020



Girl with black buck | Watercolour on paper | 11.5 x 11.5 inches | 2020

About us

Established in 1989 by Renu Modi, Gallery Espace is among the foremost arts spaces in New Delhi, recognized widely for having nurtured the contemporary moment in Indian art with its ambitious and expansive programming. It has presented large format exhibitions such as Drawing '94, Sculpture '95, Miniprint '96, Bronze (2006), and Video Wednesdays (2008-09 & 2011-12) which sparked commercial and critical interest in these hitherto overlooked art categories, and also pioneered cross-disciplinary approaches to exhibitionary practices with The Self & The World (1997), Kitsch Kitsch Hota Hai (2001), and Lo Real Maravilloso (2009). Gallery Espace has worked with several generations of Indian artists, starting with legendary modernist painter MF Husain, and has also presented fresh talent and supported experimental practices.

The gallery's eclectic and nuanced aesthetics is reflected in its roster of artists which include Zarina, Nilima Sheikh, Manjunath Kamath, GR Iranna, Ravi Agarwal, Manisha Gera Baswani, Chitra Ganesh, Waswo X Waswo with R. Vijay, and emerging artists such as Ishita Chakraborty and Purvai Rai, whose works reflect changing concerns and tastes.

