

Anjolie Ela Menon | A Retrospective

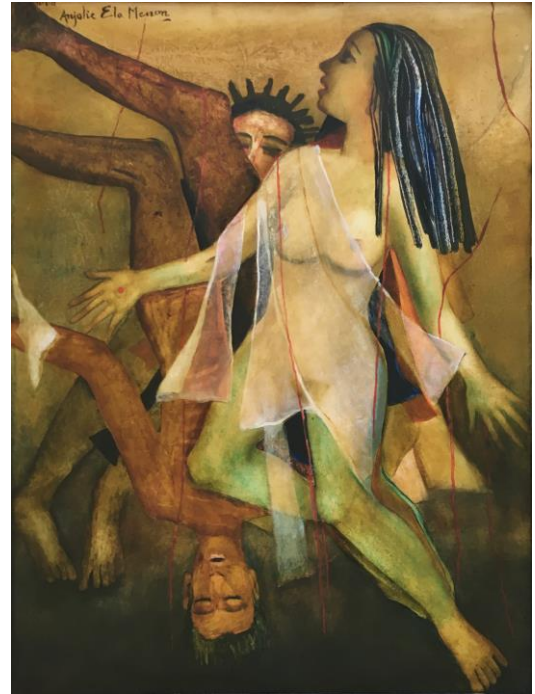
Aicon Gallery Exhibition May 3rd – June 24th, 2017

Press Preview & V.I.P. Reception: Wednesday, May 3rd 6:00pm – 8:00pm

35 Great Jones St., New York NY 10012

Aicon Gallery is proud to present the first major New York solo exhibition in over a decade by renowned Indian painter **Anjolie Ela Menon**. Throughout a career now spanning over fifty years, Menon has steadfastly remained a pioneering figurative painter, often in defiance of current trends. Her work metamorphosizes the visual matrix of our times through her use of a renaissance-like technique, which has earned her the sobriquet of 'Wanton Fabulist' from New Delhi based curator and critic Gayatri Sinha. The exhibition features over 40 paintings and drawings from the artist's oeuvre, including a set of new large-scale works on panel exhibited here for the first time.

Throughout her artistic career, Anjolie Ela Menon has re-envisioned her role as an artist and has produced various bodies of work toward her aim to defy categorization. Menon's early paintings, mainly portraits, imply inspiration from the likes of Modigliani, Van Gogh, Amrita Sher-Gil, and M. F. Husain. She comments on her approach of using flat areas of thick bright color with sharp outlines, which were done "with the vigor and brashness of extreme youth."



Anjolie Ela Menon, *Falling Girl*, 2015, Oil on Masonite board, 48 x 36 in.

Menon's studies in Paris in the 1960s exposed her to the techniques of medieval Christian iconography, particularly Byzantine art. A period of experimentation led to a muted palette of translucent colors, by her layering thin glazes of oil paint onto hardboard. The finely textured surfaces were further enhanced by burnishing the finished work with a soft dry brush, creating a glow reminiscent of medieval icons. As her style continued to evolve, Menon developed the distinctive features of early Christian art - namely the frontal perspective, the averted head, and the slight body elongation - but took the female nude as a frequent subject. The result is a dynamic relationship of eroticism and melancholy. Menon developed her artistic approach of distance and loss in her later works through her thematic depiction of black crows, empty chairs, windows, and hidden figures.

This current exhibition covers many diverse themes but re-visits various phases of a 60 year long career in art. Both memory and imagination are at work to create a large body of paintings. The pastoral series is inspired by the rural community where her studio in Delhi is located. The goatherds and indeed the goats are ubiquitous in her neighborhood, the almost biblical figures of the tribe reminiscent of a bygone era. Shakti is an Indian word that denotes Woman Power and the series 'Divine Mothers' celebrates not holy deities like Krishna and Jesus, but their mothers, who, like mother Mary are often objects of worship in themselves. The Namboodiri priests from the temples of South India have been an oft repeated subject in Menon's pictorial narratives and are seen here in abundance. Menon has been known for her icon like portraits and a suite of these small vignettes embellish this collection. Five maquettes of the large panels recently hung in the Mumbai international airport are shown here, a collaborative work between Menon and the renowned late photographer Robyn Beeche. Also on display are a group of rare early works garnered from collectors in and around NY.



Anjolie Ela Menon, *Goatherd*, 2017, Oil on Masonite board, 72 x 96 in.

Menon's prolific output has resulted in numerous solo and group exhibitions internationally. Her works have been acquired by major museums in India and abroad and reside in both private and corporate collections. She is also well known for her murals and has represented India at the Algiers Biennale and in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Solo exhibitions include the Winston Gallery, Washington, USA; Doma Khudozhnikov, U.S.S.R; Rabindra Bhavanand Shridharani Gallery, New Dehli; Academy of Fine Arts, Calcutta and a major solo exhibition at the Asian Art Museum, San Francisco in 2006. This exhibition represents the first major retrospective of the artist's work in the U.S., and her first solo exhibition in New York in over a decade.

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

Anjolie Ela Menon



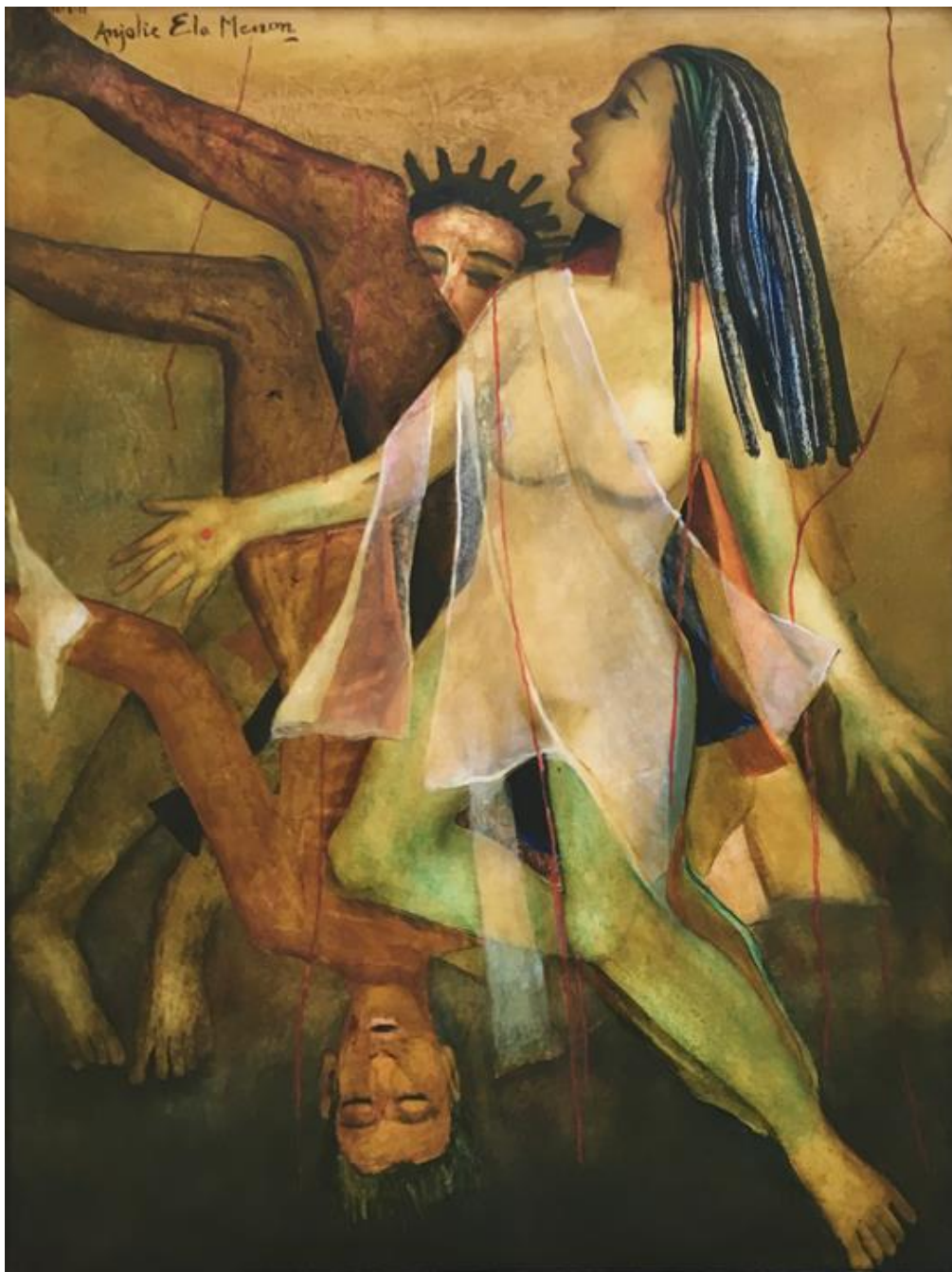
Anjolie Ela Menon, *Goatherd (Triptych)*, 2017, Oil on Masonite board, 72 x 96 in.

Anjolie Ela Menon



Anjolie Ela Menon, *Guru and Acolyte*, 2017, Oil on Masonite board, 48 x 36 in.

Anjolie Ela Menon



Anjolie Ela Menon, *Falling Girl*, 2015, Oil on Masonite board, 48 x 36 in.

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Anjolie Ela Menon, *Malabar*, 2014, Oil on Masonite board, 48 x 36 in.

Anjolie Ela Menon



Anjolie Ela Menon, *Brahmin Priest*, 2016, Oil on Masonite board, 48 x 24 in.

Anjolie Ela Menon



Anjolie Ela Menon, *Memories of the Sea*, 1995, Oil on
Masonite board, 48 x 24 in.

Anjolie Ela Menon



Anjolie Ela Menon, *Nude*, 2016, Oil on Masonite board, 24 x 48 in.

Anjolie Ela Menon



Anjolie Ela Menon, *Eden*, 2005, Oil on Masonite board, 24 x 48 in.

Anjolie Ela Menon



Anjolie Ela Menon, *After the Party*, 2017, Oil on Masonite board, 36 x 24 in.

Anjolie Ela Menon



Anjolie Ela Menon, *Divine Mothers Series - Madonna with Child*, 2017, Oil on Masonite board, 36 x 24 in.

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Anjolie Ela Menon, *Parvati with Ganesh*, 2016, Oil on Masonite board, 36 x 24 in.

Anjolie Ela Menon



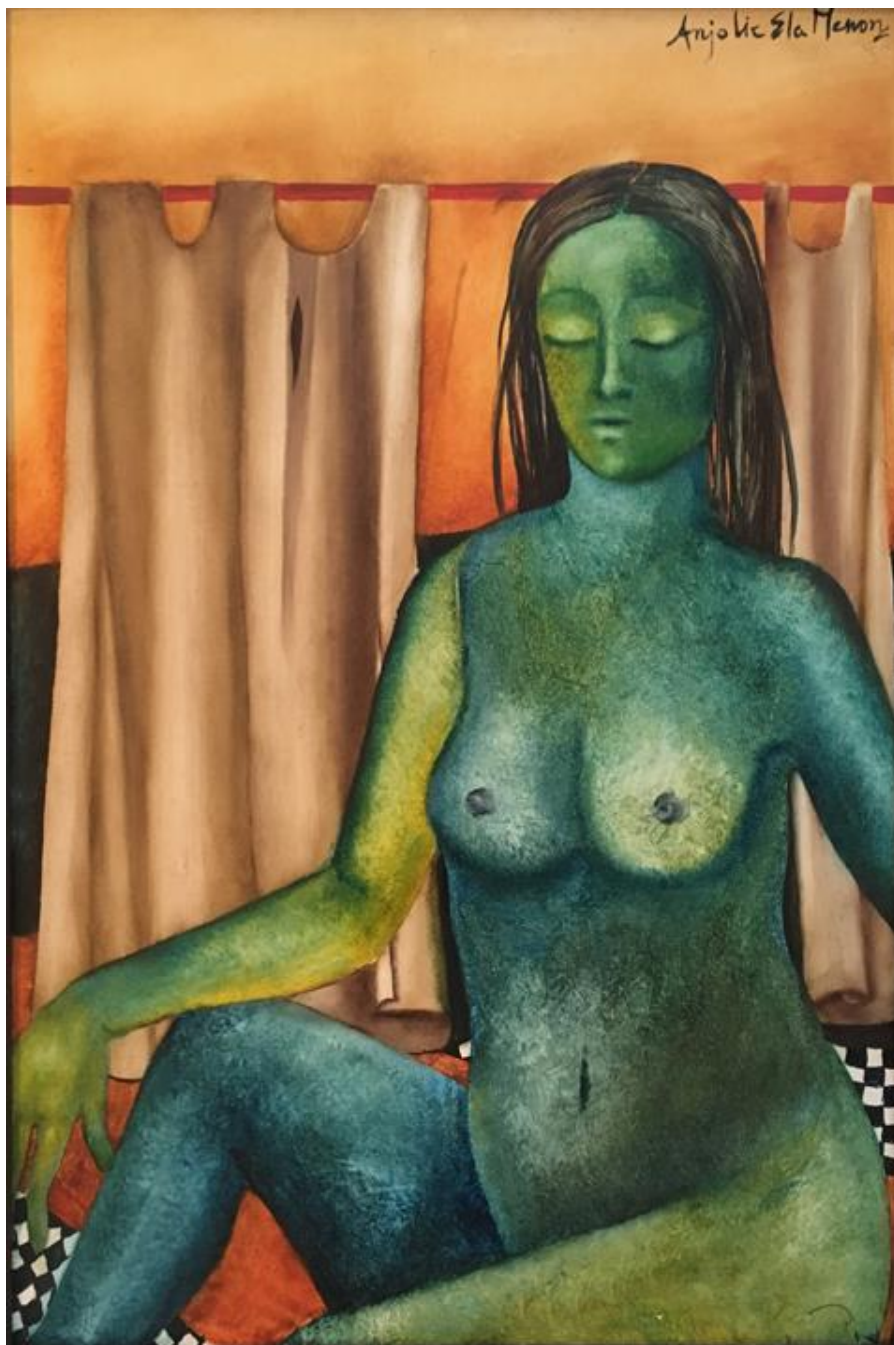
Anjolie Ela Menon, *Divine Mothers Series - Maya with Gautama*, 2016, Oil on Masonite board, 36 x 24 in.

Anjolie Ela Menon



Anjolie Ela Menon, *Yashoda with baby Krishna*, 2016, Oil on Masonite board, 36 x 24 in.

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Anjolie Ela Menon, *Seated Nude*, 2009, Oil on Masonite board, 36 x 24 in.

Anjolie Ela Menon



Anjolie Ela Menon, *Veronica's Veil*, Oil on Masonite, 30 x 24 in.

Anjolie Ela Menon



Anjolie Ela Menon, *Man from Bombay*, 1985, Oil on canvas with window frame, 30 x 18 in.

Anjolie Ela Menon



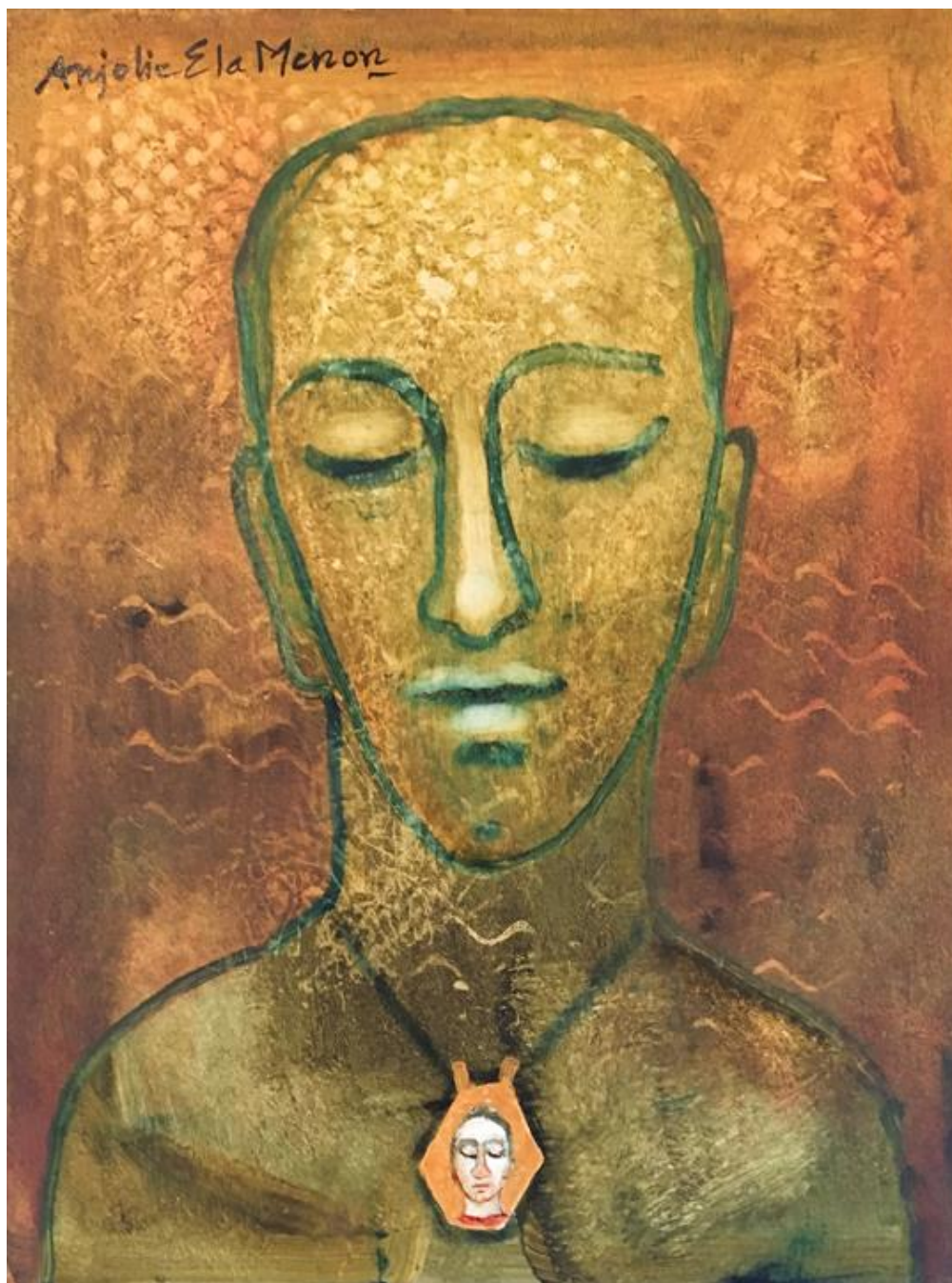
Anjolie Ela Menon, *Endgame*, 2012, Oil on Masonite board, 24 x 18 in.

Anjolie Ela Menon



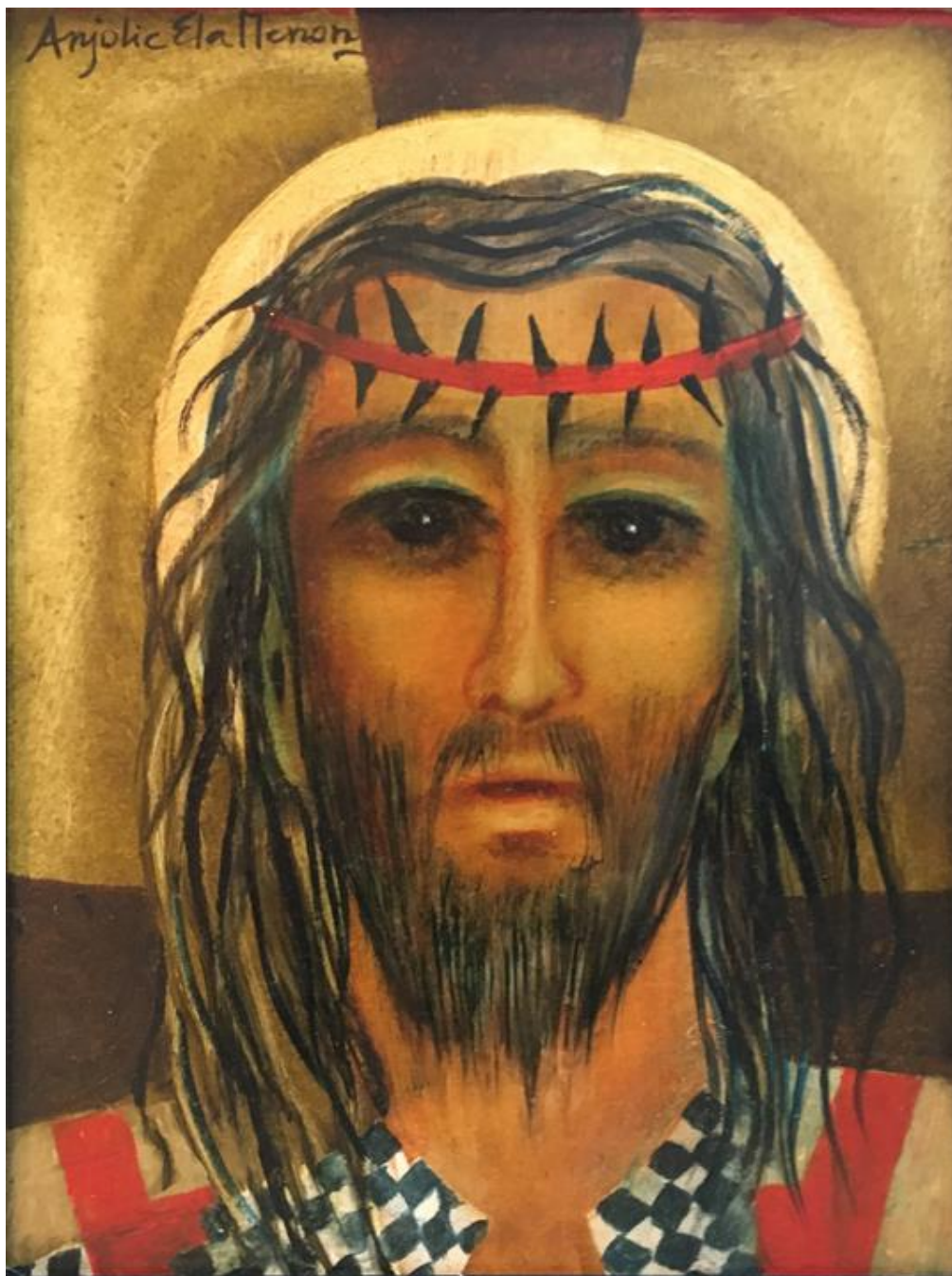
Anjolie Ela Menon, *After the Party II*, Oil on Masonite board, 15 x 7.5 in.

Anjolie Ela Menon



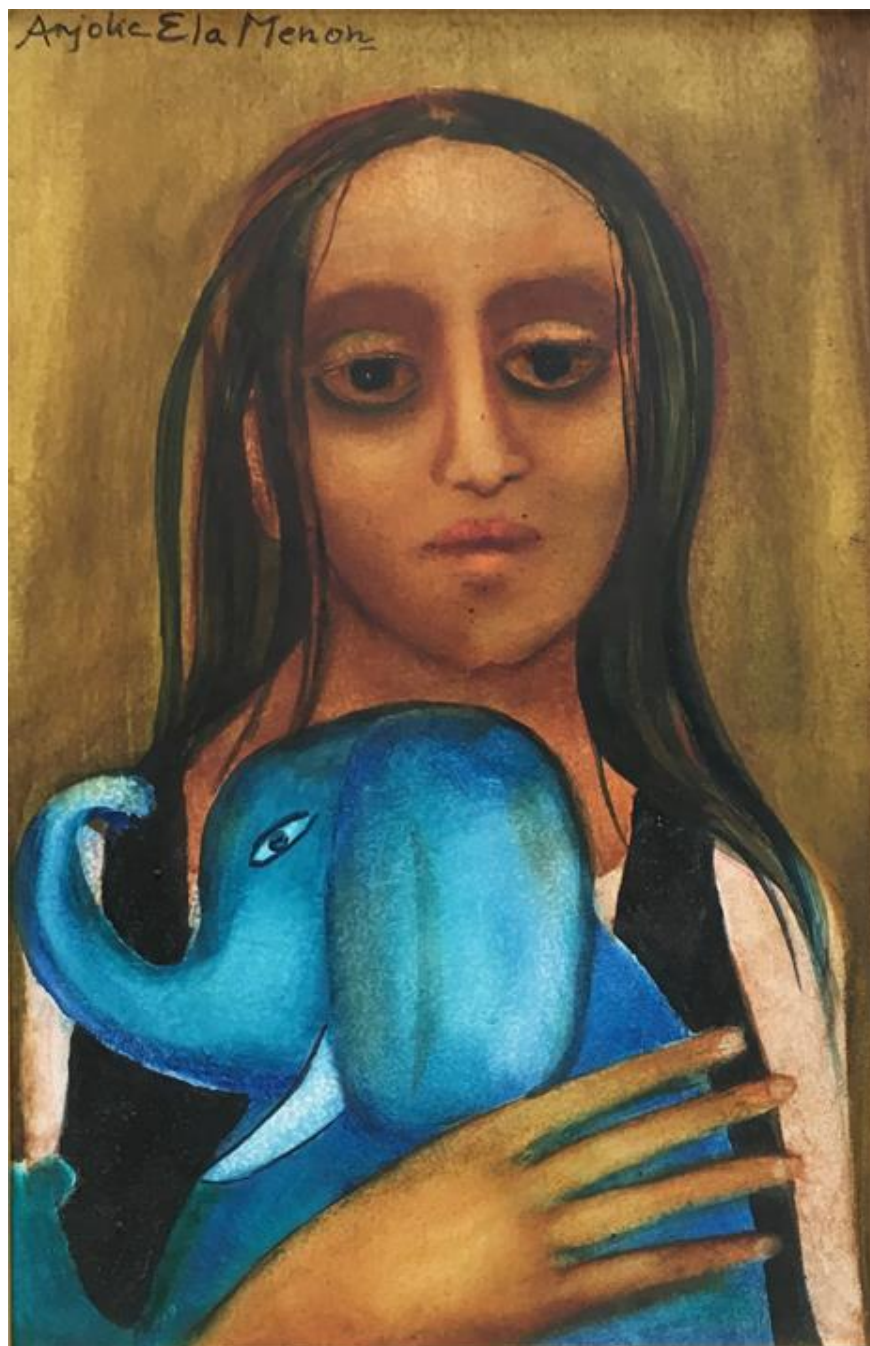
Anjolie Ela Menon, *Andrew*, 2017, Oil on Masonite board, 16 x 12 in.

Anjolie Ela Menon



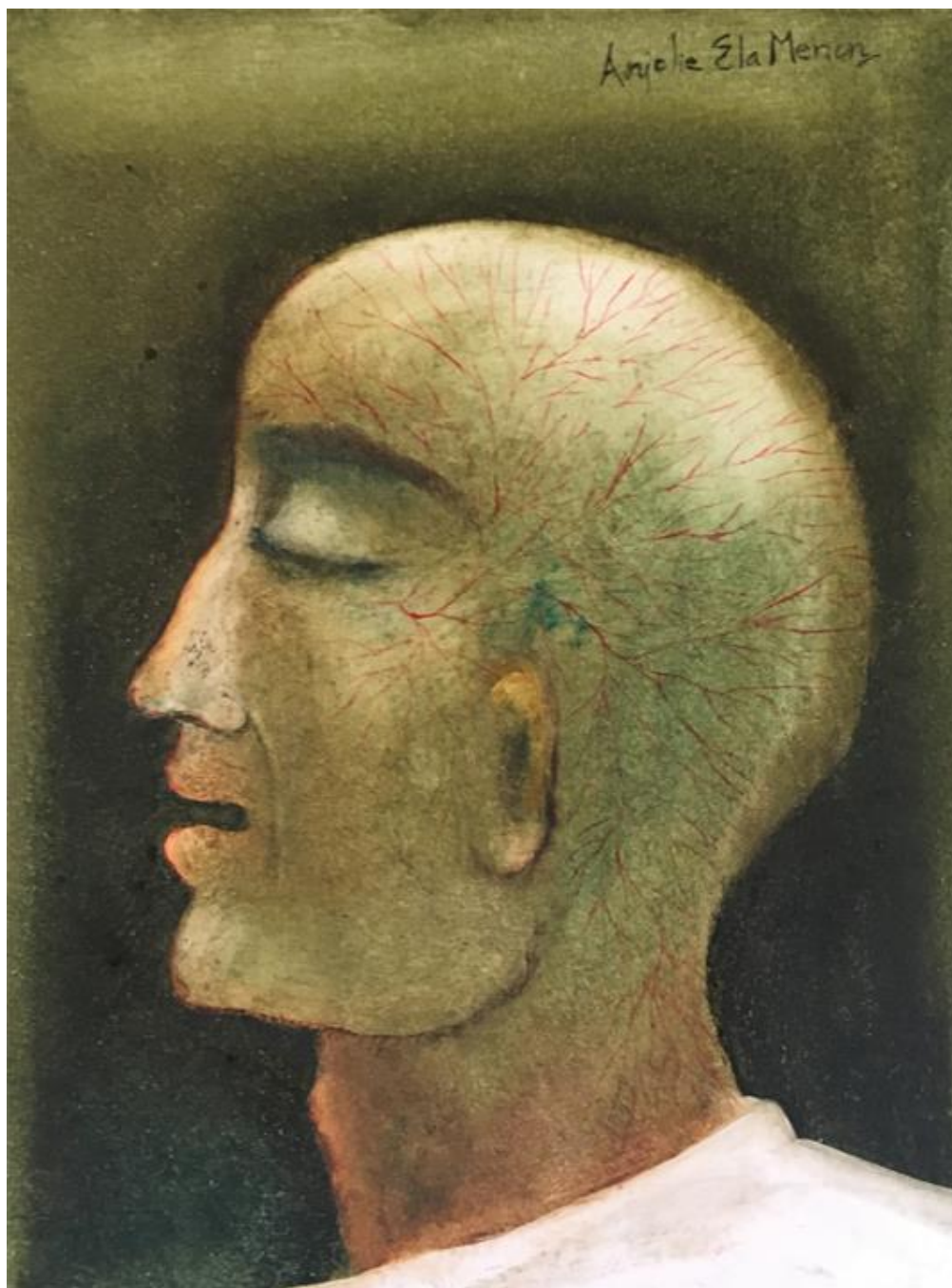
Anjolie Ela Menon, *Christ*, 2016, Oil on Masonite board, 16 x 12 in.

Anjolie Ela Menon



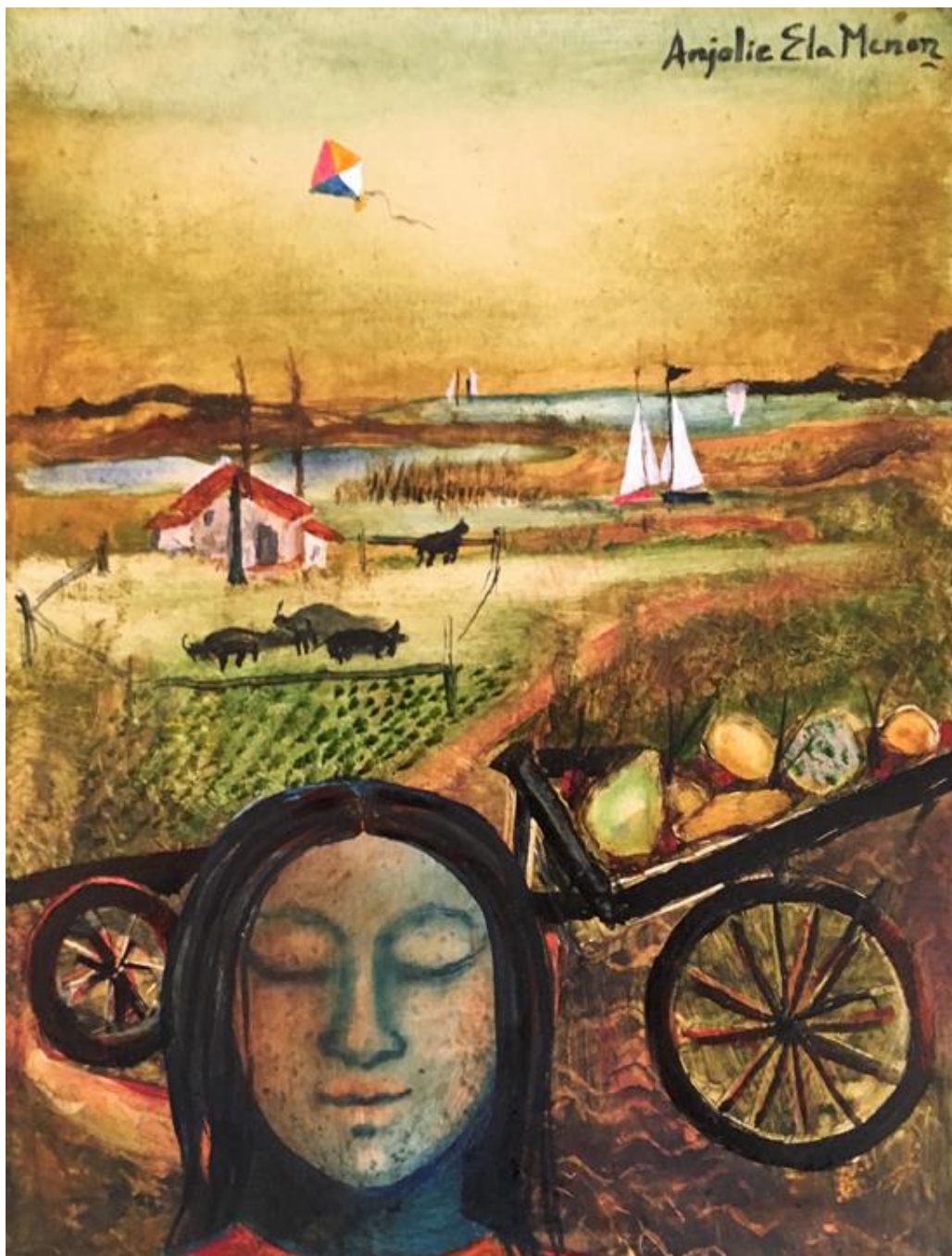
Anjolie Ela Menon, *Gowri*, 2016, Oil on Masonite board, 16 x 12 in.

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Anjolie Ela Menon, *Head of a Man*, 2017, Oil on Masonite board, 16 x 12 in.

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Anjolie Ela Menon, *Landscape*, 2017, Oil on Masonite board, 16 x 12 in.

Anjolie Ela Menon



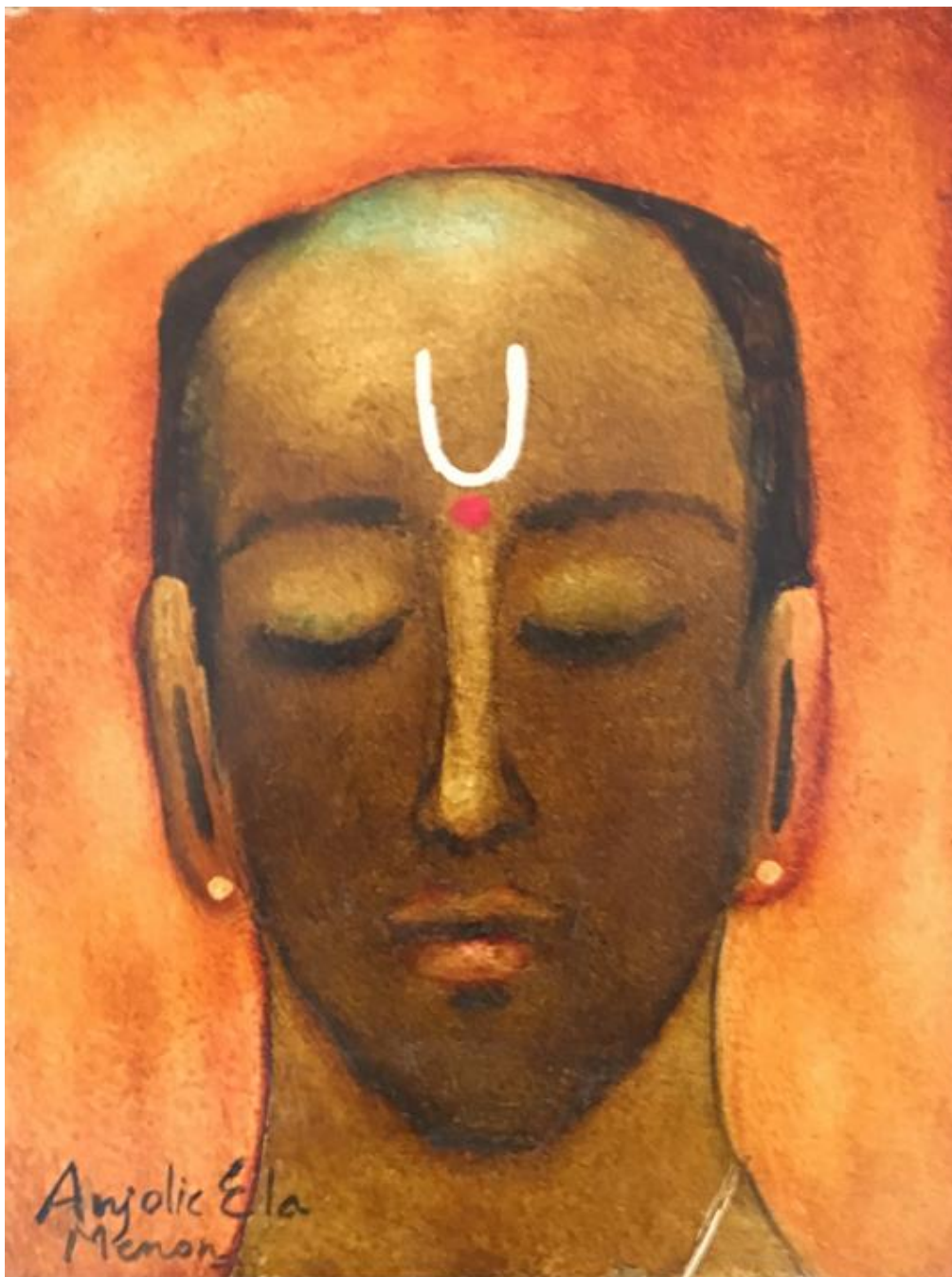
Anjolie Ela Menon, *Landscape*, 2017, Oil on Masonite board, 16 x 12 in.

Anjolie Ela Menon



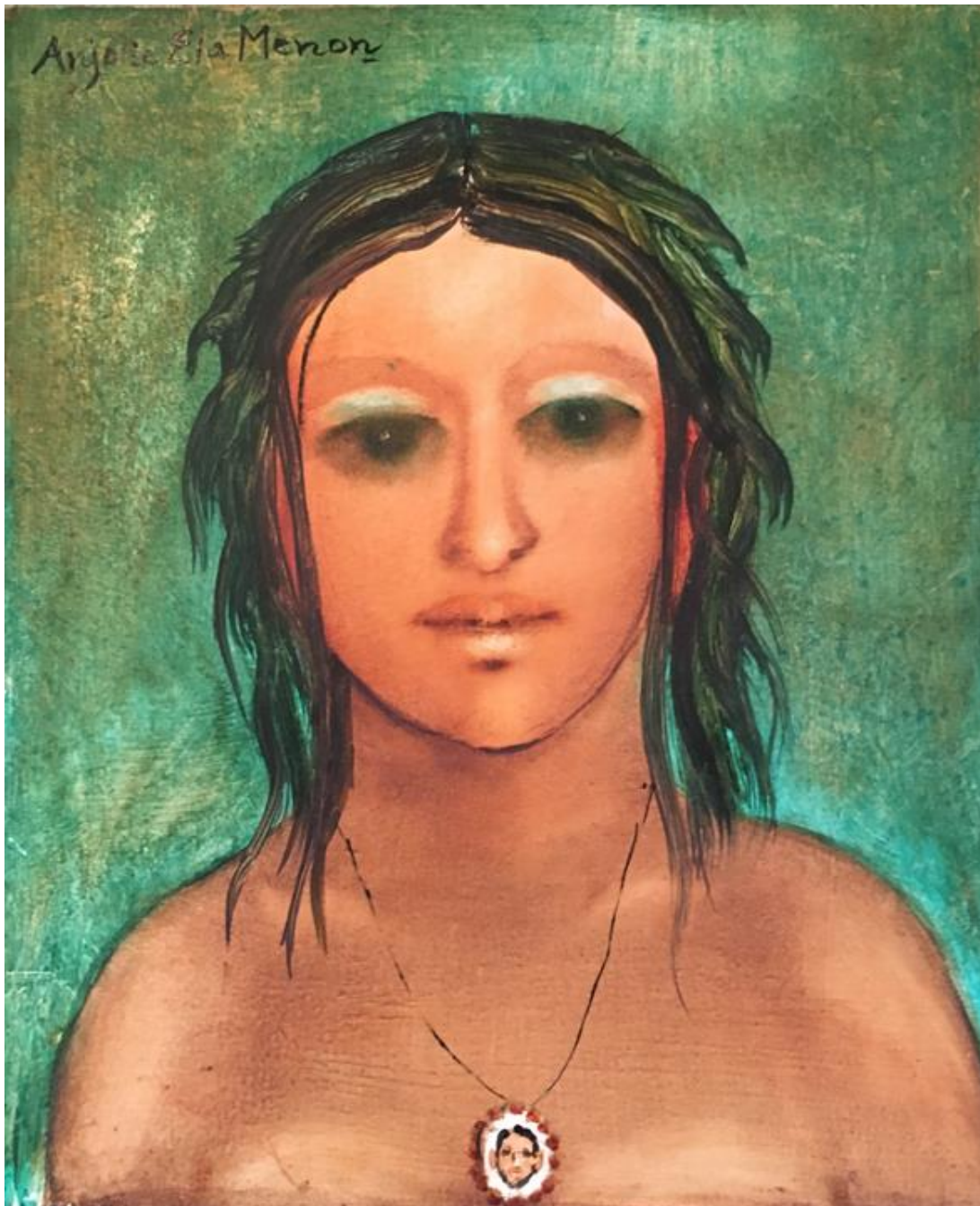
Anjolie Ela Menon, *Behind the Arras*, 2017, Oil on Masonite board, 16 x 12 in.

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Anjolie Ela Menon, *Pujari*, 2017, Oil on Masonite board, 16 x 12 in.

Anjolie Ela Menon



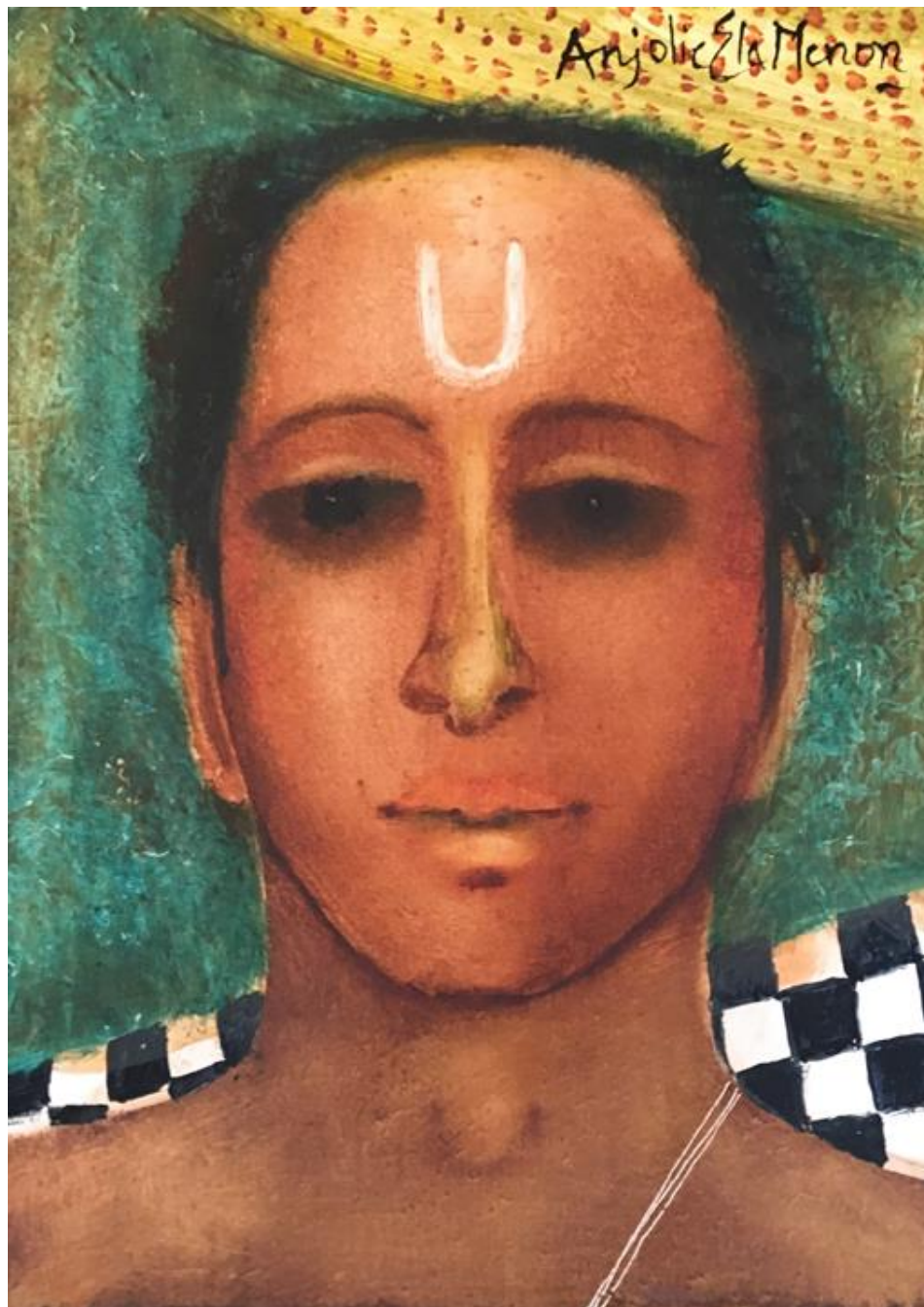
Anjolie Ela Menon, *Anisha*, 2017, Oil on Masonite board, 15 x 12 in.

Anjolie Ela Menon



Anjolie Ela Menon, *Maya*, 2017, Oil on Masonite board, 15 x 11 in.

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Anjolie Ela Menon, *Namboodiri*, 2017, Oil on Masonite board, 12 x 9 in.

Anjolie Ela Menon



Anjolie Ela Menon, *Untitled Drawings 1 & 2*, 2006, Acrylic on paper, 4.5 x 10.5 in. (Each side)

Anjolie Ela Menon



Anjolie Ela Menon, *Untitled Drawing 3*, 2016, Acrylic on paper, 10 x 8 in.

Anjolie Ela Menon



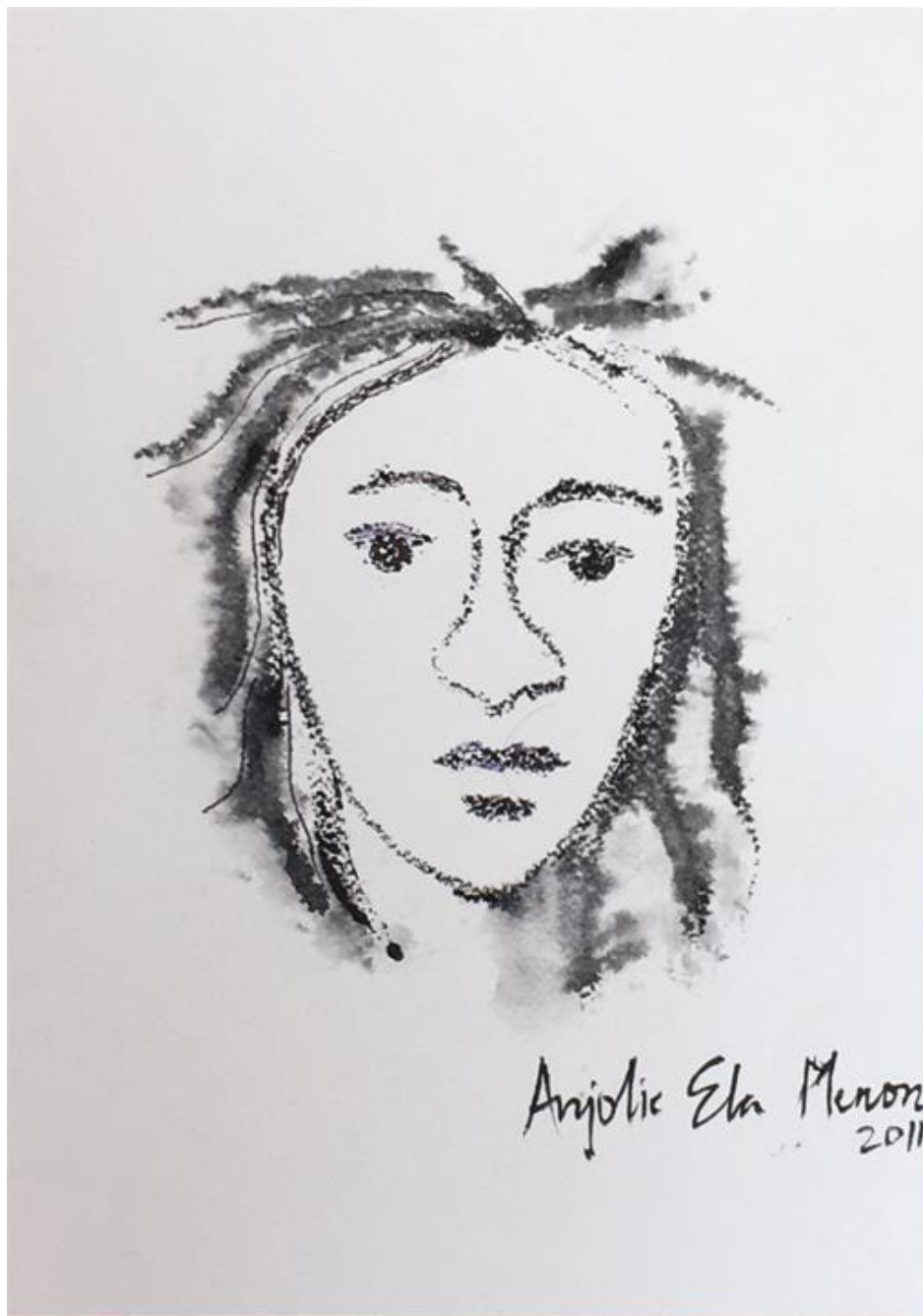
Anjolie Ela Menon, *Untitled Drawing 4*, 2002, Acrylic on paper, 14.5 x 10.5 in.

Anjolie Ela Menon



Anjolie Ela Menon, *Untitled Drawing 5*, 2006, Acrylic on paper, 14 x 9.5 in.

Anjolie Ela Menon



Anjolie Ela Menon, *Untitled Drawing 6*, 2011, Acrylic on paper, 14 x 10 in.

Anjolie Ela Menon



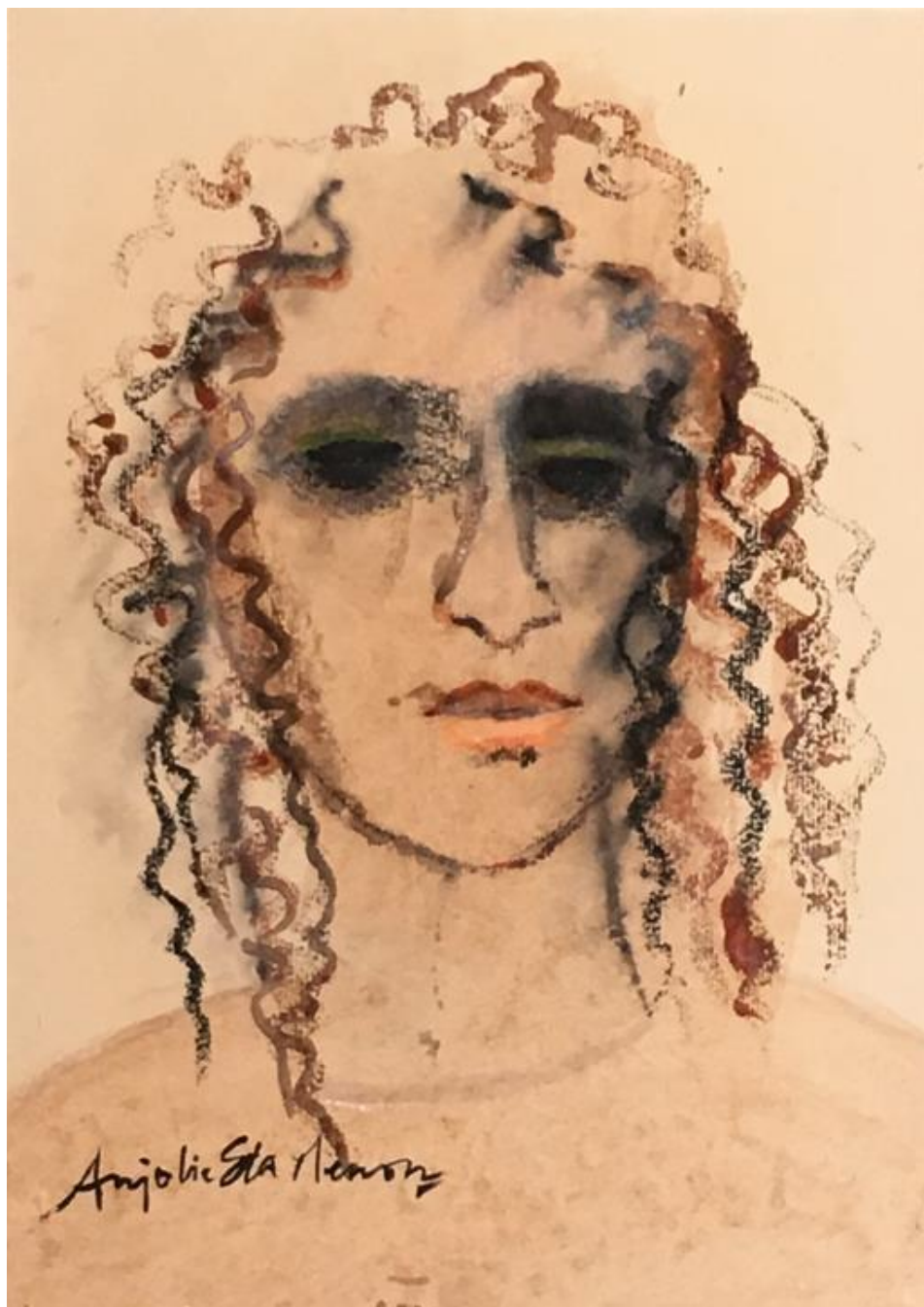
Anjolie Ela Menon, *Untitled Drawing 7*, 2006, Acrylic on paper, 11 x 8.5 in.

Anjolie Ela Menon



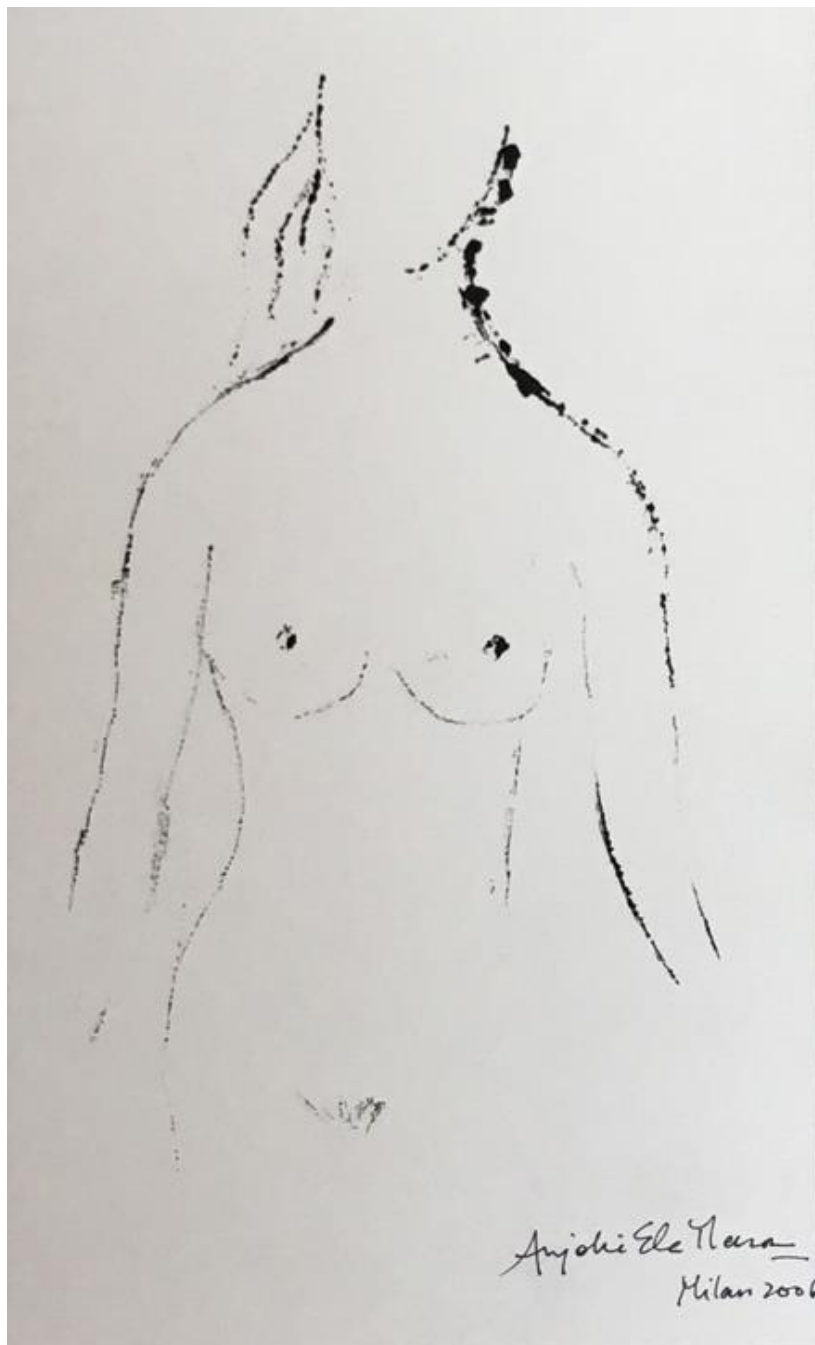
Anjolie Ela Menon, *Untitled Drawing 8*, 2006, Acrylic on paper, 11 x 8.5 in.

Anjolie Ela Menon



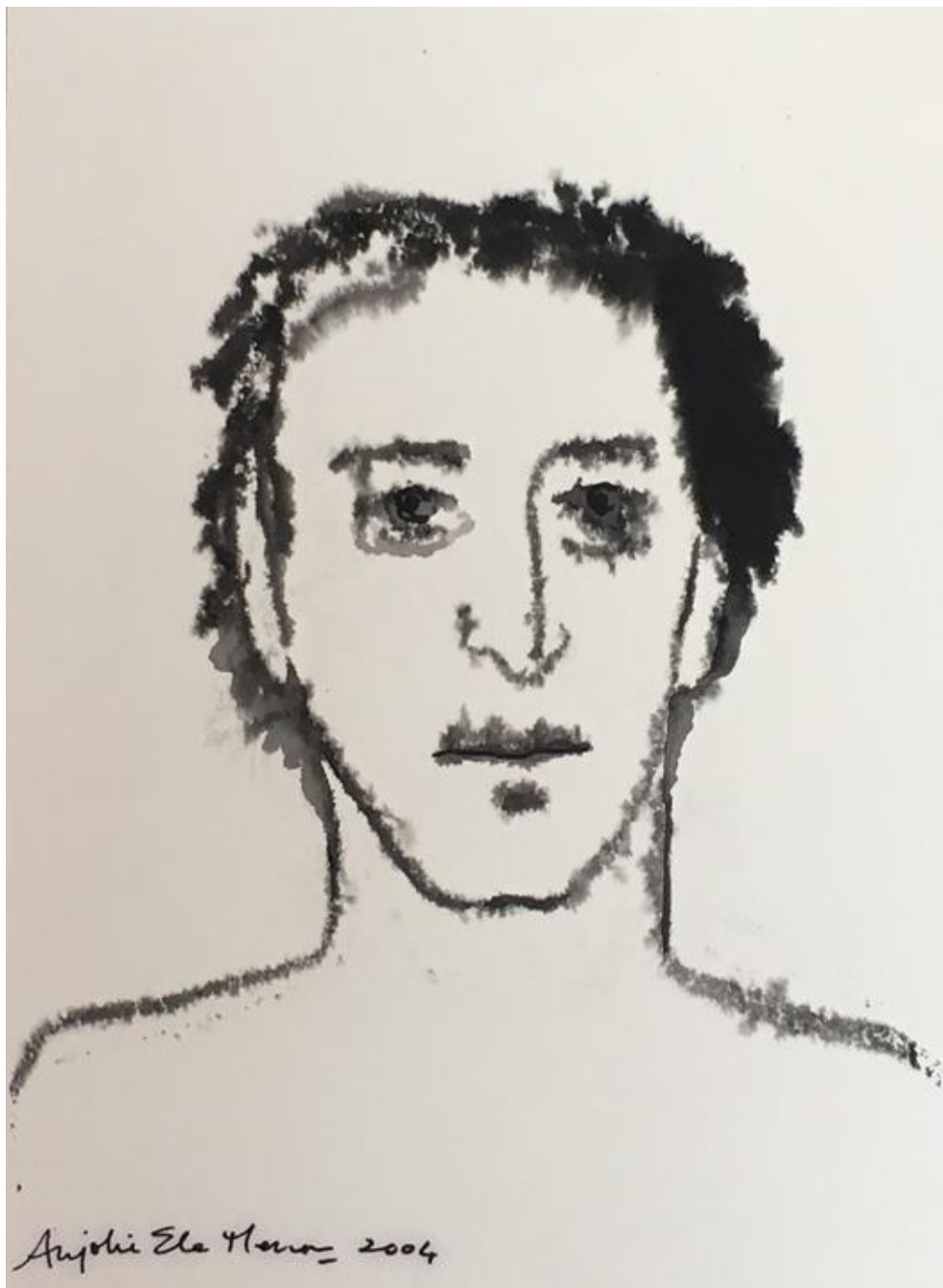
Anjolie Ela Menon, *Untitled Drawing 9*, 2006, Acrylic on paper, 11 x 8.5 in.

Anjolie Ela Menon



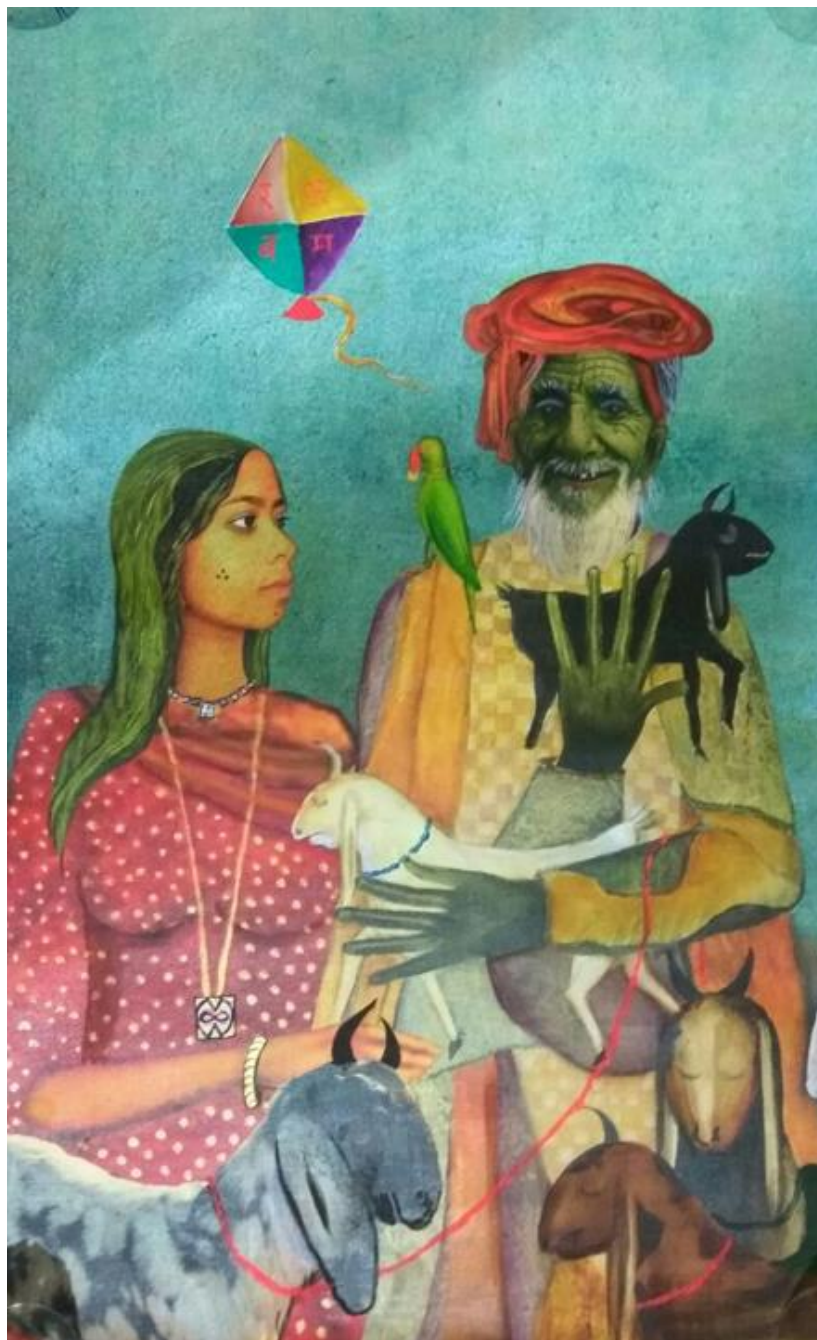
Anjolie Ela Menon, *Untitled Drawing 10*, 2006, Acrylic on paper, 13 x 8 in.

Anjolie Ela Menon



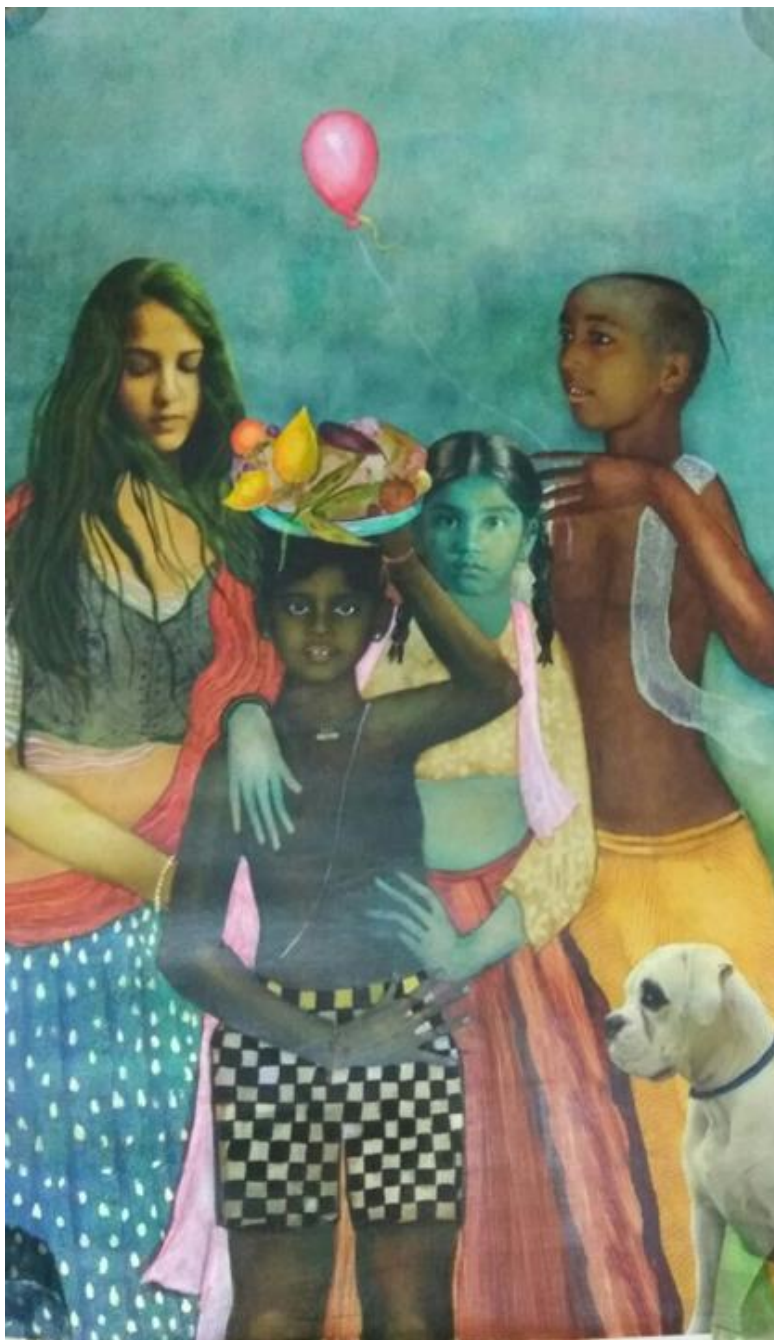
Anjolie Ela Menon, *Untitled Drawing 11*, 2006, Acrylic on paper, 14.5 x 11 in.

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Anjolie Ela Menon, *Pastorale I*, 2015, Oil on canvas, 36 x 22.5 in.

Anjolie Ela Menon



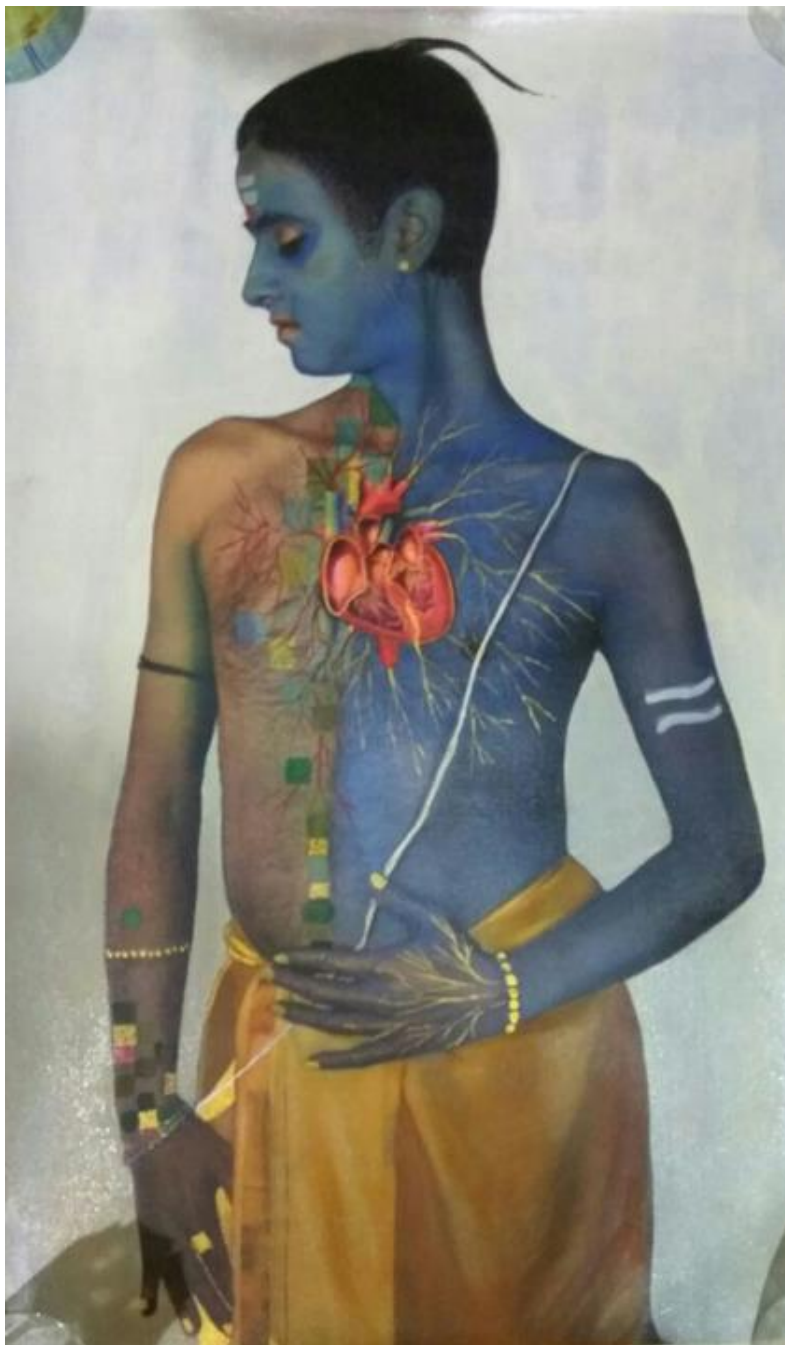
Anjolie Ela Menon, *Pastorale II*, 2015, Oil on canvas, 35.5 x 22.5 in.

Anjolie Ela Menon



Anjolie Ela Menon, *Parvati I*, 2015, Oil on canvas, 36 x 22 in.

Anjolie Ela Menon



Anjolie Ela Menon, *Himanshu*, 2015, Oil on canvas, 27 x 17 in.

Anjolie Ela Menon



Anjolie Ela Menon, *Ardhanareeshwar*, 2015,
Oil on canvas, 40.5 x 17 in.

ANJOLIE ELA MENON

Born 1940, Burnpur, West Bengal, India. The artist lives and works in New Delhi.

Education

1980-81	Study tour to France, UK and USA (invitation by the Government of France)
1961-62	Atelier Fresque, Ecole des Beaux Arts, Paris, France
	Bachelors in Literature, Delhi University, Delhi, India
	Sir J.J. School of Art, Bombay

Select Solo Exhibitions

2017	<i>Anjolie Ela Menon / A Retrospective</i> , Aicon Gallery, New York
2015	<i>Recent Works - Anjolie Ela Menon</i> , D-40 Defence Colony Gallery, New Delhi
2013	Institute of Contemporary Indian Art (ICIA), Mumbai
2010	<i>Through the Patina</i> , organized by Vadhera Art Gallery at Visual Arts Gallery, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi
2008	<i>Three Generations of Art</i> , Dhoomimal Gallery, New Delhi
2007	<i>Menongitis - Three Generations of Art</i> , Dhoomimal Gallery, New Delhi
2006	Six month solo show at the Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, USA
	<i>Celebration</i> , Aicon Gallery, Palo Alto
2005	Aicon Gallery, Palo Alto
2004	Aicon Gallery, New York
2003	Vadhera Art Gallery at Shridharani Gallery, New Delhi
2002	<i>Four Decades</i> , Vadhera Art Gallery at National Art of Modern Art (NGMA), Mumbai, Karnataka Chitrakala Parishad, Bangalore
2000	<i>Gods and Others</i> , Apparao Galleries at Admit One Gallery, New York
1998	Retrospective organized by the Times of India, Jehangir Art Gallery
1996	Exhibition by Vadhera Art Gallery in Hong Kong and Gallery Madras, New York
1988	<i>Retrospective 1958-88</i> , organized by The Times of India, Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai
1976	Gallery Chemould, Mumbai
1963	Alliance Francaise, Mumbai
1959	Gallery 59, Mumbai

Select Group Exhibitions

2012	<i>Iconic Processions</i> , Aicon Gallery, New York
	<i>Gallery Collection</i> , Vadhera Art Gallery, New Delhi
	<i>Women: Sacred and the Temporal</i> , Shrishti Art Gallery, Hyderabad
	<i>Contemporary: A Selection of Modern and Contemporary Art</i> , presented by Sakshi Gallery at The Park, Chennai
2011	<i>The Lost Sparrow</i> , presented by Gallery Threshold at Visual Art Gallery, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi
	<i>Masterclass</i> , Dhoomimal Art Gallery, New Delhi
2010	<i>Figure/Landscape - Part One</i> , Aicon Gallery, New York
2009-10	<i>Unclaimed Spaces</i> , Gallery Threshold, New Delhi
	<i>Master Class</i> , The Arts Trust, Mumbai
2009	<i>Indian Art After Independence: Selected Works from the Collections of Virginia & Ravi Akhoury and Shelley & Donald Rubin</i> , Emile Lowe Gallery, Hempstead
	<i>In Search of the Vernacular</i> , Aicon Gallery, New York
	<i>Kalpana: Figurative Art in India</i> , presented by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) at Aicon Gallery, London

2008	<i>Mapping Memories – 2, Painted Travelogues of Bali and Burma</i> , Gallery Threshold, New Delhi
2007	<i>From the Vault</i> , Aicon Gallery, London and New York <i>Sitaaray - A Galaxy of Artists</i> , Indian Habitat Centre, New Delhi
2005	<i>Drishti / Vision – Indian Contemporary Artists</i> , Valentine Willie Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur in collaboration with Bodhi Art Gallery
2004	<i>Confluence 2004</i> , Aicon Gallery, New York <i>Jiva- Life, Contemporary Indian Painting</i> , Bodhi Art Gallery, New York
2001	<i>Kitsch Kitsch Hota Hai</i> , Gallery Espace, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi <i>The Sacred Prism III</i> , Apparao Gallery, London, New York, San Francisco
1993	<i>Reflections and Images</i> , Vadehra Art gallery at Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai
1986	<i>Indian Women Artists</i> , National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi
1980	Paris Biennale, Paris, France
1980	Exhibition in Washington D.C and New York
1968,71,75	1st, 2nd, 3rd International Triennale, Lalit Kala Akademi, Delhi

Awards

2000	Awarded the Padma Shree by the Government of India
1959-61	Received French Government Scholarship for Higher Studies in Paris

Collections

Asian Art Museum, San Francisco
National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi.
Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi
Aicon Gallery, New York
Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi
Apparao Gallery, Chennai