

Tempered Branches

Recent Work by G. R. Iranna

February 15th, 2013– March 11th, 2014

Press Preview & Opening Reception: Saturday, February 15th, 6:00pm – 8:00pm

35 Great Jones St., New York NY 10012

Aicon Gallery is proud to present *Tempered Branches*, a solo exhibition of new works by **G. R. Iranna**. Comprised of several major recent series of paintings, along with a monumental wall drawing and installation piece, the exhibition explores themes of forcibly altered growth and development, both in nature and human thought. The work continues to build upon Iranna's career-spanning investigation into how social frameworks and religious dogmas, traditionally viewed as net-cultural positives, either directly or indirectly serve to suppress free-thought and organic growth, often with complex and disastrous consequences.

Two sets of iconography dominate these canvases; homogenous groups of theologically indeterminate monks engaged in ambiguous often nonsensical devotions, and beautifully rendered flowering trees with their branches and roots twisted, hacked and manipulated by external forces. Elsewhere, an installation of Paduka - wooden sandals traditionally worn by saints and mendicants and representative of the footprints of deities - meanders from a ramshackle pile on the floor to a path of footprints wandering aimlessly up a wall. The symbolism is clear. Iranna's interest here lies in articulating a visual language through which the journey from our beginnings to our ends, both as individuals and societies, can be mapped out in such a way as to pinpoint its turning points and deviations, along with the causes and repercussions of such. This desire, rooted in humanity's age-old quest for explanations and spanning millennia of debate regarding predestination, self-determination and countless philosophical and religious doctrines, is the formidable foundation beneath Iranna's contemporary cartography of the human condition.



G. R. Iranna, *Tempered Branches*, 2013, Acrylic on canvas, 60 x 66 in.



G. R. Iranna, *Golden Bowls*, 2013, Acrylic on canvas, 60 x 105 in.

Born in 1970, Iranna's practice over the last two decades has been prolific and multi-disciplinary. In earlier works, his paintings conveyed pain as an abstract force, translated visually through bruised textures and razor-sharp edgework. His technique has always remained far removed from an overbearing, postmodern logic. Instead, Iranna prefers the more idealistic, representative and modernist language of Indian contemporary art. More recent series of works recall visions of resistance, where in just a glance, one can sense vibrant dynamism pervading the surfaces. The energy is often driven by torment and fueled by the struggle against it, the conflicts stirring on the

surface are present between colors, figures and hues, depending on the crudeness or expertise employed. Whether through painting, sculpture or installation, Iranna's work always symbolizes the struggle to remain free from conventional restraints of establishment or style that, over time, may become increasingly claustrophobic. He continues to employ repeated motifs in his work, oscillating between a proclivity for figuration or form. Overall, his works embody an almost romantic undertone, which is the result of the artist's attempt to break away from his own mold to consistently reform his work. This is the artist's third solo exhibition with Aicon Gallery.

Please contact Aicon Gallery (Andrew@Aicongallery.com) for more information.

G. R. IRANNA



G. R. Iranna, *Untitled Installation (Padukas)*, 2014, Burnt wooden paduka sandals and police beacon, Dimensions variable.

In *Untitled Installation (Padukas)*, wooden footwear that religious Hindus wear on pilgrimage to places of worship burst from a pile on the gallery floor to run scattershot up the walls. The sandals are shaped like the feet they are meant for, thus appearing as footprints, and worn by fitting a tiny mushroom-like stem between the big and second toes. They are loud, especially when worn on stone and concrete. The padukas in this installation, though, are quiet, silent. The only sound is that of a red police beacon, from which the padukas seem to be fleeing. The work references the religious riots that wracked the Indian state of Gujrat, when Narendra Modi came to power as Chief Minister (the Indian equivalent of a State Governor) in a bloodbath of violence. Today, as Modi stands knocking on the door of India's Prime-Ministership, Iranna's installation becomes an artistic interrogative giving visual voice to the political trepidation and deep-seeded cultural divisions of a nation.

G. R. IRANNA

Born 1970, Sindgi, Bijapur, Karnataka, India.

During his youth, Iranna studied in a Gurukul (a system of education where the student resides with the teacher) and lived in an ashram for almost seven years. This helped to form a strong connection to his cultural roots, which enters his work alongside his exploration of the antitheses of inherent dualities of the world. Iranna endeavors to translate an internal landscape onto tactile surfaces and aspects of Buddhist art influences are evident. Although he began painting oil on canvases, Iranna later developed his range of medium, embarking on his now primary use of tarpaulin.

The artist lives and works in New Delhi, India.

Education

1999-2000 Artist-in-Residence, Wimbledon School of Art, London

1994 Master of Fine Art (Painting), College of Art, New Delhi

1992 Bachelor of Fine Arts (Painting), College of Visual Art, Gulbarga, Karnataka

Select Solo Exhibitions

2012 Limning Heterotopias, Gallery Espace, New Delhi

2011 Scaffolding the Absent: G. R. Iranna's Phenomenological Interventions, The Guild Art Gallery, Mumbai

2010 Ribbed Routes, The Guild Art Gallery, Mumbai / New York

2008 Birth of Blindness, Aicon Gallery, London and New York.

2007 The Dancer on the Horse, Berkeley Square Gallery, London

Recent Works by GR Iranna, Berkley Square Gallery, London

2006 King of Clay, Aicon Gallery, New York and California

Disorder and Early Sufferings, Gallery Muller & Plate, Munich

2005 Early Works, Gallery Muller and Plate, Munich

Threads of Humanism, Bodhi Art, New Delhi, Singapore

2003 The Guild Art Gallery, Mumbai

Dream and Perplexity, Chitrakala Parisath, Bangalore

2001 The Enigma of Departure, British Council and The Guild Art Gallery, Mumbai

2000 Foyer Gallery, Wimbledon School of Art, London

Gallery Espace, New Delhi

Maulana Azad Center for Indian Culture, Cairo, Egypt

1999 In the Shadow of Buddha, Gallery Martini, Hong Kong

1998 Shadow of the Real, Shridharani Art Gallery and Gallery Espace, New Delhi

1995 Edge Dynamics, Delhi Art Gallery, New Delhi and Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai

1992 College of Visual Art, Gulbarga

Select Group Exhibitions

2013 When High and Low Art Meet, Curated by Rupika Chawla, Art Alive Gallery, Gurgaon

2013 Living Walls, Art Alive Gallery, Gurgaon

2012 On a Journey, Art Alive Gallery, Gurgaon

2012 Alone/Together, Aicon Gallery, New York

2011 Reprise, Aicon Gallery, New York

2010 San Jose Museum of Art San Jose California

Group Show, Museum of Contemporary Art Taipei Taiwan, by Sakshi Gallery.

Indian (sub) Way, Grosvenor Vadhera Gallery, London, curated by Yashodhara Dalmia.

Go See India, Contemporary Indian Art at Gothenburg, Sweden. Curated by Amith Mukhopadyya & Oscar Aschan.



2009 Signature Art Prize Singapore Show, Museum Singapore.
Culture Popular India, Maspresidenta de la Comunidad de Madrid Museum, Madrid. Curated by Shahin Mirali.
Retrieval Systems, Curated by Ranjit Hoskote. Visual Arts Gallery, India Habitat Centre; Art Alive Gallery, New Delhi
Astonishment of Being, Birla Academy of Art & Culture, Kolkata curesed by Diksha Nath. Think Small, Art Alive Gallery, New Delhi
Big Dreams, Crimson Art Gallery, Bangalore.
Zip Files, Tao Art Gallery, Mumbai
Moderns and More, Aicon Gallery, Palo Alto
Life is A Stage, Institute of Contemporary Indian Art (ICIA), Mumbai
Signs Taken for Wonders: Recent Art from India and Pakistan, Aicon Gallery, London
Threshold: Forging Narratives in South Asian Contemporary Art, Aicon Gallery, New York
2008 Keep Drawing, Gallery Espace, New York
MiArt 2008, Fiera Milano International Spa, Milan represented by The Guild, Mumbai
2007 Asian Contemporary Art Fair, represented by Aicon Gallery, New York
Keep Drawing, Pundole Art Gallery, Mumbai
India 20, Rabindra Bhavan, Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi
High on Art, Visual Art Gallery, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi
Telling It Like It Is: The Indian Story, The Gallery in Cork Street, London
2006 Confluence, Aicon Gallery, New York
The Human Figure, Gallery Threshold, New Dehli
Contemporary Istanbul Fair, Istanbul
2005 We Are Like This Only, Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi
Paths of Progression, Bodhi Art/Saffronart, New Delhi, Mumbai, Singapore, New York
Arad Biennale, Romania
2004 Untitled, Gallery Espace, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi
Peter Muller Gallery, Munich, Germany
Gallery 27, Oslo, Norway
2002 Words and Images, National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), Mumbai
Jehangir Art Gallery Golden Jubilee Show, Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai
2001-02 Palette, Visual Art Gallery, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi
2001 Apparao Galleries, Chennai
The Human Factor, Guild Art Gallery, Mumbai
Kaleidoscope, ISU International Art Gallery, Singapore
Engendering - Images of Women, Guild Art Gallery, Mumbai
2000 Black & White, Art Today, New Delhi
1999 Icons of the Millennium, Gallery Lakeeren, Mumbai
The Creative Process, Guild Art Gallery, Mumbai
Edge of the Century, New Delhi
1998 Vedanta Art Gallery, Chicago, U.S.A
Gallery Espace, New Delhi
Guild Art Gallery, Mumbai
1997 Four Artists, Diverse Talents, Guild Art Gallery, Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai
1995 Schoo's Gallery, Amsterdam, Holland
1994 Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai
1993 Shridharani Art Gallery, New Delhi
1992 Award Winners Exhibition SCZCC, Nagpur-Bangalore-Indore-Hyderabad-Pune
1990 Venkatappa Art Gallery, Bangalore
Chitrakala Parishat, Bangalore

Awards and Scholarships

2008 APB Signature Jury Award, Singapore
2004 Harmony Show Artist of the Year, Harmony foundation, Mumbai

2002 K K Hebbar Foundation Award
2001 State Award, Karnataka Lalit Kala Academy, Bangalore
1999-2000 International Scholarship from Charles Wallace India Trust, British Council
1997 40th National Academy Award, Lalit Kala Academy, New Delhi
AIFACS Award, New Delhi, 50 years of Art in Independent India
1996-1997 National Scholarship from Ministry of H.R.D., Government of India
1995-1996 Garhi Research Grant from Lalit Kala Academy, New Delhi
1993 In Search of Talent, M.F. Hussain & Ram Kumar Selection Award, Vadhera Art Gallery, New Delhi
Bansi Parmimu Memorial Committee, Dhomi Mall Art Gallery, New Delhi
Delhi College of Art, New Delhi
1991-92 College of Visual Art, Gulbarga
All India Exhibition Mysore Dasara, Mysore
1990 4th All India Exhibition SCZCC, Nagpore

Collections

National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi
Bharat Bhawan, Bhopal
Lalit Kala Academy, New Delhi
Singapore Art Museum
Private collections in Mumbai, Delhi, Hong Kong, Germany, Holland, Austria, Croatia and Herwitz
Collection, U.S.A.; United Kingdom; Singapore.